



THE NUTHATCH

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“Wild Bees in Urban Gardens”

Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

U-M Ph.D Candidates

We all know that honeybees are in steep decline. Native species of wild bees are also important pollinators, and unfortunately they are also in trouble. Can the urban gardening/urban farming movement help? Get some important insight about this tonight.



Inside This Issue

Nature Walk - Hawk Woods Nature Center

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

(please note the earlier start time)

The walk begins at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, May 9th at Hawk Woods Nature Center. The center is located at 3799 Bald Mountain Road, Auburn Hills, MI. We'll do the usual walk for wildlife and then have refreshments on the grounds. To support Hawk Woods, we suggest that each participant bring a donation of 5 pounds of bird seed to show our support, but is not required. Any questions, contact Don Burlett.



“Wildflowers”

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Caryle Spence

Spring signals the beginning of wildflower season. Join us this evening as OAS member Caryle Spence gets us in the mood for the glorious explosion of nature's wildflower bounty, featuring native Michigan species from early spring into July.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Spring 2017

Winter is waning and the pain in my replaced knee is doing likewise. Whenever we decide to make changes, it is usually painful. That's normal, we all dislike change to some extent. But as the old saying goes, "the only constant in life is change!" So we suffer along and adjust to the new way things are.

I am not a political person for the most part but our country has seen a massive shift this past year and we are all going to adjust to the new surroundings. To some, this is great and is welcomed. To others, it's a bit much. I go into these things with an open mind and wait until the changes really get me excited or angry. So, time will tell. However, we all must be prepared to adjust our ways to make sure that our natural world is not sacrificed for profit. I understand that we need to stay healthy and provide for our families but we cannot leave the planet a wreck just to accomplish those goals.

As part of our society's response to change and threats to natural areas, we will begin providing opportunities for our members to participate directly in some projects in our community to improve the natural world. When these opportunities arise, I hope to see a robust response to the need and I hope to see you out there participating. Writing a check is all well and good but sometimes a little direct input, as in hard work, is good for the soul. So watch for that coming this year!

We continue to make changes in our board. I'd like to welcome Greg Gossick, our new Seven Ponds Representative, to the board. We look forward to working with him as the year progresses. I'd also like to continue my solicitation for a person to lead our Young Birders effort. This effort is being done along with some joint effort with the Detroit Audubon Society. This will require someone with some organizational skills and ability to work with others. I'm sure you're out there, I'm just waiting to hear from you.

Oakland Audubon has also been busy with presentations and display tables at a number of local conservation/nature organizations. I'd like to thank Kathleen Dougherty and Dave Frye for recent efforts and there are more to come. We'll participate at Chrysler's Earth day on April 19th for the third year. And we'll also be making donations to local organizations to support their efforts. So don't think that paying your dues is wasted. We use this money to support our work and to support others.

It's spring, so get out there and enjoy some nice weather for a change and keep learning about your birds and the other aspects of the world that surrounds us. I hope to see you out there myself.

Don Burlett

*Page one banner credits: Red-breasted Merganser, Purple Finch, American Robin - Joan Tisdale,
painted turtles with northern water snake - Mike Dougherty*

OFFICER/CHAIR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

If you are motivated to contribute to the Oakland Audubon Society, there are a couple of positions open as these folks are moving on for different reasons. Here is a listing of open positions and a brief description of the roles. Please contact Don Burlett if you have interest. We want motivated people who want to make a difference in our organization.

Program Officer – This job involves scouting out speakers for programs and working with a small committee to assure that our monthly program schedule is flush with good programs. Our current schedule is complete for the next several months so the pressure is low when this position is filled.

Co-Coordinator of the Young Birders Club – This position involves working with another coordinator to assemble programs that will attract young birders to participate in nature/birding activities. Some publicity and communication skills will be useful. This will be coordinated with the President. An imagination and understanding of young people are essential for this role.

Please contact President Don Burlett to express interest in any of these positions. The Program Officer spot needs to be an Oakland Audubon member while the Young Birders Club Co-Coordinator is encouraged to be a member. You can always join when you take a spot also.

