

NEWS HAWK

WINTER 2021



OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN!

Everyone will have a story that defines 2020. It tested our patience, compelled us to show compassion towards those around us, and challenged our ability to adapt. The staff and board of the Sanctuary firmly believe that this organization was able to provide many bright spots for those it touched in 2020. The month-long stay-at-home order in March created the opportunity for individuals to experience nature in their own back yards. This led to many inquiries to the Sanctuary staff to identify species or explain behaviors that were being observed. It was a great opportunity to share information about natural behaviors and in some cases instruct the individual on how to safely assist the animal without removing it from its environment. Once the stay-at-home order was lifted, spring rapidly revealed a large influx of birds requiring care due to many of our peer rehabilitation organizations remaining closed. Fortunately, many of the individuals who found birds were working from home, and a road trip to the Sanctuary was a great reason to get out of the house. We experienced a fifty-seven percent increase in bird care cases. For those birds that could be successfully released, many individuals had the opportunity to be a part of the release. A great way to lift your spirits!



The Sanctuary saw a seventy-six percent increase in visitors seeking outdoor activities. The 90 acres preserve offered a place to take a short hike, have a picnic lunch, and enjoy encounters with wildlife. Many families would travel from opposite ends of the state to meet and spend an afternoon at the Sanctuary. It was great to see so many people discovering the joys of nature. The Sanctuary also became a catalyst for an increased interest in fishing. We reached out to the community to help us feed the eagles in our care by donating fresh caught fish. Because the influx of birds this year included eight eagles, we were feeding up to 10 pounds of fish a day. Daily individuals would arrive with catches from local ponds and the Great Lakes. We had husbands thanking us for giving them a reason to fish more and families excited to find a new activity they could do together. Our eagles feasted on Bluegill, Sheepshead, Catfish, Carp, Perch, Trout, and even Salmon.

These positive shifts toward families embarking on outdoor excursions impels the Sanctuary to look at how we can better serve our visitors. We are looking towards the future with plans to enhance the trail system. The Treehouse-classroom will be the major addition and we plan to improve stream crossing, create more wildlife observation areas, and add educational stations. This year not only did we experience an increase in visitors, but we also saw an increase in the length of stay. Our goal is to create a facility that can offer a destination that provides a full day of outdoor activities.



TREEHOUSE-CLASSROOM UPDATE

Mark your calendar! Nelson Treehouse and Supply will be breaking ground on the Treehouse – Classroom July 2021. The build is projected to take 25 days on site. The Treehouse builders will start the build in their workshop this winter and transport portions to the Sanctuary in July. Thank you to the individuals, corporations, and foundations that have supported this dream!

We will be recruiting volunteers to assist with carpentry work and help reduce remaining cost of the build. Contact the Sanctuary if you would be interested in donating your carpentry skills.



TREEHOUSE-CLASSROOM DONORS

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IN MEMORY OF NANCY FANELLO



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2020 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. Be assured we are truly grateful.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who graciously staff the front desk, assist with programs, work events, process mailings, build enclosures, and maintain the grounds and trails. The Sanctuary could not successfully carry out its mission without these individuals. Thank you to Bette Backus, Jillian Kaufman, Mitch Boyd, Jim King, Jordan Tackett, Cheryl Callis, Si Carmean, Sue Cicila, Linda Collins, Paul Gosser, Brian Smith, Chuck Hootman, Dr. Melanie Hull, Chris Laux, Wendy Marshall, Ron Muth, Debra and Winston Page, Dave Polter, Eileen Ramsay, Pam Shepherd, Chris Steiner, Tyler Theaker, Jen Volz, Pam Taylor, and all our Junior Naturalists.

Gail Laux, Executive Director

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020

The Ohio Bird Sanctuary board had established financial goals for 2020 to build the organization’s sustainability. Initiatives were established to make shifts in the revenue stream that would start to generate the funds needed to support our mission and services. The unforeseen impact of the pandemic shutdowns derailed these financial objectives. Program income dropped 59%, and rental income was reduced by 32%. Fortunately, OBS was able to bridge the forecasted gap by 70% through altering programming and reducing operational costs.

