



THE NUTHATCH

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“The World Comes Together for Birds in the Great Backyard Bird Count”

Kathy Dale

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an inter-organizational effort between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada. Each February, for four days, the world comes together to share the love of birds by reporting bird observations across 192 countries. Kathy Dale will share stories and insights about this interesting program as we get ready for the 26th annual GBBC on Feb 17-20, 2023.



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“Panama: Darien Province and the Chiriquí Highlands”

Sue Wright

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Sue Wright, former OAS President, will share her November 2021 trip to Panama, which covered the Darien Province in eastern Panama (staying at the Canopy Camp) and the Chiriquí highlands in western Panama. One of the highlights of the trip was a chance to see a Harpy Eagle adult and chick on the nest.



“Plant This...Not That! Attract Birds!”

Jane Giblin

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening with Jane Giblin from the Wildflower Association of Michigan to talk about native trees, shrubs, and perennial plants birds love. Birds need food and shelter...move beyond lawns and exotic species to create a buffet of benefits to wintering, migrating, and nesting birds. Why native plants? Native plants support life and are essential as host plants for many native insects which are essential food for many birds, especially nesting songbirds.



Photos: Banner, Pixaby. Programs, Audubon Great Lakes, Sue Wright, Wildflower Association of Michigan.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Winter 2022 - 2023

Well, I'm back! After taking a year off to successfully run the 2022 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty, I was once again elected to be President of this fine organization. Under the leadership of Sue Wright, the group continued to flourish and grow, the treasury continued to get plump, and support from donors has made life even more interesting.

My return could mean a continuation of what we have done in the past but I am never satisfied with the *status quo*. There are opportunities to be pursued, changes to consider, and a future full of challenges. I see OAS as a growing and, hopefully, dynamic entity, ready for change and for taking on new activities. Since I began my Presidential run back in 2008, we have transformed our newsletter, added a website, developed a Young Birders Club, added board positions for social media, conservation/environment, advocacy, and others. Having a large group of Board members handling different aspects has allowed OAS to broaden our perspective and spread the workload for the organization. That said, it still remains difficult for us to recruit new people to join the Board and take over some positions. I would challenge all of the members of OAS to think about joining the Board to take on one of the many jobs we have. Many of us are getting older and we need an infusion of youthful energy to continue to march towards the future.

An example of this need is the ever-present Earth Day activities that require folks to staff an OAS display table at the events. These events provide an opportunity to spread the word about OAS's work and increase membership and community involvement. The OAS Board often handles such activities but it doesn't need to be the case. Members are always welcome to step up and help handle the various invitations we receive to participate in such events. That is one of my challenges for the membership. You don't have to be a Board member to provide a helping hand to keep us vital and involved in the community. Just let a Board member know of your interest to get involved, even if it is just a day or two a year.

I will be discussing the organization's future with the Board. Expect some change. We should not accept stagnation and the *status quo* as we move forward. I look forward to working with everyone as we take on the challenges of another year.

Don Burlett
President

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(330) 697-7735	baikalteal13@netzero.net
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	fergusonelaine6@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Jen Benke	(734) 657-7498	scubadu9900@yahoo.com
Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248) 798-0508	jdstacey@ameritech.net
Program Officer	Dave Hoch	(248) 808-3696	hochdavid1@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Young Birders Club Rep.	Kathleen Dougherty		kad8186@msn.com
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity & Fundraising	Karen Kessler		Karenmk@live.com
Web Co-Editor	Hannah Dunbar		oddbirdstoonest@gmail.com
Social Media Administrator	Dan Gertiser	(248) 762-4354	dangertiser@comcast.net
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Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		ggossickdds@sbcglobal.net
Conservation/Environment	Greg Petrosky		gpetrosky06@gmail.com
Advocacy Officer	Greg Harris		gbharrisiv@gmail.com

ADVOCACY UPDATE

October saw Kathleen Dougherty and me taking part in the *2022 Save the Sea-Birds Fly-in*. The National Audubon Society hosted virtual meetings where we were able to share important information with the staff of Senator Gary Peters and Representative Debbie Dingell. Our main focus was to provide some background for why Audubon believes the [*Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act*](#) is important for our avian friends. Seabird populations have declined globally by 70% in the last 70 years. Ocean warming is changing their food, migrations, and habitat, while pollution, coastline development, and other factors are making it harder for these charismatic birds to survive. Passage of legislation like the [*Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act*](#) is an important step to help seabirds like the Atlantic Puffin and the Black Tern thrive. We are fortunate to have the support of Representative Dingell, a co-sponsor of the legislation. Senator Peters' staff was also receptive to our message.

With winter upon us, one fun, seasonal way for us all to advocate for birds is by participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. It's certain to be a nice way to help out by collecting data and sharing our results with our fellow birders and friends. The GBBC will take place this coming February from the 17th through the 20th. Visit <https://www.birdcount.org/about/> for more information.

On a final note, as we close out 2022, I want to take a quick moment to wish everyone reading a happy and healthy holiday season! Best wishes to you all in the coming new year.

George Harris
Advocacy Officer

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Covid-19 Update: OAS continues to follow some guidelines during all field trips (see page 11).

Schedule changes and updates will be posted on our website and members will also receive email updates. Owllet trip details are listed on pages 10 - 11.

Pre-Registration is required for most trips — contact trip leader for details.

Check the “Field Trips” page on our website often for current information and more details!

www.oaklandaudubon.org

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
December 17, 2022 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	123 th Christmas Bird Count	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
December 17, 2022 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Christmas Bird Count at Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
January 7, 2023 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	St. Clair River	Jim Koppin jimmykoppin@yahoo.com
January 28, 2023 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Kensington Metropark (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
February 5, 2023 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Gull Wild Card Field Trip	Don Burlett baikalteal13@netzero.net
February 10 – 12, 2023 (weekend)	Upper Peninsula Weekend Trip	Don Burlett baikalteal13@netzero.net
February 18, 2023 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	E.L. Johnson Nature Center (Owlets) **Great Backyard Bird Count**	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
February 25, 2023 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Beaudette Park	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
March 18, 2023 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Lake Erie Metropark	Mike Mencotti mmencotti9@gmail.com
March 24, 2023 (Friday) 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Stage Nature Center (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com

**Join us for the 2022 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on:
Saturday, December 17, 2022.**

An in-person tally will take place at Independence Oaks County Park (4 pm -7 pm)

— **Contact Jeff Stacey for details** —



Field Trip Reports

October 1, 2022 - Sterling State Park

Leader: Jeff Stacey

A dozen of us took advantage of fantastic fall weather at Sterling State Park in Frenchtown Township. We inched our way around the loop (3 miles in 5 hours), but that was a function of just how many birds there were to see. There were ample kinglets (Golden- and Ruby-crowned) and warblers, as well as a surprising number of rather late shorebirds. There were 12 species of warblers; while most of those were Yellow-rumped, there were Orange-crowned, Magnolia, and American Redstarts as well.

