



THE NUTHATCH

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Follow us on 

“All About Owls”

Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Christina Funk, Troy Nature Society

Discover the nighttime world of the owl as you meet live native Michigan owls up close and personal! We will investigate the mysterious lives of owls, their adaptations for survival, and what humans can do to help them.



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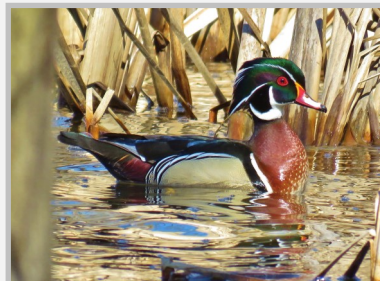
“Wildlife at Duck Pond”

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Rob Weir

Join us for a presentation by local birder and photographer Rob Weir. Rob will share some of his beautiful wildlife photography taken at a small pond in Washington Twp.

Photo credit: Rob Weir



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Summer 2019

I don't know about you but I have gotten a little worn out by the constant request for donations and for support by nature organizations. Now, I'm not saying that they are unreasonable in making the requests. There is a whole lot of bad stuff going on in Washington and in Michigan that needs to be dealt with. The constant attacks on natural areas for oil and gas and mining and on and on..... are really infuriating. And, in Michigan, the constant thought that hunters need many more species to kill to keep them from getting bored. Really, Sandhill Cranes and Mourning Doves are such a great threat and a great challenge to hunters?! The money-hungry side of politics has really gotten old and we need to put an end to this type of stuff.

As an organization, we are not allowed to endorse candidates or lobby, but we can get our members to speak out against all these attacks and to support organizations that can endorse and lobby. And we can do this in great numbers. It's our only choice. Otherwise, we let our state and our nation go down a path toward doom.

Say what you want about climate change but the fact is that we have reached a point where we are constantly dealing with severe weather at times of the year when it was just not normal. We need to turn the corner on opinion and voting for those that will deal with these issues. I may not live long enough to bear the brunt of all these sins but our children and grandchildren will. It's a scary picture to paint.

I worked for a couple of companies that were like many others today. Always demanding 10% growth of everything – profits, income, sales, etc. Well, that's not possible for everyone in the world unless we grow the population by 10% every year. And we all know that the planet cannot support that many people. So many issues and no one is seriously capable of handling them. Governments are not being driven by the people and common sense. It's all out of control. No wonder I get depressed just thinking about it.

So, enough of my ranting and raving. I just hope that the members of this organization realize that my preaching is just a means to get the message out there and sending along notes with opportunities to voice our opinion and support efforts to save our dear world. If not for us, for future generations. Let's hope that the Young Birders that we are encouraging will have birds to watch when they get to our age.

Enough doom and gloom. Take pride in our organization and hope that we, as individuals, can work hard to turn the corner on these problems and take our future into a brighter place. Now, off the soap box and back to work.

Don Burlett

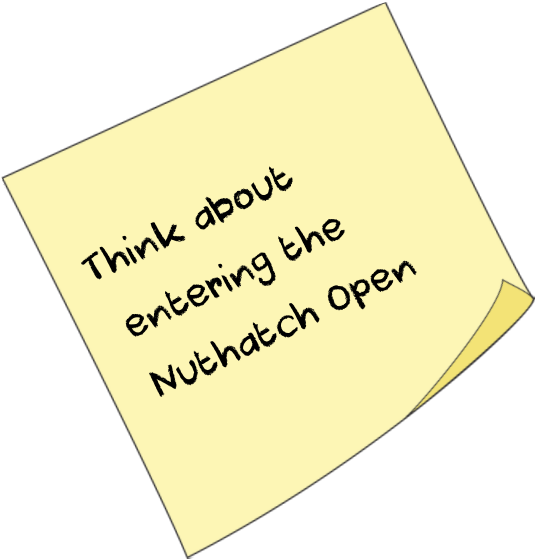
OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

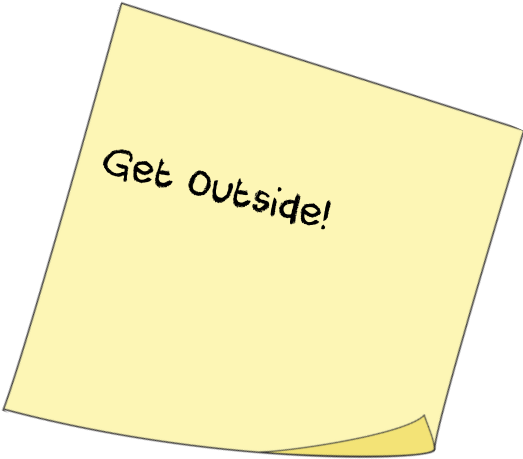
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Think about
entering the
Nuthatch Open



Get outside!

