



NEWS HAWK



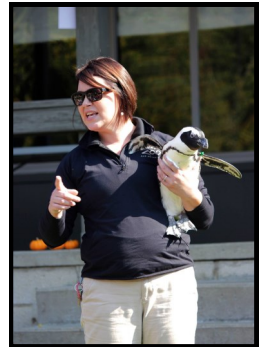
FALL 2016

Fall Event Highlights



The Sanctuary hosted two events this fall that introduced many new visitors to facility and all it has to offer. On September 15th the staff and board of trustees hosted a Chamber After Hours to unveil the Taylor Family Educational Building as an event rental venue. This networking event was a great opportunity to spotlight the building, the Sanctuary's programs and the beautiful setting. Please help us spread the word about this unique venue. The Sanctuary is an ideal location for casual weddings, receptions, corporate retreats, and family gatherings. Income generated from the rentals will support the Sanctuary programs.

October 15th the Sanctuary held the 21st annual Fall Family Fest. The weather was perfect and we had a record attendance. Families that attended the event enjoyed animal encounters, exploring the trails with fun family-friendly challenges, and photo opportunities with our birds in natural settings. The Columbus Zoo brought animals from the promotion department to give many the opportunity to see up close and even touch a few of these amazing creatures. This year the Zoo treated the Festival attendees to a Legless Lizard, Striped Skunk, Swift Fox, Clouded Leopard, a Red Kangaroo and an African Penguin. The days was concluded with a wonderful Puppet Show by Queen Bee Puppetry. Receipts from the gate admission, activity ticket sales and Rubber Duck Regatta raised over \$4,500 to support the care of our birds and the installation of a well for the raptor flight compound.



Thank you to our corporate sponsors that supported this community event. Columbus Zoo, MT Business, Roby Foster Miller Earick Insurance, Jamison Drilling, Richland Bank, Mechanics Bank, Spherion and Corpad

Mark your calendars for our winter events!



Christmas for the Birds December 17 12-2pm
Santa, crafts, admission is a gifts for our birds

Love is in the Air February 11th 12-2pm
Owl-themed event, crafts, owl encounters

Winter Day Camp December 28th, January 16th, February 20th
10-2pm \$30/child/day

See our website for more details www.ohiobirdsanctuary.com





Note from Director



Dear Members & Supporters,

The Richland County Foundation is hosting again this year a day of giving. Last year the Sanctuary raised over \$3,500 through the Richland Gives online giving platform. We were so excited to find out that we had the largest number of donors in the first hour of the campaign and this earned us an additional \$1,500. We are hoping to surpass last year's goal by having a strong showing from our supporters and earn awards.

Please consider supporting the Sanctuary and joining the excitement of this philanthropic event. Funds raised will support the Sanctuary's management of the nature preserve and daily bird care.



This year's incentives will be awarded to the organizations as follows:

- ~A \$1,000 grant to the first 40 nonprofit organizations that raise at least \$1,000.
- ~A \$500 grant to the first 10 organizations that increase Richland Gives online donations by 30% compared to 2015.
- ~Additional grants will be awarded to the nonprofits that raise the most dollars.

Please encourage your friends and family to support the Sanctuary and/or another charity of your choice by visiting www.richlandgives.org



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Tuesday, November 29th, 2016
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Go to richlandgives.org



Hit the search icon



Find your favorite local nonprofit



Read their story



Decide if you want to give



Hit the donate button



Hit the search icon



Look at other nonprofits



Decide if you want to repeat the giving part



Share your #RichlandGives experience with your friends



Bob the Screech-Owl
1992-2016

We are sad to announce the death of longtime avian ambassador, Bob. He was a favorite of all the staff and many of the Sanctuary's visitors. We will all miss his whinny that greeting us each morning.



The Irreplaceable Garbage Men

Curator of Birds, Mary Meixner

Most people do not look at a vulture and think “how cute” or “how majestic”. These are words typically reserved for owls, eagles, and other more aesthetically pleasing birds. On the contrary, when most people see a vulture ripping apart a malodorous carcass on the side of the road, they cringe and look the other way. As unpleasant as it may seem, that vulture is doing its job, a job that is desired by no one but needed by everyone.

