

Ohio Young Birders Club Lakefront Preserve BioBlitz & Big Sit Port Clinton, Ohio July and October 2011







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Numerous organizations and individuals helped to make the Ohio Young Birders Club's (OYBC) Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve BioBlitz and follow-up Big Sit for Conservation a success.

Former Port Clinton Mayor Debra Hymore-Tester and City Council President Linda Hartlaub have been involved with this project from the very beginning. The City of Port Clinton's involvement made this event special. It was great to see Linda and her niece in the field participating too.

Grants from the Harry Stensen Memorial Trust and the Ottawa County Community Foundation helped make this event possible. A special thanks goes out to them for their support.

Field experts provide essential knowledge and mentorship during any BioBlitz. Todd Crail and his crew from the University of Toledo were clutch. The aquatic sampling was a big hit this year, and this sampling was especially helpful in documenting the importance of this area as critical habitat.

Kenn Kaufman of Kaufman Field Guide Series has been a true asset to the Ohio Young Birders Club from day one. Although he was not able to attend the BioBlitz, Kenn was a big help during the follow-up Big Sit efforts at the Preserve. Mark Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory Research Director provided wetland biology expertise as well.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory founded and administers the Ohio Young Birders Club. Major OYBC events like the BioBlitz are truly all hands on deck for the entire staff. From behind the scene logistics, to providing field expertise during the event, thanks to the BSBO crew.

Parent and student commitment is key to the ongoing successes of the OYBC. BioBlitz participants came from across Ohio as well as Michigan, Illinois, and Louisiana.

Thanks to Coffee Express for break snacks.

This BioBlitz effort was expanded to include a Big Sit for Conservation Fundraiser. Almost \$6,000 was raised during this subsequent Big Sit. This money was split between the Ohio Young Birders Club and the habitat restoration efforts at the Lakefront Preserve. Nearly 150 individual contributions, from 19 different states, were received for the Big Sit. We are grateful for this outstanding support from around the country.

The BioBlitz is an event that reinforces the mission of the Ohio Young Birders Club: *Encouraging, Educating, and Empowering Youth Conservation Leaders.*

Thanks to everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Ohio Young Birders Club & Black Swamp Bird Observatory

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	page 2
Table of Contents	page 3
Service Project Overview	page 4
Organizational & Property Histories	page 5-7
Geography and Weather	page 8-9
Species Summary	page 10
Non-vascular Plant Inventory	page 11
Vascular Plant Inventory	page 11-13
Invertebrate Inventory	page 13-15
Vertebrate Inventory	page 15-16

SERVICE PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) participates in monthly field trips or service learning projects. A two-part field trip experience was proposed for the Lakefront Preserve in Port Clinton in 2011. On July 23, 2011, the Club hosted a BioBlitz on the property and then on October 5, 2011, the club hosted a Big Sit for Conservation Fundraiser on the property.



A BioBlitz is an effort to identify all of the living things on a property. The information gathered serves as a valuable tool for establishing a baseline inventory, and this is essential in evaluating the success of the ongoing restoration of the habitat of the Lakefront Preserve.

In conjunction with the BioBlitz the OYBC hosted a Big Sit for Conservation Fundraiser. A Big Sit, like a walkathon, solicits donations or pledges for the number of species of bird identified. These funds help support the OYBC and habitat restoration projects. Linda Hartlaub, President of the Port Clinton City Council says, "The City has worked for more than twenty years to obtain the property now known as the Lakeshore Preserve. Now that we have succeeded, we can boast that we have one of the longest stretches of public access shoreline on Lake Erie. We are honored that the young people in the Ohio Young Birders Club appreciate our vision of the property enough to work hard to raise money to support it."

OYBC strives to give young people the tools to empower them to be strong conservation leaders. Financial support is critical for conservation efforts, and teaching the students about fundraising and charitable giving is an important part of their leadership development.

Far too often, adults underestimate the power of young people to make a difference. The OYBC is a shining example of the fact that young people *can* make the world a better place.

ORGANIZATIONAL & PORPERTY HISTORIES

Ohio Young Birders Club



It all began in May of 2006 when six young birders met with several adult volunteers at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor to discuss forming a club for young people with an interest in birds and nature. What they helped create was the Ohio Young Birders Club, a club for young people ages 12-18.

These dynamic young people recognized that they would need the support of adults, so the structure of the club included adult advisors that would provide them with funding, birding expertise, and transportation to birding locations.

