

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center

Environmental Science Outreach STEM Program

Tuesday, June 9

MODERN BIRD SCIENCE

Tools of the Trade

During the morning sessions students learned how to use the following birding tools: Binoculars, eBird App, and the Merlin App. Below are the birds identified on our morning hike.

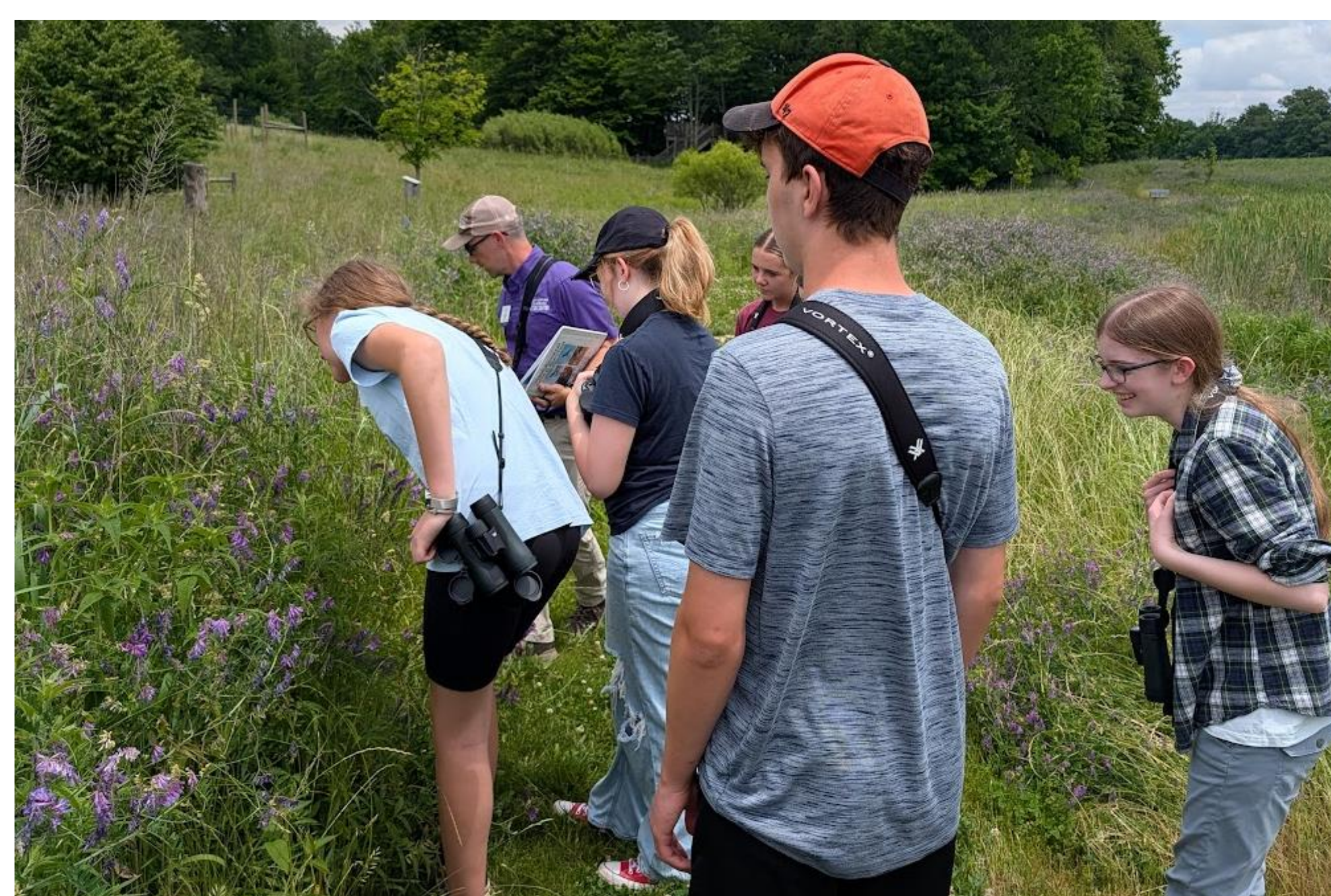


eBird



Bird Species Identified

3- Chimney Swift	1- Northern House Wren
1- Ruby-throated	1- Carolina Wren
1- Hummingbird	4- Gray Catbird
1- Red-headed Woodpecker	1- Wood Thrush
2- Red-bellied Woodpecker	2- American Robin
1- Downy Woodpecker	2- Cedar Waxwing
3- Hairy Woodpecker	2- American Goldfinch
2- Eastern Wood-Pewee	1- Chipping Sparrow
1- Acadian Flycatcher	1- Song Sparrow
2- Yellow-throated Vireo	1- Eastern Towhee
2- Red-eyed Vireo	1- Common Yellowthroat
1- American Crow	2- American Redstart
1- Tufted Titmouse	2- Northern Cardinal
1- Purple Martin	1- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
White-breasted Nuthatch	

