# WE ARE SOARING INTO THE TREES

Remember building forts, catching frogs, splashing in mud puddles, and climbing trees? Unfortunately, these things are foreign to many kids today and often unattainable for those restricted to wheelchairs. Now, imagine being able to spend time in the trees surrounded by nature no matter your abilities!

2020 will be an incredible year at the Sanctuary. A Treehouse-Classroom will be constructed late summer by none other than the professionals of Nelson Treehouse & Supply/Animal Planet's Treehouse Masters! It will be nestled between a Beech tree and a majestic Sycamore creating a magical space for learning, observation, and a bird's-eye view of the forest. The south side of the Treehouse-Classroom, entitled the Flight Deck, will be an unroofed area for birding and studying the forest environment from above. It will also be the landing spot for our birds soaring in for a program. The Flight Deck will wrap around the Beech tree and link to the Treehouse-Classroom that is anchored by the Sycamore. The classroom will have a roof constructed of cedar shingles that will resemble the wings of a bird in flight and serve as a treetop outdoor learning space.

The Treehouse-Classroom will be accessible through the creation of a bridge that extends from our Field Classroom. It will start at ground level, but as the terrain descends into the riparian forest environment, the visitors rise into the treetops. The bridge walkway to the classroom will be a forest adventure within itself. The accessible path will zigzag through the woods with landings that will serve as teaching stations. One of the landings will be modeled after an eagle's nest and will be a constant work in progress! Children will be able to add sticks to the nest to aid in its design. This will also be the launch point for our birds to soar into the classroom. Another landing will have a firepole for a fun exit to the forest floor.

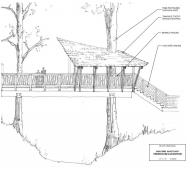
The Sanctuary is soaring into the trees! We dared to dream...we have the Treehouse Masters...now we need you! We have received support from Foundations and individuals that have helped us in funding the design process and a portion of the construction cost. Your support will make this dream a reality and create incredible outdoor experiences for everyone.

See the next page for a list of donors and to see how you can become part of the dream.





Thank you to the following individuals and foundations that have made leadership gifts!



The Treehouse \$50,000-\$100,000 Robert & Esther Black Family Fund Richland County Foundation Community Foundation Santa Cruz





Flight Deck \$10,000-\$20,000 Jane H. Wingerd Flip & Dawn Wisdom

Forest Adventure Bridge \$1,000-\$2,500 Charles Hootman



Educational Encounters \$5,000-\$7,500

We need to raise \$150,000 more to cover all construction costs. Consider being a sponsor and help us soar into the trees!

#### TREEHOUSE-CLASSROOM SPONSORSHIP

NAME
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
I would like to talk with someone to find out more details and to discuss giving options.
Please contact me by email:or by phone:

ohiobirdsanctuary@gmail.com 3774 Orweiler Road Mansfield, Ohio 44903





# **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**



The 2019 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, work events, and aid in the care of our birds. Many of our volunteers work behind the scenes processing mailings, building enclosures, and maintaining the grounds and trails. The Sanctuary could not successfully carry out its mission without these individuals: Bette Backus, Mitch Boyd, Mark Burleigh, Cheryl Callis, Si Carmean, Sue Cicila, Dr. Elizabeth Cogden, Mary Collet, Linda Collins, Mel & Joe Fahey, Paul Gosser, Steve Hilton, Chuck Hootman, Dr. Melanie Hull, Jillian Kauffman, Linda Kelly, Chris Laux, Wendy Marshall, Ron Muth, Joyce Nation, Debra and Winston Page, Elisha Pittenger, Dave Polter, Eileen Ramsay, Dan Samples, Pam Shepherd, David Siebold, Marline Smart, Abigail Smith, Jeanette Sqrow, Chris Steiner, Ayla Stock, Tyler Theaker, Jen Volz, Sue Weirick, Anthony & Marilyn Wheaton, Julie Wittmer, Jamie Woodward, Sue Hoeffer, MARCA, Ed Kulka, the Temple family, and our Junior Naturalists.

Gail Laux, Executive Director

### FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2019-December 31, 2019

The Sanctuary continues to make shifts in its revenue stream to generate the funds needed to support its mission and services. In 2019, we continued our trend from 2018 with generated income surpassing charitable income, creating a more financially stable organization.

Capital Campaign income received in 2019 funded the construction of the Bird Barn and the remainder is designated for the construction of the Treehouse-Classroom. In 2021, we will work to increase our endowment to assure a strong financial future.

INCOME		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Capital Campaigns	259,725*	Bird Care	98,818
Donations	71,257	Programs	59,190
Programs	48,433	Operations	49,849
Grants	35,347	Capital Improvements	32,263
Endowment	32,378	<b>Grounds &amp; Facilities</b>	29,886
Memberships	27,702	Events & Fund-Raising	8,976
Admission ·	18,052	Gift Shop	8,887
Rental	14,939	Memberships	3,676
Gift Shop	11,227	Rental	<u>2,823</u>
In-kind ·	8,167		\$294,368
Events	5,659		

\$532,917

# 2019 Avian Report

The Sanctuary admitted over 250 birds for rehabilitation this year. We were able to return many of these birds to the wild, including a Bald Eagle that was released from Mount Jeez at Malabar Farm. This year we also added several new Avian Ambassadors to our team, including a Barn Owl, Screech-Owl, American Crow, and a Broadwinged Hawk. Although these birds were not able to be released back into the wild, they will soon be inspiring people to care about their wild counterparts.