The most surprising of the shorebirds were a group of Long-billed Dowitchers we stumbled upon while looking for a Northern Pintail. The most photogenic bird of the day was a very cooperative Blue-headed Vireo that thrilled the entire group. It was as close to a perfect fall birding day as you could get.



Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)

October 23, 2022 - Lake Erie Metropark

Leader: Jeff Stacey



Photo Credit: Roy Bosshard

The unseasonable fall weather continued; while it was comfortable for walking the trails, the southerly winds were not an asset in bringing in new species. We planned to spend some time at the hawk watch looking for migrants. There were a few Sharp-shinned Hawks flying by, but it was a very slow day overall. Passerines on the trail were more numerous, but most warblers had already left and we struggled to even find Yellow-rump Warblers. Some Purple Finches were a highlight and there were plenty of sparrows (mostly White-throated Sparrows).

A late extension to the wave pool mudflat added a few shorebirds to bring the final total to 55 species.

Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports

August 13, 2022 - Heritage Park

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

Young birders' club families and friends met at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills to search for bugs and birds. The group was joined by insect experts Sue Greenlee and Doris Applebaum.

Heritage Park has extensive native species plantings for pollinators, which encourage a variety of insects including monarch butterflies. The weather during this trip was warm, but not sunny. Along the trails, Sue and Doris were able to find, identify, and point out numerous insects and fascinating insect signs like insect galls and leaf miners. For instance, gall insects create unusual plant growths that provide shelter to developing larvae. Insect sounds were ever-present in the background and Sue was able to differentiate the sounds of several insects.



We also kept an eBird checklist. The group encountered a Great Blue Heron and Green Heron on Stuart Little Pond near the parking lot. Both herons flew into the pond together and posed for a while. In the fields, American Goldfinches fed on seedheads of the numerous native plants. The expansive lawn along the park entrance offered great habitat for Canada Geese to forage and wander freely. Mixed habitats within the park support diverse bird species and although the time of day was not ideal for birding, the group reported 26 species.



After the hike, the group was invited to visit the nature center.

Thank you to Sue Greenlee, Doris Applebaum, and the nature center staff at Heritage Park.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and Rashmi Overbeek

Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports

October 8, 2022 - Detroit International Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets Families and Friends traveled to the Humbug Marsh Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) in Trenton to celebrate *Global Migratory Bird Day*. Todd Weston, refuge ranger, met the group at the John D. Dingell Jr. Visitor Center. Todd explained the reclamation work that was necessary to open Humbug Marsh to the public. Surrounded by industry, Humbug Marsh was once the location of a factory and brownfields, but now offers a place for recreation along with habitat for wildlife.

After introductions, the group headed to a boardwalk that crosses the stormwater retention ponds near the visitor center. Approaching the ponds, the group was greeted by Killdeers scurrying along the shoreline. At the far edge of the water, a Great Blue Heron and a Great Egret were stalking prey, while a Double-crested Cormorant dried its feathers on an exposed rock above the waterline. Everyone stopped and enjoyed the view of these big, spectacular birds.



Grasslands surrounding the ponds were alive with birds feasting on the seeds and insects—it was not long before we spotted Yellow-rumped Warblers. Birds popped up, barely long enough for us to see them. Yellow-rumped Warblers were everywhere along with a few migrating sparrows.

Todd then led the group towards the Detroit River. Along the way, we saw a Great Blue Heron perched in a tree. The view was remarkable, but not an uncommon sight at the refuge. Later, the group saw three Great Egrets resting in one tree. Shrubs along the trail were loaded with berries and birds were taking advantage of the abundant supply. Kinglets, Chickadees, and Yellow-rumped Warblers darted in and out of the shrubs just long enough for us to see them.

At the river, boardwalks provided viewing points to see activity on the water and in nearby wetlands. Numerous swallows soared above the water, feeding on insects, preparing for their journey to Central and South America. Additionally, ducks and swans were dining on aquatic vegetation and shorebirds foraged in the muddy edges of wetlands. Todd pointed out the Bald Eagle nest on Humbug Island; Bald Eagles are now commonly seen at the refuge, but none were observed on the hike.



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Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

Dead trees along the paths offered suitable habitat to find woodpeckers and OAS's mascot, the White-breasted Nuthatch. After time near the river, the group walked deeper into the refuge to see the Monguagon Delta, an extensive wetland connected to the Detroit River. The trail, which is usually wet, was dry and hardpacked. As the temperatures warmed, we saw more bird activity overhead, Ring-billed Gull flocks streamed by along with Turkey Vultures. The Oakland Owlets recorded 33 species of birds on the hike.



Photo Credits: Ray Bosshard and Kathleen Dougherty

The group saw numerous woolly bear caterpillars along the trail, a sign of fall. As the program concluded, over one hundred Turkey Vultures streamed overhead. After the hike, the group checked out the visitors center. Some in the group then headed to the Hawk Watch at the nearby Lake Erie Metropark.

Thanks to DRIWR ranger **Todd Weston** for his time and to **Ray Bosshard** for sharing his fabulous photos.

November 6, 2022 - University of Michigan Museum of Natural History

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets Families and Friends attended a special tour of the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History (UMMNH). The museum supports research and maintains collections in four distinct academic disciplines: paleontology, zoology, anthropology, and botany. At the main entrance, it was incredible to see the famous mastodon couple standing side by side. This is the only place to see nearly complete skeletons of male and female mastodons together. The museum has skeletons of many Michigan mastodons.



In 2019, the UMMNH moved into a new state-of-the-art building which also incorporates the biological science building. Visitors can see inside the bio-sci labs while touring the museum. The Owlets were greeted by our guide, Nichole, a paleontology graduate student who spends her summers at dig sites in Texas—she was the perfect guide for the young birders group.

