

NEWS HAWK

SUMMER 2017



TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN

They say, "Time flies when you're having fun." Well, this was the fastest summer of my life.

Emily Smith, Education Intern



This summer I was the education intern at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. As the education intern, I helped with field trips and gave many presentations with our educational birds. I also had the pleasure of helping with five weeks summer camps. The kids and I had a blast! An additional responsibility for my position was to create and implement the three-day camps for the youth at Friendly House. This camp is supported through a grant from the Summertime Fun Program of the Richland County Foundation. It was so much fun to teach children about nature and the outdoors and then watch them experience it and enjoy it for themselves. From tie-dying and playing games to creek exploring and fire-building, we had a lot of fun this summer!

In addition to field trips, camps, and programs, I was also able to take part in general bird care at the Sanctuary. This included caring for our permanent resident birds as well as many orphaned or injured birds. Every day was a new adventure, and we never knew what kind of bird might show up and need help. It was incredible to learn about the entire rehabilitation process.



I thoroughly enjoyed my time as an intern at the Bird Sanctuary. Through this internship, I worked alongside amazing individuals who are very knowledgeable of birds, wildlife, and the environment. They took me under their wings (no pun intended) and taught me a great deal. Through this internship, I gained valuable hands-on experience in the field of animal care and education, and I learned more than I ever imagined I would.



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My time at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary has greatly shaped where I see myself in a career. I am extremely excited to be able to use the knowledge and experience I have gained. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to intern at such an amazing place and appreciate the support of the Fran and Warren Rupp Fund at the Richland County Foundation that makes these internship opportunities possible.



From the Desk of the Director

Dear Friends of OBS,

The Sanctuary has seen a record number of visitors this summer. Families from around the state and in many cases around the world enjoyed visiting the birds in the aviary, seeing our raptors up close and exploring the 4 miles of trails. We are honored that so many people enjoy all the Sanctuary has to offer. Our camp programs were filled to capacity and we will try to fit one more week of camp into next season's schedule to serve the demand. This summer was successful largely due to our incredible staff, volunteers and our summer interns. The Volunteers greeted visitors and kept the grounds in immaculate condition. The interns provided the additional staffing required for the large number of birds needing care and the increase of programming. Enjoy the articles in this issue by our interns highlighting their summer experience.

New in 2018

The Sanctuary has historically been a free admission that relies on the generosity of donations to provide care for the birds. Our collection of non-releasable birds has grown from four raptors to over fifty individuals ranging from Cedar Waxwings to Bald Eagles. The number of injured and orphan birds in our facility receiving care has also grown exponentially. Starting January 2018 the Sanctuary will charge a small fee for entrance into the bird display area. Admission will be free to individuals and families that are members of Sanctuary. The hiking trails and picnic areas will also remain accessible at no charge. The small fee of \$1/child and \$3/adult will assist in providing the funding needed to provide quality care for the birds.



Cage for Kevin

The summer of 2016 an Osprey was brought to OBS unable to eat on its own. The staff has been working diligently with the bird using clickers for food association and the bird is now thriving in our. It is now time for us to build an enclosure suitable for

this species. Osprey's main diet is fish and this produces a very acrid smell. Kevin, as the staff has named him, also has phenomenal projection ability. Due to these two factors we plan to build him a larger enclosure next to the eagles (and more importantly ...farther away from the buildings). This will provide him with the space he needs and easier cleaning for the bird care staff. This enclosure will be attached to existing units to the cost. We are currently running a campaign to raise funds to build Kevin's enclosure. Material costs will be \$4,000. Our hopes are to use our talented volunteer force to construct the enclosure. We have a funding raising page on Facebook but contributions may be given in any form and all amounts no matter the size are greatly appreciated!

Gail Laux, Founder and Executive Director



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Tie Dye, Muddy Crocs, and Kindling Fires (Within)

Julie Schwartz, Youth Program Coordinator

What a fun summer we had at the Sanctuary! Well over 100 children aged 6-12 joined us for hiking, animal encounters, crafts, games, outdoor skills, snacks, and fun at one or more of our Summer Nature Camps. We were so blessed to be able to fill all but one of our camps to capacity, too. Our Education staff had their hands (and hearts) FULL.

The summer kicked-off with learning all about animals at "Critter Camp." Of course there was one day devoted to the study of birds, but campers also learned a great deal about Ohio's mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and even insects! The highlight of the week was easily the day spent "creeking." There's magic in feeling the cool water over your feet while you flip rocks in search of crayfish and salamanders. Magic, I tell you.



Years of working with kids has taught us that they love learning about "yucky" stuff. If it's slimy, stinky, gooey, or disgusting in any way, they are drawn to it and they remember it. So, we spent a week doing "Yuck Camp." All the rains we had in late June created the perfect environment for studying all kinds of Fungi in the Sanctuary woods and the kids were amazed at all the different colors and varieties we located. They finished out a dirty, dirty week by getting to make their very own handmade soaps.

Next, thanks to generous donations to the Scholarship Fund and help from the Richland County Foundation, the Sanctuary hosted two weeks of Summer Nature Camp for the kids of the Friendly House Summer Fun Program. This partnership has been going on for many years and though we love having new kids each year, it's always a joy to have returning kids and staff to continue the tradition of outdoor learning. Muddy crocs, cooking hot dogs in a solar oven, and JOY-filled faces are the memories that stick in our minds from Friendly House camp.