Since the inception of the club numerous milestones stand out:

- Growing OYBC membership to 350 members
- Winning the support of two dozen organizations that have joined the team as OYBC partners!
- Arranging monthly field trips and/or service projects in a variety of locations around Ohio, including many overnight campouts and all day events.
- Hosting five conferences that drew more than 400 total participants.
- Conducting a BioBlitz at the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden, at Crown Point Education Center, and at Port Clinton's Lakefront Preserve
- Serving as a model program for organizations across the U.S. and inspiring other states to launch their own clubs for young birders!
- Learning a lot about Ohio's birds and environment.
- HAVING A LOT OF FUN, TOO!

Black Swamp Bird Observatory



The mission of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) is to inspire the appreciation, enjoyment and conservation of birds and their habitats through research, education and outreach.

Located in the remnants of the once vast Great Black Swamp region of northwest Ohio, Black Swamp Bird Observatory is a 510(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to promoting sound stewardship of avian resources in the Lake Erie Marsh Region. BSBO teams research with education to promote bird conservation.

The Observatory's long-term research projects have shed much light on the mysteries and complexities of the migration of songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and rails. BSBO data has been used to assist both private and governmental land owners in better managing their properties for migratory bird species.

The Observatory's education and outreach programs have received national accolades. Our strong focus on youth education is highlighted by our Wetland Investigation Network (WIN) program, which offers students grades K-12 a day-long exploration of the entire marsh ecosystem, along with our partners at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

Our highly acclaimed Ohio Young Birders Club, for ages 12-18, encourages, educates, and empowers our future conservation leaders. And it's serving as a model program for many other state-wide youth birding clubs.

BSBO's outreach to the business community through our BSBO Business Alliance Partnership, is helping to build strong support for conservation of our natural resources, while highlighting the importance of ecotourism as a vital economic driver in our area.

Essentially, BSBO is a vital link in connecting people with nature. We provide opportunities to make a meaningful difference for the environment through our many Citizen Scientist projects, and to be involved in something regenerative; working together to safeguard our natural world for future generations.

Lakefront Preserve



The Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve connects two existing parks to create a nearly one mile stretch of Lake Erie access.

In November 2009 Port Clinton finalized the purchase of the preserve, which includes 12 acres of coastal wetland marsh and a one-third mile sand beach.

The acquisition preserves wildlife habitat and connects the city's Waterworks Park on the west to Port Clinton City Beach on the east.

The preserve is located north of East Perry Street (State Route 163). The road is part of the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail of the National Scenic Byways Program. The land is an Audubon Ohio designated Important Bird Area.

In 2006 Port Clinton city officials approached the Ohio Office of The Trust for Public Land (TPL), seeking assistance in acquiring the preserve properties. The city also applied for a grant from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management. In Federal fiscal year 2007, the preserve's acquisition was ranked 12 out of 59 projects competing nationally for CELCP funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

After three years of negotiations by the TPL, the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve properties were purchased for just under \$1.4 million. A CELCP grant provided slightly less than 50 percent of the funding and the rest came from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund. The City of Port Clinton owns the property, and Black Swamp Conservancy holds a conservation easement over the entire preserve, requiring that the land be permanently maintained as a nature preserve.



Only 16 percent of Ohio's 312-mile Lake Erie shore is publicly accessible. This acquisition increases Ohio's publicly accessible coastal miles to 48.9 at 144 sites.

"By preserving this waterfowl and bird habitat site, we have the opportunity to increase ecotourism and create nearly a mile-long continuous stretch of Lake Erie public access," said Port Clinton Mayor Debbie Hymore-Tester.

"Lake Erie is a tremendous natural resource. The lake provides drinking water for millions of Ohioans and habitat for many species of fish, birds, animals and plants. Lake Erie also attracts thousands of visitors each year for boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational opportunities," said Kevin Joyce, executive director of Black Swamp Conservancy. "Our conservancy is extremely pleased to be able to partner with the city of Port Clinton, state of Ohio and The Trust for Public Land to protect the Lakefront Preserve in perpetuity for public use."

The City of Port Clinton plans on seeking additional grant funding for removal of invasive plants and improvements to coastal marsh habitat.

GEOGRAPHY AND WEATHER

Ohio Young Birders Club BioBlitz Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve Port Clinton, Ohio Saturday, July 23, 2011

Geography of Port Clinton, Ohio

Ottawa County

Latitude: 41.51 N Longitude: 82.94 W

Elevation: 592 feet

Weather on July 23, 2011

After early morning thundershowers, it heated up quickly remaining quite warm throughout the afternoon.