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Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

The tour started in the Michigan Gallery, which features Michigan wildlife, natural communities, geology, and fossils. Our guide shared Michigan facts and then gave the group time to explore. The Owlets assessed their Michigan bird IQ in a mini quiz and aced all the questions!

The next stop was the Evolution: Life Through Time exhibit. Nichole explained how scientists look at the geological past through periods of time known as epochs or eras. She also shared that many of the plants and animals in this exhibit are extinct. Scientists recognize that Earth has experienced periods of mass extinction in the past; evidence of animals that once lived during these epochs is found in the fossil record. Paleontologists can identify species even from partial skeletons or just teeth. Owlets looked at a skull of a Tyrannosaurus Rex and learned this species' teeth continually grew, with new, smaller teeth erupting to replace older ones. Nichole also explained that much is unknown about the species of the past; for instance, the fossil record does not address skin color and texture.

At the Dinosaur Exhibit, Nichole shattered some dinosaur myths. The apex predator in this exhibit is a Majungasaurus, a carnivore native to Madagascar. Nichole noted that the positioning of this dinosaur and how it held its tail. Fossil records of footprints indicate dinosaurs did not drag their tails. The latest research prompted the museum to store a similar dinosaur previously on display for decades because the positioning of this dinosaur was incorrect. We also learned that dinosaurs are believed to be the ancestors of birds.



There were many awe-inspiring moments on the tour. Nichole made sure young birders were aware of the characteristics of different animal groups. Young birders were interested in a variety of concepts. Skeletons and models of pre-historic creatures prepared by scientists based on the most up to date knowledge can really spark curiosity and emphasize that we are all still learning.

At the end of the tour, the group stepped into an open light-filled atrium with a life-size model of a Quetzalcoatlus, the largest flying creature to ever live. This species belongs to a group of ancient flying reptiles known collectively as pterosaurs. Nichole remarked that pterosaurs were not dinosaurs. The group thanked our guide and realized that there is a lot more to see at the museum.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and University of Michigan Museum of Natural History

Oakland Owlets Field Trips

December 2022 - March 2023

Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 17, 2022, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility, Orion Township



The Owlets will participate in OAS's Christmas Bird Count (CBC). We will explore the Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility in Orion Township. This landfill, which is operated by Waste Management (WM), provides critical habitat for wildlife. This site is certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC). We will collect information on birds utilizing the site during the winter to help WM with WHC documentation efforts. Dress for being outdoors and plan to explore this restricted area on a hike. Participants are required to sign a liability waiver. WM's Community Relations Representative, Kathleen Klein, makes this field trip possible.

Winter Birding Wonders – Saturday, January 28, 2023, 8:30 am - 11:00 am
Kensington Metropark, Milford

Owlets will visit Kensington Metropark, a premiere birding area in Oakland County. The park has abundant wildlife viewing opportunities and is a great park for outdoor enthusiasts. We plan to visit various locations in the park and stop at the nature center to try feeding some of the birds by hand. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Metropark entry fees are applicable for park entry.



Great Backyard Bird Count – Saturday, February 18, 2023, 8:30 am - 11:00 am
E.L. Johnson Nature Center, Bloomfield Hills



Join us to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a global event that tracks birds worldwide starting 2/17 – 2/20. We will hike trails and observe birds at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center's feeding station. The E.L. Johnson Nature Center is an oasis for birds including Wild Turkeys and Great Horned Owls. This field trip is co-sponsored by the E.L. Johnson Nature Center. Plan to stay after the hike to participate in other nature center programs if interested. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.



Oakland Owlets Field Trips December 2022 - March 2023

An Evening with Owls – Friday, March 24, 2023, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Stage Nature Center, Troy

Owls are amazing birds; they are often challenging to see because many are secretive and nocturnal. These characteristics make them one of the most mysterious birds in the world. Luckily, the Stage Nature Center is home to owls that cannot live in the wild due to disabilities. This trip includes a presentation to learn the facts about Michigan owls and to meet those that live at the nature center. Following the indoor event, we will venture outdoors for a nocturnal hike to explore this natural area and the animals that are active after sunset. Space is limited.



OAS is following the following field trip guidelines:

1. Pre-registration is required and number of participants is limited.
2. Stay home if you are sick or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.
3. Directions and details are sent in advance to those that pre-register.



The Young Birders' Club ~ Oakland Owlets offers field trips for youth 8 – 18 years. Young birders 15 years and younger 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 kad8186@msn.com

Visit <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders>

Photo Credits: OAS Photo Gallery

OAKLAND AUDUBON AROUND TOWN

Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility - September 28, 2022

OAS Secretary Doris Applebaum attended a *Community Information Event* at Waste Management's Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility in Orion Township. Most attendees live in the township, but OAS was invited to send a representative because we do wildlife surveys to help Waste Management maintain the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) certification for Eagle Valley landfill.

We were given an update on work at the landfill, and were told that this facility is expected to operate for the next 15 years or so before being capped. After that, Waste Management will be required to maintain responsibility for the site for the next 30 years. They will discuss the future use of the site with township officials; a park is one option being considered.

Waste Management works hard to be a good neighbor and has an employee available to respond quickly to any complaints such as odor or litter.

Haven Hill Festival - September 10, 2022

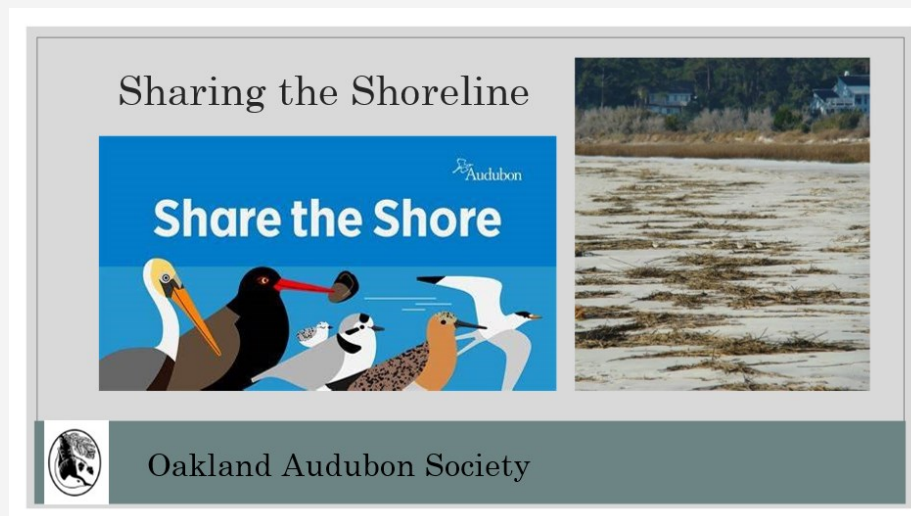
OAS board members and volunteers shared their knowledge of birds and birding with attendees of the *Haven Hills Festival* held at Highland State Recreation Area. OAS partners with the Friends of Highland Recreation Area to schedule an annual field trip to the Highland State Recreation Area and the Haven Hill National Natural Landmark contained within the park.