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea13@netzero.net
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	fergusonelaine6@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Dave Frye	(248) 627-5650	kestrel11dcf@gmail.com
Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248)798-0508	jdstacey@ameritech.net
Program Officer	OPEN		

Appointed Officers

Program Co-Officer	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Program Co-Officer	Margaret Moran	(248) 646-7387	marmo48009@sbcglobal.net
Young Birders Club Rep.	OPEN		
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity/Fundraising	Phil Bugosh	(248) 763-3163	peb729@gmail.com
Web Co-Editor	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea13@netzero.net
Web Co-Editor	Hannah Dunbar		hannahmdunbar@aol.com
Social Media Administrator	Janet Hug	(248) 736-2839	jkissnhug@comcast.net
Nuthatch Editor	Mike Dougherty	(248) 972-7802	mikeodoc@comcast.net
Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org)

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, March 15 8:00 AM—Noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Early Migrants and Waterfowl Meet in Robert Long Nature Park lot on 14 Mile Rd.</p>	Mike Mencotti
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, March 19 8:00 AM—1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Belleville Lake Meet at French Park Landing 12090 Haggerty Rd.</p>	Jim Koppin
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 8 8:00 AM—Noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maple River State Game Area Meet at Park and Ride South Williams Road US-127 (exit 91)</p>	Jeff Stacey
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 12 8:00 AM—Noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Waders, Swallows and Sparrows Meet in Robert Long Nature Park lot on 14 Mile Rd.</p>	Mike Mencotti
<p style="text-align: center;">Weekend Trip, April 22-23 Depart Friday, April 21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Berrien County Contact leader for hotel information and other details</p>	Don Burlett
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, April 23 8:00 AM—Noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Walled Lake and Robert H. Long Meet at 13 Mile Road parking lot Lakeshore Pavilion Park</p>	Mike Mencotti
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 26 8:00 AM—Noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Early Migrants Kensington Metropark Nature Center Parking Lot Metropark Daily or Annual Pass required</p>	Mike Mencotti
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, April 30 8:00 AM—Noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Stony Creek by Bike Meet at Eastwood Beach Bring your bike Metropark Daily or Annual Pass required</p>	Dave Frye

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org)

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
Saturday, May 6 7:00 AM—Noon or later	Magee Marsh Meet at west end “warbler deck” at 7 AM Pack a lunch	Jim Koppin
Wednesday, May 10 8:00 AM—Noon	Warblers and Vireos Meet in Robert Long Nature Park lot on 14 Mile Rd.	Mike Mencotti
Saturday, May 13 8:00 AM—Noon	Oak Openings Meet at the Nature Center at Mallard Pond at Oak Openings	Don Burlett
Wednesday, May 24 8:00 AM—Noon	Flycatchers and More! Meet in Robert Long Nature Park lot on 14 Mile Rd.	Mike Mencotti
Saturday, June 3 8:00 AM—Noon	Nyanquing and Bay City SRA Meet in parking lot of Bay City SRA	Jeff Stacey

OAS Fleece Winter Hats!

OAS Winter Hats For Sale!

Oatmeal heather, polyester fleece, embroidered with a Nuthatch and "Oakland Audubon Society" on the front. Hats are \$15.00 each and will be available for purchase at upcoming membership meetings, field trips, or by contacting Phil Bugosh or Elaine Ferguson while supplies last.



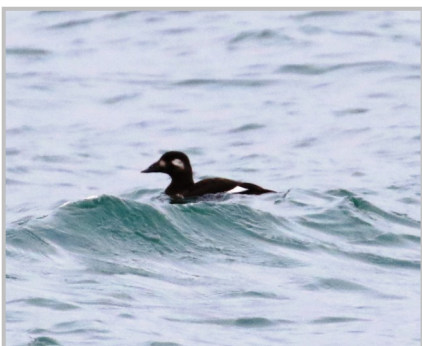
Field Trip Reports

Niagara Falls - December 2-4, 2016 - Don Burlett

This year, we got off to an early start and headed to the Falls on Friday morning. We drove there and quickly did a survey near Fort Erie. Lots of ducks, especially Bufflehead. We did find both Black and White-winged Scoters there. After a failed attempt to find the Blue Line (a lunch spot) we returned to the river upstream of the Falls. We did stop at Dufferin Island (a small park) where we found the elusive Tufted Titmouse and a few other species. We got some good birds and ended the day having dinner at Napoli's and then a few of us went to the Falls for the Friday night fireworks display. Very nice.



Saturday started early at Fort Erie where we again found hundreds (maybe more) of ducks. There were huge rafts (see pic) of Bufflehead along with other species. We then went inland near the fort to look for species and only found a few Goldfinches and some chickadees.



