

NEWS HAWK

WINTER 2019



OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

A STRONG FUTURE

Abby Bramlage, Operations Assistant

2018 saw many changes at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. With an eye toward the long-term success of the organization, we began to implement different ways in which to create a sustainable future. The Sanctuary has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years in almost all areas (visitors, people reached, birds in our care, etc.). To continue on this path, we needed to make necessary changes to prepare for the future. Moving forward into 2019, we hope you can help continue our momentum! There are many opportunities to do so, such as visiting and paying our newly introduced admission to the bird area, becoming a member, or adopting a bird, everything helps!!

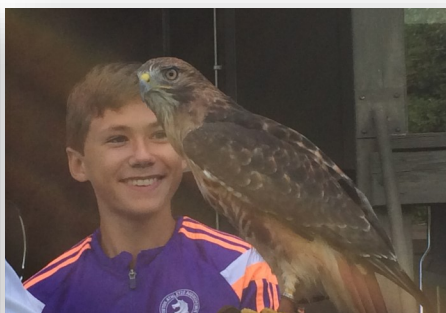


Last March, after 18 years of being open to the public, the Sanctuary added a small admission charge of \$3 for an adult and \$1 for a child to enter the bird display area. Everyone has been supportive of this change and understand the need for this additional income to support our growing collection of birds. For example, new this year to the collection are Alice, a female Bald Eagle and Niles, a male American Kestrel. With your paid admission, you can visit Alice and Niles and all of our feathered friends knowing you are supporting their care. Also, explore the Visitor Center and meet our resident bantam chickens that have moved in for the winter. They are sure to greet you at the door! While you are here, do not forget to grab a cup of food at the visitor center desk to feed the birds in the aviary. Even in the winter months, we still have a few brave birds in the aviary that will come visit. As always, you are welcome to hike our beautiful trails and let your kid's burn off winter energy at our newly completed nature scape at no charge.

If you plan to visit the Sanctuary multiple times in 2019, you might find value in a membership. One popular membership perk is free admission all year long. This was a significant factor in our 63% growth in memberships last year. New this year, we will offer member only events and early registration for camps and special events. Even if you do not plan to visit often, becoming a member is the best way to support us, even from afar. It is never too late to become a member!

Another great way to support the Ohio Bird Sanctuary is the Adopt-a-Bird program. No, this does not mean you get to take a bird home. Even better, your money goes to the care of a bird of your choice! At the \$100 level, you receive a plaque of the bird you adopted, get an opportunity to meet the bird and ask their caretakers all about them. You will even get a chance to have a photo alongside the bird. Most of these encounters take place in our picturesque outdoor amphitheater. The Adopt-a-Bird program makes a great gift for people of all ages.

Thank you for your support of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. If you haven't visited recently, now is a good time to come see all the new things we are doing. The Sanctuary is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-4pm and Sundays from 12pm-4pm. Friendly staff are available to answer your questions over the phone or in person. If you want to support us by becoming a member or adopting-a-bird, visit our website at ohiobirdsanctuary.com and click on "Support Us."





How Do You Train Your Birds?

Curator of Birds, Mary Meixner

This is a question that I get every once in a while. Although the training process isn't something that every visitor or observer inquires about, the way we train reflects how we care for and respect our birds. When we train in such a way that our birds feel confident and comfortable, it translates to effective and inspiring programming that makes a lasting impression on those who see and hear it. People walk away with a realization of how beautiful and important these birds are in the wild.

Working with a bird is a unique experience. We don't speak the same language or use the same nonverbal communication, so it is already more difficult than teaching a fellow human being! It is as much a learning experience for me as it is for the bird I am training. The bird might be learning a single behavior, but I am learning to understand how his brain works, what motivates him, how to communicate with him, and how to earn his trust. It is a complicated process, one in which I have to be aware of everything that could affect the training environment. Before I have earned a bird's trust, something as simple as wearing a different coat could be frightening to him.