Rouge River Water Festival - September 16, 2022

Katherine Dougherty, Young Birders Club Coordinator, presented at the *2022 Rouge River Water Festival*. This week-long event, held annually at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, is designed to help elementary students learn about one of Michigan's most precious natural resources –clean, fresh water, and appreciate the importance of water and how it impacts our daily lives.

Kathleen's presentation was titled "Sharing the Shoreline" and focused on the federally endangered Piping Plover. Students learned about the Piping Plover and its habitat, participated in interactive educational activities, and signed a pledge to help this vulnerable shorebird species. Audubon Great Lakes supported Kathleen with outreach materials.



NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

Bird Banding at Lake St. Clair Metropark — Fall 2022

Spring and fall bird banding was conducted at Lake St. Clair Metropark, “Marsh Station” (7 acres, 2.8 hectares), from 1989-1999 by long-time Oakland Audubon field studies coordinator, Ellie Cox, and from 2004-2014 by Allen Chartier. In 2015, the operation was moved to a new “Meadow Station” 0.4 miles northeast (3 acres, 1.2 hectares), but still within the boundaries of the park and adjacent to the Meadow Loop nature trail.

Due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, safety restrictions remained in place in fall of 2022. Only volunteers who were fully vaccinated were allowed to help, and a soap and water hand washing station was set up in the field. Some training of new volunteers was done this fall on a limited basis, including one intern from Kalamazoo College, and visiting members of the public were kept at least 6 feet away from the banding table. Approximately 140 visitors came by the station to see what we were doing either for a few minutes, or in some cases for a few hours.

Locations for a total of 17.5 nets were established within an area of approximately 3 acres (1.2 hectares) in fall 2015. The GPS coordinates of the “centroid” of these nets are: 42°34'45.0”N, 82°48'9.2”W. The nets were placed in 6 general “groups”, which were described in detail in the spring 2016 banding report.

An effort was made to adhere to the long-established protocol at this park to band two days each week during August, September, October, and the first week of November. Near-drought conditions across southeastern Michigan began in summer and extended throughout the fall banding season. The result is that the banding area was completely dried out to pre-2019 conditions for the entire season.

In fall of 2022, out of a possible 26 banding days during that period, thanks to the flexibility of experienced banding volunteers, banding was conducted on a total of 27 days between 31 July and 5 November. All 17.5 nets were able to be opened every day of operation this fall, with the result that nets were open for a record of 2970 net hours, even though the overall number of hours of operation was identical to last fall. Only 17.5 net hours were lost due to early closures due to excessive heat, and 157.5 net hours were lost due to a rain-out day. Early morning audio-luring for owls was begun on 14 October, with 7 nets resulting in a total of 66.25 net hours (included in the 2970 noted above). This is by far our most successful year trying this, with four Northern Saw-whet Owls banded between 22 October and 5 November!

The 83 species banded in Fall 2022 was an all-time record for banding in the park since banding began in 1989, increasing the average at the Meadow station to 78, which is well above the 2005-2014 average (70) at the Marsh station, continuing to indicate a consistently higher species diversity at the Meadow station. The total of 2373 new birds banded was a record for the Meadow station, and was also the second highest season since banding began here in 1989. It was also well above the 2005-2014 average (1714) at the Marsh station. The capture rate of 96.2 birds per 100 net hours was also a record at the Meadow station, but was below the 2004-2014 Marsh station average of 112.1.

Table 1 (page 14) shows annual banding totals at Lake St. Clair Metropark from 1989-2022. **Table 2** (pages 15-18) shows details of the Fall 2022 banding totals.

(continued on next page)

NATURE NOTES *(continued)*

Table 1. Comparisons of annual fall banding effort, capture rates, and species diversity. Numbers in bold are record highs.

Year ¹	Days	Net Hrs.	New birds Banded	No. of Recaptures	Released unbanded ²	Total Captures	Capture Rate ³	No. of Species
1989	10	1059.00	625	25	33	683	64.5	54
1990	16	1170.00	803	61	134	998	85.3	67
1991	16	1570.00	1313	140	73	1526	97.2	67
1992	18	1794.00	920	117	34	1071	59.7	63
1993	16	1220.00	810	69	35	914	74.9	58
1994	12	924.00	597	24	3	624	67.5	46
1995	14	1165.00	642	74	40	756	64.9	50
1996	13	1014.00	587	67	53	707	69.7	54
1997	14	1072.00	422	59	35	516	48.1	60
1998	12	960.00	505	*	22	527	54.9	50
1999	12	982.00	261	*	9	270	27.5	40
'89 - '99 Avg. ¹	14	1175.45	680	71	43	781	64.9	55
2005	22	1066.00	868	102	26	996	93.4	58
2006	24	1618.19	1493	155	33	1681	103.9	60
2007	19	1336.94	959	116	36	1111	83.1	60
2008	22	1891.00	1841	341	40	2222	117.5	77
2009	22	1765.44	1639	231	32	1902	107.7	71
2010	24	1776.69	2201	268	53	2522	141.9	71
2011	25	2057.38	2115	297	53	2465	119.8	79
2012	26	2067.12	1889	215	46	2150	104.0	76
2013	26	2315.25	2645	543	59	3247	140.3	81
2014	25	2099.25	1485	350	36	1871	89.1	76
'05 - '14 Avg.	24	1799.33	1714	262	41	2017	112.1	70
2015 ⁵	14	1005.62	632	41	0	673	66.9	54
2016	23	2241.38	1061	109	15	1185	52.9	72
2017	26	2753.88	1901	378	32	2312	84.0	82
2018	26	2488.50	1764	263	36	2063	82.9	80
2019	23	1981.25	1436	163	26	1637	82.6	75
2020	26	1962.88	1297	194	25	1516	77.2	73
2021	27	2636.62	1913	346	56	2315	87.8	81
2022	27	2970.62	2373	415	71	2859	96.2	83
'16 - '22 Avg. ^{4, 5}	25.4	2433.59	1678	267	37	1984	80.5	78

¹ 1998-1999 data has not yet been fully verified.