In late July, we hosted our first ever Family Night Hike. This was a truly spectacular evening event where whole families joined us for outdoor games, a collaborative family painting, a naturalist-led hike at dusk, owl-calling, and a bon fire with S'mores. There is something so special and unique about being witness to what happens in the wilderness as day gives way to night. We received lots of positive feedback from this event and are planning to offer it again in October. Watch our website or Facebook page for more details and information about how you can register to attend.

Last, but certainly not least, was two weeks of our most popular kids nature camp: "Wilderness Survival." We built shelters, learned and practiced successful and safe fire-building techniques, learned ways to signal for help and purify water, and one of our volunteers shared her story of a real stranded-in-the-wilderness situation.

We simply could not feel more fulfilled about this summer at the Sanctuary. Our fingers maybe stained from endless tie dyeing but we returned over 100 birds to the wild and feel blessed to have made such a positive impact. It is our deepest desire that not only did we kindle fires in the "let's roast marshmallows" kind of way but that we've kindled a fire within each child to want to know more about our amazing natural world!

My Time at OBS

Whitney Gibbons, 2016 & 2017 Summer Bird Care Intern

For the past two summers, I have had the pleasure of being the bird care intern at the Sanctuary. My time spent at the OBS has been filled with many opportunities to further my education in the wildlife field and create wonderful memories with each experience. One of the things that I am most grateful for is how these experiences have helped me to have a patient heart, spirit, and temperament. Getting to work with some of the world's greatest inhabitants, my excitement to care for these creatures is ever growing. From cleaning out enclosures to training birds, I hold each moment as equally important, for it is all for the welfare of each creature here.



Recently I have been assisting in the training of both a Great-horned owl and an American kestrel. This has shown me the two extremes of training; the bright eagerness of the little falcon, and the starry eyed vacant expression of the great owl. These two extremes help me learn to control my eager excitement with a patient stillness. In trying to balance out these two qualities, I keep in mind very helpful tips from "Top 10 Behaviors of Expert Animal Trainers" article by Steve Martin. This article was a great read and one that I definitely have saved for future use. It breaks down training into concepts that help enhance communication between animal and trainer, build up a trust account, and keeps you thinking about how your behaviors affect the training process. (I highly recommend taking a glance at or thoroughly reading this article.)

Each rehab case that has come through our doors is unique its own way. From a brief stay to those who spend a longer duration in recovery, each has helped me appreciate every life that has walked (flown) in. It is truly rewarding to witness each release back into the wild, and a blessing to keep those memories.

I'll never forget moments working with our education and display birds. Each of these birds, have their own personalities, which make them just as interesting as interacting with people. Family and friends often ask me which species or particular bird at the sanctuary is my favorite, and even after two years I don't have an answer. After having worked with these birds, I've come to love them all, even the ones who are a bit intimidating (Seymour...).



It's difficult to wrap up all the memories, and stories of my time at OBS in just one page, so you'll have to come out and see all of these amazing birds for yourself. A huge thank you to the Rupp Fund at the Richland County Foundation for its support of the summer internship program and to Gail Laux, and the other staff members of OBS for everything that you've taught me.



Ohio Bird Sanctuary



Annual *Fall Family Festival*



Saturday October 14
11am-4pm

Admission \$10/vehicle

- Family Fun Activities & Crafts -
(free and some that require material fees)
- Food & Drinks available for sale -
Proceeds support OBS Jr. Naturalist Program

Special Attractions

1:00 pm Columbus Zoo Animals

2:30 pm Wakem the Rooster

Interactive Storytime Performance
by David Fitzsimmons



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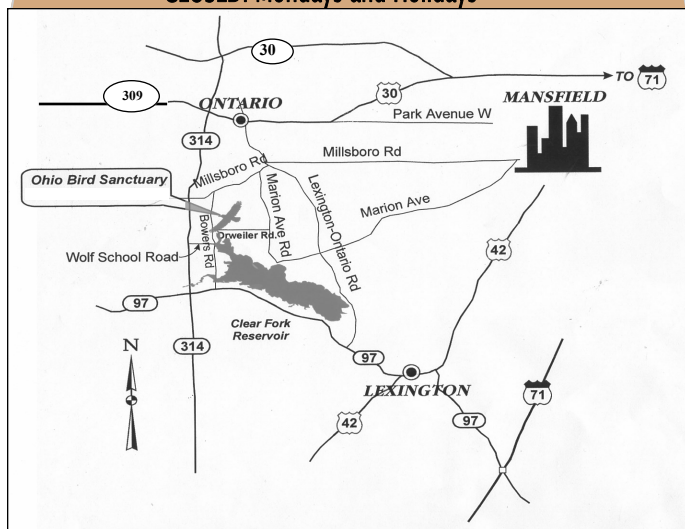
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Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday (new!) 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CLOSED: Mondays and Holidays



For more directions, Please see our Website.

Membership

Your membership supports our programs and the care of the education birds.



Owl \$25

Receive Newsletter and invitations to special events

Hawk \$50

Owl benefits & Mug

Eagle \$100

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Osprey \$500

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