Sunrise: 6:19 a.m. EDT Sunset: 9:00 p.m. EDT

Temperature

Mean Temperature: 85 °F / 29 °C Max Temperature: 96 °F / 36 °C Min Temperature: 75 °F / 24 °C

Moisture

Dew Point: 73 °F/ 23 °C Average Humidity 78% Maximum Humidity 88% Minimum Humidity 54%

Precipitation: 1.03 in / 2.6cm

Sea Level Pressure: 29.97 in / 1015 mb

Wind

Wind Direction: South Wind Speed: 6 mph/ 10 kmh Max Wind Speed: 28 mph / 45kmh Max Gust Speed: 38 mph / 61 kmh

Visibility: 7 miles / 11 kilometers

Moon Cycle: Last Quarter

GEOGRAPHY AND WEATHER

Ohio Young Birders Club Big Sit Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve Port Clinton, Ohio Saturday, October 5, 2011

Weather on October 15, 2011

It was very windy and chilly but dry. Winds were strong from the W-SW. Sky was cloudy in the morning and partly sunny in the afternoon.

Sunrise: 7:45 a.m. EDT Sunset: 6:53 p.m. EDT

Temperature

Mean Temperature: 56 °F / 13 °C Max Temperature: 63 °F/ 17 °C Min Temperature: 50 °F/ 10 °C

Moisture

Dew Point: 39 °F/ 4 °C Average Humidity 56% Maximum Humidity 80% Minimum Humidity 36%

Precipitation: 0.01 in / 0.0cm

Sea Level Pressure: 29.69 in / 1005 mb

Wind

Wind Direction: West-Southwest Wind Speed: 16 mph/ 26 kmh Max Wind Speed: 33 mph / 53kmh Max Gust Speed: 43 mph / 69 kmh

Visibility: 10 miles / 16 kilometers

Moon Cycle: Waning Gibbous, 89% of the Moon is illuminated

SPECIES SUMMARY

NON-VASCULAR PLANTS	1
VASCULAR PLANTS	76
INSECTS	24
MOLLUSKS	13
FISH	13
AMPHIBIANS	1
REPTILES	2
BIRDS	49
BioBlitz Species Total	179

The BioBlitz and Big Sit efforts of the Ohio Young Birders Club documented a stunning array of diversity in this urban setting. The group was able to identify 179 species of living things in two days of sampling.

As expected, vascular plants made up the highest number of species observed. It was encouraging to document amphibian and reptile species using the habitat as well.

Aquatic sampling of Lake Erie allowed the Ohio Young Birders Club to identify 13 species of fish and 13 species of mussels. Especially exciting was the documentation of the state endangered Eastern Pondmussel and the Rayed Bean Mussel, a species that is currently being considered for inclusion on the United States Endangered Species Act.

The Lakefront Preserve represents essential migratory bird habitat. Some species utilize the habitat year round. Many species of birds utilize this habitat for brief moments during the year, but without this stopover habitat, they would not be able to survive their migration journey. Species like Baltimore Oriole, American Robin, Mourning Dove are found in the upland areas of the preserve, while species like Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, and Ruddy Duck are associate with the water areas of the preserve.

Insects were well documented, but more sampling would surely yield more species.

The BioBlitz and Big Sit represent a minimum species tally. Addition sampling will yield more species identified. Species can be found using the site during other seasons. Additional plant and insect sampling would prove especially beneficial at this location. Mammals would be expected to use the habitats on including perhaps mice, shrews, squirrels, and beach scavengers like opossum and raccoon.

NON-VASCULAR PLANT INVENTORY

Non-vascular Plant Inventory

		WOSSES
No.	Scientific Name	Plant Name
1	Azolla caroliniana	Water-velvet

VASCULAR PLANT INVENTORY

Vascular Plant Inventory

	Woody Dicots
Scientific Name	Plant Name
Populus deltoides	Eastern Cottonwood
Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple
Salix nigra	Black Willow
Salix longifolia	Sandbar Willow
	Populus deltoides Acer saccharinum Salix nigra