However, we did find a couple of mammals – a Coyote and a Red Fox. The fox was cute as he pounced around in search of mice or voles. We also searched for Peregrine Falcon near the Peace bridge but were unsuccessful. We worked our way downriver and found the four Harlequin Ducks hanging out just above the Falls. There we also got Lesser and Greater Black-backed Gulls and the usual Bonaparte's, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Downstream at the Adam Beck power plant, we also found Iceland Gull. At a stop at the overlook near the monument, we got both Black and Turkey Vultures across the river at Youngstown. Finally, we got a Little Gull passing the river mouth headed to Lake Ontario. We also got a Red-throated Loon at the river mouth.



Photo Credits: Don Burlett

Field Trip Reports - continued



Saturday evening, we headed to the Queen Charlotte Tea Room for dinner and it was a wonderful time. Our hosts were very nice and it was an experience to enjoy. English foods and service that was excellent.

Sunday, we headed back up above the Falls to the site for gulls and ducks. We started checking out birds and another group of birders arrived. Suddenly, we realized we were meeting Kayo Roy, one of the authors of the book *Niagara*



Birds. (Incidentally, we met John Black, the other co-author of the *Niagara Birds* book last year.) Kayo was very nice and even offered to join us for another trip in the future. We did return to Dufferin Island to confirm that what we thought was a female Wood Duck was indeed a female Mandarin Duck, (see picture) possibly an escapee. We worked our way to the Whirlpool and were rewarded with views of a Black-headed Gull. We ended my portion at the Lake Ontario end and the group headed north to Fruitland Road and 50 Point. There, they were rewarded with all three Scoters and other ducks.

All-in-all, a great trip with over 60 species of birds, some mammals and many memories.



Photo Credits: Don Burlett

Field Trip Reports - continued

Robert Long Park, Walled Lake - December 7, 2016 - Jim Koppin

Cold weather greeted the six birders who braved the early morning temperature. We started at Robert Long Park. Notable were a large flock of Shovelers and many groups of Green-winged Teal. A trio of elegant Pintails gave us a nice swim-by. Walled Lake had several rafts of Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead. A Bald Eagle worried the ducks by hovering over them for some time. 30 species were observed.

Kensington Metropark - January 7, 2017 - Dave Frye

The car dashboard showed all of 2 degrees as an intrepid group of 11 individuals defied the cold to have an enjoyable morning at Kensington Metropark's Nature Center Trails, Farm Unit, and Dawson Road overview of the Huron River. The group saw 35 species overall, with the notables being Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Gadwall, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Sandhill Crane, Brown Creeper, and Hermit Thrush. One sighting appearing to be an Ivory-Billed Woodpecker was agreed to be a Pileated Woodpecker, as the group recognized a bit of the onset of hypothermia disturbing its judgment.



Photo Credits: Jeff Stacey

Field Trip Reports - continued

St. Clair River Field Trip – January 14, 2017 - Dave Frye

14 individuals gathered up at Lake St. Clair Metropark for our annual trek up the St. Clair River. The trip bagged 42 species in total. The group did not have to wait long before it was startled by an amazing sight. A raft of Canvasback ducks about 100 feet wide extended what seemed to be a half mile off of the Clinton River mouth at the Harley Ensign DNR post. The group guessed at a population of approximately 40,000 ducks! The rest of the trip was fruitful, as well, with the notables being Glaucous Gull, Greater Black-backed Gull, Long-tailed Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, and each of the three Scoters (White-winged, Black, and Surf). At Port Huron's Edison Lighthouse Park the group was treated to a tornadic swirl of Redhead ducks, kicked up by a passing freighter. They appeared to have the same group flocking instincts that Starlings display in large groups. We estimated 4000 ducks in that group!"



Photo Credits: Jeff Stacey

Field Trip Reports - continued

Beaudette Park, E. L. Johnson Nature Center & Heritage Park - January 18, 2017 Mike Mencotti

The 2017 Wednesday field trip and workshop series began at Beaudette Park on a dark, mild January 18th. The five participants did not let the dreary morning dampen their spirits, as we studied swans, ducks and winter passerines. The Trumpeter Swan floated regally among the Mutes for a great comparison, as did Canvasbacks, Redheads and many Ring-necked Ducks. We studied the finer points of Mallards, an interesting species we take for granted. Onto E.L. Johnson Nature Center, where an accipiter greeted us by zipping through the parking lot. Unfortunately, the passerines scattered, and the feeders were mostly unattended during our visit. A stroll on the trails turned up a Brown Creeper and a variety of woodpeckers. Heritage Park had few birds on the trails, but the feeders yielded a good variety. We all chalked it up as one of those January birding days in Michigan. We ended up with 25 species.

