



THE NUTHATCH

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“Antarctica - The Final Frontier”

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

Don Burlett

Birding the world means covering a lot of territory. Reaching all the continents is another huge task. Come along as Don reaches his final continent and enjoys the wonders of “another world”, unlike anything we see at home. Birds, bergs and other sights all merge into a mystical experience for all to enjoy!!



Inside This Issue

“Black Tern Monitoring”

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Erin Rowan

Join Audubon Great Lakes' MI Birds Program Associate, Erin Rowan, for a presentation on the latest from the Black Tern monitoring project in Michigan! The Black Tern is a common species in steep decline, a listed species of special concern, and a focal species within the Michigan DNR State Wildlife Action Plan. Audubon Great Lakes and several partners have been monitoring the largest remaining colony of Black Terns since 2013, and have since expanded their research and monitoring efforts to additional colonies in the state. This monitoring effort aims to better understand the cause of the population decline and identify management strategies that could be implemented across the Great Lakes.



OAS Spring Nature Walk

Stage Nature Center

Tuesday, May 12, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for our spring Nature Walk to be held at the Stage Nature Center in Troy. Meet in the parking lot near the Nature Center. Refreshments after the walk.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Spring 2020

With spring right around the corner, it's time for renewal. Time to see leaves again, snow go away, birds to return and activities to increase. This is natural and we always look forward to it. As spring breaks out, our birding community grows and we gather for great fun, looking for birds and other natural scenes that will lift our spirits as we move deeper into a new year.

Oakland Audubon is springing forward, just like the clocks, and we are growing, slowly but surely. Many activities occur in this season – Earth Days, special gatherings of young people and families and our own activities. You should make a special effort to take part in some of our spring field trips. They are always an adventure, accentuated by learning about birds and nature. Take advantage of the wisdom that our experienced field trip leaders can confer on you, helping you master the identification of a Swamp Sparrow, the song of a Pine Warbler, the flight of a Sharp-shinned Hawk and much more.

I'm especially proud of how we have grown in some areas, like technology. The new Oakland County map of hotspots on our website is very useful and includes links to information about each one. Feel free to let us know about some lesser known hotspots that we can add so that others can enjoy them along with you. We are always looking for suggestions for future field trips and we also want to know what birds you'd like to see on a field trip. Don't be afraid to ask. We are friendly people, looking to have fun with our friends.

And like spring, where new flowers and plants spring up out of the ground, we also hope to see new members and volunteers spring from the area to help with our mission. You all have skills and you need to know what they are and offer them to organizations to which you belong to help them grow. That's been my life philosophy – don't belong to an organization without being willing to contribute to its success. Apparently, that's why I've been around this organization since the Stone Age.

I believe all of our members should take pride in the success of Oakland Audubon, be proud of what we do and what we stand for. And, if you can spare a few moments once in a while, pitch in to make things better. Otherwise, we'll be like the leaves in the fall – changing color and withering before the fall. Just like keeping your garden doing well, a little love and care and things flourish. Be our gardener, help us grow and be better. I hope to see you at a meeting or field trip this spring, just to demonstrate to me that you like a growing organization. See you out there!!

Don Burlett

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

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Cover page banner photos - OAS Photo Gallery

Bay-breasted Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler

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;">March 21, 2020 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Belleville Lake and the Huron River Meet at French Landing Park</p>	<p>Jim Koppin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 21, 2020 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Early Spring Migrants Belle Isle Nature Center Meet in the Nature Center State parks annual or daily pass required</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 28, 2020 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lake St. Clair Metropark Meet in the Nature Center parking lot Metroparks annual or daily pass required</p>	<p>Dave Frye Dan Gertiser</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">April 15, 2020 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kensington Metropark Meet in the Nature Center parking lot Metroparks annual or daily pass required</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">April 19, 2020 (Sunday) 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maple River SGA Meet at carpool lot off Rt. 127 (exit 96)</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">April 25, 2020 (Saturday) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Woodcock Watching Highland Recreation Area Meet at the Goose Meadows parking lot State parks annual or daily pass required</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">April 29, 2020 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Robert Long Meet at the parking lot of Robert Long Park</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May 2, 2020 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Drayton Plains Nature Center See website for details</p>	<p>Dave Frye</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;">May 6, 2020 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bear Creek Township Park Meet at the parking lot at 740 W. Snell Rd.</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May 9, 2020 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Magee Marsh Crazy Day Meet at the Magee Marsh parking lot near the west end of the boardwalk</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May 13, 2020 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cranberry Lake Township Park Meet at the parking lot at 388 W. Predmore Road</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May 17, 2020 (Sunday) 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tawas Point State Park Meet at the parking lot near the lighthouse State parks annual or daily pass required</p>	<p>Dave Frye Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May 30, 2020 (Saturday) 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Port Huron SGA Meet at the carpool lot at Wadhams Rd. off I-94 (exit 262)</p>	<p>Mike Mencotti</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May 30, 2020 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Spring Bird Hike and Bird Banding Lake St. Clair Metropark Meet at the Nature Center parking lot Metroparks annual or daily pass required</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>