So how do we begin to train a bird to stand on a glove in front of a group of people? The answer is slowly and one step at a time. Even before we begin, we have already assessed the bird's temperament to determine whether or not he would be a good candidate for education. What does a good candidate look like? A Red-tailed Hawk we admitted for rehabilitation back in November is a great example. This bird came in with compromised hearing and no vision in one of his eyes, most likely the victim of a car strike. Unfortunately, he is not releasable because of this. However, from day one, we could hand feed this bird and clean his enclosure while he stood calmly on a perch. He had an infection in his foot initially and we were able to soak his foot daily in Epsom salt without having to restrain him. Because this bird has a calm demeanor and does not fear us, he is a good candidate for training to become an avian ambassador.

Once we have decided that a bird is a good candidate, we begin training by earning the bird's trust. Most of the time, the best way to a bird's heart is through his stomach! Food is a great motivator. Eventually, the bird learns that we=food. He figures out that we bring him good things a few times a day and this helps to build trust. Some of our birds, like Alice, our Bald Eagle and Elliott, our Black Vulture, are motivated by human interaction more than they are by food. Training means that they get to spend some one-on-one time with us and this motivates them to learn.

Gradually, we introduce the leather glove that the bird will be asked to stand on for programs, as well as the equipment he will need to wear. Again, we do this in small steps with plenty of positive reinforcement—rewarding a desired behavior with something the animal likes. We progress from simply wearing the glove while we feed the bird, to resting it on the perch as we feed, to having the bird step closer and closer to it for food. Eventually, the bird is comfortable standing on the glove to be fed. This can take more time or less time depending on the bird. Alice, our Bald Eagle, allowed us to put her equipment on and stood on the glove very soon after we began training. For some birds, this process can take several weeks.

When the big day comes—the bird's first program—we don't ask the bird to be in front of a huge group of people. Typically, our new avian ambassadors make their debut at our on-site Saturday keeper talks, which on a quiet day in the winter usually only have a handful of visitors. If the bird is comfortable with this, we gradually progress to larger groups of people. Crate training is also something we do to prepare for off-site programs. This is also a slow and careful process to ensure that the bird is calm going in and out of the crate, riding in the van, etc.

Training takes patience and understanding, but when it is done right, it can be enriching and enjoyable for both the birds and for us the staff. It is rewarding for us to watch each new avian ambassador succeed, not only because we are proud caretakers, but because it means we succeeded, too, in creating a positive training experience that empowers the bird.



2018 Bird Report

The Sanctuary admitted over 275 injured and orphaned birds in 2018. Many of these birds were able to be released back into the wild, but a few now call OBS home, including an American Kestrel and a Bald Eagle who are currently going through training to become avian ambassadors. Our Flight Complex continues to help large raptors from all over the state return to the wild healthy and strong.

As we get deeper into the new year, we are planning to establish a more consistent enrichment program for our birds. You can help! Enrichment items can be donated to the Sanctuary through our Amazon wish list.





2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2018 Annual Report contains our financial information, list of donors and members and a summary of programs and services for the calendar year. We apologize for any omissions of names of individuals or corporations that have provided support but, be assured we are truly grateful. We also added articles by staff providing an overview of the year and highlights that make OBS a rare community asset .

The Ohio Bird Sanctuary was designated the 2018 Non-profit of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. This is a direct reflection on the generous community support, dedicated staff and volunteers, and the strong business practices that empower OBS. We are very honored to receive this recognition.

A special thank you to the Wallis Foundation and Donor Advised funds of the Richland County Foundation that funded our capital improvements projects; construction of the Naturescape, renovations of Visitor Center and repair and renovations of Apollo's Hideaway Field Classroom.



New in 2018 is the *Wings of Hope* corporate sponsorship opportunity. The Sanctuary is partnering with corporations to support the daily care of the eighteen Avian Ambassadors that assist staff in environmental education and travel to schools. Please contact Mary Meixner, Curator of Birds, if you are interesting in participating in this partnership.

