Youth presentations will be available on the OBS website by March 6, 2021. You can view as your time permits and as often as you want. We will continue to add more youth educational videos and articles throughout the year. We are so excited to feature our next generation of conservation hero’s!!

Zak Beaver
Title: Establishing the Minerva Park Blue Bird Trail

Zak is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, birding, kayaking, horseback riding, gardening and the shooting sports. He is involved in 4H at the state and county level where his awards include: State Champion-skeet and dog rally, County Champion and Best in Show- Dog Obedience, gardening and agriculture. Zak is serving his second term on the ODNR Director’s Conservation Teen Advisory Council (ConTAC). He is a member of the Delaware County Junior Fair Board and an officer in the Columbus Police Public Safety Cadet program. Zak’s interest in birding started four years ago after reading Kenn Kaufman’s Kingbird Highway. He has been a member of OYBC ever since.
Elizabeth Kanzeg
Title: "Opal Ashcraft: Birder, Artist, and Friend"

Elizabeth combined her love of Ohio, birding, history, and stories to create her final birding conference presentation as a high school student. She has served on the youth advisory for OYBC, appeared in Jason Ward's web series Birds of North America, emceed and presented at conferences, been a boardwalk guide for The Biggest Week, and interviewed many accomplished birders as part of her time as a young birder. She wishes to thank Darlene Sillick, Laura Guerard, and Kim and Kenn Kaufman for their selfless support of young birders. What a gift!

Eliza Jane (EJ) Thomas
Title: A Home for the Swifts

Eliza Jane (EJ) Thomas is a twelve year old 6th grader in Oberlin, Ohio. From 2019-2020, she helped her Girl Scout troop design and build a chimney swift tower. The pandemic halted the project for 6 months, but it was installed in a restored prairie in Oberlin in September 2020. The Girl Scouts earned the Bronze Award, the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can receive. EJ is also a member of OYBC Northwest Chapter, which she joined at age 9. She also helped install and monitor bluebird nest boxes in Oberlin.
Hannah Thomas
Title: Deer Creek Monitoring

Hannah Thomas is a Senior at Westfall High School and is currently 17 years old. This is her 3rd year managing the Deer Creek State Park Bluebird Box Trail. She is a member of the Ohio Young Birders Central Chapter, Kountry Kids 4-H Club, Pickaway County Junior Fair Board, and the Westfall High School chapter of The National Honors Society. As a 4-H member she has shown exhibition ducks at the Pickaway County Fair for nine years. She won first place in Senior Duck Showmanship her Junior year. Hannah also enjoys photography and volunteering at The Ohio State Fair Natural Resources Park. She has recently been accepted to The Ohio State University where she plans to earn a Bachelor’s of Science in Zoology.