Vultures are nature’s garbage men. They clean up the environment on both macroscopic and microscopic levels, consuming the carcasses of dead animals and preventing the spread of disease. The acid found in a vulture’s stomach and digestive tract is extremely strong. This, along with an excellent immune system, protects them from the bacteria and toxins that they might pick up from consuming decaying animals. As impressive as this sounds, the most fascinating detail about the vulture’s system is this: A vulture’s system also destroys the bacteria and toxins. Botulism, anthrax, rabies, you name it: it hits a dead end in the vulture’s system. In addition, by cleaning up roadkill and other carcasses, vultures help prevent other animals from becoming potential carriers of a disease that could endanger us. Vultures cleanse the environment. In fact, the scientific name of the Turkey vulture, *Cathartes aura*, means “cleansing breeze”.

The Turkey vulture is a familiar sight in Ohio, but it has recently been joined by another species of vulture: the Black vulture. You may remember that in a previous edition of our newsletter, we introduced Elliott, a Black vulture who came to OBS in the summer of 2015. Elliott was found in Lexington, Ohio, and was the first Black vulture recorded to have been hatched in Richland County. Black vultures, who are abundant in the southern states, have been moving north for the past sixty years. We do not fully understand why they have come north, but possible reasons for this extension of their range include “the cessation of large-scale persecution, greater food availability, and recovery from declines which occurred in response to the widespread use of pesticides, including DDT” (cited from www.hawkmountain.org). Regardless, Black vultures are here to stay.

Learning to live with new neighbors is not always easy, and Black vultures have come with a few challenges. Vultures are intelligent and social. Black vultures are also a little more aggressive than Turkey vultures, which seems to translate into a boldness that we have not seen in their cousins. Put a group of intelligent, curious birds together and there are bound to be some interesting scenarios.

Black vultures have been known to damage such things as pool liners, shingles, seat coverings and carpets on boats, etc., simply because it is entertaining. Compare it to handing a child a piece of bubble-wrap and watching him or her pop every single bubble. It is oddly fun and there is no reason not to do it. Black vultures have also found themselves in trouble with farmers and livestock owners.

Although most vultures exclusively feed on carrion (dead animals), groups of Black vultures have been known to take down live animals who are young or weak, such as lambs and calves. There are solutions to these problems (see page 4); destroying the vultures is not one of them.





Continued from page 3



Other countries around the world have discovered what happens when vultures disappear. In India in the mid-1990s, the vulture populations crashed due to an antibiotic used for cattle. Without the vultures, carrion took three times longer to disappear. These rotting carcasses promoted the increase of pathogens, pests like rats, and wild dogs, all of which became a danger to humans. The loss of vultures cost India billions of dollars in additional health care expenses.

Even though Black vultures may damage the occasional roof or boat, the bottom-line is that we need to live with vultures, not without them. Protecting our vultures, including Black vultures, is essential to ensuring a healthy environment for people and animals alike.



If you or someone you know is having problems with vultures, there are a few things you should know:

- ◆ Vultures are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: It is illegal to destroy the birds themselves, as well as their eggs and nests.
- ◆ Managing vultures is “complicated and site-specific, so consulting with a wildlife professional is vital to successfully resolving damage” (cited from www.aphis.usda.gov). The researchers involved in the USDA’s APHIS Wildlife Program and others like it are coming up with creative solutions to responsibly manage vultures, such as using light and/or sound devices to discourage vultures from roosting at a problem site.
- ◆ For information and help, call 1-866-4USDA-WS or visit www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage.

WE NEED VULTURES!

Reduction in the native population can have a negative impact on public health and the natural ecosystem.

Meet Elliott, Ichabod and Ralph



The Sanctuary has three resident vultures: Elliott, Ichabod & Ralph.

Elliott is a Black Vulture that was brought to the Sanctuary in 2015 after being illegally raised by people. He is a human imprint, which means he doesn't recognize his own species.

