



THE NUTHATCH

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Follow us on 

“Lords of the Sky”

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Howell Nature Center

Birds of prey rule the skies, and tonight we'll learn about the various types of these birds and their importance to the environment.

For this special event, Howell Nature Center will bring some of these majestic birds for us to see in person. Included among these “guests” will be a Bald Eagle.



Photo credit: Howell Nature Center



Inside This Issue

President's Column	2
Board Members	3
Upcoming Field Trips	4-5
Field Trip Reports	6-9
Upcoming Owlet Programs	10
Homemade Hummingbird Feeder	11-12
HMANA Announcement	13
Clinton River Water Festival	13
Nature Notes	14
60th Anniversary	14
Bird Briefs	15-16
Bird ID Quiz	17
Board Highlights	18
Your Membership At Work	19
New Members and Upcoming Meetings	20
Membership Form	21

“The Conservation of Manatees”

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Katherine LaCommare

Dr. Katherine (Katie) LaCommare, of the University of Michigan – Dearborn, has been studying manatees for the past several years.

Manatees may not be the loveliest mammals in the sea, but they are among the most endearing and inoffensive. Unfortunately, they are also an endangered species.



Photo credit: L. Karczmariski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Summer 2018

Writer's Block. It's an interesting phenomenon. It's the bane of writers and Presidents who need to write a column periodically during the year. It's something that inspiration can overcome. Now, in my case, after almost 10 years in office, it gets harder and harder to have fresh new ideas to express. Yes, I need to talk about membership, members being active in the society, work necessary to support conservation and environmental initiatives that we want to work on and all sorts of things. But when Writer's Block sets in, you can see the panicked look on my face. Inspire the members, lead them on a merry chase of thoughts about our society and its place, whatever. Blank.....

Maybe it's time for the members to inspire me!? That sounds interesting. I always fall back on something like asking for feedback on what you want from the society. Maybe I can get someone to suggest a topic they'd like to hear my thoughts on. At least that way, I can blame the members for what I say in my column. Of course, I would never do that but it could make me feel better.

Of course, I'd prefer to be out birding or talking to folks about birding. As you know, since my retirement, I have missed a few meetings and field trips with my travels overseas to see new birds. I can't help myself, it's something that I HAVE TO DO!! I don't completely understand it but it just overcomes me. Now, writing this column is also something I have to do but I just am not overcome right now.

Then, there's the fall-back item of thanking the board for its wonderful work. I could suggest that you might thank a board member at a meeting or drop them a note saying they're doing a great job. Since they don't get paid, a pat on the back from a member is about the next best thing. And board members who feel good always do better work.

Or maybe, since I am writing this in April (you know, the second-to-last month of winter), maybe I could say "Enjoy Spring and Summer in the next month or two before Fall arrives!!" It has been a strange year and since it is still snowing and just barely above freezing, maybe that's having an effect on me. I think if a few birds were able to sing without catching a cold, maybe I might be inspired. But this April.....nothing doing. No sunny days, no warm temperatures, watching birds struggle to survive after coming back to see us! No, sorry, no inspiration coming from this spring.

As I sit here, I do have a warm feeling from our 60th anniversary meeting. Yes, that was great. But it's wearing off fast under the circumstances. I hope that by the time you read this, I have had a few sunny days chasing birds around the area. I hope you are ready for the blitz! I hope that you enjoy what we are doing for field trips and meetings.

So, think about it. If you'd like an old birder to ruminate on a topic, drop me a note. I'd be happy to embarrass myself before the entire organization with my mad ramblings. It might prove entertaining or it might confirm your suspicions...we need a new guy doing this stuff. Either way, spring is almost here, at least according to the Weather Man on the TV. And we know he's right about 50% of the time. Good odds for this area. At 50% right, there's an Emmy to be won. Catch you in the field during the "warm" months. Talk to you soon.

Don Burlett

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikalteal13@netzero.net
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	fergusonelaine6@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Dave Frye	(248) 627-5650	kstrel11dcf@gmail.com
Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248) 798-0508	jdstacey@ameritech.net
Program Co-Officer	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Program Co-Officer	Margaret Moran	(248) 646-7387	marmo48009@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers

Young Birders Club Rep.	Kathleen Dougherty		kad8186@msn.com
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity/Fundraising	Phil Bugosh	(248) 763-3163	peb6729@gmail.com
Web Co-Editor	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikalteal13@netzero.net
Web Co-Editor	Hannah Dunbar		hannahmdunbar@aol.com
Social Media Administrator	Janet Hug	(248) 736-2839	jkissnhug@comcast.net
Nuthatch Editor	Mike Dougherty	(248) 972-7802	mikeodoc@comcast.net
Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		ggossickdds@sbcglobal.net
Environment/Conservation	Jerry Rogers	(248) 310-8212	jhrogers10@sbcglobal.net



Baby Birds?
Leave Them Be!



