

2024 Fall Newsletter

What is behind the fence????

If you have visited us in the last several months, you have, no doubt, noticed all the new enclosures contained within a tall wooden fence next to the Education Center. You may wonder why this area is not open for you to freely explore. Allow me to explain. This is our **Avian Encounters Area**, a dream more than 10 years in the making. This impressive area houses many of our Educational Ambassador birds. These birds travel a lot, participate in on-going training exercises with our staff, and may spend hours each month presenting educational programs for the public on the glove. When they return to the Sanctuary, they deserve to be able to be “off-display,” so to speak. Zoos all over the country have been housing their Ambassador Animals off-display for as long as zoos have been around. We will always maintain a diverse array of raptor and songbird species around the Visitor Center for the public to come and see up-close.

It is not impossible to get to visit the Avian Encounters Area, though! Following the installation of a stage being built for us by the Mansfield Noon Optimists, we will begin offering special ticketed programs inside of there. Also, groups such as school field trips, Nature Camps, Group Tours, and Adopt-A-Bird meet & greet sessions may go inside of there for specialty paid (and scheduled) programs.

The quality of life that we provide the birds who reside with us is our highest priority. That is why we feel strongly that on a day-to-day basis, the Avian Encounters Area should remain a quiet and tranquil environment with minimal human exposure. Thank you for respecting our professionalism in making the best decisions on their behalf.





From the Desk of the Executive Director

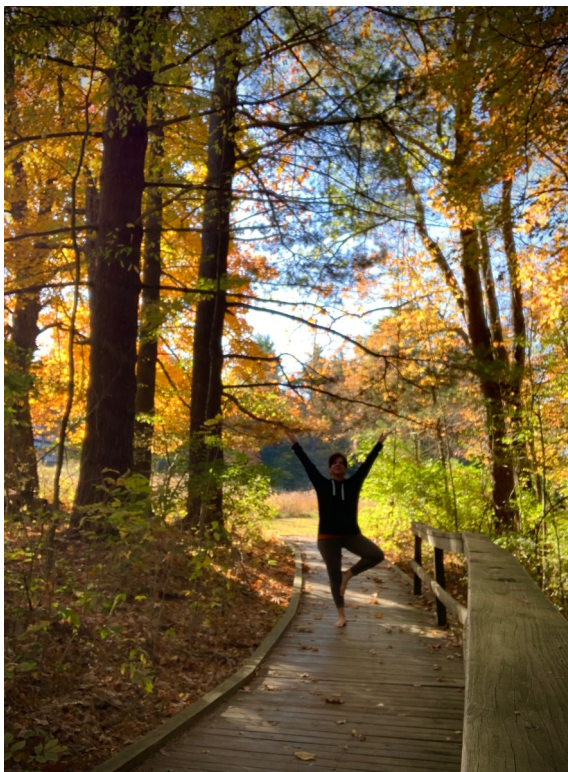
Dear friends of OBS,
This Fall newsletter is later in arriving this year than most. But, it is for very good reason! So many exciting things have taken place over the last several months that have been keeping us very busy.

In February of 2024, construction began on the Visitor Center additions and renovations. This included a new entry way, new state-of-the-art Avian Hospital, and other great perks like a volunteer lounge and new staff restroom. I am so pleased to say that we were able to maintain all of our operations as well as remain open to the public during the entire 6 months of renovations (except for a few days for moving.) In early September, we welcomed visitors into the new spaces. Gratitude goes out to Field 9 Architects, Modern Builders, Alumni Roofing, Trent Kaufman, all of the OBS staff, and all of our project donors for the gorgeous finished product! Come see it for yourself as soon as you're able!

Sincerely,



Julie



Everyone is welcome to join us for Yoga classes at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. They are held every **Monday morning from 8:30-9:30am**. During the colder months, we practice in the Education Center or Field Classroom (A-frame.) All you need is a mat and clothes you can easily move in. Cost is \$10/session and there is no need to pre-register!

CHRISTMAS FOR THE BIRDS

Santa is preparing for his return to OBS!
Get pictures with the big guy, meet our Ambassador Animals, decorate a cookie, make crafts, and enjoy light refreshments!