Cover page banner photo credits: Mike Dougherty

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;">June 8, 2019 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lapeer State Game Area Meet at the main headquarters building on Vernon Rd.</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 14, 2019 (Sunday) 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Waterloo SRA Meet at the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center parking lot.</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 20, 2019 (Saturday) 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Indian Springs Meet at the Environmental Discovery Center. Metroparks annual or daily permit required</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 27, 2019 (Saturday) 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Butterflies at Indian Springs Meet at the Park Office at the end of the main road. Metroparks annual or daily permit required</p>	<p>Doris Applebaum</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">August 2-4 (Friday-Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UP - Boreal Chickadee Quest See website for details</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">August 17, 2019 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pointe Mouillee SGA Reserve spot with leader Meet at car park on Sigler Rd.</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">August 17, 2019 (Saturday) 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shiawassee Basin Preserve Meet in parking lot near playground at 12000 Davisburg Rd. (Civic Center).</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September 7, 2019 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Drayton Plains Nature Center Meet at Nature Center parking lot.</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September 8, 2019 (Sunday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kensington Metropark See website for details.</p>	<p>Dan Gertiser</p>

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)
September 18, 2019 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Red Oaks County Park Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Oakland County Parks annual or daily pass required.	Don Burlett
September 21, 2019 (Saturday) 12:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Nuthatch Open See website for entry form and details	Don Burlett



Field Trip Reports

February 16 – Young Birders’ Club Great Backyard Bird Count 2019

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

On February 16th the OAS Young Birders’ Club joined thousands of people globally to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The group started the day at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Hills. Blanche Wicke, OAS member and nature center staff member, opened the building for a group of 15 + birders. The E.L. Johnson maintains an active feeding station and the group was thrilled to see some rarities at the feeders. Along with typical feeding station visitors like Northern Cardinals and Downy Woodpeckers, everyone was able to see three unusual sparrows. In typical sparrow behavior, the Fox Sparrow, the Song Sparrow and the White-throated Sparrow all shuffled on the ground under the feeders. A total of 14 species were seen at the feeder. Due to the icy trail conditions most of the time at the nature center was spent indoors, but the group ventured onto the property to see a couple of captive animals at the facility including the white-tailed deer and the Great Horned Owl.



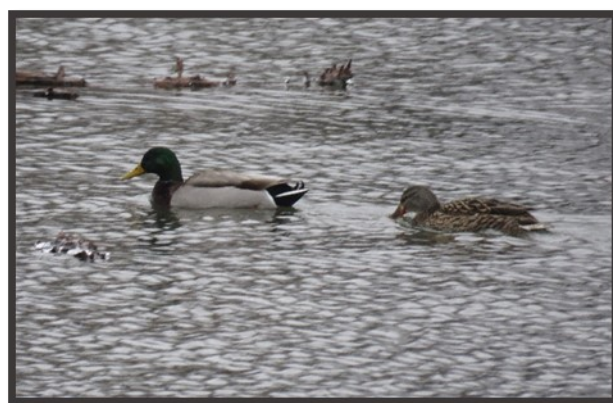
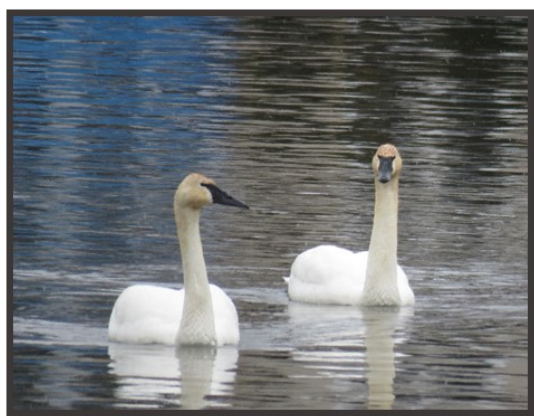
After some feeder watching, the group headed to Beaudette Park in Pontiac. An open water area at Beaudette Park is typically inhabited by waterfowl during the winter. The birds at Beaudette Park did not disappoint the group. Several diving ducks and a few dabblers could easily be viewed from the shoreline. When the group arrived, we were treated to the trumpeting of the Trumpeter Swans. Beaudette Park is a popular birding location during the winter. Macomb Audubon also had the same idea for a field trip and a chain of birder vehicles were parked along the road. Twenty-two species and one other taxon were seen at Beaudette Park. Jonathan Schechter, Nature Education Writer for Oakland



County, joined the field trip for his weekly blog, The Wilder Side of Oakland County. The trip was featured the following week. Here is the link to read Jonathan’s wonderful account of the day.

<https://oaklandcountypblog.com/2019/02/22/the-great-backyard-bird-count/#more-35871>

Field Trip Reports (continued)



Thanks to both Jonathan and Dan Fox for the photos they provided for this document. It was a great day to be outdoors in Oakland County!

March 6, 2019 - Beaudette Park, Drayton Plains Leader: Don Burlett

It began as a partly sunny, cold day, temps at about 8°F, with almost no wind. Five intrepid birders moved about Beaudette Park in Pontiac, looking for birds that enjoyed the open water and cool weather. The Beaudette Park waters were partly frozen in some spots but enough open water let us view a variety of ducks, geese and swans. This, in combination with a few winter birds in the woods and surrounding yards, made for a fine Wednesday morning. The Trumpeter Swans and Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers were very nice.

After a bit, four of us moved to Drayton Plains Nature Center to walk their grounds and the woods in the area. Red-winged Blackbirds and some very vocal Northern Cardinals indicated that spring is not far off, in spite of the cold temperatures.

All-in-all, we netted 29 species and enjoyed some time outside with the birds. Next time, spring will have sprung and more species await us.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

March 24, 2019 - Young Birders' Club - Lake St. Clair Metropark

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The OAS Young Birders' Club visited Lake St. Clair Metropark on March 24. It was a mild morning and about 20 people attended. The Young Birders were primarily young adults on this field trip. A photographer from C & G Newspapers joined the hike to capture images for an article in the Rochester Post (published April 4). Lake St. Clair Metropark has a long history over 20 years of Great Horned Owls nesting in a tub near the nature center. The Nature Center hosts an annual Owl Festival to highlight these birds. This year however, the owls did not use the tub. Despite this change, the group was able to find the resident Great Horned



Owl on the hike. It was perched, perfectly camouflaged along a tree trunk. Birders are the best spotters.