Gently Remind Your
Friends To Keep Their
Cats Indoors.

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 2, 2018 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lapeer State Game Area Meet in the car park at the main headquarters building on Vernon Rd.</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 8-9, 2018 (Friday-Saturday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kirtland's Warbler Tour Kirtland's Warbler tour begins at 7:00 AM, Saturday at the Hartwick Pines Visitor's Center near Grayling. \$10 fee for the tour, no fee for children 13 years and under. See website for details. Contact leader by June 4 to register. Michigan State Park Recreation Passport required.</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 16, 2018 (Saturday) 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Explore Birds That Are Blue Independence Oaks Meet at Nature Center parking lot.</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty Oakland Owlet Program</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 8, 2018 (Sunday) 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lost Nation State Game Area Meet in the car lot off I-94 in Chelsea. See website for trip details.</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 26, 2018 (Thursday) 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Birds at the Detroit Zoo Entry fee required. See website for trip and registration details.</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty Oakland Owlet Program</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 28, 2018 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Butterflies at Indian Springs Meet at the park office lot at the end of the main road. May be rescheduled if there is inclement weather.</p>	<p>Doris Applebaum</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">August 11, 2018 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pointe Mouillee State Game Area Meet in the car park on Sigler Rd. Space is limited - reserve spot with leader.</p>	<p>Dave Frye and Jim Fowler</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)
<p style="text-align: center;">August 18 or 19, 2018 (Saturday or Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wild Card</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location and date TBD. Check the website for details in early August.</p>	<p>Dave Frye and Jim Koppin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">August 25, 2018 (Saturday) 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Summer Night Symphony Walk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meet at Bald Mountain State Park lot on Kern Road in Lake Orion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michigan State Park Recreation Passport required.</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September 1, 2018 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Highland Oaks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Watch website for forthcoming details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oakland County Parks pass or entry fee required.</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September 8, 2018 (Saturday) 12:00 AM – 4:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nuthatch Open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Annual competitive birding event with cookout at Independence Oaks. Watch website for forthcoming details on regis-</p>	<p>Jeff Stacey</p>

In Loving Memory of Wesley “Larry” Hall

Wesley Hall was an early member of the Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) and his involvement was notable. He was a Field Trip Coordinator and later served as Vice-President. While he was Vice-President, he organized the monument marking the first known nesting location of the Kirtland’s Warbler. He loved birding and everything in nature.

He passed on this love for nature and birding to his family. His wife (Ruby) and his daughters (Corrine and Theresa) have been members of OAS and Theresa (Hall) Celusta attended the 60th anniversary meeting to let us know of his passing and his generosity.

“Larry” passed away in February, shortly before our 60th anniversary meeting but he always remembered OAS and requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Oakland Audubon Society and the International Crane Foundation. As a result of his affection for OAS, donations totaling \$480 were made. We are grateful to “Larry” for his involvement and lifelong dedication to what we do as a society. We offer many thanks to his family and those who gave in his memory.

Field Trip Reports

March 3, 2018 - Lake St. Clair Metropark/Harley Ensign Boat Launch

Leader: Mike Mencotti

Twenty birders migrated to Lake St. Clair Metropark on March 3 to see a fine mix of late-winter and early-spring birds. The sun against the blue sky offered excellent looks at blackbirds, waterfowl, gulls, and, of course, nesting Great Horned Owls. However, the real prizes were a flyover Snow Bunting and a Snowy Owl that was sitting at a picnic table, nonplussed as a 5K running race took place not far from it! We were able to pick out Wigeon, Gadwall, Black Duck, and American Coot among the common regulars. A line of Canvasbacks stretched quite a distance in the open water. In all, we tallied 45 species, and some birders notched Life Birds.

