

PRESS RELEASE

EMMA R. ROBINSON NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio —Emma R. Robinson of Dublin, Ohio, has been named a 2024 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES and honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus,” said Ann Christy, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs. “The 23 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Robinson is a forestry, fisheries, and wildlife major in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR). She was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The Franklin County resident was an outreach intern at Ohio State’s Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park. “The greatest thing about this internship was the variety of opportunities to learn,” she said. “I helped monitor tree swallow nest boxes and assisted with K-12 programming and tours. My social media work allowed me insight into marketing and planning informational campaigns, which was a different side of science communication for me.”

Robinson said her most rewarding experience came as a field technician studying prothonotary warblers. “My days usually started before the sun rose, required careful navigation through almost waist-high waters and buttonbush thickets twice my height, and experiencing one of Ohio’s forested wetlands,” she said. “Before this work, I had no idea prothonotary warblers existed, or that they were a state species of concern. This helped me realize that global conservation can begin within our backyards, prompted me to undertake my own research, and catapulted me to involvement in the Ohio State Ornithology Club.”

Since 2021, she has volunteered with advisor Chris Tonra, associate professor in avian wildlife ecology, and his bird banding station. He noted, “Emma has an infectious enthusiasm for nature and a real gift for field ecology. It has been my pleasure to watch her grow as a young researcher gaining experience both in the field and lab.”

Under Tonra’s guidance, Robinson has worked on her honor’s thesis about UV reflectance in prothonotary warbler feathers. She also helped plan the Ornithology Club’s “Lights Out” bird window strike monitoring program, an ongoing effort to document window strike victims on Ohio State’s campus.

Robinson also worked at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium as an educational interpreter, a camp-in counselor, and had an animal care internship in the aquarium. Her campus extracurricular activities included serving as president of the Ornithology Club and playing oboe in the School of Music’s University Band. She was also

part of the inaugural Creatives at the Barnett Cohort, students working together on interdisciplinary artistic expressions at the Barnett Center for Integrated Arts and Enterprise.

After graduation, Robinson hopes to combine her passions for science and art as a science communicator and storyteller, while still nurturing her scientific queries as an ecologist.

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Thursday, April 4, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 23 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at go.osu.edu/CFAES2024DSA.

“Honoring the award recipients for their excellence will be a highlight for us this spring. These students have excelled and most certainly will continue to thrive in their future careers,” said Christy.

In autumn 2023, there were 2,224 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in 21 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



Emma R. Robinson

DUBLIN, OH

Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife - Honors

School of Environment and Natural Resources

Photo available by sending a request to flood.13@osu.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WRITER(S):

Sherrie R. Whaley
whaley.3@osu.edu
614-292-2137

SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood
flood.13@osu.edu
614-247-6624