The group hiked the trails near the nature center and stopped to view the activity at the nature center feeding station. Red-winged Blackbirds in large numbers were refueling at the feeders. After a short



break, the group ventured to Lake St. Clair and the nearby marshes. The Lake was covered with ice just days before, but the now open waters were filled with waterfowl moving through the area. Flotillas of scaup bobbed in the water. An impressive variety of waterfowl were observed on the lake and in the adjacent marshy wetlands. The group was entertained by displaying Buffleheads performing bobs and dives on the inlet near the Daysail Boat Launch. A Bald Eagle with fish in its talons flew over the group leaving the nature center. The diversity of birds at Lake St. Clair Metropark makes it one of the best spots for birders in SE Michigan. A total of 39 species and one other taxon were seen by the group.

Thanks to the Nature Center staff for their hospitality and assistance. Additionally, thanks to C & G Newspapers and photographer Donna Augusti, for sharing some of the photos from the story in the Rochester Post. To read the complete article in the Rochester Post visit [-https://www.candgnews.com/news/families-flock-to-the-great-outdoors-to-bird-watch-112748](https://www.candgnews.com/news/families-flock-to-the-great-outdoors-to-bird-watch-112748) . Photo credits Donna Augusti and OAS photo gallery.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

March 27, 2019 – Robert Long, Walled Lake, Heritage Parks

Leader: Don Burlett

A hearty band of close to 20 birders arrived at Robert Long Park, ready to bird on this gloriously sunny day. With open water, there were a number of species on the water including two species of mergansers, Bufflehead, Great Egret and Osprey. A couple of Killdeer were the only shorebirds to arrive. The Canada Goose at the small pavilion, that had a broken wing last fall, appears to have survived the winter and was still present. We also ran into Mike Mencotti, enjoying a day upright after his medical work. Welcome back, Mike.

At Walled Lake, Common Goldeneyes and Bufflehead dominated the water while a few land species were found in the southwest corner in the woods. Another Osprey graced us with a fly-by and a Bald Eagle was also present.

At Heritage Park, we finally got a White-breasted Nuthatch along with a Hermit Thrush, some Cedar Waxwings and some Eastern Bluebirds singing nearby. We netted 47 species total for the three parks.

March 30, 2019 - Maple River SGA

Leader: Jeff Stacey

Once again, Maple River proved to be a challenging birding location. This year, the trails and roads were in great condition, but the weather was unpleasant to say the least. Only two tenacious birders braved the cold (37 F), wind, and rain. Considering the conditions, 46 species was a respectable total.

Waterfowl highlights included Northern Pintail, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, and even a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers. Raptors were limited due to the conditions, but Bald Eagle and Northern Harrier were present. Our first shorebird sighting of the season was four Wilson's Snipe giving a close flyby. Alas, the Long-eared Owl that had been seen in the area recently was a no-show, possibly due to a DNR event being hosted near the roosting location.

Later in the day, we met up with some friends from Huron Valley Audubon (who somehow managed to convince six people to attend!) to share sightings and stories. We finished up with a tasty lunch in St. Johns, even though there was no chili on the menu.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

April 5, 2019 - Young Birders' Club - Highland Recreation Area

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

A special thank you to the Friends of the Highland Recreation Area (FOHRA) for hosting the April Young Birders' Club field trip. It was a memorable evening filled with many amazing wildlife encounters. The FOHRA helped boost the attendance as several members and their families attended. They shared the unique history of this wonderful park with the group. Lawrence Falardeau from the FOHRA went out of his way to show a video presentation from the back of his vehicle about the park. He shared the unique history and national natural area designation of Highland Recreation Area (HRA). In addition, several other members of FOHRA shared the work, programs and projects they are doing at HRA.



Sandhill Cranes were calling and chasing each other during the presentation. After the presentation and introductions, a group of about 20 hit the trail, hiking about 1.5 miles through the hardwood forest and by Haven Hill Lake. There were several ducks on the lake, but the lighting and distance made it hard to see all the species. Nevertheless, it was a beautiful evening with many views of the natural area and the sky. The field trip started in the evening since the target bird was the American Woodcock, a shy shorebird that performs an amazing courtship aerial display in the spring at sunset.



Along the trail, we encountered typical woodland birds and returned to the meadow just before sunset to re-view the display of the American Woodcock and all the auditory clues to know what the bird is doing. As the light dimmed, the American Woodcock did not disappoint. While it was difficult to see the bird as the light diminished, everyone heard the sounds associated with the Sky Dance. Twenty-four species and one other taxon were reported to eBird.

A special thanks to the FOHRA for their assistance and expertise. Jay Fitzgerald from FOHRA posted a wonderful blog on their website. In addition, Jonathan

Schechter, nature writer for Oakland County attended and wrote a terrific story of his experience on The Wilder Side of Oakland County. Here is the link to read Jonathan's account:

<https://oaklandcountyblog.com/2019/04/12/a-night-to-remember/#more-36584> .

He also provided several photographs.

Field Trip Reports - continued

April 10, 2019 – Kensington Metropark

Leader: Don Burlett

This was another Wednesday morning field trip. 13 hearty birders came out to brave cool temperatures and a slight breeze under cloudy skies. We birded several parts of the park: the boardwalk at Wildwing Lake along the road, the trails behind the nature center, portions of Island Road, from the parking lot at the Rental Station and the trails behind the farm unit at the north end of the park. Plenty of ducks and woodland birds were seen. A Northern Harrier flying over the woods on the trails was one highlight. Horned grebes in breeding plumage at the rental site was another. We also had a very cooperative male Eastern Towhee presenting himself for photos. The other highlight of the day was Tom Koontz's Pied-Piper imitation as he had three male Turkeys following him after he took some pictures. (They must have wanted the negatives!!) It was a good day with 52 species seen at the various locations.