March 14, 2018 – Robert Long, Walled Lake and Heritage Park

Leader: Mike Mencotti

The Wednesday field trip series picked up again in 2018 with a trip to Robert Long, Walled Lake and Heritage Park. Although the north winds were blowing, the seven participants were greeted at Robert Long by Sandhill Cranes, Pied-billed Grebes and assorted waterfowl. The lighting conditions were ideal. Walled Lake was ice-free, but the winds sent the waves whipping, making us play hide-and-seek with the waterfowl. We were able to pick out Red-breasted Merganser, Goldeneye and Ring-necked Ducks. In the shelter of Heritage Park, we had a smattering of passerines that left us with the promise of warmer weather and more migrants. We tallied 32 species that morning.

March 18, 2018 – Watkins Lake State Park and area

Leaders: Jim Koppin, Jeff Stacey

Eleven birders took advantage of a gorgeous late-winter day to visit Watkins Lake State Park in Jackson County. The lakes were sparsely populated when we arrived, but many more birds flew in during the time we were scoping. Most of the usual waterfowl suspects were present, with a Trumpeter Swan and two Cackling Geese being notable. Along the hiking trail, we were treated to good looks at several Northern Mockingbirds (common in the park) and an Eastern Meadowlark. As the day warmed up, the raptors came out with highlights including a Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and many Turkey Vultures. On the way home, we stopped at a flooded field to pick up a few more ducks including several Northern Pintail males. (52 species)

March 28, 2018 – Kensington Metropark

Leader: Mike Mencotti

Twelve Wednesday Warriors descended on Kensington Metropark March 28, and were rewarded with many fine birds. The highlights had to be two Barred Owls calling to each other. We were able to observe both of them flying from tree to tree as well. We had the same luck with Pileated Woodpeckers. The waterfowl were present in numbers and variety, offering us a chance to study the finer points of the similar species. Many Ring-necked Ducks and Redheads were a treat as well as the six Common Loons. Of course, Sandhill Cranes were virtually under foot. A total of 53 species was seen by group members, not a bad catch for March at one park.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

March 24, 2018 – Lake St. Clair Metropark

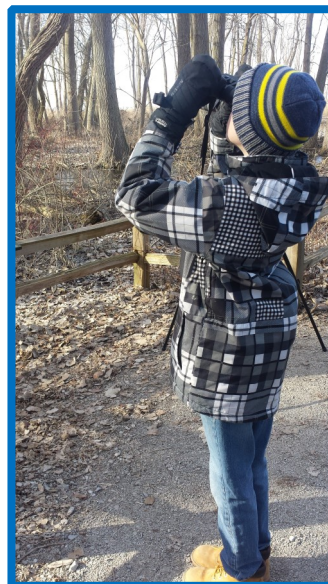
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

One of the first Oakland Owlet field trips this year took place on an extremely cold Saturday morning at Lake St. Clair Metropark. Eight birders ventured to the park to see the resident Great Horned Owl. The GH Owls have a long history at the park. The story behind the owls in the tub started in 1991 when a five-week-old owlet was blown out of the nest during a storm on April 16. The nest was destroyed, but the park staff contacted Tom Heatley, a local bird bander who specialized in banding raptors. Heatley placed an aluminum nesting tub in a tree for a safer and more secure nest option for future years. By the end of 2017, 39 owlets had been fledged from this tub. The nature center staff keeps track of the owls using this nest. The Oakland Audubon group was lucky to meet Tom Heatley at the nest. Heatley regularly visits to monitor the owls and led the group to his favorite viewing stops nearby spotting both parent Great Horned Owls, a Screech Owl using a Wood Duck nest box and so much more. Young birder, Henry, added to his life list some of the most amazing birds found in Michigan.

Thirty-two species were seen during the trip including some great ducks along the shoreline of Lake St. Clair. The encounter with Tom Heatley enriched the trip exponentially. The group stopped in the fabulous nature center at the park to get out of the cold.



Photo credit: Internet - Kim Smith



Photos credit: Kathleen Dougherty

Field Trip Reports - continued

April 6-8, 2018 – Illinois Prairie-Chicken Trip

Leader: Don Burlett

Seventeen (yes, seventeen in six cars) hardy birders ventured forth on Friday to Illinois in search of the Greater Prairie-Chicken. Friday was cold and windy as we birded from southwestern Michigan, across Indiana to Illinois. After having visited Southwest Michigan Regional Airport, Reynolds Creek Gamebird Habitat area, Kankakee Sands and lots of farmland, we landed in Newton, Illinois. Bright and early Saturday morning (5 AM), we headed out to the lek and awaited their arrival. Right on cue, 14 Greater Prairie-Chickens came out to dance and jump for the girls. It was a wonderful sight and, despite the cold and wind, everyone was very happy.