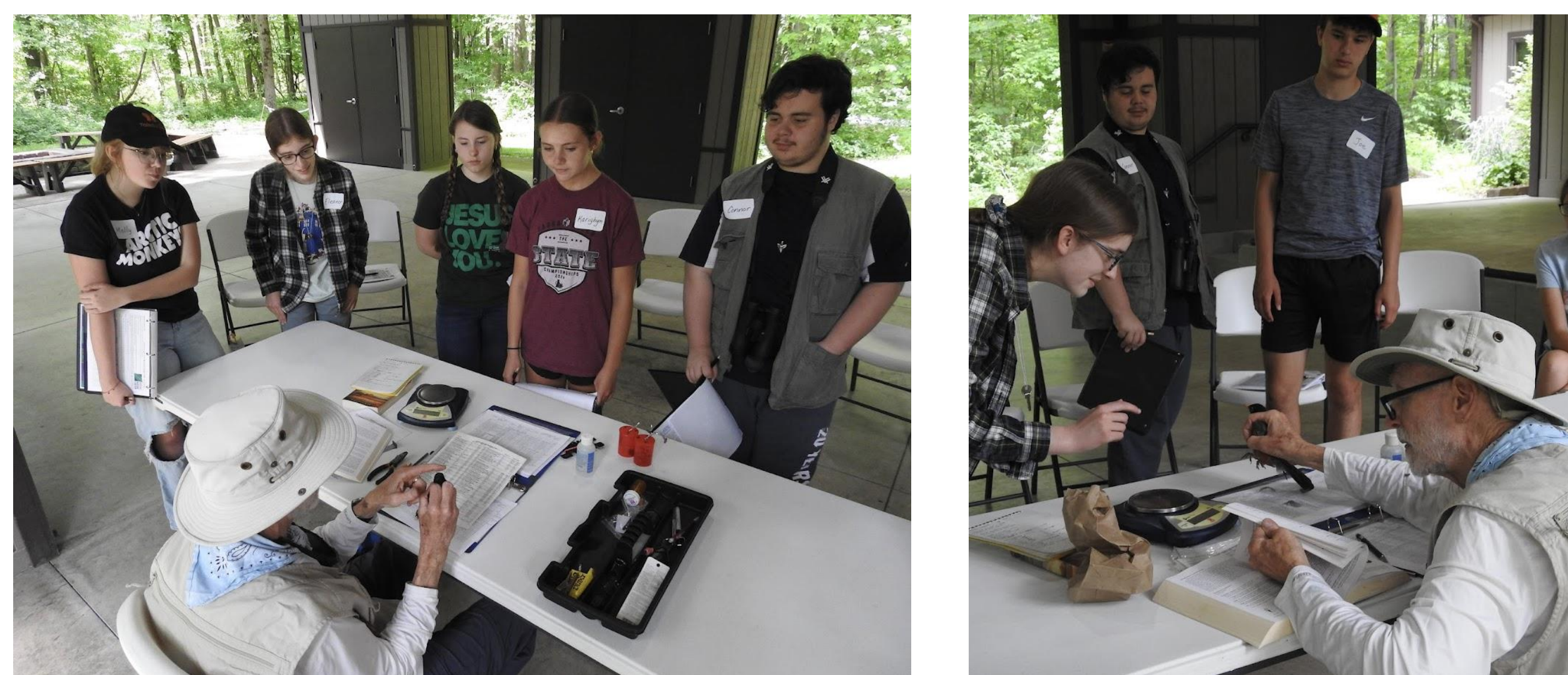


Science of Bird Banding

Bird banding data is useful in both research and management projects. Individual identification of birds makes possible studies of dispersal and migration, behavior and social structure, life span and survival rate, reproductive success and population growth.

Always, the first and foremost concern of the bander is the safety and well-being of the birds. If a bird is stressed, the bander will release the bird without collecting data or banding the bird.

To learn more about bird banding, go to <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/index.cfm>



Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank **Adam Zorn** for his expertise in bird identification and data collection for NestWatch, and **Al Eibel**, master bird bander, for generously sharing his knowledge and demonstrating the value of bird banding as a tool for long-term ecological research. Their contributions greatly enhanced student understanding during the Modern Bird Science STEM Day.

*Poster created by Amy Miller. Text assistance provided by Microsoft Copilot (AI); content reviewed and approved by program staff.

Nest Watch – Purple Martins

During our Nest Watch activity, students monitored our colony of 24 Purple Martin nesting gourds, practicing careful field observation and data collection techniques. Although there were no hatched nestlings, students documented the presence of eggs and recorded nesting status, contributing valuable baseline data to ongoing citizen science efforts. This experience introduced participants to ethical nest monitoring and highlighted the importance of long-term observation in colonial nesting birds.

