

NEWS HAWK

OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY



SUMMER 2019

It's baby bird season! During the spring and summer months, we admit many baby birds for care and field hundreds of calls about others. Even though we are pretty good at being parents for these babies, their own species is always going to be better than us!



There are times when babies need to be brought in to us. Recently, we had nestling kestrels brought to us because their nest had been taken down during deconstruction of a barn. The people tried to reunite the family by putting up a nest box close to the original nest location. Unfortunately, in this case, the parents did not come back. We are currently caring for the chicks, but are actively working on returning these small falcons to the wild by locating an active kestrel nest that can foster them.

Our most recent successful foster happen right here on the property. A wildlife center in Stark County reached out to us because they were looking to have an orphaned Barred Owl raised with other Barred owls. Rehab centers often reach out to each other in order to bring babies of the same species together while in our care, that way there is less chance of imprinting and the babies can learn from each other. In this case, we didn't have another Barred baby in our care—but we did have a pair of Barred owl parents with fledglings living on site at OBS, so we decided to try fostering!

This Barred owl pair has resided in the woods at OBS for several years. A few years ago, an Eagle Scout put up a Barred owl box at OBS and this year the pair decided to use it! We couldn't reach this box to place the baby Barred inside, so we put up another box farther down on the same pole. For the first couple of days, we fed the baby Barred in the box. We could hear the wild owls in the woods nearby but did not witness any direct interaction between them and the baby. The baby left the box after about 4-5 days and perched in surrounding trees. Usually, we would hear his begging calls and then be able to spot him among the foliage. We continued to put food out for him and the food continued to disappear, although we weren't sure if he was eating it himself or if the parents were feeding him. Then, after a week or so, we spotted our baby in the trees with an adult Barred perched right next to him! Since then, we have not seen him or heard him, so we are confident that the wild owls adopted the little guy! We love when fostering works—it really is the perfect scenario for orphaned babies.

There are also times when babies need to be left alone! Fledging—when baby birds leave the nest—is a natural stage in a baby bird's life. They leave the nest and are hanging out on the ground or in low branches or bushes. They can't fly well yet but they can do short, hopping flights, and their parents are still feeding them and looking out for them. If you see a fledgling the best thing to do is leave it alone.

As always, if you ever have questions or concerns about a baby bird, feel free to call us!
419-884-HAWK.



Note from the Director's Desk

Dear Friends of OBS,

So many exciting things to tell you! New faces—new initiatives! The Board of Directors and staff have been working hard over the past year to chart the Sanctuary's future. The process started with evaluating the organization's strengths and weaknesses, defining core values and interviewing supporters for their input. Through this process we have created a 4-year sustainability plan and have empowered the board and staff to work as a cohesive team. A large element for the Sanctuary's success is the effectiveness of the governing board. Our current board members have taken on new roles of leadership through chairing committees (Governance, Property, Philanthropy, Marketing, and Finance) and tackling initiatives outline in the plan. This structure has reengaged the board and has freed up the staff to concentrate on daily operations, bird care and education programs. Each board member brings very important skill sets to OBS and I would like to introduce you to our four newest board members!



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Julie Schwartz: Julie is currently the Head of School of Discovery School. Julie has an extensive background in School Administration and Science education. As many of you know, Julie previously worked at the Sanctuary for two years building our educational programming. Julie lives in Mansfield with her husband and two children. We are excited to have her back at OBS!

Matthew Garrison: Matt is the Property Manager for the Adena Corporation. Matt has a passion for the Sanctuary as a member and as an Eagle Scout that spent many summers at our location when it was Camp Avery Hand. Matt lives in Mansfield with his wife and two children. We are looking forward to Matt's role on the property committee!

Phillip Chatman: Phillip is a Senior Account Manager for Cardinal Health. Phillip and his daughter have visited the Sanctuary on regular basis for over 8 years. They have a great passion for who we are and what we do. Phillip lives in Columbus and we know his charismatic personality is going to be instrumental in the Sanctuary's future.