Over the past several months, we have been in the process of finishing the Bird Barn. This structure will house birds going through rehabilitation that require a quiet, isolated environment away from our visitor center. The Barn is almost finished, but it has already been put to the test housing a Barred Owl and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo!







# AN ANIMAL THAT CAN "LEAVE" IS MORE LIKELY TO STAY

# Theories behind OBS's training and progress report By Curator of Birds, Mary Meixner

Although things tend to slow down a bit in the winter here at OBS, the staff have been busy working with several of our newest Avian Ambassadors! Training a new bird requires time and patience--and frequently, standing outside in temperatures below freezing while you wait for a certain behavior to occur. Luckily, we have had a fairly mild winter so far!

The last time I talked about Alice's (Bald Eagle) training, we were working on introducing her to her travel crate. When we work with a bird, we are constantly modifying the training process. Each species and each individual are different, and we have to take that into account. Considering Alice's size, species, and mental aptitude, we have decided to take a step back and focus instead on exploring what motivates her, including how we can use her food in this process. We have started feeding her on a specific perch with the goal of her eventually meeting us there for training and interaction. As we consistently make this a part of her routine, it will motivate her to do what we ask without taking away her ability to choose. There is a saying among animal trainers: "An animal that *can* leave is more likely to stay." Giving her the choice to participate or not participate empowers her to be confident and comfortable. Taking a step back doesn't mean we are slacking off! Our peers would agree that eagles come with their own training challenges and that it is never good to rush the process. Additionally, others in our field who have trained eagles say that the bird becomes easier to work with as they age. Alice is a special eagle and will be a part of our team for decades, so we want to take the time now to develop the best relationship with her.



Pierce, the Broad-winged Hawk, is doing well! Currently, he is consistent at coming to the glove and letting us put on his equipment. We are hoping to start introducing him to the public in February through our Saturday 1 o'clock keeper talks. Field trip season is getting closer, and he should be ready to do on-site programs by then. One of the things we sometimes do in order to put less pressure on the bird in training is to have a "traveling hawk" and an "on-site hawk." Diesel, our rock-solid Red -shouldered Hawk, is great at traveling to do off-site programming, so we don't have to rush to get Pierce comfortable with a traveling crate. We will simply use Pierce for on-site programs and Diesel for off-site programs, which cuts down on the number of programs each bird has to do. This allows Pierce to get comfortable with a crate on his own schedule.



Our new owls, Cairo the Barn Owl and Ellie the Screech-Owl, have settled in well with the OBS routine. Ellie is comfortable having her equipment put on and goes in and out of a travel crate. She was introduced to our home-school program students in January and did well! Cairo was introduced at several of our fall field trips and he was also a star.

Some of you may remember Niles, the American Kestrel, who actually came to us in 2018. He had two leg fractures when he was a nestling, and while he is able to stand and lead a normal life in captivity, he would not be able to hunt. His story drew a lot of attention on our Facebook page during the summer of 2018. He is now in training and stands on a glove to eat, lets us put on his equipment, and walk around outside his enclosure. We are optimistic that he will be ready for field trip season in April and May!

Last but not least is Sheryl, the American Crow. We have spent the last few months earning her trust and are now starting to explore the training process with her. It is fascinating to watch her learn! Crows are incredibly intelligent and possess intricate

problem-solving skills. Sheryl learned the command "station" (standing on a specific spot) in two brief training sessions. Our next goal is to get her to choose to come out of her enclosure into our clinic area when we ask her. This will allow us to determine how she reacts when she is in a new environment so we can start developing a solid recall behavior. "Recall" is when you train an animal to come back to you no matter what.

Our Avian Ambassadors are an invaluable part of our team here at OBS. They captivate people of all ages with their personalities and beauty. This "next generation" of Avian Ambassadors is going to play a major role in educating and inspiring hundreds of people for years to come!

# 2019 Program Report by Emily Smith

#### **School & Community Outreach**

2,673 students experienced outreach programming from OBS in school. This represents 108 classes from 25 schools. Over 26,000 people experienced outreach programming in a variety of community settings. The Sanctuary conducted 60 individual outreach programs 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 through November.





#### Field Trips & On-Site Programs

1,558 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. 43 home school students experienced on-going programming over the course of nine monthly sessions. Over 800 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. This included 3 winter camps, 1 spring camp, 5 summer camps, and 1 fall camp. 75 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 was provided by the Richland County Foundation Summertime Kids Program and the Richland County Youth and Family Council.