We then proceeded to bird across southern Illinois to Stephen A. Forbes State park, Douglas-Hart Nature center and on to Terre Haute. The next morning we birded Goose Pond FWA and then headed toward home. With a stop at Kinderhook Sewage lagoons, we concluded our trip. After 1200 miles of driving and 95 species, we were all happy. Highlights included lots of ducks, plenty of hawks (Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned), American White Pelicans, American Golden Plovers, swallows and Purple Martin, Carolina Chickadee, Western Meadowlark, Black-necked Stilts and Snow Goose. Another fun trip with a fun group.

April 11, 2018 – Robert Long Park – Heritage Park

Leader: Mike Mencotti

Winter weather greeted the group of 12 at the Wednesday field trip on April 11, at Robert Long Park. No one was deterred. From the parking lot, we marveled at two Ospreys reclaiming last year's nest, and we saw and studied a diverse group of waterfowl on the ponds, including Common Loon, grebes, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, and coot. An Eastern Phoebe and some Tree Swallows stayed low, but offered a sure sign of spring, and we dug out one Black-crowned Night Heron hunkered among the reeds and snowflakes. About half of the group trekked to Heritage Park, where we had hopes of early spring migrants. However, the cold weather undermined that notion until we came across a couple of groups of Golden-crowned Kinglets, all of which were displaying their crowns. The feeder had very little, and no wonder: A Cooper's Hawk plopped down on a branch, supervising the area. 44 species were tallied.

April 28, 2018 – Drayton Plains Nature Center

Leader: Dave Frye

On the last Saturday in April, our group of 16 experienced weather that one would expect from late winter – perfect birding conditions! Those being: cold, drizzle, and winds. Sometimes, however, the worst weather days can be good birding days and this was one of those! We were fortunate to follow along with Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Board Member, Terri Chapdelaine, as she guided us into areas of the property that our group had not explored on previous visits.

We gathered 36 species that morning, with the highlights being Great Horned Owl nestlings, Hermit Thrush, American Tree Sparrow (still winter?), and an Osprey.

Field Trip Reports - continued

April 22, 2018 - Earth Day Frog Walk

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets celebrated Earth Day on an evening frog walk at Rose Oaks County Park near Holly, Michigan. A group of ten including two young birders gathered at the Buckhorn Lake Parking Lot. Unlike past field trips, the weather was warm and sunny. The evening offered perfect conditions to take a walk and hear frogs.

Rose Oaks is a 640-acre park located at the headwaters of the Shiawassee Watershed. The park contains numerous glacial lakes, wet meadows, marshes, vernal pools and other wetlands. It is an ideal habitat for Michigan frogs and toads. Nearly half of the park is wet or underwater. Boardwalks allow park guests to access most of the park.

The frogs did not disappoint us, and several species were heard along the trails. Due to the colder than normal spring weather, many of the earlier breeding frogs were still singing including Western Chorus Frog, Wood Frog and the Northern Spring Peeper. At certain points along the trail, the calls were nearly deafening. Wood Frogs only call for a brief period. They are often missed on frog surveys since they visit the ponds, lay their eggs and leave. They sound like ducks instead of frogs, quacking instead of croaking.

While Wood Frogs only call a brief time, Spring Peepers start singing in March and can be heard during the entire spring into June. It is amazing that these creatures are so small—only 1-2 inches long—yet so loud. Male frogs travel to woodland ponds and pools to call for females. These tiny frogs need wetlands to breed. Frogs face numerous threats including loss of habitat, pollution, illegal collection and overharvest. Three of Michigan's thirteen species of frogs and toads are identified as threatened or of special concern.



Western Chorus

Although the focus of the walk was frogs along the more than 2-mile hike, the group was treated to beautiful vistas and many different animals including 23 species of birds. Near one of the glacial lakes, we watched three beavers gliding across the water. The group also heard a Wilson's Snipe winnowing. This stocky, legendary shorebird performs an aerial display by flying high into the sky and then diving. The sound it creates is known as winnowing which is produced by air rushing through its tail feathers. A cool fact from the Cornell Lab is that Wilson's Snipe have extra—large pectoral muscles that allow them to reach speeds of 60 miles per hour.