Sarah Mussman: Sarah and her husband are the attorneys of Mussman Law Office. Sarah is the solicitor for the community of Bellville. Sarah lives in Mansfield with her husband and four children. Sarah will be a great asset to the board for her legal expertise and as a mother of children that enjoy visiting the Sanctuary.



SUMMER INTERNS

Each summer we are fortunate to have two college students join our staff as interns. This summer our Education intern is Katie Bing. Katie is a junior majoring in Biology and Environmental science at Ashland University. Katie's role as the education intern is to assist staff with educational programs, provide visitors with information, assist in bird care, and complete a project. Katie has chosen to utilize the iNaturalist App to create opportunities for our visitors to be citizen scientist to aid OBS in building its biodiversity inventory.

Casey Clift is a senior majoring in Technical Engineering at Brigham Young University. Casey's role as the Bird care intern is to assist with daily care of our resident birds and the large influx of baby birds. Casey will also assist staff with presentations and keeper talks. Her project will be to train one of our new birds for education and create a quick guide for identifying nestling songbirds. Funding for our summer internships is through a grant from the Fran & Warren Rupp Advised Fund of the Richland County Foundation.

WHO IS AT THE DESK?

The Sanctuary staff rely heavily on volunteers and the interns to greet visitors at the information desk while we are providing bird care and educational programs. Often these individuals are new and learning all the ins and outs of OBS. Part of our volunteer team are individuals from Marca Industries and their coaches. Marca is a non-profit organization that provides employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We take great pride in the having a diverse group of individuals that make OBS a wonderful place to work and visit. Be assured if a volunteer or intern can not answer your questions a staff member is close by to assist.

Gail Laux, Director



Keep Them Flying Mary Meixner, Curator of Birds

In February of this past year, I was blessed to attend the annual conference put on by the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE). IAATE is an organization dedicated to birds—training birds, educating people about birds, and conserving birds in the wild! They also strive to connect individuals in the field of avian care. Their annual conference is one of the ways they foster “communication, professionalism, and cooperation” among those working with birds. This year the conference was held in sunny Orlando, Florida! Who doesn’t love a trip to Florida in the middle of an Ohio winter? In all seriousness, though, it was an incredible learning and networking opportunity. I was able to meet and hear from others in the field of avian care, taking away helpful hints and new ideas to apply at OBS. There was a full-day workshop on training birds that helped to boost my confidence as a trainer. My mind was blown by some of the cool things that other facilities and trainers are doing with their birds, such as a woman who has taught her cockatiels how to read! By far, “Zoo Day” was the most fun part of the trip! The conference was hosted by Natural Encounters, Inc. (NEI), which is located on 34 acres of land called “The Ranch” where they house and train many different species of birds. They focus quite a bit on flight training, allowing the birds to use their natural abilities to wow audiences! We had a great time touring the facility and the staff treated us to a flying bird show that included a Grey-crowned crane, a Milky owl, a Black vulture, and a flock of macaws! It was inspiring to see how NEI has worked with their birds to fly them for programs. It is something that I would like to replicate with some of our flighted birds here at OBS. I believe that it would significantly benefit the lives of our birds, enriching them and allowing them to exhibit natural behaviors. I also think that it would be great to be able to show the public the thing that birds naturally do best!



One of the tools NEI uses is what I’m going to call a “flying platform”: it’s a fairly simple elevated platform with stairs leading up to it. This allows the trainer to access the platform and easily cue the bird in training to fly to it. It also gives the bird a sturdy place to land where there is plenty of space, that way the bird can fly in with confidence and control. I would love to build one of these at OBS! I believe it would make training our flighted birds fun and simple.

If you would like to help us make this happen, head over to our website and hit that “Donate” button! Thank you in advance.

Support our avian ambassadors through the Adopt-a-Bird program.

Your donation provides our bird with an enriching diet, professional vet care and a caring staff.



\$50 Level : Any bird in our educational collection can be adopted at this level. Includes a certificate and biography.