Vascular Plant Inventory

Herbaceous Dicots and Monocots

	Herbaceou	is dicots and Monocots
No.	Scientific Name	Plant Name
1	Achillea millefolium	Common Yarrow
2	Alisma plantago-aquatica	Common Water-plantain
3	Amaranthus glaecizans	Tumbleweed
4	Amaranthus retroflexus	Green Amaranth
5	Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Common Ragweed
6	Ambrosia trifida	Great Ragweed
7	Anacharis canadensis	Waterweed
8	Arctium minus	Comon Burdock
9	Aruncus dioicus	White Goat's Beard
10	Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed
11	Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed
12	Bidens bipinnata	Spanish Needles
13	Boehmeria cylindrica	False Nettle
14	Calamagrostis canadensis	Bluejoint Grass
15	Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed
16	Carex vulpinoidea	Carex
17	Cirsium arvense	Canada Thistle
18	Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed
19	Cyperus ferruginescens	Rusty Flatsedge
20	Cyperus strigosus	False Nutsedge
21	Cyperus strigosus	Straw-colored Flatsedge
22	Daucus carota	Queen Anne's Lace
23	Echinochloa crusgalli	Barnyard Grass
24	Echinochloa walteri	Walter's Millet
25	Echinocystis lobata	Wild Cucumber
26	Eleocharis spp	Spike Rush
27	Eryngium pinnatifidum	Blue Devils
28	Eupatorium rugosum	White Snakeroot
29	Hieracium spp	Hawkweed
30	Hydrocotyle americana	Water Pennywort
31	Juncus canadensis	Canada Rush
32	Juncus torreyi	Torrey's Rush
33	Lactuca biennis	Tall Blue Lettuce
34	Lactuca virosa	Wild Lettuce
35	Leersia oryzoides	Rice Cutgrass
36	Lemna minor	Lesser Duckweed
37	Linaria vulgaris	Butter and Eggs
38	Ludwigia palustris	False Loosestrife
39	Lycopus americanus	Water Horehound
40	Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife
41	Mimulus ringens	Monkey Flower
42	Mirabilis nyctaginea	Wild Four-o'oclock
43	Myriophyllum spicatum	Eurasian Water Milfoil
44	Najas flexilis	Bushy Pondweed
45	Oenothera spp	Evening Primrose
46	Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary Grass
47	Phlox divaricata	Wild Phlox
48	Phragmites australis	Common Reed
49	Polygonum hydropiper	Common Smartweed/Water Pepper
50	Polygonum lapathifolium	Dock-leaved Smartweed



Bluejoint Grass



Arrowhead

Vascular Plant Inventory

Herbaceous Dicots and Monocots

No.	Scientific Name	Plant Name
51	Polygonum pennsylvanicum	Pink Knotweed
52	Potamogeton foliosus	Leafy Pondweed
53	Potamogeton natans	Broad-leaved Pondweed
54	Rumex crispus	Curly Dock
55	Sagittaria latifolia	Arrowhead
56	Scirpus acutus	Hard Stem Bulrush
57	Scirpus americanus	Three-square Sedge
58	Scirpus atrovirens	Great Green Bulrush
59	Scirpus validus	Soft-stem Bulrush
60	Scutellaria lateriflora	Skullcap
61	Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet Nightshade
62	Solidago spp	Goldenrod
63	Spirodela polyrhiza	Greater Duckweed
64	Tarazacum officinale	Common Dandelion
65	Tragopogon pratensis	Yellow Goatsbeard
66	Verbascum thapsus	Common Mullein
67	Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain
68	Veronica anagallis-aquatica	Water Speedwell
69	Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root
70	Wolffia columbiana	Watermeal
71	Xanthium chinese	Common Clotbur
72	Xanthium echinatum	Beach Clotbur



Hard Stem Bulrush

INVERTEBRATE INVENTORY

Invertebrate Inventory - Insects

Order Odonata (dragonfly and damselfly)

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name
1	Ischnura verticalis	Eastern Forktail
2	Enallagma civile	Familiar Bluet
3	Anax junius	Common Green Darner
4	Tramea lacerata	Black Saddlebags
5	Sympetrum obtrusum	White-faced meadowhawk



Black Saddlebags

Invertebrate Inventory - Insects

Order Orthoptera (grasshopper, cicada, katydid and cricket)

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No.	Scientific Name	Common Name
1	Dichromorpha viridis	Short-winged Green Grasshopper
	Spharagemon collare or	Mottled Sand Grasshopper or
2	Spharagemon cristatum	Ridgeback grasshopper
3	Tibicen tibicen	Swamp Cicada
4	Orchelimum nigripes	Black-legged Meadow Katydid

Invertebrate Inventory - Insects

Order Hemiptera (true bug)

No.Scientific NameCommon Name1Gerris remigisWater Strider

Invertebrate Inventory - Insects

Order Coleptera (beetles)

No.Scientific NameCommon Name1Harmonia axyridisAsian Lady Beetle

Invertebrate Inventory - Insects

Order Lepidoptera (butterfly)

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name
1	Thymelicus lineol	European Skipper
2	Libellula pulchella	Twelve-spotted Skimmer
3	Lycaena hyllus	Bronze Copper
4	Thorybes pylades	Northern Cloudywing
5	Pieris rapae	Cabbage White
6	Colias eurytheme	Orange Sulphur
7	Papilio glaucus	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
8	Ancyloxypha numitor	Least Skipper
9	Anatrytone logan	Delaware Skipper
10	Danaus plexippus	Monarch