² Released unbanded (including mostly "escapes") were not tracked as carefully from 1989-1999 as they were from 2004-2014.

³ Capture rate is defined as number of individuals per 100 net hours.

⁴ Banding from 2016 onward was conducted at a different site in the park (Meadow station).

⁵ 2015 was only a partial season of banding and so it is not included in the long-term averages.

NATURE NOTES *(continued)*

Table 2. Birds banded at Metro Beach Metropark (Lake St. Clair Metropark [LSCMP] location) in Fall 2022, compared with the 2005-2014 average and Fall 2021 numbers (No. per 100 net hours in parenthesis). **Bold black** text indicates unusual species or high numbers; **bold red** text indicates significant low numbers, or significant species missed this season.

Species	Fall 2022 # Banded	Fall 2022 # Returns	Fall 2021 # Banded	Fall 2005-2014 Avg. at MBMP
Green Heron	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	0.4 (0.03)
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
Sora	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
American Woodcock	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	1.2 (0.09)
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	-	1 (0.04)	0.2 (0.02)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	4 (5.86)	-	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	76 (2.56)	-	71 (2.69)	80.5 (6.34)
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1 (0.03)	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	1 (0.04)	0.4 (0.03)
Downy Woodpecker	17 (0.57)	2	12 (0.46)	7.9 (0.62)
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1	2 (0.08)	0.5 (0.04)
Northern Flicker	3 (0.10)	-	6 (0.23)	3.3 (0.26)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	17 (0.57)	1	6 (0.23)	4.1 (0.32)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	13 (0.44)	-	9 (0.34)	2.9 (0.23)
Acadian Flycatcher	-	-	-	-
Alder Flycatcher	3 (0.10)	-	4 (0.15)	1.6 (0.13)
Willow Flycatcher	5 (0.17)	-	3 (0.11)	3.4 (0.27)
"Traill's" Flycatcher	7 (0.24)	-	16 (0.61)	5.3 (0.42)
Least Flycatcher	17 (0.57)	-	23 (0.87)	6.4 (0.50)
Eastern Phoebe	15 (0.50)	-	7 (0.27)	2.4 (0.19)
Great Crested Flycatcher	1 (0.03)	-	-	0.4 (0.03)
Eastern Kingbird	-	-	2 (0.08)	0.3 (0.02)
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	1 (0.04)	-
Blue-headed Vireo	10 (0.34)	-	4 (0.15)	3.4 (0.27)
Warbling Vireo	24 (0.81)	3	51 (1.93)	6.1 (0.48)
Philadelphia Vireo	6 (0.20)	-	9 (0.34)	1.2 (0.09)
Red-eyed Vireo	24 (0.81)	-	22 (0.83)	5.0 (0.39)
Blue Jay	7 (0.24)	-	9 (0.34)	4.3 (0.34)

NATURE NOTES *(continued)*

Table 2. Birds banded at Metro Beach Metropark LSCMP location in Fall 2022, compared with the 2005-2014 average and Fall 2021 numbers — *Continued*

Species	Fall 2022 # Banded	Fall 2022 # Returns	Fall 2021 # Banded	Fall 2005-2014 Avg. at MBMP
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	0.3 (0.02)
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
Black-capped Chickadee	32 (1.08)	7	22 (0.83)	15.0 (1.18)
Tufted Titmouse	3 (0.10)	-	4 (0.15)	2.1 (0.17)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9 (0.30)	-	2 (0.08)	1.5 (0.12)
White-breasted Nuthatch	4 (0.13)	-	6 (0.23)	1.2 (0.09)
Brown Creeper	11 (0.37)	-	7 (0.27)	18.0 (1.42)
Carolina Wren	2 (0.07)	-	-	1.7 (0.13)
House Wren	26 (0.88)	2	15 (0.57)	16.9 (1.33)
Winter Wren	17 (0.57)	-	6 (0.23)	16.2 (1.28)
Sedge Wren	1 (0.03)	-	-	-
Marsh Wren	13 (0.44)	-	17 (0.64)	5.9 (0.47)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	77 (2.59)	-	89 (3.38)	65.8 (5.19)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	110 (3.70)	-	82 (3.11)	48.2 (3.80)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2 (0.07)	-	-	0.4 (0.03)
Veery	11 (0.37)	-	10 (0.38)	1.9 (0.15)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	35 (1.18)	-	41 (1.56)	12.6 (0.99)
Swainson's Thrush	163 (5.49)	-	155 (5.88)	34.7 (2.73)
Hermit Thrush	103 (3.47)	-	30 (1.14)	79.1 (6.23)
Wood Thrush	2 (0.07)	-	1 (0.04)	1.7 (0.13)
American Robin	46 (1.55)	-	29 (1.10)	24.9 (1.96)
Gray Catbird	22 (0.74)	-	29 (1.10)	16.7 (1.32)
Brown Thrasher	1 (0.03)	-	3 (0.11)	0.4 (0.03)
European Starling	-	-	4 (0.15)	0.6 (0.05)
Cedar Waxwing	2 (0.07)	-	7 (0.27)	7.8 (0.61)
Blue-winged Warbler	-	-	1 (0.04)	0.1 (0.01)
Golden-winged Warbler	1 (0.03)	-	-	-
Tennessee Warbler	12 (0.40)	-	12 (0.46)	16.5 (1.30)
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 (0.03)	-	2 (0.08)	5.7 (0.45)
Nashville Warbler	42 (1.41)	-	41 (1.56)	50.5 (3.98)
Northern Parula	8 (0.27)	-	9 (0.34)	1.3 (0.10)
Yellow Warbler	68 (2.29)	7	165 (6.26)	22.4 (1.77)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10 (0.34)	-	5 (0.19)	6.9 (0.54)
Magnolia Warbler	79 (2.26)	-	78 (2.96)	35.5 (2.80)
Cape May Warbler	27 (0.91)	-	2 (0.08)	0.7 (0.06)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	18 (0.61)	-	24 (0.91)	32.8 (2.59)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	82 (2.76)	-	12 (0.46)	16.5 (1.30)