Field Trip Reports

December 6-8, 2019 – Niagara Falls
Leader: Don Burlett, Jim Koppin

The Niagara Falls trip this year began with a drive to Niagara Falls across Ontario on Friday. Our first stop, Blenheim waste water facility, had several duck species, a Bald Eagle and a Peregrine Falcon. It was cold and windy and made finding birds challenging. After an unsuccessful stop at Shrewsbury to search for a Purple Sandpiper, we headed to the base of the Rondeau peninsula.

In a puddle along the road, we found a Red Phalarope, two Killdeer and a Dunlin (nice birds for this time of year). As we headed north to the highway, we saw a field with lots of geese. Upon further inspection we found 18 Cackling Geese, 2 Greater White-fronted Geese and hundreds of Canada Geese. We then proceeded to Brantford in search of a Slaty-backed Gull spotted earlier.

When we first arrived, an Eagle had scattered all the gulls present. Upon waiting for 20 minutes, the gulls came back and there he was. Then, we were off to Hamilton to check the Lake Ontario waterfront for ducks and other birds. Here, we came upon hundreds of Long-tailed Ducks and other ducks along with Surf, White-winged and Black Scoters. We also found a young male King Eider.

The next day, we began our traditional trip from Fort Erie (on Lake Erie) to Lake Ontario at Niagara-on-the-Lake. There were many ducks and a Common Loon along the way. The other big stop was at the whirlpool where we searched for and found a Black-headed Gull (with notable black under the primaries). We also saw Greater Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gulls. At the Queenston boat launch, we observed a Little Gull among the Bonaparte's Gull with its dark underwing. We finished the day watching the thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls heading out onto Lake Ontario.

On Sunday, we did some land birding to add some species like the "rare" Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren. As we left the area, we searched for and found a Snowy Owl in the grassy fields west of St. Catharines. Then it was time to head home after a successful weekend.

In total, we saw 75 species with a number of them within the list as very good birds.

The pictures provided in this report were taken by Bob Bochenek, Larry Urbanski and Spencer Vanderhoof. Many thanks to them for documentation of these great species.



Red Phalarope



Dunlin



Cackling Goose

(more photos on next page)

Field Trip Reports



Greater White-fronted Goose



Long-tailed Duck



Slaty-backed Gull



Little Gull



Black Scoter



King Eider (young male)



Black-headed Gull



Long-tailed Ducks



Snowy Owl

Field Trip Reports (continued)

December 7, 2019 – Outdoor Adventure Center - Oakland Owlets
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

A small, but enthusiastic group of ten young birders, family and friends visited the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit on Saturday, December 7. The Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) is owned and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It is located along the Riverfront near Belle Isle in the historic Globe Building. The Globe Building is a restored, three story former manufacturer of steam engines for Great Lakes vessels and ships. The converted warehouse offers exhibits that simulate being outdoors. The motto of the OAC is *“Up North, Downtown.”* When you enter the building you immediately feel like you are outside. Visitors can experience several outdoor recreation activities including fishing, kayaking, hunting, snowmobiling and camping while learning about Michigan wildlife and natural resources management.



Numerous dynamic interactive displays at the OAC engage visitors of all ages. A spectacular 35-foot-tall bur oak tree starts on the ground floor and stretches to the ceiling of the warehouse. Kids can climb inside the tree to reach the third floor instead of taking the stairs. An indoor waterfall showcases Michigan waterfalls. There is a bear den that kids can enter and poke a bear in hibernation. This is a small sample of the various activities to encounter at the OAC. Once you enter the OAC you are drawn into the adventure of being outdoors. There is so much to see and do in the OAC. A special thank you to the OAC staff for their hospitality.



(continued on next page)

Field Trip Reports (continued)

After exploring the OAC, the group ventured to Belle Isle to search for birds. The waterfowl along the Detroit River and inland waters on Belle Isle were easy to spot. Stopping along the road the group saw sixteen species of birds including a Bald Eagle. When the group reached the Belle Isle Nature Center, the tour concluded.