Great Backyard Bird Count Tours - February 18, 2017 - Kathleen Dougherty

A group of 15 birders met at Seven Ponds Nature Center in Dryden, MI on a beautiful Saturday morning. The weather was unexpectedly ideal for February. By mid-day, the temperature had broken a record high. The skies were sunny and the temperature mild. It was wonderful to explore the outdoors. Signs of spring were beginning to appear including open water at the edge of the glacial lakes at Seven Ponds. Canada Geese were actively calling and a hardy Song Sparrow was singing at the lake edge. After a 3 kilometer hike at Seven Ponds the group travelled to Inwood Trails at Stony Creek Metropark and hiked another 3 K. 25 species were observed at both locations. The highlight of the trip was the Eagle nest. Thanks to both facilities and everyone attending.



Photo Credit: Kathleen Dougherty

Field Trip Reports - continued

UP Trip - February 3-5, 2017 - Jeff Stacey

Our semi-annual eastern UP trip was based out of St. Ignace this year due to an extremely popular snowmobile race in Sault Ste. Marie, but it was just as convenient. We were still able to visit most of the standard UP spots, some of them more than once.

On Friday, the highlights were Evening Grosbeaks in Pickford, Bohemian Waxwings in Dafter, and Pine Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Common Redpolls at Dunbar Park. Waterfowl was hard to come by, but we were stunned to see a Belted Kingfisher flying over a narrow channel of open water at Dunbar Park. The Dafter landfill had many Bald Eagles as usual, but also a Glaucous Gull.

Saturday started at Hulbert Bog where the temperature was a brisk 3 degrees. While there was quite a bit of activity in the area, no Gray Jays were willing to eat the peanuts we brought for them. The day picked up from there with several in the group thrilled to get a lifer Sharp-tailed Grouse at the 9 mile and Nicolet feeders. There we met a group from the Indiana Audubon Society, and they gave us a tip on a Northern Shrike, which we were able to find later at extreme range. We finished the day on the Rudyard Loop. It did not disappoint, playing host to five Snowy Owls, including one incredibly light bird.

A snowstorm came through Saturday night, so we got an early start back on Sunday. Part of the group made a detour to Maple River. This side trip turned into a raptor bonanza. Sightings included Long-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, American Kestrels, and a Merlin.

Although we didn't get to see everything we wanted, it was a whole lot of fun and I can't wait to do it again.



Photo Credit: Jeff Stacey

Book Review

THE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Plight of a Feathered Pariah

by Linda R. Wires

Because of its black plumage and superb fish-catching ability, the cormorant has been reviled as an evil glutton ever since it was portrayed that way in the Bible. And so it is today.

At present, even though in the U.S. the Double-crested Cormorant is supposedly protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, uncompromising hatred against it has allowed exceptions to the MBTA, resulting since the late 20th century in the legal killing of over half a million of them, plus destruction of countless nests and eggs. Illegal killing has pushed the death toll even higher. In the Great Lakes region, Michigan has been the state with the highest-by-far level of cormorant control.

Author Linda Wires has produced a history of the Double-crested Cormorant that reveals the extent of this persecution. The need for the slaughter is supposedly based on science. In reality, this war is not waged for biological reasons but rather results from deeply ingrained social and cultural bias and simple human greed. In Europe the Great Cormorant has a similar unsavory reputation.

The Double-crested Cormorant is extremely competent at catching fish. Another top predator of fish is the human species and, as has been shown many times, any animal that competes with us will be attacked. As the Double-crested Cormorant takes commercial, sport, or aquaculture species, it is invariably portrayed as the evil glutton of the Bible that deserves to be unremittingly killed.



Although this species was described by John James Audubon as having a population in the millions, its numbers declined severely by the dawn of the 20th century due to persecution by humans. It then began a population rebound, and by the latter part of the century people who knew nothing of its history described it as overabundant and invasive, even though its population was nowhere near its historical level. In some places cormorants—a native species—were killed because they were considered a menace to introduced nonnative brown trout and rainbow trout.