NATURE NOTES *(continued)*

Table 2. Birds banded at Metro Beach Metropark LSCMP location in Fall 2022, compared with the 2005-2014 average and Fall 2021 numbers — *Continued*

Species	Fall 2022 # Banded	Fall 2022 # Returns	Fall 2021 # Banded	Fall 2005-2014 Avg. at MBMP
Black-throated Green Warbler	7 (0.24)	-	2 (0.08)	1.4 (0.11)
Blackburnian Warbler	4 (0.13)	-	7 (0.27)	1.3 (0.10)
Palm Warbler	8 (0.27)	-	3 (0.11)	6.1 (0.48)
Bay-breasted Warbler	13 (0.44)	-	21 (0.80)	5.1 (0.40)
Blackpoll Warbler	11 (0.37)	-	38 (1.44)	16.8 (1.32)
Black-and-white Warbler	10 (0.34)	-	9 (0.34)	4.4 (0.35)
American Redstart	90 (3.03)	-	67 (2.54)	15.3 (1.21)
Ovenbird	29 (0.98)	-	12 (0.46)	13.9 (1.10)
Northern Waterthrush	1 (0.03)	-	37 (1.40)	8.2 (0.65)
Connecticut Warbler	-	-	4 (0.15)	1.0 (0.08)
Mourning Warbler	7 (0.24)	-	4 (0.15)	5.0 (0.39)
Common Yellowthroat	46 (1.55)	4	57 (2.16)	64.6 (5.09)
Wilson's Warbler	19 (0.64)	-	12 (0.46)	14.4 (1.13)
Canada Warbler	3 (0.10)	-	4 (0.15)	5.1 (0.40)
Hooded Warbler	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
Scarlet Tanager	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Northern Cardinal	12 (0.40)	6	7 (0.27)	14.7 (1.16)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 (0.03)	-	1 (0.04)	1.5 (0.12)
Indigo Bunting	4 (0.13)	-	9 (0.34)	2.2 (0.17)
Eastern Towhee	1 (0.03)	-	1 (0.04)	0.8 (0.06)
American Tree Sparrow	6 (0.20)	-	2 (0.08)	8.2 (0.65)
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	0.3 (0.02)
Clay-colored Sparrow	1 (0.03)	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	1 (0.03)	-	1 (0.04)	1.8 (0.14)
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
Fox Sparrow	5 (0.17)	-	4 (0.15)	8.3 (0.65)
Song Sparrow	109 (3.67)	10	81 (3.07)	162.6 (12.82)
Lincoln's Sparrow	13 (0.44)	-	9 (0.34)	12.1 (0.95)
Swamp Sparrow	120 (4.04)	-	94 (3.57)	72.3 (5.70)
White-throated Sparrow	184 (6.19)	-	53 (2.01)	217.1 (17.11)
White-crowned Sparrow	4 (0.13)	-	5 (0.19)	23.2 (1.83)
Dark-eyed Junco	23 (0.77)	-	5 (0.19)	4.2 (0.33)
Red-winged Blackbird	95 (3.20)	5	22 (0.83)	24.0 (1.89)
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)
Common Grackle	2 (0.07)	-	-	0.7 (0.06)
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	0.5 (0.04)
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	0.1 (0.01)

NATURE NOTES *(continued)*

Table 2. Birds banded at Metro Beach Metropark LSCMP location in Fall 2022, compared with the 2005-2014 average and Fall 2021 numbers — *Continued*

Species	Fall 2022 # Banded	Fall 2022 # Returns	Fall 2021 # Banded	Fall 2005-2014 Avg. at MBMP
Baltimore Oriole	3 (0.10)	1	21 (0.80)	3.8 (0.30)
Purple Finch	-	-	-	0.2 (0.02)
House Finch	59 (1.99)	-	5 (0.19)	5.4 (0.43)
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	2.4 (0.19)
American Goldfinch	186 (6.26)	13	147 (5.58)	278.5 (21.95)
House Sparrow	6 (0.20)	-	-	-

Detailed banding reports, from 2004 through 2022, can be found here:

[Michigan Hummingbird Guy: Bird Banding Reports \(2004 to Present\)](http://mihummingbirdguy.blogspot.com)
(mihummingbirdguy.blogspot.com)

Don't be shy! If you have a question you would like Allen to answer in a future *Nature Notes* column or there is a topic you are interested in hearing more about, you can email him at:

amazilia3@gmail.com

***Bird Briefs* (articles to look at online, click titles below)**

from Don Burlett

[How Penguins Beat the Heat and Went South - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Seven-foot-tall penguins, catching fish by spearing them with their bills, living in equatorial waters? Yes, that is the history of penguins. In this short article, the authors disclose some of the changes that have occurred with penguins over the last 35 million years. Even the fact that 75% of penguins species have disappeared is to be noted. A fascinating look at penguins with reference to the original article. Lots of fun reading.

[Many Birds Are Shrinking and Growing Longer Wings as the World Warms. Why? | Audubon](#)

Changes in birds' size and wing length have been observed in a number of studies, but it is not a consistent trend across all habitats and species. It is an intriguing question to address as data accumulates on these changes. Worth a quick read.

[Pigs to the Rescue: An Invasive Species Helped Save Australia's Crocodiles - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

This is an example of how a invasive species in Australia helped save a threatened native species. It is usually the other way around – the invasive species causes all sorts of trouble, which they do. But, on occasion, they can prove very useful for conservation of a species. Other examples, beside these pigs and crocodiles, are apple snails and Snail Kites in Florida as well as feral pigs and Florida panthers. Interesting!

[A brief history of English bird names and the American Ornithologists' Union \(now American Ornithological Society\) | Ornithology | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

If you have ever wanted to understand something about the naming of birds, this technical article goes into some of the aspects that may not be apparent to everyone. Not a light read, but informative if you are looking to learn about this.

[State of the Birds 2022](#)

This is a collaborative effort under the name of “North American Bird Conservation Initiative.” Visit this site for statistics and other information about birds today.

[The Bird Migration Explorer Lets You Interact With Nature's Most Amazing Feat | Audubon](#)

I'm sure that many of you heard about the [Audubon Migration Explorer](#), a digital platform revealing migration data for birds across the western hemisphere. [This video](#) explains the new tool and [this article](#) tells one species' story through migration. Check it out to learn about migration and what you can do to save birds for our future!!



Image by Pixaby

BIRD ID QUIZ

(Winter 2022-2023)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see Page 26

No Peeking!

WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2022 - 2023

By Tyler Hoar

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GENERAL FORECAST

In eastern North America, westward to northwestern Ontario and upper midwestern states, there should be a flight year for several species (see individual species forecasts).

In eastern North America, there is a good food crop along the coastal areas of Maritime Provinces southward into New England, which should hold many finches this winter. Inland from this area to areas west of Lake Superior, the cone and berry crops are generally poor, with scattered pockets of good crops.

There is a significant masting event involving spruce crops from interior northern British Columbia/Northwest Territories spreading eastward to far northwestern Ontario, providing a bumper crop of seeds. One cone crop reporter stated it was the heaviest crop they have ever seen, with branches looking to break under the weight! This bumper crop also spreads southward along the Rocky Mountains and provides a good cone crop southward into northern Arizona. Large numbers of crossbills and siskins will move into this masting event this fall and winter.



Source: Finch Network—Winter Finch Forecast, photo by Jean Iron

INDIVIDUAL FORECASTS

Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. Follow finch wanderings this fall and winter on [eBird](#), the [Finch Research Network](#), and the [Finches, Irruptions and Mast Crops FaceBook group](#).

Pine Grosbeak

From western Lake Superior eastward, the native mountain-ash berry crops are poor to below average, with areas of above-average crops along the Atlantic coast. From Lake Superior westward, the crop is above average, with several areas of bumper crops.

Traditional areas in the upper Midwest states eastward to New England and the Maritime Provinces should see movements of Pine Grosbeaks. Flocks of hungry grosbeaks searching for fruiting ornamental trees and well-stocked feeders with black oil sunflower seeds may be seen in urban areas.

Purple Finch

Many Purple Finches will migrate south from Eastern Canada this winter. Early movement of this species southward has been occurring for weeks. With several large Spruce Budworm outbreaks in the eastern boreal forest, the Purple Finches appear to benefit from an abundant food source during the breeding season. The ash crop is good in many areas of the northeast where ash is dying from emerald ash borer, so some birds could linger, but look for them to be most common south of the eastern boreal and northern tier states.

Common and Hoary Redpolls

There appears to be no bumper birch crop in North America this winter. In the western boreal forest, it appears to be mostly an average birch crop. East of Manitoba, the White and Yellow Birch crop is very poor to poor throughout most of the boreal and southern Canadian forests. The Alder crop across the boreal forest is average. There is a potential for a moderate to a good flight south out of the boreal forest. Watch for redpolls on birches,

(continued on next page)

WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2022 - 2023

(continued)

in weedy fields and at bird feeders offering nyger and black oil sunflower seeds. Watch for Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls. See the link below for photos and identification marks of the Common and Hoary Redpoll subspecies.

Pine Siskin

A large number of Pine Siskins will remain in the bumper spruce crop of western Canada this winter. In the eastern boreal forest, there are extensive pockets of heavy Eastern White Cedar crops which should hold small numbers of siskins this winter. However, most of the siskins remaining in the east this fall should move southward in search of food. At feeders, they prefer nyger seeds in silo feeders.

White-Winged Crossbill

The crossbill pendulum has swung west for this winter. A bumper White Spruce crop and heavy crops of other conifers in the boreal forest from northwestern Ontario to northern British Columbia and southward through the Rocky Mountains should contain most of the White-winged Crossbills this winter. Throughout the boreal forest from Lake Superior, eastward spruce crops are mostly poor, with areas of patchy fair crops and widespread poor Tamarack crops. Later in winter, crossbills might start wandering some as crops are depleted, and any cones, even old cones, should be watched for crossbills and siskins.

Red Crossbill

Red Crossbills are currently quite common in eastern Massachusetts, along the coast of Maine and the southern Maritime Provinces. There are modest numbers in the Adirondacks, Algonquin Provincial Park, over to the upper Great Lakes. These areas are where the "eastern Type 10" is most common from year to year, and this year is no different, with the heavy red spruce crop along the coast and localized heavy eastern white pine crop driving the majority of the current distribution. In short, this "Northeastern Crossbill" (i.e. eastern Type 10) will be around this winter, but will they migrate down the coast to Long Island, Cape May and Delaware and points south, as they sometimes do as cone crops are depleted as we progress through the winter season. Type 2 has been on the move a little this summer, so we may get some Type 2 and 3 once the western crops are depleted. Lastly, expect a sprinkling of Type 1 and 2 in the usual areas of New York and western Massachusetts. The call types are usually impossible to identify without recordings of their flight calls. Recordings can be made with a smartphone and identified to type. Matt Young (may6@cornell.edu or info@finchnetwork.org) will identify types if you email him your recordings or upload them to an eBird checklist. Recordings uploaded to eBird checklists are deposited in the Macaulay Library.

Evening Grosbeak

This stocky charismatic finch appears to be on the move this winter. Its breeding population appears to be increasing in Eastern Canada westward to Manitoba due to increasing outbreaks of spruce budworm with large outbreaks in Northeastern Ontario and Quebec. Visual count observations by Tadoussac Bird Observatory in Quebec show a movement, with several individuals making it into Southern Ontario and Pennsylvania by mid-September. Expect flights of Evening Grosbeaks into southern Ontario, southern Quebec, Maritime Provinces, and border states this fall. If this species repeats the large, fast-moving, long-distance flights seen in late October 2020, some birds could be expected to go farther south into the United States than usual. At large platform feeders, they prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Evening Grosbeaks will look for maple and ash trees holding seed away from feeders.

THREE IRRUPTIVE PASSERINES

Movements of these three passerines are often linked to the boreal finches.

(continued on next page)

WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2022 - 2023

(continued)

Blue Jay

This will be a good to strong flight year. Beechnut and hazelnut crops are poor. The acorn crop is generally poor but with pockets of good crops scattered from Manitoba eastward through southern Canada and northeastern states southward to Pennsylvania.

Red-Breasted Nuthatch

This species has been irrupting south since July and continues as this forecast is written. With mostly poor cone crops in the eastern boreal forest, expect this species to continue to move southward. This species prefers black oil seeds, suet, and peanuts at feeders.

Bohemian Waxwing

In the eastern boreal forest, the native mountain-ash berry crops are poor to below average, and other berry crops range from fair to good. Westward from Northwestern Ontario, the crop ranges from good to bumper.

Look for this species in traditional areas from Central Ontario eastward into the maritime provinces, northern New England and Great Lake states. As winter progresses and food resources dwindle, flocks may be seen further south of these traditional areas.