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty, Ian Anglin

Field Trip Reports

January 26, 2020 – Stony Creek Metropark - Oakland Owlets
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The first Young Birders' Club field trip of 2020 was held at Stony Creek Metropark on Saturday, January 26th. This field trip was also the first Oakland Audubon field trip for 2020. Bad weather caused cancellation of all other OAS field trips this year so far. The weather on January 26th was not an ideal day either. The option to snowshoe was washed away by two days of rain. By Saturday the snow on the trails transformed to a layer of slush. Despite the unfavorable weather, 15 birders arrived ready to go birding. It is hard to keep birders indoors even when the weather does not cooperate.

Rain persisted at the beginning of the field trip but eventually stopped. Luckily, the nature center opened early. Everyone was able to watch the fabulous feeders inside the nature center out of the elements. For new birders, feeder watching is a great way to learn birds. Just about every common feeder bird flitted in and out of view. The chance to compare Downy versus Hairy Woodpeckers is a great learning experience. In addition, a few unusual sparrows appeared like White-throated sparrow. The group was treated to an ever changing array of feeder birds. In a short time, 16 species of birds were recorded at the feeders.



When the rain stopped, the group carpoled north to the Inwood Rustic Trails. This portion of the park has an active Bald Eagle nest. This nest has been monitored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for several years. About a kilometer from the Parking Lot, the Eagle nest can be found 15 meters high in a tree. Eagle nests are massive, as eagles continue to add to nests annually. Some eagle nests used over the years can weigh more than a metric ton. The nest was easy to find, but the eagles were absent. Further along the trail, the group flushed a Great Blue Heron which flew to another nearby wetland.



Field Trip Reports (continued)



The next stop was the 500-acre Stony Lake to view waterfowl. Finding good spots to see the swans and ducks congregating was challenging, but worth the effort. Small pockets of open water offer places for diving ducks to forage. Swans sat on top of the ice as smaller Redheads and Goldeneyes swirled in the pools of open water nearby. Twenty-three species of birds were seen along with one other taxon.

A special thank you to the staff at the Stony Creek Nature Center for their hospitality and assistance to make this field trip memorable. Thank you to Emmanuel Salas for the great bird photos.

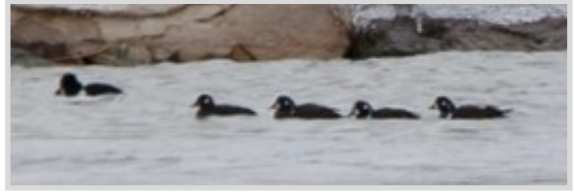


Field Trip Reports (continued)

St. Clair River Trip February 8, 2020

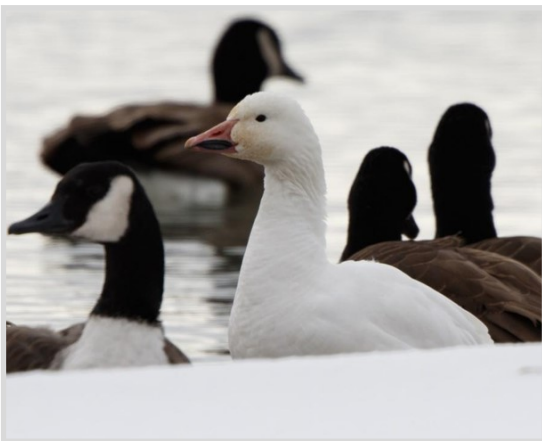
Leaders: Mike Mencotti, Dan Gertiser

On February 8th, eighteen intrepid birders attended our field trip on a cold winter day. We started out at the Lake Saint Clair Metropark where we were greeted by a singing Carolina Wren. Its cheery song was a wonderful accompaniment to the views of White-crowned Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Cooper's Hawk, and the usual feeder birds. We then made the short drive to Harley Ensign Boat launch. We dipped on Snowy Owls but had a Great Black-backed Gull as a consolation.



We then went on a loop north to Brandenburg Park. Lake St. Clair was frozen close to shore. The Canvasbacks were a good scope view out on the lake. While scanning the ducks, we were soon alerted to a beautiful Glaucous Gull. He provided everyone close-in looks as he flew over the beach.

On the road again we headed to Chrysler Beach where a Snow Goose had been reported. Upon our arrival, there he was. He was asleep but eventually woke up, and not over 100 feet from the parking lot. Some days you get lucky.



We then continued our drive north to Port Huron where Cackling Geese and Harlequin Ducks had been reported. We dipped on the Cackling Geese at Desmond Landing but had wonderful looks at flyby Long-tailed Ducks and a roosting Peregrine Falcon. We then continued north to Edison Park where we were able to see the Harlequin Ducks and many more Long-tailed Ducks. With our trip complete the happy birders headed home. Thirty-five species were seen on this trip.