Photo credits: Don Burlett

Field Trip Reports (continued)

April 26-28 2019 – Columbus/Hocking Hills

Leader: Don Burlett

The trip began by driving to Pickerington Ponds Metropark on Friday where we got a “wet” look at the head of a Barn Owl in its nest box. Not great looks but a Barn Owl nonetheless. Then we drove south into Hocking Hills where the rain finally let up. We stopped at Lake Logan for some Forster’s Terns, Common Loons and a variety of swallows (Barn, Bank, Tree, Cliff and Northern Rough-winged) and Purple Martin. We were also greeted by our first Yellow-throated Warbler along with a number of other species.



Shy Barn Owl

The next morning, we began by joining a group from the “Birds in the Hills” festival on a private reserve. This was spectacular, in that we got very good looks at what is normally a difficult set of birds for us. Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler and a number of other nice species were found here. From this location we hit a few miscellaneous spots for Northern Mockingbird and others before heading to Clear Creek Park. Here we enjoyed nice looks at some additional warblers including a spectacular view of a Cerulean Warbler just 15-20 high in a tree in front of us. Later, we visited a site where we got good looks at a Henslow’s Sparrow. Saturday evening had us joining the festival for dinner and enjoying a nice talk about archeology and birds in Ohio. Very interesting and eye-opening.



Prairie Warbler



Yellow-breasted Chat



White-eyed Vireo



Cerulean Warbler

Field Trip Reports (continued)

Sunday morning we headed to Battelle Darby Creek Metropark where we were rewarded heartily for wading through very wet grass and cool temps (45°F) and winds out of the north. We enjoyed nice views of three American Bitterns flying around us, 13 Willets that were hunkered down, 7 Black-crowned Night-Herons and other species. We enjoyed Sora, American Coot, Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe as well as ducks and two grebes (Pied-billed and Horned). Finally, we headed to Prairie Oaks Metropark where we nabbed our last swallow of the trip (Cave Swallow) flying around the ponds.



Yellow-throated Warbler



American Bittern

When it all ended, we had tallied 119 species and were a very happy group. Thanks must be given to John Watts of the Columbus Metroparks system who helped guide us on Friday and Saturday and gave us note for Sunday. He also helped with our mingling with the festival folks. It was a rewarding trip and well worth future thought for a repeat.

Photo credits: Jeff Stacey

April 27, 2019 – Indian Springs Metropark **Leader: Mike Mencotti**

The calendar said April 27, but the weather said mid-March. Despite cold temps and a steady brisk northwest wind, 13 birders enjoyed sun and some good birds. The morning started well with a Bald Eagle flying over the meeting spot. A walk in the woods got us out of the wind but yielded few spring migrants. We did, however, fare better with field birds, with wonderful looks at Field Sparrows as well as Meadowlarks. Two hovering Kestrels were a definite treat. A total of 43 species were tallied.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

May 4, 2019 - Young Birders' Club - Clinton River Trail Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Young Birders' Club partnered with the Clinton River Watershed Council and the Friends of the Clinton River Trail (FCRT) for a bird hike along the trail May 4th in Rochester. Approximately 30 people attended including seven young birders. Many of the participants were new to Oakland Audubon. Fortunately, two expert birders assisted with the hike. It was a cool spring morning and there were several other people using the trail. The Friends of the Clinton River Trail are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the trail and provided snacks. The group hiked over two miles and many great birds were seen, most notable being the migrating Blue Jays (42) and some early warblers. In total, 39 species were reported to eBird by two field observers. Thanks to Don Burlett and Phil Bogush for their assistance. Thank you to the Clinton River Watershed Council for providing a meeting place, parking and restroom. This beautiful trail spans 5 communities and is a great place to get some exercise and see nature. Here are the links to find out more about these groups - <http://clintonrivertrail.org/> and <https://www.crowc.org/> . Photo credits – Kathleen Dougherty, Jonathan Schechter and the OAS Gallery.



2019 Oakland Owlets Field Trips

July - December

Dragonflies & Grassland Birds– Saturday, July 20 – 9 am -Noon Indian Springs Metropark ~ White Lake



Wander through a sixty-acre restored prairie at Indian Springs Metropark to discover the wildlife associated with this unique ecosystem. The park is one of the few locations in the county to see the endangered Henslow's Sparrow. Bird activity wanes in July, but insects like dragonflies are abundant. Prepare to hike about 2 miles. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. A Metro-parks permit is required for park entry. **Meet at the Environmental Discovery Center Parking Lot** located at 5125 Indian

Trail off of White Lake Road, for directions to the park visit <https://www.metroparks.com/facilities-education/indian-springs-environmental-discovery-center/>

Butterflies and Birds -Saturday, August 17, 10 am – 12:30 pm Shiawassee Basin Preserve~ Davisburg

The Shiawassee Basin Preserve is a 514-acre natural area located west of downtown Davisburg. The Preserve protects one of the largest high-quality prairie fens in Michigan. This is one of the few places in the world where Poweshiek Skipperling, an endangered butterfly, can be found, but rarely seen. Several other species of butterflies can be seen at the Preserve. Butterfly experts, Doris and Sue, will help identify butterflies and other insects on the trail. Plan to hike 1.5 miles. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. **Meet at the South Shiawassee Basin Preserve Parking Lot** near the playground at 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI for directions http://www.springfield-twp.us/departments/parks_and_recreation/parks_and_facilities/trails.php