Generous donations and a 60% increase in visitors aided in supporting the Sanctuary in 2020. Most expenses were able to be reduced except for food and medical supplies for bird care. This experienced a 65% increase. Staffing and general operations were supplemented through the Payroll Protection Program and the James Gorman Donor Advised Fund at the Richland County Foundation.

The Treehouse Classroom construction was postponed due to the COVID restraints and to allow time to raise the remaining funds needed for construction.

INCOME

Capital Campaigns	81,262*
Donations	84,854
Programs	28,430
Grants	84,818
Endowment	45,080
Memberships	27,528
Admission	25,805
Rental	4,800
Gift Shop	11,855
Payroll Protection	30,000
Events	<u>4,038</u>
	\$428,470



EXPENSES

Bird Care	108,060
Education	96,962
Operations	48,221
Capital Improvements	64,588
Grounds & Facilities	10,203
Events & Fund-Raising	4,361
Gift Shop	3,941
Rental	<u>2,824</u>
	\$339,160

*Capital Campaign income received in 2020 was designated for the construction of the Treehouse-Classroom.



AVIAN REPORT

2020 was a record year for the Sanctuary in terms of the number of birds we received for care. This was largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were one of the only rehabilitation facilities in Ohio that continued to take in injured birds throughout the lockdown that began in March. In addition, many people worked from home and tried new outdoor activities. This led them to rediscover their own backyards and other natural spaces where they then found birds that needed our help. Normally, we receive 200-250 birds each year. This year, we took in a total of 438 birds, comprised of 59 species. We were able to return many of these birds back into the wild.



Thankfully, we were able to prepare for this record year. During the shutdown in March, we used the time we were closed to the public to finish the Bird Barn, repair enclosures, and catch up on projects. The Bird Barn ended up being a lifesaver! The addition of three 8-foot by 8-foot rooms, plus extra space in the main area, allowed us to successfully manage the record number of birds. It also improved our ability to raise orphaned raptors without imprinting them. These youngsters were able to be housed in the Bird Barn where they could not hear or see people regularly. As a result, these young birds were able to be returned to the wild. Our adult patients also appreciated a quiet place to recover.

The Bird Barn and Flight Complex were also crucial in providing space for the eight bald eagles we cared for this year. Seven of these were juvenile birds. It is amazing to witness how this species has made a comeback in our state!



Fledgling Screech-Owls thriving in the seclusion of the Bird Barn.

In summary, 2020 was a little crazy for everyone, including us! Thank you for the support you have given us. Whether you helped us build the Bird Barn, drove 2-4 hours to bring us an injured bird, or supported us by visiting for the first time, thank you!

Juvenile Bald Eagle transferred from Ohio Wildlife Center for conditioning in flight cage.



These young birds are great examples of our successes! (Left to Right) Young Red-shouldered Hawk (nick-named Isaac Newton) recovers from two broken wings and is released here at the Sanctuary. Displaced nestling Carolina Wrens and Blue Bird raised and released. Hatching Turkey Vulture identified and property owner instructed how to return it to its parents.



EDUCATION & EVENT REPORT

2020 Program Summary

As expected, our Educational Programming in 2020 was greatly impacted by COVID-19. We were unable to take part in many of the field trips, in-school visits, library programs, events, and other programs we would have done on a normal year. We deeply missed being able to share our love and enthusiasm for birds with people in the form of our programs. But it was not all "doom and gloom." While our numbers certainly dropped for many of our Educational Programs, some of our programs actually experienced growth in 2020. Our Home School program increased significantly! We also gave as many personal tours in 2020 as we did in 2018 and 2019 combined! It was certainly a difficult year in regards to programming, but we are grateful to the many groups, organizations, and schools that allowed us to still be a part of their year!