Photo credits: Jeff Stacey, Dan Gertiser

Field Trip Reports (continued)

February 15, 2020 – The Great Backyard Bird Count - Oakland Owlets Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

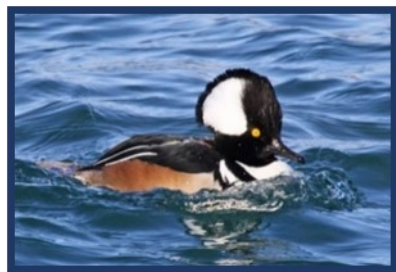
In February the Young Birders' Club participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). This count was initiated in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. The GBBC encourages birders around the world to get outdoors and count birds. This count spans four days and the results are posted in real time online. In 2019, 160,000 people participated from more than 100 countries. This year the GBBC



started on Valentine's Day with the slogan "*Show your love of wild birds*". It is a great introduction to birdwatching and citizen science.



On February 15th, a small group of young birders, family and friends gathered at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center to begin our count. Blanche Wicke, OAS member and naturalist, hosted this field trip. The ELJ Nature Center has a wonderful bird feeding station where the group was able to observe some great birds. Along with regular feeder visitors we saw some unusual birds like Wild Turkey, Fox Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Within a short time, 16 species of birds were recorded. With temperatures below freezing, the group was able to bird indoors before hiking.



The ELJ Nature Center has extensive hiking trails which are open to the public. The trails meander through fields, woodlands, around a pond and along a tributary of the Rouge River. The sunshine and fresh layer of snow provided some exciting examples of animal tracks. The group also encountered flocks of American Robins, a sentinel Red-tailed Hawk, some raucous American Crows and other birds on the trail. A few of us were



lucky to see a well camouflaged Great Horned Owl. In total, 21 species of birds were seen at the ELJ Nature Center.

After time at the nature center, the group headed for Beaudette Park in Pontiac. The open water along the Clinton River in the park makes it a birding hotspot in the area and a place to see a wide variety of waterfowl. The group was not disappointed. Large flocks of Red-headed and Ring-necked Ducks bobbed in the water. In smaller numbers Bufflehead, Canvasback and Common Goldeneye were also seen. Beautiful Hooded Merganser males were displaying, an amazing behavior to witness. Trumpeter and

Mute Swans along with Mallards and Canada Geese made this side trip worthwhile. Ten new species were seen at Beaudette Park, along with some of the birds also observed at ELJ Nature Center earlier.



A special thank you to the ELJ Nature Center and Blanche Wicke for her assistance.



Photo credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS Photo Gallery

2020 Oakland Owlets Field Trips

March - June

Early Spring Migrants – Saturday, March 21, 8:30 – 11:30 am Belle Isle Nature Center - Detroit

The Detroit River provides open water and is a place to see early migrant birds. Hike the nature center trails and observe waterfowl along the River. Erin Parker, Nature Center Manager, will host this program. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Explore the Nature Center after the hike. **Meet at the Nature Center** on Belle Isle at 176 Lakeside Drive, Detroit, MI 48207. A state parks recreation passport is required. <https://belleislenaturecenter.detroitzoo.org/>



Woodcock Watching – Saturday, April 25, 7:00 – 9:30 pm Highland Recreation Area – White Lake

American Woodcocks return to Michigan in spring. This unusual shorebird performs a unique aerial display known as the “sky dance”. Highland Recreation Area is ideal habitat for the woodcock and many other birds. Take an evening hike to see this outstanding natural area and watch the “sky dance” at sunset. Dress for the weather and plan to hike 2 miles. Bring a lawn chair and binoculars. **Meet at the Goose Meadows Parking lot.** State parks passport is required for park entry. <http://www.michigandnr.com/ParksandTrails/Details.aspx?id=455&type=SPRK>

Spring Bird Hike & Bird Banding – Saturday, May 30, 8:00– 11:00 am Lake St. Clair Metropark – Harrison Township



Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCM) is one of the premiere birding hot spots in the area. Join the Oakland Owlets for a hike and possibly observe bird bander, Allen Chartier, in action. Allen has been conducting a long-term banding project at LSCM. The banding observation is dependent on many factors and cannot be guaranteed. Plan to hike about two miles, visit the nature center and check out wetlands in the park. Metroparks permit is required for park entry.

Meet at the Nature Center Parking Lot.