Walk the River in Waterford – Saturday, September 7, 8:30 – 11:30 am – Drayton Plains Nature Center ~ Waterford

The Drayton Plains Nature Center is a 138-acre natural area in Waterford along the Clinton River. The site is a former fish hatchery. Several ponds were constructed for the hatchery along the river. The property has an impressive bird checklist with 176 species recorded. Director of Bird Studies, Terri Chapdelaine, will assist with the tour. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Plan to hike about 2 miles. **Meet at the Nature Center Parking Lot** at 2125 Denby Road in Waterford, MI for directions



<https://www.waterfordmi.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Drayton-Plains-Nature-Center-1>

Rouge River Birding – Saturday, October 5, 8:30 am – Noon

University of Michigan-Environmental Interpretive Center ~ Dearborn

The Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) is the gateway to a 300 + acre natural area that provides opportunities to study birds and the importance of stopover habitat in a rapidly developing urban area. Plan to hike 1.5 miles and tour the EIC with a staff naturalist. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Visitor parking is available at the Monteith Parking Structure (MPS), adjacent to the Center for \$.50/hour payable at the parking lot kiosk. There is no fee for the program. **Meet at the EIC, the bird shaped building adjacent to the MPS.**

Visit <https://umdearborn.edu/about/visit-campus/maps-directions>

Birding & Project FeederWatch

Saturday – Nov. 2 – 8:30 – 11:30 am ~ Rochester

Take a hike along the Clinton River Trail to see some of the common winter birds that are often seen at bird feeders. Learn how to identify these resident birds and winter visitors. There is also a

chance to see some water birds. Additionally, discover how to participate in Project Feederwatch. Dress for the weather and plan to hike 2 miles. Bring your binoculars. This hike is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Clinton River Trail celebrating its 15th anniversary. **Meet at the Clinton River Watershed Council Parking Lot** located on 1115 Avon Road, Rochester, MI Directions - <http://www.crowc.org/>



Outdoor Adventure & Ducks - Saturday, December 7, 10 am – 1 pm ~ Outdoor Adventure Center & Belle Isle ~ Detroit

Visit MDNR Outdoor Adventure Center and search for ducks along the Detroit River. Carpool to Belle Isle after touring the OAC. Dress for weather. Binoculars and spotting scopes recommended. **Meet outside the OAC.** An admission fee of \$2/person or \$5/person based on group size. RSVP to Kathleen by Dec. 2. Bring cash to pay admission on Dec. 7. Parking is free on the east side of the Center. A state parks passport is required at Belle Isle. For directions https://www.michigan.gov/oac/0,5736,7-329-68730_71858-355521--,00.html



The Young Birders' Club ~ Oakland Owlets offers field trips for youth 8 – 18 years. Young birders under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult. These age appropriate programs provide educational experiences and snacks for kids. Young birders must complete a release form. Young Birders' Club programs are open to all birders. To register for Oakland Owlets field trips contact – Kathleen Dougherty, Coordinator, at www.oaklandaudubon.org or kad8186@msn.com



On May 17, 2019, Oakland Audubon members Michele Petrosky and Kathleen Dougherty presented on behalf of the Young Birders' Club at the Clinton River Water Festival at Oakland University in Rochester. Approximately 1,200 fifth grade students from 22 schools participated in this year's festival. Kathleen and Michele shared information about "Protecting Birds from Plastic Pollution" with three classes of about 90 students and their parents. Several professionals from area agencies provided instruction to the students about protecting water and water habitats. The Clinton River Water Festival is held at Oakland University in several classrooms and outdoors.

Oakland Audubon's presentation was about World Migratory Bird Day and how youth can be the solution to plastic pollution. This year's World Migratory Bird Day focuses on how plastic pollution persistent in the environment is harming birds. The poster developed for this year's theme highlights twelve birds impacted by plastic in the environment. Amazingly 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic has been manufactured since the 1950's. Sadly, only 9% of this plastic is



recycled. This means that plastic products persist in the environment or in landfills. Birds suffer through entanglement, ingesting or being poisoned by plastic. Many of the birds spotlighted were birds that consume fish. However, one bird that suffers from plastic pollution is the Prothonotary Warbler. This warbler consumes insects, and subsequently mosquito larvae that ingest microplastic in wetlands are eaten as adult mosquitoes. Microplastics move through the life cycle of mosquitos.

Students were engaged through interactive learning. In the above photograph Michele Petrosky is leading a matching interaction between students from Deerwood Elementary. Students brainstormed how they could be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

Information about Oakland Audubon programs and events was given to the teachers and adults that attended these sessions.

Photo credit: Kathleen Dougherty

Spring Into Science At Cranbrook

Oakland Audubon Society was one of several environmental groups participating at **Spring Into Science Week** at the **Cranbrook Institute of Science** April 1-5. The Cranbrook Institute of Science celebrates the Earth the entire month of April. During the weeklong event from 11 am – 3 pm various environmental groups are provided with a table to share information about their organization and their mission and goals. Groups participating this year included Pure Oakland Water, the Oakland County Dirt Doctors, the Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation and MSU Tollgate Farm to name a few. Oakland Audubon members Dave Frye and Kathleen Dougherty staffed a table for Oakland Audubon and birding for the Science Institute’s visitors. About 100 people visited the Oakland Audubon table each day for the two days we were there. In addition to providing information about birds and birding, along with OAS events and programs, the club offered a simple activity for kids visiting our display. The display highlighted and invited Young Birders to attend the June “**All about Owls**” membership program. This program is designated for Young Birders and features live Owls from the Troy Nature Center. Kids created and decorated an owl finger puppet. This make and take was very popular. At times, the table was full of artists crafting their unique owls.