### **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 2019, the group was regularly involved at the Sanctuary and also traveled on field trips to learn about a variety of environmental topics. New this year, the Junior Naturalists completed volunteer shifts at the Sanctuary. They volunteered in and around the visitor's center by greeting visitors and answering questions as well as tending to our gardens and trails. They also helped with our special events and summer camps. Off-site trips included the Wildlife Diversity Conference in Columbus, Ashland University Wetlands Lab (where they learned about aquatic invertebrates), and kayaking/volunteering at Pleasant Hill Lake.



#### **Special Events**

Our Special Events included: Love Is In the Air (February), Mohican Wildlife Weekend (April), Fall Family Festival (October), and Christmas for the Birds (December). High attendance was seen at all these events! This year, we required pre-registration

for Love is in the Air and Christmas for the Birds (giving members the opportunity to register first). This served as an added perk for members. All these events offered fun, low-cost opportunities for up-close encounters with our Avian Ambassadors as well as crafts and activities for all ages.



# 2019 OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY EAGLE and FALCON LEVEL MEMBERS

Thank you to the individuals that support the Sanctuary through a membership. In 2019, our membership grew to 561 households. This was a 14% increase! Memberships support general operations allowing the Sanctuary to be open to the general public year round and provide professional care to native birds in need.



### **EAGLE**

Sandi Arnold Jim & Andrea Arnholt Sharon R Ault Robin and Bob Barrett Angus Barton Trudy Brandenburg Jonathan & Always Butz Jayne Caskie Earl Estep Jennie Eklund Graham Auto Mall James Henson Keil Hollingsworth Burk Jisa Jim Lavelle Rick Markley Gary & Julie Nickrand Katherine Peresie Kathleen & Rob Ridenhour Rand & Mary Smith Jerry Stites & Sue Zarbock John Tobin **Beth Wallis** Jane Wingerd

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# 2019 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).

William Bill Downs Kathy Adams Jay Allred Ruth Auker Joie Anderson Katie Bailev Robert Coe Jean Baliga Wayne & Sandy Bartter Norman Beal David Beer Bill and Diane Bertrum Chrissy Bevier Kave Diener Veronica Boebel Michele Botkin Karen Elbin Jennifer Brady Abby & Zak Bramlage Nathan Brooks Jean Foor Ben Brown John Ford Kathy Browne

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# **OWL LEVEL MEMBERS**

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. This year, our members had the opportunity to join us to watch rehabilitated birds return to the wild. Highlights were a Snowy Owl and a Bald Eagle.



Dan Aquino Amanda & Matthew Argo David & Rachel Ashley Chris Au Jay Bachman

Jay Bachman Bette Backus Terry Baird Lauren Baker Anthony & Brittany Baker Kentee Fitch & Joel Baker Emily Baldridge Jenny Barlos Karen Barrett Erin Baughman Erica Baxche Kristen Beauford Sean & Jennifer Beavis Brian Bechtel Barbara Bechtler

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Andrew Beilstein
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# 2019 OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY OWL LEVEL MEMBERS (continued)

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In 2019, a new membership opportunity was created. **Discover Richland** is a membership package that includes a membership to the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Buckeye Children Museum, Kingwood Center Gardens, and tickets to the Richland Carrousel Park. This is a great collaborative effort among local non-profits and a wonderful opportunity for families.

Discover Richland Membership Bundles can be purchased at: <a href="https://www.littlebuckeye.org/discover-richland/">https://www.littlebuckeye.org/discover-richland/</a>



# **2019 OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY OWL LEVEL MEMBERS** (continued)

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Mary Quinn-Herring

Lindi Rabal John Radosevich

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Melissa Ramsev Jennifer & Eric Ransom

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Nick Woodburn Joan Woodcock Jason Yantis

Janet Yockey Lisa Zemancik

Mark your calendar! Members benefits include early registration for special events.

In February, the Sanctuary celebrates owls during their season of love. Fun fact: owls mate and start their nesting season 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.





**Courtney Aguiar** Jay Allred Tom Hilliard Carol Hoefler Molly Arnold Jean Baliga **Bruce & Claudia Barrett Robin and Bob Barrett Angus Barton** Barbara Bechtler Ken & Sherry Berger Karen Bierly Mid- American Exotic **Bird Society** Vincent & Jo Black **Nancy Bletner** Frederick H Boll Janine Boocks Robert & Cris Boyd **Janet Brenot** Sean Burns William & Cheryl Callis Mike & Carol Chambers **Barb Christel** Barbara Cinadr **Charles Ciola Evan Cobb** Mary Collets **Linda Collins Diane Collins** Irene Cooperrider Virginia Crowgey Rob Workman & Amy Crutchfield **Dave Damron** Martin & Emily Denes Susan Edwards Jennie Eklund **Charles Evans** Melanie Fahey Marsha & Joe Farrell Jean Foor **Russell & Mary Gimbel** Foundation

# **2019 GENERAL OPERATIONS DONORS**

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

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Jack & Kelley Higginbotham

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Tom Hillard

# **2019 ONLINE DONATIONS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Thank you to all the individuals and corporations who supported the Sanctuary through donations to Richland Gives, and choose to honor a love one through a memorial gift.

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Ohio Bird Sanctuary 3774 Orweiler Road Mansfield, OH 44903

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

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