All participants received a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Frog and Toad Poster compliments of the Wildlife Division. Everyone was tired at the end of the trail, but enjoyed an Earth Day well spent.



Photo Credit: Mike Dougherty



Northern Spring Peeper



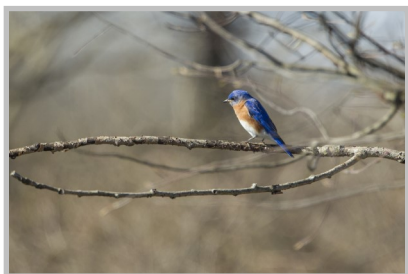
Wood Frog

Photo Credits: Michigan DNR

Upcoming Oakland Owlet Programs

Explore Birds that are Blue – Saturday - June 16, 9–11:30 am Independence Oaks County Park - An Oakland Owlet Program

Young birders and their adult friends are invited to hike the Bluebird Trail at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston, Michigan. The boxes along the trail are used by Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows and other cavity—nesting birds. Discover all the birds that are blue at the park. Plan to hike approximately 2 miles. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Snacks and educational materials are provided by Oakland Audubon. An Oakland County Parks day permit or annual permit is required. Carpooling is encouraged. Visit this webpage for directions. <https://www.oakgov.com/parks/parksandtrails/Independence-Oaks/Pages/default.aspx>



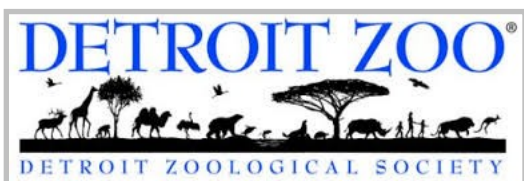
Photos Credit: Mike Dougherty

Discover all the birds that are blue at the park. Plan to hike approximately 2 miles. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Snacks and educational materials are provided by Oakland Audubon. An Oakland County Parks day permit or annual permit is required. Carpooling is encouraged. Visit this webpage for directions. <https://www.oakgov.com/parks/parksandtrails/Independence-Oaks/Pages/default.aspx>

To register and get more information contact – Kathleen Dougherty – kad8186@msn.com.



Birds at the Detroit Zoo – Thursday, July 26, 9 am – Noon Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, MI - An Oakland Owlet Program



Young birders and their adult friends are invited to experience winter in the Southern Hemisphere during this educational tour. Education staff interpret the ill-fated expedition of Ernest Shackleton at the Polk Penguin Conservation Center. Investigate the other amazing birds at the Zoo. This Young Birder's Club program is a joint program in partnership with Detroit Audubon Society's Young Birder's Club. An entry fee will be required. Visit <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders> for more details and registration updates.

Investigate the other amazing birds at the Zoo. This Young Birder's Club program is a joint program in partnership with Detroit Audubon Society's Young Birder's Club. An entry fee will be required. Visit <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders> for more details and registration updates.



Hummingbird Feeders

A good way to help the planet and feed hummingbirds is to recycle materials from your house to make a feeder.

Here are the plans for a bottle hummingbird feeder. There are lots of other ways you can recycle materials to make feeders. Be creative and come up with your own design!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A small, clean plastic soda or water bottle with cap
- A small, clean deli container
- A hammer and a large nail
- Awl, ice pick or other instrument to cut plastic
- Red enamel paint
- A small paintbrush
- 20—40 inch piece of thin bendable wire
- ½ cup of white sugar
- 2 cups of water
- A pot for heating water



HOW TO MAKE THE FEEDER

1. Hammer the nail into the center of the cap to make a small hole. Remove the nail.
2. Make a large hole in the center of the deli container. The hole should fit snugly around the mouth of the bottle.
3. Make four small holes in the deli container for feeding stations
4. Turn the lid over and make sure there are no sharp edges that the hummingbirds may cut their tongues on.
5. Decorate the bottle and container with the red enamel paint.
6. Wrap the wire around the body of the bottle.
7. Twist the tail end of the wire together so you have a loop

Hummingbird Feeders (continued)