School & Community Outreach

707 students experienced outreach programming from OBS in school. This represents 38 classes and after school programs from 10 different schools. Over 1,200 people experienced outreach programming in a variety of community settings. The Sanctuary conducted 39 individual outreach programs in settings such as libraries, churches, senior centers, camps, and community events. Bird of Prey Programs were offered at the Mohican Lodge every Saturday evening from July through November.

Field Trips & On-Site Programs

212 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 preschool through high school. 93 home school students experienced on-going programming over the course of nine monthly sessions. This number more than doubled the number of home school students we had in 2019! Over 300 individuals visited the Sanctuary for an on-site program. 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. In 2020, this included 2 winter camps, 5 summer camps, 1 summer evening camp, and 1 fall evening camp. I am proud to say that despite COVID-19, we successfully ran close to a full year of camps! 68 children participated in camp with many coming for more than one camp! One week of Nature Camp was a scholarship camp for Richland County students that would benefit from the camp experience but otherwise could not afford coming. A huge thank you to the Richland County Foundation for providing a Summertime Kids Grant that helped fund this camp!

Junior Naturalist Program

The Junior Naturalist Program is made up of students ages 13 to 18 years old who exhibit a strong interest in nature. In 2020, the students were regularly involved at the Sanctuary as volunteers, went on field trips to learn about a variety of environmental topics, and enjoyed a camping trip to Kelleys Island. During their volunteer shifts, the Junior Naturalists were a huge help in maintaining our gardens and trails! Off-site field trips included the Wildlife Diversity Conference in Columbus, archery/volunteering at Pleasant Hill Lake, and visiting the Akron Zoo. While camping on Kelleys Island, the Junior Naturalists participated in Lake Erie Water Snake research, water sampling, kayaking, fishing, hiking, and learned about pollinators, geology, and astronomy!

Special Events

Our Special Events included: Love Is In the Air (February), Fall Family Fun Night (October), and Christmas for the Birds (December). While the latter two events had to be modified, they were still very successful events! We are grateful for everyone who continued to support the Sanctuary and make us a part of your holiday traditions this year!



2020 OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY

EAGLE and FALCON LEVEL MEMBERS



Thank you to the individuals that support the Sanctuary through a membership. Memberships support general operations allowing the Sanctuary to be open to the general public year round and provide professional care to injured and orphaned birds.



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2020 OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY HAWK LEVEL MEMBERS



Hawk Fact: Ohio is home to seven species of hawks. Many of these species as juveniles have feathers that are variances of browns and tans. As they mature, their plumage and eye color change giving them their distinct adult characteristics (such as a red tail, black and white banded tail, or silver-blue feathers).

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Dylan & Megan Ziegler



Did you know that by becoming a member you are supporting our rehabilitation efforts? To show our gratitude for your support, members are invited to special releases.

2020 OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY OWL LEVEL MEMBERS



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Fun fact: Winter is the mating season for owls. Great-horned Owls nest while snow is still on the ground. Their young, that are insulated by down at hatching, grow quickly and are ready to learn to hunt by spring when food sources are plentiful.



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 Lynn Wilson
 Tonya Winningham
 Jason Yantis
 Jennifer Zambik
 Joe & Lisa Zemancik



GENERAL OPERATIONS DONORS

Thank you to all the individuals and corporations who supported the Sanctuary by donating to the Annual Appeal, purchasing items from our wish list, donating food for our birds of prey, and providing professional in-kind services.



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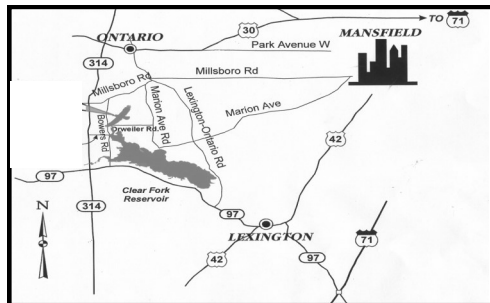
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