Elliott enjoys making mischief and spending time with the staff at OBS. He is only a little over a year old and is a budding avian ambassador.

Ichabod was brought to the Sanctuary in 1992.

Like Elliott, he is a human imprint. Ichabod is a dignified, middle-aged vulture and has been one of our avian ambassadors for over 20 years helping to educate the public about his species.

Ralph is our second resident Turkey vulture. He was struck by a vehicle and sustained damage to one of his wings that does not allow him to fly. Ralph is a shy guy and prefers spending his time watching visitors from the enclosure he shares with our two resident eagles.





Ecopsychology: Nature's Impact on Humans

Julie Schwartz, Youth Program Coordinator



Ecopsychology; It's a term even my spell check didn't recognize. But, this field of study, which sprung-up in just the last two decades, is fueling a multitude of research into the impact of nature on human physical and emotional health. This widening circle of researchers believes that the loss of natural habitat, or the disconnection from nature even when it is available, has enormous implications for human health and child development. Attention problems, anxiety disorders, apathetic attitudes, depression, high blood pressure, obesity, and poor self esteem are just a few of the negative impacts that may be linked to decreased connectedness with nature. Although the problem may seem to be growing, the idea that communing with nature has health benefits is nothing new. The notion that natural landscapes, even small gardens, can be therapeutic and restorative is actually an ancient one. In Japan, forest bathing, or taking a short visit into the woods for relaxation or recreation is a prescribed therapy for stress. Additional studies have shown that when people connect with animals, they are happier and experience health benefits such as lower heart rates and lower blood pressure.



Perhaps you're wondering what all of this has to do with us here at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. Well, I would like to introduce myself to you and share my passion for connecting young people with nature. My name is Julie Schwartz and I am thrilled to have joined OBS as the new Youth Program Coordinator. I come to the Sanctuary with six years of classroom science teaching experience and six years experience as a high school Assistant Principal. My husband Brad and I reside here in Mansfield and are raising two creative, happy, nature-loving children (Payne-8yo, and Blake-4yo.) I am passionate about nature, education, and young people. I whole-heartedly believe, and have personally witnessed, the profound positive impact that connectedness with nature can have on them. There is a great big fascinating world out there that simply cannot be experienced from behind the screens of electronic devices. It is troubling to me when children can more readily name Pokemon characters than identify living things in their immediate surroundings. It is my desire and commitment to create avenues of access for our young people to experience positive, educational, and fun interactions with nature and with animals.

At the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, there are a number of ways to connect with nature and therefore experience the benefits of it. Come on your own, with friends or family to meet our birds or walk our 90 acres of beautiful hiking trails. Schools, libraries, senior centers, and families should also check-out our many **Programming Options**. Whether you have a few minutes or a few hours, we have something that can be catered to your needs, wants, and budget. We can come to you via one of our outreach programs such as our "**Feathered Friends Program**," which is an informative and interactive program with a variety of domestic animals or our "**Raptor Program**," which is a live bird of prey show using either two or three birds. We can bring display birds to your special event, art class, field day, etc. You can also come to the Sanctuary for organized **tours** or **field trips** of varying lengths. The field trips include a combination of a bird show, educational activities, animal encounters in our aviary, and hiking (depending upon the length of field trip you choose.) Families may also be interested in our children's nature camp offerings throughout the year or our monthly program for students who are Home Schooled.



The best way to get specific dates, descriptions, and pricing for our programs is through our website: www.ohiobirdsanctuary.com or by calling (419-884-HAWK) and speaking with a staff member. You may also contact me directly at 4morenature@gmail.com.
I look forward to working with you.





NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY

NEWS HAWK

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www.ohiobirdsanctuary.com

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VISITOR CENTER & TRAILS HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CLOSED: Mondays and Holidays

Support OBS by becoming a member!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

All members receive a quarterly newsletter, notification of special releases and free admission to events.



Owl \$25

Hawk \$50
OBS Mug

Eagle \$100
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Osprey \$500

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To become a member, please fill out the informational box below, enclose payment and send to: *Ohio Bird Sanctuary 3774 Orweiler Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44903*

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