HOW TO MAKE THE NECTAR

1. Bring the 2 cups of water to a boil
2. Add the sugar and stir until dissolved
3. Boil the sugar water for 2 minutes
4. Take the sugar water off the heat and let it cool
5. Pour some of the sugar water into the bottle
6. Fit the lid of the container over the mouth of the bottle and screw on the cap
7. Pour some of the sugar water into the deli container
8. Place the lid securely on the container
9. Put left-over sugar water in the refrigerator
10. Hang your feeder from a hook or nail on your balcony or in your garden
11. Replace nectar as hummingbirds finish it or every 2-3 days so it does not turn sour
12. Clean the feeder with warm water and a scrub brush



Idea from Kim Bailey, Department of Natural Resources

HMANA Is Getting Ready to Welcome You

The Hawk Migration Association of North America is an organization of hawkwatchers that recently transferred its national headquarters to the Detroit area, at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center. Its 15th annual conference will be held at the Metropolitan Airport Marriott Hotel on October 12-14, 2018. The theme of the conference is “Soaring Toward the Future: New Challenges in Raptor Migration.”

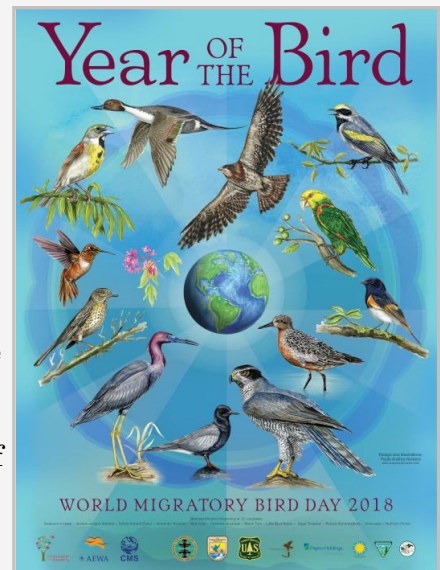
A number of interesting speakers in the fields of raptor education, Golden Eagle migration, telemetry tracking, and raptor photography are expected. Some speaker spots are still open. Anyone interested in speaking on any raptor-related subject should contact HMANA Executive Director Jane Ferreyra. Her email address is jane@hmana.org.

If the weather cooperates, mid-October is a prime time for raptor migration, so field trips are scheduled to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and other key birding locations.

Look for registration details and deadlines at <https://www.hmana.org/conference/Detroit>.

Clinton River Water Festival – May 18, 2018

Oakland Audubon participated in the Clinton River Water Festival this year with a presentation that highlighted the club’s mission, its programs and sharing the importance of birds marking 2018 as the Year of the Bird. The Clinton River Water Festival since its beginning in 2007 has provided water education experiences for more than 12,000 5th graders in Oakland County. While the event focuses on water, students are also introduced to topics associated with water including wildlife, the outdoors and nature. The festival is held at Oakland University. In addition to the University, the event is sponsored by Pure Water Oakland, Waste Management, the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner’s Office, the Clinton River Watershed Council and the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Fifty government and environmental organizations participated this year and approximately 1200 5th graders attended.



Kathleen Dougherty and Don Burlett presented on behalf of Oakland Audubon to five classes representing both public and private schools from Royal Oak to Auburn Hills. More than 120 students and their parents learned about the “Year of the Bird” and all of teachers were given the 2018 “Year of the Bird” poster along with other education materials from BirdSleuth. Classes were informed about the Oakland Owlets young birder’s club and upcoming events. Everyone was encouraged to attend the June 12 OAS meeting to see the live bird program – Lords of the Sky.

It was a fun day and was well received throughout the day. Obviously, we’ll be back next year to “inspire” another set of youngsters.

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

OAS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

OAS Celebrated its 60th Anniversary at the March membership meeting. Thanks to all who helped us celebrate this milestone!



Photos credit: Janet



Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

The Strange Origin of a Manakin's Gold Crown

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/science/golden-crowned-manakin-hybrid.html>

The evolution of species is a long and tangled process. Sometimes hybridization can occur that leads to different forms. These are not often considered separate species. In this story about a group of related manakins, three species have “evolved” from two species based on hybridization and then isolation. An interesting read for those interested in what species are and how they develop.

Armchair Birding in Panama

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/01/28/armchair-birding-in-panama/#2ad4392777e8>

Ever wanted to bird in Panama but just couldn't afford the trip? Birding at home is now possible with birdeams and this article talks about birding in Panama at a volcanic site. You can post questions, do a screen grab and ask for ID help with birds on the cameras. Always a good way to start birding outside the US!