Thank you to Taylor Metal Products for leading the initiative by being our first *Wings of Hope* sponsor!

Gail Laux, Executive Director

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

The Sanctuary made a milestone shift in its revenue stream in 2018. Generated income surpassed percentage of charitable income creating a more financially stable organization. The Sanctuary can operate the majority of daily operations through generated income with only 33% of the budget depending on charitable contributions. This sets us apart from many of our peer groups and assures high quality of care for our feathered friends and the ability to operate a year-round facility open to the public.

INCOME

Donations	89,620
Programs	57,104
Grants	26,305
Endowment	23,620
Memberships	19,666
Admission	14,762
Rental	13,260
Total	\$269,394

EXPENSES

Bird Care	104,580
Programs	68,159
Operations	44,113
Events & Fund-Raising	25,518
Grounds & Facilities	25,169
Capital Improvements	20,784
Rental	2,600
Total	\$290,923

Note : Expenses surpass income in 2018 on account that \$25,000 in funding for renovations were received in 2017 and expensed in 2018.

2018 Adopt-A-Bird Sponsors

- Elliott* the Black Vulture by Amy Collins-Warfield
- Pippin* the Peregrine Falcon by Stefani Rossi Reo, Audrey Cantor
- Diesel* the Red-shouldered Hawk by Gary Binkoski, Ellen McClain
- Freeway* the American Kestrel by Markah Frost
- Barkley* the Barred Owl by Sandra Kudy, Markah Frost
- Jake* the Blue Jay by Ian Wright
- Phoenix* the Harris's Hawk by Jeff Ehrhart
- Ichabod* the Turkey Vulture by Collette Jordan, Stella Jordan
- Alice* the Bald Eagle by John Smith
- CeCe* the Crow by Dutch Blankenship

- Seymour* the Great-horned Owl by Wes Almond, Mason & Braxton Trittschul
- Monty* the Barn Owl by Margareta Calvert, Jessica Deeds Michal & Larry Thompson, Regan Rauh, Kristyn Smith, Alexander Jensen
- Winnie* the Screech-Owl by Liam Masters, Nicolas Kelly, Ryan Gannon, Patricia Ruzga, Sean, Jenn, Pixie & Caroline Beavis,
- Blaze* the Peregrine Falcon by Lilly Moherman, Janes Reeves, Lillian & Weston Trittschul

Wings of Hope by Taylor Metal Products



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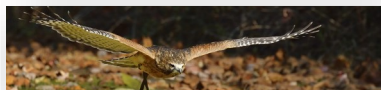


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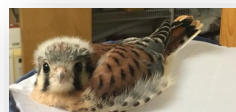
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MEET OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Emily Smith



In June of 2018, I began as the Education Program Coordinator here at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. While I have been in this position for less than a year, my experience with the Sanctuary actually began long before then. As a child, I was much like many of the children that visit the Sanctuary today: curious and excited about nature! I can remember the numerous times my grandpa would bring me to the Sanctuary to visit the birds and go hiking on the trails. I also remember the Ohio Bird Sanctuary coming to my class in elementary school. Who would've thought back then that I would one day work at the Sanctuary?

During the summers of 2016 and 2017, I was able to intern at the Sanctuary. It was during my time as the education intern that I realized how much I love the field of environmental education. As the Education Program Coordinator, I oversee all the Nature Camps as well as the Junior Naturalist Program. I help with field trips, outreach programs, on-site programs, and the home school program. I also plan all the children's activities and crafts at our major events.