This event is one of several community outreach programs that Oakland Audubon does to connect and communicate with the residents. For information and to schedule an OAS community outreach program contact Don Burlett.



Story and photo by Kathleen Dougherty



Thanks to the Oakland Audubon Members for their donations to the Young Birders' Club. Several members contributed door prizes for the June Membership Meeting – “All About Owls”. This program features live birds from the Troy Nature Center. Everyone will have a chance to see a native owl closely. Once a year Oakland Audubon offers a membership program for young birders. **“All About Owls” will take place on June 11** at the regular membership meeting. Everyone enjoys seeing owls. OAS members are encouraged to invite young birders to attend this meeting. There are several fabulous door prizes that will be awarded during this program.

The following members have contributed prizes or cash to the Young Birders' Club. Kathleen Dougherty, Elaine Ferguson, Diane Hoagland and Jerry Rogers. The prizes include Audubon Birds, Field Guides, children's binoculars and Michigan Legends Books signed by the author.



Miscellany

Submitted by: Doris Applebaum

COPPER COUNTRY AUDUBON: COMBINING BIRDING AND RESEARCH

If you have occasion to see *Brockway Lookout*, the newsletter of Copper Country Audubon (CCA), you can't help but be impressed by all the activities that this Keweenaw-area Audubon group's members engage in.

For instance, in the February-March 2019 issue, there is an article about setting up a MOTUS tracking system in the Keweenaw to help fill a large information gap in the coverage between Duluth, MN, and Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

This is the system in which radio transmitters are placed on various animals so that when they pass within the range of a MOTUS receiving station their travels can be followed; no need to recapture the animal. Transmitters are typically placed on large mammals and large birds, but some are small enough to use on songbirds, which the Keweenaw receiving sites will follow.

CCA provided the money for one receiving station, and a very generous member provided the thousands of dollars needed for another station. Next year the CCA will provide funds for the purchase of 20 tiny transmitters to be placed on migrating warblers.

Other research projects that the CCA participates in are spring hawkwatches in the Porcupine Mountains and on Brockway Mountain, Isle Royale waterbird surveys, and a migration study of songbirds at a Keweenaw Land Trust preserve.

Several years ago, a survey was conducted by CCA and the School of Forestry at Michigan Tech, to see which buildings at the university had windows that were dangerous to birds. The study estimated an average of 2 birds killed per day, but because it was thought that many of the casualties were not found, this study suggested that between 500 and 1,000 birds were killed by windows at the university each year.

Using a type of window film that is supposed to prevent bird strikes, a graduate student plans to attach some films on the worst windows at the worst building on the campus (about 40 windows). CCA will provide funds for the window film. Results are not in yet, of course, but Dana Richter, CCA president, says that using this film on his large picture windows at home seems to have reduced the bird casualties by up to 80%. Eventually CCA hopes to install the window film on other dangerous buildings at the university in an effort to "help make Michigan Tech a bird-friendly campus."

Another CCA project involved a Peregrine Falcon nestbox placed at a location in the city of Hancock in 2015. The nestbox never did attract any falcons, but last year it attracted a pair of Great Horned Owls, which raised 2 chicks in 2018. CCA members monitored the nest and learned some interesting facts about these owls.

CCA members are avid birders, and many reports of birds they've seen are in their newsletter, including sightings of interesting behaviors. Their motto is "Everyone's a birdwatcher in the Keweenaw!"

If you're interested in learning more about this very active Audubon group, check out their website at <https://www.coppercountryaudubon.org/>.

Miscellany (continued)

GONE GEESE

It's no secret that wherever Canada Geese congregate, they leave their "calling cards" all over the place. Belle Isle is an excellent example, producing a strong desire to reduce the number of geese and prevent even more mess.

In 2018, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and a Detroit-based company called Goodbye Geese worked on a project using Border Collies to haze the geese. Whenever the dogs were near, the geese would fly to the nearest body of water, but the dogs jumped in and swam right after them. The goal was to make the geese decide to fly away to what they felt was a safer location. This was a very humane project because no animals were harmed.

The hazing was done from August through November, and the result was that more than 10,000 (!) geese were relocated off the island. One wonders where they ended up (or were some of the same birds being repeatedly relocated?). But at least the island's huge flock was somewhat reduced, and Belle Isle was a somewhat less messy place.

There is a possibility that this project will continue long term. Let's hope so; the need isn't likely to go away.

(Information for this item was in the Winter 2018/Spring 2019 issue No. 6 of *The Voice*, newsletter of the Belle Isle Conservancy.)

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

Kristine Condic, Grekin Family, Bill Johnson, TJ Lang

Group Membership - Oakland County Planning

Erin Parker & Pete Blank, Ruth Roeder, Donna & Craig Will

Our membership drive for 2019 is underway! Please pay your membership dues at a monthly meeting or by mailing in the membership form on page 30.

NATURE NOTES by Allen Chartier



Allen has been busy with Spring migration activities and will return with a column in the Fall issue.

Don't be shy! 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

Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Climate Change Transforms These Cute Little Birds Into Murderous Brain-Eating Zombies

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/01/29/climate-change-transforms-these-cute-little-birds-into-murderous-brain-eating-zombies/#116917f52c6e>

Brain-eating Zombies indeed!! It's a climate-induced competition that ends in death for some birds. Think that climate change just means food fights? Read on for the gory details.