Bohemians coming south to forage will visit reliable annual crops of abundant Buckthorn (*Rhamnus*) berries and urban areas containing planted European Mountain-ash berries and ornamental crabapples.

This *Winter Finch Forecast 2022-2023* has been reproduced with permission from [Finch Research Network](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and conservation of finches and their habitats globally.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

September 22, 2022

We ended the 2022 membership-dues year with 209 members, including 32 new members. Anyone paying membership dues from August on is credited with membership through December 2023.

The Nuthatch Open competitive birding event attracted only one team this year. We are rethinking this event, hoping to attract more interest.

Look for more OAS winter hats and ball-type caps to be available soon.

The OAS website's popularity continues, as there was a noticeable increase in viewership in the 30 days prior to this board meeting.

Good news from Seven Ponds Nature Center: Visits from school groups are increasing, the summer camps were successful, and Purple Martins fledged young at the nature center for the first time in over 20 years.

Election of officers (President, Program Officer, and Field Trip Officer) will take place at our October membership meeting on Zoom, and we will have a used-book sale at the November membership meeting at the church.

This was Sue Wright's last board meeting as President. The board members thanked her profusely for stepping in on an emergency one-year basis and doing a great job.

November 17, 2022

Some of our board members have been on the board for several years. National Audubon has notified us that they believe their chapters should have term limits for their board members. Since we recently became an affiliate member of National Audubon, the board is considering how to make this change.

Programs for the first several membership meetings in 2023 have been set, and others are in the process of being scheduled.

At one time, OAS provided a "welcome packet" to new members. We plan to revive this idea.

Plans for the December 17 Christmas Bird Count are set—except for the location of the tally. At the time of this board meeting it was not certain whether the tally would be in person or via Zoom.

The book sale at the November membership meeting was a success, bringing in \$215 for us.

Website Editor Hannah Dunbar is working on some improvements, including fixing a problem with reception on mobile devices.

If you were at the November membership meeting, you know the difficulty we encountered in trying to get Zoom service. We believe that the problem lies with the projector, so we plan to purchase a new, high-quality projector for future in-person membership meetings.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary



If you are an Amazon user and would like to help benefit OAS, simply [CLICK HERE](#), add us to your favorite charity list, and then shop!

A percentage of your purchases will be donated to OAS and will help support our organization.

If you aren't using Amazon Smile, try it out. We'll appreciate it!

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

The 2023 Membership Drive is underway!

You can renew your membership in one of two ways:

- 1) Use the “Renew OAS Membership” link on the Membership tab on our website (<http://www.oaklandaudubon.org>), to pay online using PayPal. [CLICK HERE](#) or
- 2) Mail a check along with a membership form (page 27)

Mail renewal forms to:

Oakland Audubon Society
C/O Jenifer Benke
2145 Colony Club Ct.
West Bloomfield, MI 48322

If you would like to check the status of your membership or have questions, contact OAS Membership Officer Jen Benke at: 734-657-7498 or scubadu9900@yahoo.com.

Thank you for helping us sustain OAS with your membership contributions. We would be nowhere without you!

Climate Watch Volunteers Needed!

Climate Watch is a National Audubon Society community science program that explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. The program uses a specific protocol to monitor 12 target bird species, including OAS's own White-breasted Nuthatch.

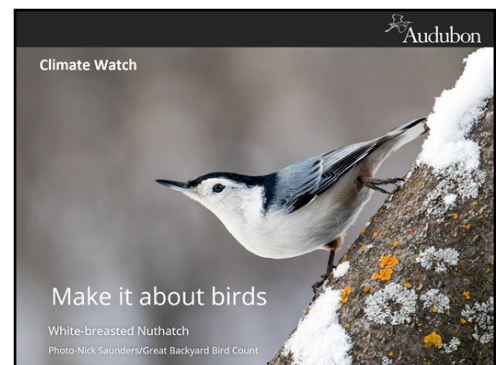
Climate Watch takes place during winter (January 15 - February 15) and summer (May 15 - June 15). Volunteers survey appropriate habitat within a specific block to conduct 12 5-minute point counts, recording all birds seen and heard within 100 meters. Surveys are started in the morning and completed before noon, or started in the afternoon and completed before sunset.

OAS surveys 10 blocks within Oakland County located near Clarkston, Farmington, and Milford. We are looking for volunteers to participate starting in January 2023!

If you are interested in learning more about this important citizen science project, contact Kathleen Dougherty at kad8186@msn.com.

Oakland Audubon depends on the generosity of its members to continue this work to inform science and conservation.

Thank you!



MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, May, July, and August) at the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham. **Some OAS meetings and programs will be at the Church and also transmitted online via Zoom, while others will only be offered only via Zoom. Meetings open at 6:30 PM and talks begin at 7:00 PM.** If a meeting is offered via Zoom, specific instructions and links will be posted on the “meetings” page on our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org and on OAS’s Facebook page prior to that meeting. **Updates to the schedule will be posted on our website.** Please contact a Board member if you have questions.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., January 10	7:00 pm	The World Comes Together for Birds in the Great Backyard Bird Count	Zoom
Tues., February 14	7:00 pm	Panama: Darien Province and the Chiriquí Highlands	First United Methodist Church
Tues., March 14	7:00 pm	Plant This...Not That! Attract Birds!	Zoom

Bird Quiz Answers for Winter 2022-2023 Quiz on Page 20

This issue’s photo quiz : a) Pine Grosbeak (female), b) White-winged Crossbill (female), c) Pine Siskin

Explanation: An easy set of birds to ID.

- a) Large and long-tailed, pale gray eye-arcs around short dark eye-line, two white wing bars, short curved bill, gray coloration otherwise.
- b) Dark lores, slender curved bill that crosses, broad white wing bars, white tertial tips, and indistinct streaking on breast and flanks.
- c) Thin, pointed bill, indistinct streaking on breast and flanks, white wing bars, brown auriculars (ear patch behind and below eyes), and some yellow in wing bars and on primaries.

The sizes, not compensated in these pictures, are 9” for grosbeak, 6.5” for crossbill, and 5” for siskin. Hopefully, bill size and shape, and bird size will help distinguish these females when observed in the field.

How did you do identifying these 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: _____)

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
 C/O JENIFER BENKE
 2145 COLONY CLUB CT.
 WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN 48322

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