\$100 Level: Includes plaque with the bird's picture, a biography and the opportunity to meet the bird.

\$250 Level: Sponsorship of an eagle. Saint Alice, the Bald Eagle is the only eagle that is available for a meet and greet.

Circle level and bird you would like to sponsor

Diesel the Red-shouldered Hawk - *Ichabod* the Turkey Vulture - *Elliott* the Black Vulture

Seymour the Great-horned Owl - *Monty* the Barn Owl - *Mishka* the Red-tailed Hawk

Saint Alice the Bald Eagle - *Pippin* or *Blaze* the Peregrine Falcon - *Winnie* or *Duke* the Screech-Owls

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____



2019 Junior Naturalist Program

New this summer, the Junior Naturalists are getting more involved in the day-to-day operations of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. They will be volunteering in and around the visitor's center by greeting visitors and answering questions as well as tending to our gardens and trails. If you are not familiar with who the Junior Naturalists are, they are a group of students ages 13-18 years old who are enthusiastic about wildlife and the environment. They come from all over the state to be a part of the program. The Junior Naturalists are involved at the Sanctuary as volunteers, and they also meet to participate in various projects and educational opportunities both at the Sanctuary and off-site. Already this year, they have attended the Wildlife Diversity Conference in Columbus and visited Ashland University's Black Fork Wetlands Lab.



In the past, the Junior Naturalists have helped at the Sanctuary with our special events and children's nature camps. They have always done an amazing job of helping with events and camps, so we wanted to give them an opportunity to do more. Normally, an individual must be at least 18 years old to volunteer at the Sanctuary. By getting the Junior Naturalists more involved, it gives students who are under 18 years old the chance to be volunteers. When you visit the Sanctuary this summer, keep an eye out for our Junior Naturalists in action! (You will know it's them, by their iconic tie dye t-shirts.) We hope this will be a valuable opportunity for them to learn more about what the Sanctuary does and find out if this is a potential career field they may wish to pursue. We are very excited for them to take on this role at the Sanctuary!

If you know of a teenager that would be interested in joining the Junior Naturalist program, you can find more information on our website link : <https://www.ohiobirdsanctuary.com/educational-programming/junior-naturalists> or can contact the Program Coordinator, Emily Smith at emilysmithobs@gmail.com.

Home School Program: Another Year in the Books



We have wrapped up another year of our home school program at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, and it was certainly a fun year! We explored streams, investigated different animal species, and learned how to protect our precious earth. Throughout the school year, we met once a month, and each month had a different theme. We played games, made crafts, met some of the resident animals, and spent time outside! Many of the students came to most or all of the sessions!

Our spring session was all about going green! As a part of this session, the home school students were involved in projects that helped both the Sanctuary and the environment. The students designed reusable canvas bags that can be purchased in the Sanctuary's gift shop. The proceeds will go toward supplies for our future home school programs. The students also helped build a compost bin for the Sanctuary to use. We learned about what can and cannot be composted, and they brought in "green" and "brown" waste to get the pile started. Located near the picnic tables, the new compost bin is now accessible for visitors to use when picnicking at the Sanctuary!



The school year has come to an end, but we are already looking forward to the next school year. If you or someone you know has a home school student, we invite you to join us for the 2019-2020 school year! Themes and details for the next school year will be listed on our website August 1.

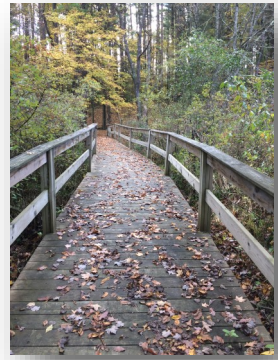


Apollo's Hideaway Field Classroom

Spring time brings numerous field trips to the Ohio Bird Sanctuary! We are happy to offer programs for people of all ages and abilities, but our passion is getting children outside to explore their natural surroundings. Many children that come to the Sanctuary have never been out hiking in the woods, so it is great to see them learning and having fun.