Bizarre Half-Male, Half-Female Bird Discovered In Pennsylvania

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/02/05/bizarre-half-male-half-female-bird-discovered-in-pennsylvania/#10b54c342fc4>

Put aside what you know and go back to biology class. A bird that is half-female and half-male is something they didn't tell us about. The color of the bird aside, this is interesting reading, if only to improve your knowledge of biology and reproduction. Obviously, more to come on this bird.

Can We Conserve Endangered Parrots By Keeping Them In Cities?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/02/28/can-we-conserve-endangered-parrots-by-keeping-them-in-cities/#49cb8d3f3960>

A scientist in San Diego is studying the variety of parrots that co-exist with people in the urban parts of the city. Because these birds are not living in their natural habitat, it is important to consider how they are surviving and if this is a means to preserve some bird populations that may not exist in the future in their normal habitat. Interesting read.

The People's Parrot Inspires First Community-Sponsored Genome Project

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/02/25/conservation-genomics-can-help-save-rare-species/#205400d35145>

A story of conservation and science combining to try to save a species from extinction. This article involves some discussion of genetics and the role it can play in saving species. Not an article for those who like pictures and grand stories but a view into the role of scientists in conserving our birds.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Bird extinctions 'driven' by global food trade

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47441292>

Here's an article aimed at the non-birder (and possibly nature-blind person) in the community. Talk about preaching to the choir – this is that for all of us. Nice to see it's being written and not just ignored.

There are Four Taxonomies for Birds in the World Today

<https://smbasblog.com/2019/03/09/the-four-different-checklists-of-birds-of-the-world/>

For those of you who are truly into your birds and pay any attention to taxonomies, the article list on the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society website is a redo of an item from the Internet by Eran Tomer. It's fascinating stuff and the re-write offers pics of compared birds. Cornell uses Clements but the others are also useful. BirdLife offers their version and it's part of the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. The IOC (International Ornithology Unions effort) is another that many use. Howard and Moore is the fourth. Read on for some fun about birds.

Birding (Yes, Birding) Is a Multi-Billion Dollar Ecotourism Industry

https://www.thedailybeast.com/birding-yes-birding-is-a-multi-billion-dollar-ecotourism-industry?fbclid=IwAR3qKsxOxSL_rvggAiYF2lAvHIln_g6jJpE0Kg7A8NTERZPDL0JWHkvYZZQ

Again, preaching to the choir about the popularity of birding, worldwide. However, it's always fun to read how popular our interest has become. We could be consider trendsetters!!!!

Whooping Cranes Are Back From The Brink

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/03/18/whooping-cranes-are-back-from-the-brink/#4fe7620d3b51>

From just 21 birds in 1941, the population is now in the range of 800 birds today. Another success for the birding community. Shows what a little hard work and persistence can do. Now, what's next??!

Photos help answer a question about chickadees and cattails

<http://www.startribune.com/photos-help-answer-a-question-about-chickadees-and-cattails/421324113/>

Mysteries about chickadees and their habits are explained by photographs. Thought you knew all about chickadees? Think again. Read on and be educated.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Alien Bird Species Can Help Native Plants Move Around, Say Surprised Scientists

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/04/07/alien-bird-species-can-help-native-plants-move-around-say-surprised-scientists/#6eff28ae4354>

This examination of birds in Hawaii where both birds and many plants are not native to the islands is an interesting look at how species and plants interact. Seed dispersal was the studied element and it offers a new view to how invasive species form communities in specific cases. Something to be learned from this work.

Earth history and the passerine superradiation

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2019/03/26/1813206116>

Only the serious birder who is interested in understanding how and when the many passerine species of birds developed should consider reading this article. It's technical and in depth. A real barn-burner for scientists and a sleep-time special for most laymen. But it does cover the topic well.

Rat Poison Is Killing San Francisco's Parrots Of Telegraph Hill

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/03/27/rat-poison-is-killing-san-franciscos-parrots-of-telegraph-hill/#42a1e09d48e6>

This is the story of a loved collection of parrots that were being found either impaired or dead. A dedicated group eventually found the reason and it goes back to other public health efforts - rat poison. The story will continue until they find out what is the source of the poison and how it is being introduced to these birds.

The Adjutant Army: an all-female campaign for an Endangered stork

<https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/adjutant-army-all-female-campaign-endangered-stork>

This is a heart-warming story of women in India who got together and decided to save and protect the Greater Adjutant. These women worked to change the cultural view of these birds and eventually got involved in providing nest sites to enhance their future. Maybe we guys should take note of the women in our world that are doing the same. You go girls!!

BIRD ID QUIZ (SUMMER 2019)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

Last (Spring-'19) issue photo quiz answers: a) Least Flycatcher, b) Willow Flycatcher and c) Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Explanation: a) solid eye-ring, short bill, short wings, overall pale gray, b) flat headed, very little eye-ring, shorter wings, pale gray face, less contrast for wingbars, c) overall yellow-olive color, small bill, long wings (projecting onto tail).

How'd you do with the ID's of the winter birds? Keep score throughout the year to see how you do!

For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see page 29.

No Peeking!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MARCH 21, 2019

There will be an *Oakland Press* photographer at the Young Birders Club field trip to Lake St. Clair Metropark on March 24.

The Nuthatch Open competitive birding event was scheduled for September 21.

We plan to add an interactive Oakland County map to our website, using an app called Simple Maps.

The annual wine-tasting fund-raiser event sponsored by Seven Ponds Nature Center is being renamed this year. Because craft beers will be included, this event on May 31 will be called "Corks and Caps."

OAS informational postcards and business cards have been redesigned.