<http://www.metroparks.com/parks/lake-st-clair-metroparks/>

(continued on next page)

2020 Oakland Owlets Field Trips

March - June (continued)

Awesome Ospreys – Saturday, June 13, 8:30 am - Noon Kensington Metropark – Milford

Osprey populations dramatically declined in the twentieth century due to overuse of chemicals like DDT. After DDT was banned, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) created an Osprey Reintroduction program in partnership with conservation groups. The program's goal was to establish nesting Ospreys. Michigan Osprey is a conservation group that monitor Ospreys. **Barb Jensen** from Michigan Osprey will share her work with Ospreys during a hike and a boat tour. **Meet at the Windfall Hill Parking lot at 8:30 am** for a short hike to observe nesting ospreys followed by a short drive to the boat rental for a tour of Kent Lake. Metroparks permit is required for park entry plus a small fee to reserve your spot on the boat of \$3.50/person



<http://www.metroparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-Kensington-Map1.pdf?x91894>

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 www.oaklandaudubon.org or kad8186@msn.com



Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Thinking Like A Parrot: How Do Parrots View The World?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/09/19/thinking-like-a-parrot-how-do-parrots-view-the-world/#2ce94e3eba30>

Want to understand why parrots can act like they do? This article talks about a book that delves deeply into parrots and how their social and environmental evolution has made them endearing friends and partners. Worth taking a look.

These High-Flying Geese Are ‘the Astronauts of the Bird World’

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/03/science/bar-headed-geese-oxygen.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

Bar-headed Geese fly over the Himalayas and do it with seemingly little effort. How do they do this? It's a combination of physiology and natural flying ability. This article outlines the results of research done to understand this phenomenon and how it might help humans.

A Silicon Valley Disruption for Birds That Gorge on Endangered Fish

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/12/science/caspian-terns-san-francisco-bay.html?auth=login-email&login=email&smid=nytcore-ios-share>

In an effort to divert Caspian Terns from nesting along the Columbia River (and to stop them eating salmon and trout), a diversion was created elsewhere that included decoys and broadcast calls for breeding terns. The results are amazing and worth a quick look.

Sex Bias In Conservation Efforts Further Endangers Rare Birds

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/11/15/sex-bias-in-conservation-efforts-further-endangers-rare-birds/#35eb39b33e14>

It's known that many species have different migration destinations for the male and female birds. This differentiation is often ignored by conservationists and may be causing a sexual bias in conservation efforts. This may result in skewed sexual distributions in many bird populations. A study using the Golden-winged Warbler is used as a case study in this potential problem for the conservation of birds.

Bird Migration Is Written In Their Genes

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/10/25/bird-migration-is-written-in-their-genes/#350d2d9511cd>

Understanding what drives migration from a fundamental viewpoint is the focus of this study. Using Golden-winged Warblers and Blue-winged Warblers, studies on populations and their genetics have revealed some interesting results. It appears one gene is responsible for their destination choices. Take a look inside the world of genetics and bird study.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

The Bacterial Surprise in This Bird's Smell

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/10/science/birds-smell-bacteria.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

The use of smell in birds is known as one of several ways they communicate. That said, the source of the odors they emit has been found to potentially involve bacteria in their biome. Researchers have found that some odors are generated by bacteria and some by the bird itself. An interesting take on odors and their communicative role.

Population Decline Has Hawaii's Songbirds Singing The Same Tune

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/11/29/population-decline-has-hawaiis-songbirds-singing-the-same-tune/#7f0af41b7ec4>

This article looks at a group of birds in Hawaii where population decrease is causing a side effect, loss of diversity in songs by these songbirds. This study shows a convergence of bird songs such that several species have become almost similar. An interesting read along with some sound recordings.

North American Birds Are Shrinking As The Planet Warms

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/12/09/north-american-birds-are-shrinking-as-the-planet-warms/#3ec0bf62285b>

A study was conducted where species of birds were measured covering 40 years worth of collected specimens. The shocking result is a notable decrease in size for North American birds. Climate change is the suspected culprit and this article looks into this phenomenon.

DNA Study Points To Humans As Cause of Carolina Parakeet Extinction

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/12/14/dna-study-points-to-humans-as-cause-of-carolina-parakeet-extinction/#3b1473d7415a>

A DNA study has finally and conclusively determined that the extinction of the Carolina Parakeet was caused totally and solely by humans. The desire to shoot these birds caused the extinction as an abrupt event, with no time for other genetic changes. The smoking gun has been identified!