Warming Temperatures May Cause Birds to Shrink

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180124085545.htm>

It's commonly held that birds are larger when they live in colder climates. However, how the bird's size is affected is not clear. Recent research on European House Sparrow in Australia and New Zealand has revealed that summer heat can affect the development of the birds. With hotter summers, smaller birds develop and this may be problematic with the bird's ability to survive winters. Interesting to see global warming issues arise in our friends.

Woodpeckers Show Possible Brain Damage Like That in Football Players

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2018/02/02/woodpeckers-may-get-brain-damage-from-banging-their-heads-against-trees/?utm_term=.b0df09f0f8c3

You have probably thought that woodpeckers are immune from any brain damage from pecking/hammering on trees their whole lives. Well, that's wrong! They do show signs of the same materials that indicate damage. However, they may be better adapted to deal with it and behavior may not be affected in their case. Read on, inquisitive minds.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Magpies Living in Bigger Groups Are Brainier Birds

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/02/09/magpies-living-in-bigger-groups-are-brainier-birds/#4dcd57c24315>

How intelligence is developed and what factors play a part is an ongoing quest for scientists. For birds, a study of Australian Magpies has led to the conclusion that birds from larger groups develop more intelligence. Arguments back and forth are presented and some postulations into why are provided. Just imagine how much smarter we might be with more members!!

Arabica Versus Robusta: Which Coffee is Better for Birds?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/02/17/arabica-versus-robusta-which-coffee-is-better-for-birds/#1f69ea626037>

The argument about shade-grown coffee versus open-farm coffee is often related to the type of coffee being grown. And the effect on birds has been a contentious subject for a while. A study was conducted in India, in the Western Ghats, to determine which type of coffee farming was most detrimental to the birds. The results are surprising. It may be only in India that the results occurred but it is thought-provoking.

Why Do Seabirds Eat Plastic? It Smells Like Fish

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/02/why-do-seabirds-eat-plastic-it-smells-like-fish-to-them/?beta=true>

This is an interview of a book author, Adam Nicolson, whose book is titled *The Seabird's Cry*. The book covers a range of topics including why birds are drawn to plastic at sea, reasons for colonies of seabirds and other topics. Also mentioned were experiments to determine how seabirds navigate (hint: it's not by magnetic polarity). Worth a look, suggesting a good read in this new book.

What Happened to America's Only Parrot?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/02/21/what-happened-to-americas-only-parrot/#6dcba9d358cf>

This is a sad and depressing history of the Carolina Parakeet and how it was eliminated from existence. A sad tale that we need to pay attention to if we are to stop sending species to the extinct list.

Scientists accidentally create mutant enzyme that eats plastic bottles

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/16/scientists-accidentally-create-mutant-enzyme-that-eats-plastic-bottles>

Scientists discovered a bacteria that was eating plastic bottles. When they went to study it, they tweaked it and it became even better at eating the plastic. And, at the same time, this allows clear plastic to be created, hopefully providing an alternative source for plastic for bottles. Read on, environmentalists!

BIRD ID QUIZ (Summer 2018)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

Last (Spring '18) issue photo quiz answers:

Quiz a) American Wigeon, b) Blue-winged Teal and c) Green-winged Teal (all females)

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

Special quiz hints on page 20 if you need them!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MARCH 22, 2018

Our June 12 membership meeting, which will feature live birds of prey, will have to be held in a different room from our usual location at the church.

The Field Trip Committee has completed scheduling field trips for 2018.

Our Facebook “likes” are up over 900, and the page has been visited by people in many countries—including Yemen!

OAS will conduct a wildlife and plant survey of the new addition to Indian Springs Metropark.

OAS continues to have representatives providing information at various events, the latest being “Spring into Science” at Cranbrook Institute and the Clinton River Watershed Festival at Oakland University. In addition, OAS Membership Officer Dave Frye continues to give presentations at a school in Warren and also at the Addison Township Library. These are all excellent opportunities to spread the word about OAS.

APRIL 19, 2018

Young Birders Club Coordinator Kathleen Dougherty has received a grant from the Michigan Alliance for Environmental & Outdoor Education to help with expenses in connection with the YBC Migratory Bird Day activity at Hawk Woods Nature Center.

We now have 913 Facebook likes and 280 Twitter followers.