OAS has entered into an informal partnership with the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy and the Clinton River Watershed Council to provide help with some of their activities.

The board of directors authorized a donation of \$100 to sponsor a young birder at the Michigan Audubon Young Birders Camp.

APRIL 18, 2019

The board of directors welcomed Dan Gertiser, our new Social Media Administrator, taking over from Janet Hug (Janet will continue to post some information).

The Field Trip Committee has scheduled trips for the second half of this year, and Young Birders Club activities have also been scheduled through the end of the year.

The *Oakland Press* had a nice article about the Young Birders Club field trip to Highland State Recreation Area.

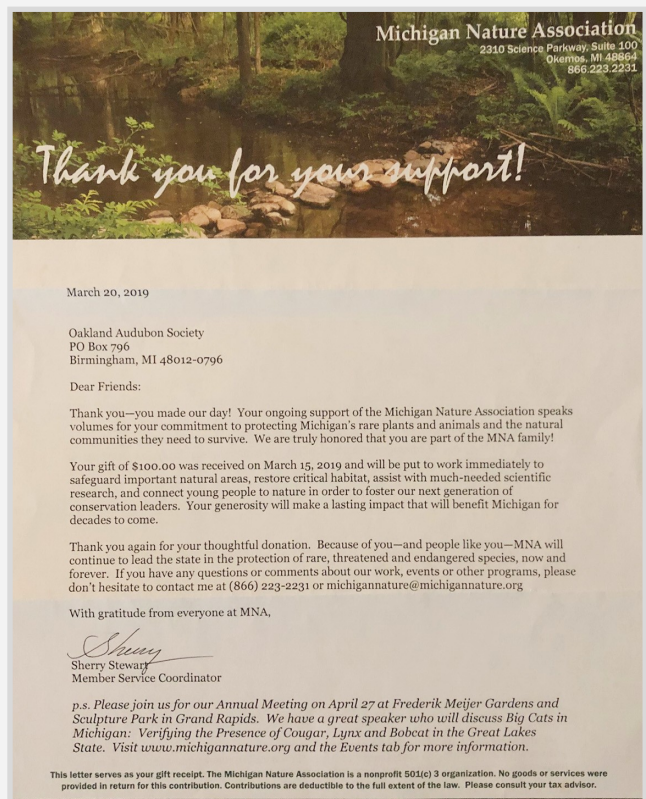
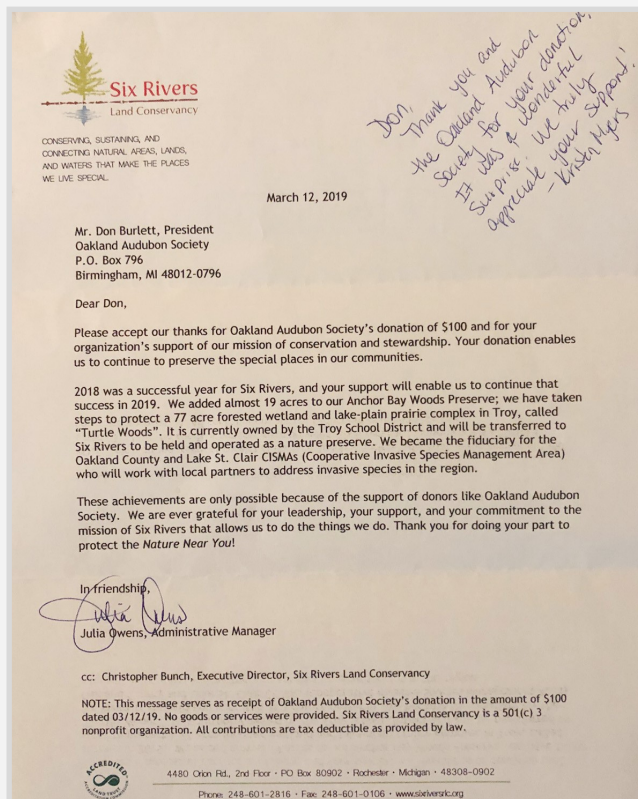
Dr. Greg Gossick, our chapter representative to Seven Ponds Nature Center, reported that the nature center is becoming more environmentally proper by switching to the use of LED lights. Also, the clubs that meet at the nature center will no longer use plastic bottles, glasses, or utensils. And Greg now has a new responsibility at Seven Ponds: he is the new Treasurer.

The board approved having OAS provide information needed to get on the Amazon "Smile" donation list.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary

Your Membership At Work

Thank-you letters were received from Six Rivers Land Conservancy and the Michigan Nature Association for donations made by your Oakland Audubon Society. Your membership allows us to contribute to local conservation minded organizations. Thank you for your continued support!



UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., June 11	7:00 p.m.	“All About Owls”	First United Methodist Church (see below)
July and August		No Meeting	
Tues., September 10	7:00 p.m.	“Wildlife at Duck Pond”	First United Methodist Church (see below)

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, May, July and August) at 7:00 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.

Bird Quiz Answers for Summer Quiz on Page 26

This issue (summer '19) photo quiz answers: a) King Rail, b) Semipalmated Sandpiper and c) Common Nighthawk

Do you really need this? Explanation: a) little gray on face, strongly contrasting, black-and-white barring on undertail, black streaks on neck side and dark (almost black) centers of feathers on back, b) blunt-tipped black bill, black legs, gray-brown plumage with some rufous accents, and c) long, pointed wings, white on throat, white spot on shoulder and white in wings.

How'd you do with the ID's of the spring and summer birds? Keep score throughout the year to see how you do!



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.*