In this position, I have the opportunity to impact how people (particularly young people) perceive the natural world. During some of our camps and programs, children get to meet our Avian Ambassadors, go exploring in streams, and build shelters in the woods. We play games and make crafts that relate to our theme. One of my favorite parts of my job is the look of awe and excitement on a child's face when they learn something new. I will never get tired of the reactions I get from telling a class of elementary students that peregrine falcons are the fastest animals in the world, crows are so intelligent they can mimic sounds, and vultures will projectile vomit when disturbed!



I very much enjoy being the Education Program Coordinator here at the Sanctuary. Through this position, I can combine my love of wildlife and the outdoors with my desire to teach children (and adults) about nature! It is my hope that by exposing young students to nature and allowing them to learn and play outside, they will develop an appreciation and respect for the environment. And who knows, maybe they will want to work at the Bird Sanctuary one day too!

2018 Program Report

School & Community Outreach

1121 students experienced outreach programming from OBS in school. This represents 83 classes from 27 schools. Over 10,000 people experienced outreach programming in a variety of community settings. 46 different programs were offered in settings such as libraries, museums, churches, senior centers, camps, and community events. Bird of Prey Programs were offered at the Mohican Lodge every Saturday evening from April – November.

Field Trips & On-Site Programs

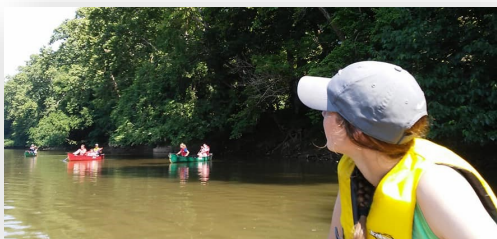
1647 students visited the Ohio Bird Sanctuary for a field trip. Field Trips range from 1.5-4 hours and can be individually catered for students pre-school through high school. 22 home school students experienced on-going programming over 9 monthly sessions. Keeper talks were held every Saturday at the Sanctuary.

Nature Camps

Throughout the year, the Ohio Bird Sanctuary offers Nature Camps for children ages 6-12 years old. This included 3 winter camps, 1 spring camp, and 5 summer camps. 73 children participated in camp with many coming for more than one camp! Two weeks of nature camp were also offered for students from the Friendly House. Funding for the Friendly House Camp is provided by the Richland County Foundation Summertime Kids Program and the Richland County Youth and Family Council.

Junior Naturalists

The Junior Naturalist program is made up of students ages 13 to 18 years old who exhibit a strong interest in nature. In 2018, the group served OBS in numerous ways as well as traveled on field trips to learn about a variety of environmental topics. At the Sanctuary, they helped with our major festivals, summer camps, as well as grounds maintenance on the trails and in the meadow. The group also took field trips to the Wildlife Diversity Conference in Columbus, Ashland University Wetlands Lab, Seneca Caverns, Canoe Trip along the Walhonding River, and a Fall Bird Banding event at Lowe Volk Park.





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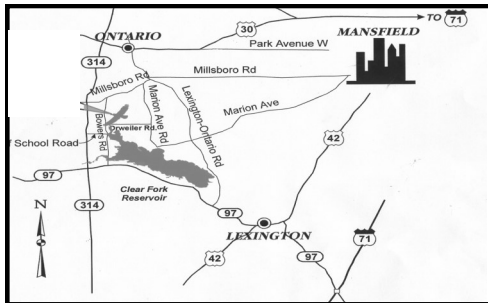
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Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm Sunday 12 - 4 pm
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Admission to Bird Display Area (members free)
 \$1/Child \$3/ Adult



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Become an Ohio Bird Sanctuary member today and receive free admission and invitation to member only events!



Owl \$25

Free admission for one family to bird display area
 Discount on admission fees for events.

Hawk \$50

Owl level benefits plus free admission to bird display area for two guests. Free admission to member only events.

Falcon \$100

Hawk level benefits plus free admission to bird display area for unlimited number of guests. Discount on fees for events and camp registration. Souvenir OBS Mug.

Eagle \$500

Falcon level benefits plus free admission to all special events and a souvenir OBS shirt.



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