Ten New Birds Discovered On 'Lost Island Worlds' In The South Pacific

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2020/01/13/ten-new-birds-discovered-on-lost-island-worlds-in-the-south-pacific/#2d8942891c16>

Five new species of birds and five new subspecies have been discovered on Indonesian Islands. It is heart-warming to hear that new birds are still being discovered and that the bird list is expanding from something other than species splits.

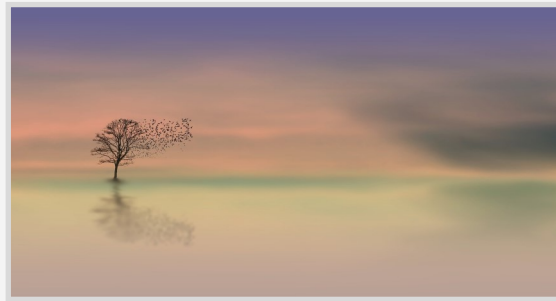
Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Climate Change Is Affecting The Timing Of Bird Migration, But Are Birds Adapting Fast Enough?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2020/01/06/climate-change-is-affecting-the-timing-of-bird-migration-but-are-birds-adapting-fast-enough/#4ccc34e776db>

Climate change is causing bird migration to happen earlier than previously. Just within 20 years, these changes are causing some serious problems for birds. Birds may not be adapting to these changes quickly enough, making finding food a problem for these early arrivals. This is a problem we have seen coming but have no solutions at this time.



Our Favorite Bird Tournament 2019-2020

At the March Membership Meeting we will crown our new Favorite Bird. We'll start with the Elite Eight birds that have gotten your support through the first three rounds (starting with 64 birds). At the end of the meeting we will have pared down the entrants to that one bird chosen as our club's favorite. Who will it be? Can the Kirtland's Warbler defend its title and win again?

The Elite Eight are:

1 Piping Plover vs. 3 Wood Duck

9 Baltimore Oriole vs. 10 White-eyed Vireo

5 Red-headed Woodpecker vs. 2 Eastern Screech-Owl

1 Kirtland's Warbler vs. 10 Black-throated Blue Warbler

Book review

by Doris Applebaum

**DARWIN COMES TO TOWN:
How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution**

by Menno Schilthuis

The world is becoming more and more urbanized. According to this book, which was published in 2018, by 2030 almost 10% of all people on Earth will live in just 41 megacities, while the fastest-growing urban populations will actually be in small and medium-sized cities. We are swiftly making cities the major places where people live.

Many animals and plants have found that they can make a living in our cities. Wherever there is greenery or a body of water, whether a river running through town, a large or small park, a patch of green in a residential area, or even just a crack in a sidewalk, life has found a place in the “urban jungle.”

Many of these species are not the ones that were originally found in cities, but they have moved in and thrived. Some, like the bobcats that abound in Los Angeles and the white-footed mice that live in the many small parks in New York City, are native species that have moved from the “wild” to the city. Others, like the Ring-necked Parakeets in Paris and the House Crows, Javan Mynahs, and red-eared slider turtles in Singapore, have found their way (or been transported by humans) from their native area to new homes in far-away cities.

And these new city dwellers are not just living there; research into many species has shown that they are actually evolving away from their wild relatives. It is slow, but measurable. Cities are ecosystems; in fact, they have a variety of ecosystems, and many kinds of life are adapting to them.

Species can evolve when populations are separated by some physical barrier, and each population then goes on its own evolutionary journey. Those bobcats in Los Angeles can easily traverse narrow roads, but they can't safely cross the city's major freeways, so the various groups of bobcats are separated from each other. The Ring-necked Parakeets in northern Paris are separated from those in the southern part of the city because this species needs trees. Paris has large treeless areas, and the birds will not cross them, so the populations don't mix. Each population of white-footed mice in New York City is confined to its own little park. These kinds of separation are the agents of evolution. Slow, yes, but inevitable over time.

In this book there are many, many examples of this evolution. It is a fascinating read. It is also entertaining, because the author has a sense of humor which he displays frequently.

However, for sentimental me, it is also rather disheartening to know that the species that will survive in our cities are not necessarily the natives that originally lived there. Life in nature is competitive. Many of the survivors of this competition will be non-native animals and the plants that we call weeds. Nevertheless, if we want to live in cities where nature can be found, it seems that we may as well learn to appreciate the hardy non-natives, because only the survivors will successfully live among us.

BIRD ID QUIZ (Spring 2020)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

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

No Peeking!

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

Sue & Shu Itoh, Jeanine Keller, Amy Kessler,
Juliet Berger & Scott Huizenga, Carla Vaughan, Julie Ann Wang,
Joshua Giddings and Family

Our membership drive for 2020 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!

NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

Allen is waiting for your questions!

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

**OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(unaudited)**

Assets (as of 1-1-2019)

Citizens Bank checking account	<u>\$11,491.39</u>
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Income

Dues	\$ 3,660.00
Donations	2,058.12
OAS hat sale	600.00
Young Birders Nuthatch Open	100.00

Total Income	\$ 6,418.12
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Expenses

Bank Charges	\$ 33.00
Charitable contributions	950.00
Hospitality	182.27
Insurance	915.00
Mail fees and postage	147.00
Michigan filing fee	20.00
Printing - Nuthatch and other	198.53
Programs and field trips	625.00
Publicity	462.04
Rental fees	920.00
Website	204.00
Young Birders	270.97

Total Expenses	\$ 4,927.81
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2019 Gain	\$ 1,490.31
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Net Worth as of 12-31-2019	<u>\$12,981.70</u>
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Prepared by Elaine Ferguson, treasurer

2019 Christmas Bird Count Summary Report – Oakland Audubon Society – MIPO Count Circle

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was conducted on December 14, 2019 and had 63 participants in the field and 6 feeder watchers. We observed 59 species (while count week birds were noted with a CW below). Below is a listing of species seen and numbers recorded for each.

Canada Goose 921	Merlin 1
Mute Swan 121	Blue Jay 530
Trumpeter Swan 5	American Crow 445
American Black Duck 6	Black-capped Chickadee 647
Mallard 788	Tufted Titmouse 175
dabbling duck sp. 2	Red-breasted Nuthatch 4
Redhead 60	White-breasted Nuthatch 199
Ring-necked Duck 34	Brown Creeper 3
Bufflehead 13	Carolina Wren 5
Common Goldeneye 44	Golden-crowned Kinglet 3
Hooded Merganser 14	Eastern Bluebird 94
Common Merganser 71	American Robin 110
Ring-necked Pheasant 1	European Starling 4625
Wild Turkey 102	Cedar Waxwing 65
Turkey Vulture 14	American Tree Sparrow 28
Cooper's Hawk 17	Dark-eyed Junco 275
Bald Eagle 5	White-throated Sparrow 4
Red-shouldered Hawk 1	Song Sparrow 1
Red-tailed Hawk 52	Swamp Sparrow 1
Rough-legged Hawk cw	Northern Cardinal 235
Sandhill Crane 63	House Finch 269
Ring-billed Gull 2653	American Goldfinch 216
Herring Gull 129	House Sparrow 986
Lesser Black-backed Gull 2	
Glaucous Gull 1	
Great Black-backed Gull 13	
gull sp. 11	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 214	
Mourning Dove 576	
Eastern Screech-Owl 5	
Great Horned Owl 5	
Belted Kingfisher 2	
Red-headed Woodpecker 1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker 129	
Downy Woodpecker 140	
Hairy Woodpecker 32	
Northern Flicker 6	
Pileated Woodpecker 6	

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
November 21, 2019**

President Don Burlett announced that he will not seek re-election after his current term ends at the end of 2020. Due to an emergency at the national golden retriever association, with which he has been associated for many years, he has agreed to take a leadership position there. Fortunately, he does plan to remain involved with OAS on a limited basis.

Don also announced plans to add a new position to the board of directors: Advocacy Chair. He already has a possible candidate for this position, which will involve working closely with National Audubon and other organizations on important conservation matters.

OAS affiliation with National Audubon is in the negotiation stage.

Jen Benke has volunteered to replace Dave Frye as Membership Officer when Dave moves out of state. She is already in the process of "learning the ropes."

Field Trip Officer Jeff Stacey reported that all 14 Christmas Bird Count territories have leaders set (some new leaders were needed this year).

The Field Trip Committee has completed scheduling for the first half of 2020.

Young Birders Club leader Kathleen Dougherty has YBC events scheduled through the first half of 2020.

Seven Ponds Nature Center has scheduled several interesting tours for 2020, including Florida, North Carolina, Isle Royale, and Alaska.

The OAS website now has an interactive map showing scores of birding locations in Oakland County. Check it out at the Hotspot link on the home page.

JANUARY 23, 2020

President Don Burlett reminded the board members that he will not be able to run for re-election in October due to the press of other obligations. He is willing to return as President after an absence of one year.

Treasurer Elaine Ferguson reported that our 2019 income exceeded our expenses by a considerable amount due in large part to an unexpected number of donations.

The board decided that we will try to schedule our May nature walk to take place at the Stage Nature Center in Troy.

Jen Benke is expected to take over from Dave Frye as OAS Membership Officer in the very near future.