Bronze Copper

Invertebrate Inventory - Insects

Order Diptera (fly and midge)

No.Scientific NameCommon Name1Taeniaptera trivittataStilt-legged Fly

Invertebrate Inventory - Insects

Order Hymenoptera (sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants)

No.Scientific NameCommon Name1Sphex pensylvanicusGreat Black Wasp



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Invertebrate Inventory - Mollusks

		macito
No.	Scientific Name	Common Name
1	Plethobasus cooperianus	Pimpleback
2	Ligumia nasuta	Eastern Pondmussel
3	Amblema plicata	Three-ridge
4	Villosa fabalis	Rayed Bean
5	Fusconaia flava	Wabash Pigtoe
6	Ligumia recta	Black Sandshell
7	Obliquaria reflexa	Threehorn wartyback
8	Quadrula quadrula	Mapleleaf
9	Leptodea fragilis	Fragile Papershell
10	Elliptio dilatata	Spike
11	Lampsilis siliquoidea	Fatmucket
12	Corbicula fluminea	Asiatic Clam
13	Dreissena polymorpha	Zebra



Eastern Pondmussel

VERTEBRATE INVENTORY

Vertebrate Inventory

	•		
	Fish		
No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	
1	Micropterus salmoides	Largemouth Bass	
2	Lepomis macrochirus	Bluegill	
3	Perca flavescens	Yellow Perch	
4	Ictalurus punctatus	Channel Catfish	
5	Morone chrysops	White Bass	
6	Morone americana	White Perch	
7	Cyprinus carpio	Common Carp	
8	Aplodinotus grunniens	Freshwater Drum	
9	Percina kathae	Logperch Darter	
10	Notropis atherinoides	Emerald Shiner	
11	Notropis hudsonius	Spottail Shiner	
12	Dorosoma cepedianum	Gizzard Shad	
13	Neogobius melanostomus	Round Goby	



Logperch

Vertebrate Inventory

	-	Amphibians
No.	Scientific Name	Common Name
1	Lithobates pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog



Northern Leopard Frog

Vertebrate Inventory

No.	Reptiles	
	Scientific Name	Common Name
1	Nerodia sipedon sipedon	Common Watersnake
2	Chysemys picta marginata	Midland Painted Turtle

Vertebrate Inventory

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

Zenaida macroura

Chaetura pelagica

Picoides pubescens

Tyrannus tyrannus

Tachycineta bicolor

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Vireo gilvus

Progne subis

rertebrate inventory			
Birds			
No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	
1	Branta canadensis	Canada Goose	
2	Aix sponsa	Wood Duck	
3	Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	
4	Anas discors	Blue-winged Teal	
5	Oxyura jamaicensis	Ruddy Duck	
6	Phalacrocorax auritus	Double-crested Cormorant	
7	Ardea herodias	Great Blue Heron	
8	Ardea alba	Great Egret	
9	Butorides virescens	Green Heron	
10	Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night Heron	
11	Cathartes aura	Turkey Vulture	
12	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	
13	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	
14	Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk	
15	Fulica americana	American Coot	
16	Pluvialis squatarola	Black-bellied Plover	
17	Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer	
18	Actitis macularia	Spotted Sandpiper	
19	Tringa solitaria	Solitary Sandpiper	
20	Tringa melanoleuca	Greater Yellowlegs	
21	Chroicocephalus philadelphia	Bonaparte's Gull	
22	Larus delawarensis	Ring-billed Gull	
23	Larus argentatus	Herring Gull	
24	Larus marinus	Great Black-backed Gull	
25	Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian Tern	
26	Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	
27	Sterna forsteri	Forster's Tern	
28	Columba livia	Rock Pigeon	
	- · ·		



Blue-winged Teal



Black-bellied Plover

37 Stelgidopteryx serripennis Northern Rough-winged Swallow 38 Riparia riparia Bank Swallow 39 Hirundo rustica Barn Swallow Turdus migratorius 40 American Robin 41 Sturnus vulgaris **European Starling** 42 Spizella passerina Chipping Sparrow Melospiza melodia Song Sparrow 43 44 Passerina cyanea Indigo Bunting

45 Agelaius phoeniceus Red-winged Blackbird 46 Molothrus ater Brown-headed Cowbird

47 Icterus galbula
 48 Carduelis tristis
 49 Passer domesticus
 49 Baltimore Oriole
 49 American Goldfinch
 49 House Sparrow



Baltimore Oriole

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift

Eastern Kingbird

Warbling Vireo

American Crow

Purple Martin

Tree Swallow

Downy Woodpecker