Since 1998, to protect aquaculture species (mainly channel catfish) in the South and reservoir fish (sport-fishing species) in the Southwest, an Aquaculture Predation Order has allowed the killing of Double-crested Cormorants without the need for a permit. This Order is aimed at wintering cormorants. Since 2003, a Public Resource Depredation Order has allowed the killing of this otherwise protected species on its breeding grounds, again without the need for a permit. Each Order covers specific areas of the U.S.

Book Review—continued

A biological concept called the carrying capacity refers to the level of population that a species can safely reach to remain in tune with its habitat. A government concept called the wildlife acceptance capacity led to another concept called the tolerable population level. These concepts have no basis in biology and make a mockery of any claim of a scientific basis for cormorant management. Basically, if humans think there are too many, that's a good reason to kill the cormorants.

The public has been largely shielded from the reality of cormorant management, especially the inhumane aspect of the activities that cause considerable suffering as adults are killed, all too often not quickly. When this is done on the breeding grounds, orphaned chicks add to the toll of suffering.

The Double-crested Cormorant population in North America is still large; it is not an endangered species. Is that a good excuse to conduct an unrelenting war against it to satisfy human greed? Obviously the author of this book doesn't think so. She points out that most research on the Double-crested Cormorant has shown that a very low percentage of its diet consists of fish that people covet; the great majority of its meals are "trash" or "rough" fish that are of no interest to people. That is not enough to overcome the innate hatred directed against it.

If you hate the Double-crested Cormorant, you'll enjoy the grim facts set out in this book. However, if you hate unscientific pseudoresearch and government/private conniving to deliberately misrepresent a native U.S. avian species in support of human greed, you might not want to read it, especially if you already have high blood pressure.

(This book was published by Yale University Press in 2014. Book review by Doris Applebaum.)



Photo Credits: Mike Dougherty

OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Assets (as of 1-1-2016)

Citizens Bank checking account **\$10,190.31**

Income

Dues \$3,270.08

Petty cash held for change 50.00

Donations 15.00

Young Birders Nuthatch Open 125.00

Hat Sales 1,084.00

Total Income \$4,551.08

Expenses

Bank Charges \$ 44.00

Charitable contributions 1,200.00

Hospitality 215.12

Mail fees and postage 183.60

Michigan filing fee 20.00

Printing - Nuthatch and other 222.62

Programs and field trips 475.00

Rental fees 830.00

Website 617.98

Publicity 1,208.64

Total Expenses \$5,016.96

2016 Loss \$ (465.88)

Net Worth as of 12-31-2016 \$ 9,724.43

Prepared by Elaine Ferguson, treasurer

2016 Christmas Bird Count Summary

Species	Count	Species	Count
Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl		Woodpeckers	
Canada Goose	246	Red-bellied Woodpecker	111
Mute Swan	84	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Trumpeter Swan	7	Downy Woodpecker	171
Wood Duck	1	Hairy Woodpecker	22
Gadwall	4	Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	13
American Black Duck	2	Pileated Woodpecker	8
Mallard	486	Falcons and Caracaras	
Redhead	45	American Kestrel	5
Ring-necked Duck	63	Merlin	3
Lesser Scaup	7	Shrikes	
Greater/Lesser Scaup	2	Northern Shrike	1
Bufflehead	2	Crows, Jays and Magpies	
Common Goldeneye	2	Blue Jay	329
Hooded Merganser	73	American Crow	469
Common Merganser	46	Larks	
Turkeys		Horned Lark	18
Wild Turkey	56	Chickadees, Titmice and Nuthatches	
Grebes		Black-capped Chickadee	680
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Tufted Titmouse	257
Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns		Red-breasted Nuthatch	10
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	200
New World Vultures		Creepers	
Turkey Vulture	30	Brown Creeper	3
Hawks, Eagles and Kites		Wrens	
Northern Harrier	1	Winter Wren	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Carolina Wren	3
Cooper's Hawk	11	Thrushes and Allies	
Bald Eagle	2	Eastern Bluebird	71
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	American Robin	106
Red-tailed Hawk	81	Starlings	
Rough-legged Hawk	1	European Starling	3,669
Rails		Waxwings	
American Coot	20	Cedar Waxwing	239
Cranes		Buntings and Sparrows	
Sandhill Crane	43	Snow Bunting	12
Gulls		American Tree Sparrow	228
Ring-billed Gull	379	Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	708
Herring Gull	8	White-throated Sparrow	7
Pigeons and Doves		Song Sparrow	16
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	108	Swamp Sparrow	4
Mourning Dove	789	Saltators, Cardinals, and Allies	
Owls		Northern Cardinal	354
Eastern Screech-Owl	10	Blackbirds and Allies	
Great Horned Owl	2	Red-winged Blackbird	9
Kingfishers		Common Grackle	3
Belted Kingfisher	4	Siskins, Crossbills and Allies	
Total Species		House Finch	212
Total Individuals		Purple Finch	4
11859		American Goldfinch	299
		Old World Sparrows	
		House Sparrow	986