Some field trips have had to be canceled due to bad weather or lack of birds.

OAS will participate in Earth Day celebrations at Chrysler World HQ and at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. We will also participate in the "Spring into Science" event at Cranbrook Institute in April.

Seven Ponds Nature Center had a successful holiday auction, bringing in over \$20,000.

Conservation Officer Jerry Rogers plans to do 4 nature surveys at the Lost Lake Nature Preserve of the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, one for each season this year.

The board approved OAS to be a participating member in the Oakland County Trail, Water, and Land Alliance.

Negotiations regarding affiliation with National Audubon are continuing.

Doris Applebaum

Secretary

Your Membership At Work

Thank-you letters were received from the Howell Nature Center and the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy for donations OAS provided. Thank you for helping to support local conservation minded organizations.



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

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$100.00 on 11/12/2019 for the Howell Nature Center. Your generosity helps fulfill the mission of teaching people to be faithful caretakers of one another and the world around us.

At our nature based camp, one counselor when asked how he would define camp? He said, "On the first day of Camp, the kids walk around a puddle. On the last day of camp, they walk right through it!"

With your help, the moments above are made. On 230 acres, everyone can find the item that is meaningful to them, including exciting experiences like day and overnight camps, experiential education and day visit activities including Alexandra's Nature Scape and Treehouse. Also, adults and children can both learn about and help wildlife with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic and Wild Wonders Wildlife Park, Livingston County's only teaching zoo.

Your contribution will truly help make the difference in people's and animals' lives as they connect with the natural world around them.

On behalf of all the creatures we serve, be they two-legged or four-legged, "Thank you!"

John JC Carlson
Chief Executive Officer

Laura Butler
Wildlife & Education Director



Nature Worth Preserving



Deer Lake Center

7150 Dixie Hwy #2

Clarkston, MI 48346

248-795-2808

NOHLC.org

NOHLC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. This letter serves as a receipt for tax purposes. This donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.

November 25, 2019

Oakland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012

Dear Friends at Oakland Audubon Society,

Thank you for your **generous donation of \$100** towards our Big Help for a Little Butterfly Campaign. For the first time in our 47-year history, we have the opportunity to help prevent an extinction right here in Oakland County.

Thanks to a grant from The Carls Foundation of Bloomfield Hills and donations like yours, we are nearly half-way to our goal of \$275,000. These funds will be used to purchase and steward 21.5 acres of ideal Poweshiek Skipperling habitat and protect it from private development. Not only is this land suitable for this tiny butterfly, but it is also home to a wide variety of other plants and animals that depend on its survival.

We rely on donations and volunteers to power the work we do in our community. With friends like you, our campaign is sure to be a success.

Thank you,

Sue Julian
Executive Director

Would be out all winter cutting invasives and "first seeding" to increase diversity for birds as well as the butterfly

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., March 10	7:00 p.m.	“Antarctica - The Final Frontier”	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., April 14	7:00 p.m.	“Black Tern Monitoring”	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., May12	6:30 p.m.	Nature Walk at the Stage Nature Center	Stage Nature Center

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 children’s room, Room 132. The facility is located on the south side of Maple Road between Southfield and Cranbrook Roads. There is plenty of lighted, free parking. Our meetings are free and open to the public. For meeting cancellation information, check our website, call a board member or call the church at (248) 646-1200.

Bird Quiz Answers for Summer Quiz on Page 20

This issue (spring ‘20) photo quiz answers: a) Warbling Vireo, b) Philadelphia Vireo and c) Yellow-throated Vireo.

Explanation: a) This is a pale gray, fairly uniform plumage with only hints of olive or yellow color on breast and flanks, no wing-bars, light or pale color above and below eyes but not an eye-ring. Darker on crown and with smaller bill. b) Dark on crown contrasting with light eye line above eye and not so pronounced below eye. Yellow coloration to underparts and short tail and dark lores. Slightly smaller than the other two vireos. c) Bright yellow spectacles and throat, white belly and white wing-bars. Bill is larger than the other two pictures.

How’d you do with the ID’s of these juvenile birds? Keep score throughout the year to see how you do!



OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Mobile: (____) _____

Email address: _____

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

Check also if you are a member of:

____ National Audubon Society

____ Michigan Audubon Society

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

Check if you have the skills to help:

____ Become a board member

____ Lead a field trip or present a program

____ Fill an open position (Position: _____)

Please check appropriate line:

____ Member renewal

____ New member

____ Change of address

OAS Membership Fees

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

Our Mission

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

Please make checks payable to:
OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mail to:
OAS MEMBERSHIP

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.*