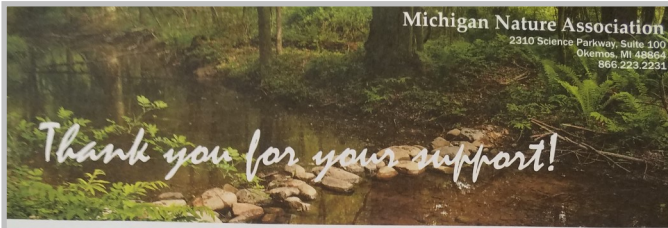
The OAS website is attracting visitors from many locations, including Canada, Finland, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Philippines!

OAS board members have been busy participating in two Earth Day events and “Spring into Science” at Cranbrook Institute. Also scheduled are the Clinton River Water Festival and presentations at Schoolcraft College, a school in Warren, the Addison Township Library, and the Michigan Alliance for Environmental & Outdoor Education conference in Port Huron.

Plans are in the works to upgrade the OAS logo. The White-breasted Nuthatch will be retained, but in a more simplified manner.

Doris Applebaum, Secretary

Your Membership at Work!



April 25, 2018

Oakland Audubon Society
PO Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

Dear Friends:

Thank you—you made our day! Your ongoing support of the Michigan Nature Association speaks volumes for your commitment to protecting Michigan's rare plants and animals and the natural communities they need to survive. We are truly honored that you are part of the MNA family!

Your gift of \$100.00 will be put to work immediately to safeguard important natural areas, restore critical habitat, assist with much-needed scientific research, and connect young people to nature in order to foster our next generation of conservation leaders. Your generosity will make a lasting impact that will benefit Michigan for decades to come.

Thank you again for your thoughtful donation. Because of you—and people like you—MNA will continue to lead the state in the protection of rare, threatened and endangered species, now and forever. If you have any questions or comments about our work, events or other programs, please don't hesitate to contact me at (866) 223-2231 or michigannature@michigannature.org

With gratitude from everyone at MNA,

Sherry Stewart
Member Service Coordinator

p.s. Watch our website and social media pages for some great upcoming events in 2018. Visit our events page at www.michigannature.org to learn more—hope you can join us!

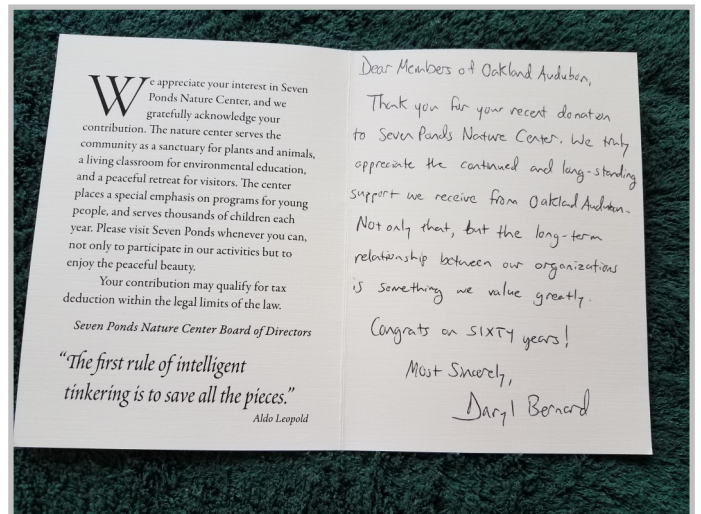
This letter serves as your gift receipt. The Michigan Nature Association is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization. No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor.

Michigan Nature Association • 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100 • Okemos, MI 48864 • 866.223.2231 • www.michigannature.org



Michigan Nature Association
People. Land. Legacy.

Thank-you letters were received from the Michigan Nature Association and Seven Ponds Nature Center for contributions made by the OAS to these organizations last quarter.



UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., June 12	7:00 p.m.	Lords of the Sky	First United Methodist Church (see below)
July and August		No Meeting	
Tues., September 11	7:00 p.m.	The Conservation of Manatees	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.

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!
Julia Blakeslee and Neil Waldman
Dan Fox
Anne Honhart
Bill Kamman
Kathleen and Neil Skaar
Susan Terrien and Family

Our membership drive for 2018 is underway! Please pay your membership dues at a monthly meeting or by mailing in the membership form on page 27. Thanks to everyone who helps sustain OAS with your membership contributions. We would be nowhere without you!

Bird Quiz Hints: A) reeBEEa B) KEET C) PEEaweee



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.*