BIRD ID QUIZ (Spring 2017)
Who Am I?



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

Last issues photo quiz answers: a) Ring-necked Duck, b) Greater Scaup and c) Common Goldeneye.
How'd you do with the ID's?

Photo credits: Joan Tisdale, Allen Chartier

NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

Allen is still researching some questions and will be back with a column in the next issue.

If you have a question you would like Allen to answer in a future Nature Notes column or a topic you are interested in hearing more about, you can email it to him at:

amazilia3@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2017

President Don Burlett's knee replacement in late December took place as scheduled.

Sales of the OAS winter hat are ongoing.

Our 2016 Christmas Bird Count had fewer participants than usual, but resulted in our second-highest-ever species count (70).

Our Facebook page currently has 728 likes.

Mike Champagne, long-time Director at Seven Ponds Nature Center, is retiring. The new Director is Daryl Bernard. Long-time Naturalist Lois Rheame is also retiring. It is expected that these transitions will go smoothly. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the nature center, and various special events are planned.

Our May 9 Nature Walk was set for Hawk Woods Nature Center in Auburn Hills.

OAS will have a presence at the "Spring into Science" event at Cranbrook Institute in early April and at the Chrysler Corporation World Headquarters Earth Day event on April 19.

Detroit Audubon's "Safe Passage" project (getting lights turned off at night in tall buildings during bird migration seasons) is expanding. Each metro-Detroit county is being asked to participate. OAS President Don Burlett would like our chapter to be part of this effort.

Doris Applebaum

Secretary

"A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood. If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength."

Rachel Carson, [The Sense of Wonder](#)

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., April 11	7:30 p.m.	Wild Bees in Urban Gardens	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., May 9	6:30 p.m.	Nature Walk Hawk Woods Nature Center	Hawk Woods Nature Center
Tues., June 13	7:30 p.m.	Wildflowers	First United Methodist Church (see below)

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, June, July and August) at 7:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham, in the Thomas Parlor. The facility is located on the south side of Maple Road between Southfield and Cranbrook Roads. There is plenty of lighted, free parking and barrier-free access. Our meetings are free and open to the public. For meeting cancellation information, check our website, call a board member or call the church at (248) 646-1200.

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

Chris & Mike Gray, Susanne Greenlee, Barbara Jensen, Elizabeth Loesch,
Karen Turlay, Bill Reed, Bret Schulte, Rose White, Richard Yarsevich,
Michelle and Greg Petrosky

Our membership drive for 2017 is underway! Please pay your membership dues at a monthly meeting or by mailing in the membership form on page 20.

Thanks to everyone who helps sustain OAS with your membership contributions. We would be nowhere without you!



OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Mobile: (____) _____

Email address: _____

Please indicate with an (X) in the box any personal information above you do not want listed in the OAS membership directory.

Check also if you are a member of:

____ National Audubon Society

____ Michigan Audubon Society

OAS needs and welcomes volunteers — please participate if you can!

Check if you have the skills to help:

____ Become a board member

____ Lead a field trip or present a program

____ Fill an open position (Position: _____)

Please check appropriate line:

____ Member renewal

____ New member

____ Change of address

OAS Membership Fees

- Individual \$15
- Family \$20
- Contributing \$25
- Supporting \$50
- Benefactor \$100

Our Mission

- To provide, on a local level, access to the natural world through educational programs such as meetings and field trips.
- To advocate the preservation of wildlife habitats and endeavor to create interest in native birds, other animals and plants in Michigan.

Please make checks payable to:
OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mail to:
OAS MEMBERSHIP
2780 SCENIC MEADOWS DRIVE
ORTONVILLE, MICHIGAN 48462

*Oakland Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Your donation is 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*