The Ohio Bird Sanctuary recently completed the remodel of our field classroom, now known as Apollo's Hideaway. It has been a great asset to our field trips this spring. We have been able to use it during inclement weather as well as with our inclusion classes. The field classroom gives students with disabilities an opportunity to learn alongside their peers and enjoy all the same outdoor experiences. The boardwalk leading to Apollo's Hideaway offers staff the opportunities to teach about native plants, listen for birds, and have students use all their senses to investigate the environment (even the chance to smell skunk cabbage and taste wild blackberries). Inside the field classroom, students dissect owl pellets, learn about nests, and identify bird calls. The field trip experience also includes meeting our avian ambassadors and feeding birds in the aviary. All of these areas are wheelchair accessible and allow the classes to enjoy the field trip as a cohesive group.



Next year, we plan to add an addition off Apollo's Hideaway called The Treehouse. It will be a nest-themed structure built in the trees, where visitors can truly get a "bird's-eye view." The boardwalk to the Treehouse will be built off the existing deck and will be handicap accessible. We are currently in the stage of raising funding for the Treehouse and the accessibility bridge. More details on this exciting new addition will be revealed in the fall!



SUMMER DAY CAMPS

July 9-11: Nature Detectives

July 17-19: Extreme Nature

August 7-9: Survival Camp



Know a child that is enthusiastic about nature, loves animals, or is an avid outdoor adventurer? Nature Camps at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary are a fantastic and fun way to immerse your child in the study of the natural world. Each camp includes games, hikes, crafts, and animal encounters! There is so much fun to be had this summer at camp, and we hope the young nature enthusiast in your family will come join us!

Our camps are held from 9am to 1pm and open to students ages 6-12 years old. (must be 6 years old by the June 1, 2019 and have completed kindergarten.)

Pre-registration is required. Cost \$90/child.

Details and registration forms can be found on our website or in the OBS Visitor's Center.

<https://www.ohiobirdsanctuary.com/educational-programming/nature-camps>



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Thomas Witkowski
Vice Pres.: Preston Boyd
Treasurer: Zachary Bramlage
Secretary: Jay Allred
Valerie Ashcraft
Phillip Chatman
Matthew Garrison
Alex Kulka
Nicole Lewis
Sarah Mussman
Julie Schwartz

Executive Director
Gail Laux

Operations Assistant
Abby Bramlage

Curator of Birds
Mary Meixner

Director of Programs
Emily Smith

Bird Care
Stephanie Lewis
Alyssa Hilton
Tracie Waters

Building & Grounds
Steve Hilton
Carrie Lardinais
Dawne Snyder



Ohio Bird Sanctuary
3774 Orweiler Road
Mansfield, OH 44903

NEWS HAWK

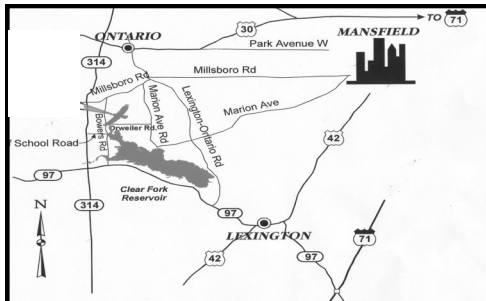
Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mansfield, OH
Permit # 114

Or current resident

Visitor Center and Trail Hours

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

Admission to Bird Display Area (members free)
\$1/Child \$3/ Adult



WWW.OHIOBIRDSANCTUARY.COM

Become an Ohio Bird Sanctuary
member today and receive free admission and
invitation to member only events!



Owl \$25

Free admission for one family to bird display area
Discount on admission fees for events.

Hawk \$50

Owl level benefits plus free admission to bird display area
for two guests. Free admission to member only events.

Falcon \$100

Hawk level benefits plus free admission to bird display
area for unlimited number of guests. Discount on fees for
events and camp registration. Souvenir OBS Mug.

Eagle \$500

Falcon level benefits plus free
admission to all special events and
a souvenir OBS shirt.



Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Email _____