Registration is required here:

Dec 14th
3pm, 4pm,
or 5pm

Cost is
\$25/car



Choice-Based Training & Happy Birds

By Amanda Vanderford, Curator of Animals

The Avian Ambassadors that call the Ohio Bird Sanctuary home have big jobs! They advocate for and tell the stories of their wild counterparts. They create connections to inspire people to take caring and conservative action. This is our goal. What better way to do this than by allowing our birds the opportunity to demonstrate some of their most magnificent natural behaviors for our guests? See a Barn Owl fly into a dark cavity, an American Kestrel utilize her nesting box, or an American Crow happily demonstrate his natural stashing behaviors.



Choice-based training has been the key to our success and our birds' happiness. This form of training allows the birds to be in control and to make decisions for themselves. They're not forced to participate. This will be evident in our bird shows and privately-booked experiences.

Our goal will be to show off our birds' skills and willingness to participate beginning this coming summer with free-flight demonstrations in our Avian Encounters Area. Could a bird fly away? Absolutely. But no need to fret. After much support from donors and visitors, we now have the ability to equip our birds with GPS and telemetry. These are safety tools we hope to never use, however, it will allow the staff to track their every move if needed.

If you simply cannot wait until summer, you can book private experiences year-round, inside our Education Center!

Our "Adopt-A-Bird" Plush Adoption makes the perfect Christmas or Birthday gift!

This adoption includes:

- A plush that resembles the bird (or animal) of your choice
- A fact sheet about the species
- A personalized Certificate of Adoption
- A "Curious Critters" book by David FitzSimmons
- Cost is \$60 and supports the birds!





“There’s No Such Thing as Bad Weather.”

Emily Tackett, Director of Operations

Education is a big part of our mission here at the Sanctuary! We strive to provide high quality program options for people of all ages and abilities. Some of our most well-known programs include Spring Field Trips and Summer Nature Camps. Our Education Team enjoys creating fun and exciting opportunities for these students to learn about birds and the natural world. But did you know that our programming doesn’t stop there, and it doesn’t stop when the weather changes either?!



We are a little over a month into Fall and well into the school year, and programs still continue here at the Sanctuary! We have been so pleased with the number of schools and groups who are coming out to enjoy a program or field trip this Fall. The leaves are changing colors and falling, animals are preparing for winter, and there is so much to see and learn.

Our Home School Program meets once/month, and the students learn about all sorts of different topics such as aquatic creatures, plants, and food chains. While the program is completely full for the 2024-2025 school year, if you home school your children, please keep us in mind for next school year!

The preschool program kicked off in October and will continue until May. Each month, you and your preschool aged child can come be a part of this program. Together we will read a book, meet an animal friend, and do a craft or activity. You can sign up for one month or all of them! Even if you don’t have a home school student or pre-school aged child, there are so many program options to engage with at the Sanctuary! Your group, club, or family can schedule a program to meet birds up-close or take a tour of the Sanctuary. There is a QR code here that will direct you to the program page on our website where you can find more details.

Research shows that spending time outdoors can reduce stress, enhance mood, and improve cognitive function. We also know that when you take the time to learn about something, you are better able to foster an appreciation for it. Plus, all our program fees support the operations of the Sanctuary! So if you’re looking for ways to engage with the natural world this Fall and Winter, consider a program with the Ohio Bird Sanctuary! We would love to see you soon!





Visitor Center Entrance



Little Explorers Room



Gift Shop



Front Elevation Visitor Center



Triage-Avian Hospital



More Avian Hospital-Lab Area



Ohio Bird Sanctuary
3774 Orweiler Road
Mansfield, OH 44903

NEWS HAWK



Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mansfield, OH
Permit # 114

Or current resident

Visitor Center and Trail Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm Sunday 12 - 4 pm
Closed Monday and Holidays

Admission

\$5/Adult \$3/Child (3-15 years old) & Military/Veteran
Members are Free

419-884-HAWK

OHIOBIRDSANCTUARY.COM



KEEP US FLYING!

*There are so many ways you can be a part of our mission!
Become a Member... Become a Volunteer...*

Make a Donation to support bird care or the Wings Maintenance Fund.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Owl - \$25 (Individual)

Free admission for one individual.

Hawk - \$50 (Family)

Free admission for one household.

Falcon - \$100 (Family & Friends)

Hawk level benefits plus free admission for 4 guests and a \$10 Gift card.

Eagle - \$500 (Supporter)

Hawk level benefits plus free admission for 8 guests, a \$25 Gift card, and a tour.

All members receive discounts and early notification on special events.

A gift to the *Wings Maintenance Fund* supports the management and care of the preserve and grounds.

A gift to the General Fund supports daily operations and the care of the birds.

Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Please designate if for a Membership _____ General _____ Wings Maintenance Fund _____