



# THE NUTHATCH

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## “History of Point Pelee”

Tuesday, January 14, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

**Tom Hince**

For over fifty years, Point Pelee has played a pivotal role in Tom’s life. He made his first visit to the park at the age of thirteen, and has birded Pelee for forty years of the past forty-five years. Tom has filmed around the globe for the Discovery Channel, and guided over a hundred tours on four continents, but always returns to Pelee each year to enjoy the spectacular songbird migration.



### Inside This Issue

## “Invasive Species”

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

**Erica Clites**

Erica Clites is the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (Oakland County CISMA) coordinator. She will discuss the impact of invasive species and CISMA’s role in invasive species management in Oakland County.

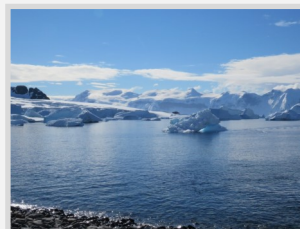


## “Antarctica - The Final Frontier”

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!!



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Winter 2019

Well, the seasons are changing again, the time just changed and the leaves have changed color and fallen. These are all signs that change is the only constant in our lives. As I look at our organization, I see changes in how we do things, changes in the people of our organization and changes in how we view things.

These are all things that happen naturally and we shouldn't be intimidated by change. Heck, we grow older and don't sit around worrying about every little thing that changes. Just think back. When I started with this organization, we relied totally on a printed newsletter and phone calls. Now we have a website, electronic newsletter and digital media and phones to stay in contact. Just another round of change for us to adjust to.

Our world for the birds is changing also and we should be concerned about that. This is not a simple thing to understand but the birds are seeing climate change as a threat to their existence. The recent reports from Cornell and National Audubon indicating we have lost three billion birds and that two thirds of the rest are threatened are really something to pay attention to. Our planet won't deal with what we are doing to it, and the birds we love (the canaries in the coal mine) are trying but may not be able to adjust to the changes.

I don't know about you but I am concerned about this and plan to do what I can to support changes to our life styles that will hopefully have an impact on the climate change that so many think is not real. Hopefully, I'm preaching to the choir on this one but I hope that we can begin to have civil discussions on the subject with those that doubt and have them understand that if we continue to do what we do right now, the famous "end is near" may not be such a ridiculous thing.

As a scientist (even a retired one), I believe the dire predictions are fairly accurate and that we are headed down a dead-end road. I have said so in some presentations I have made and will say it privately to people. I hope you all can pick up the torch and show the light to those who don't believe. I'd like the "choir" to whom I am preaching to sing it out loud for all. If we don't, then we also have ourselves to blame for the end result.

End of soapbox for this newsletter. See you out there enjoying the change of seasons and some old friends returning for the winter.

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	kestrel11@gmail.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	Phil Bugosh	(248) 763-3163	peb729@gmail.com
Web Co-Editor	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikalteal13@netzero.net
Web Co-Editor	Hannah Dunbar		oddbirdstoonest@gmail.com
Social Media Administrator	Dan Gertiser	(248) 762-4354	dangertiser@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

Help with the 2019  
Christmas Bird  
Count!

Fill those feeders!

Cover page banner photo of Long Lake - Mike Dougherty

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at [www.oaklandaudubon.org](http://www.oaklandaudubon.org))

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
<p><b>December 6 -8, 2019</b> (Friday - Sunday) Weekend Trip</p>	<p><b>Niagara Falls Region</b> See website for details</p>	<p><b>Don Burlett</b> <b>Jim Koppin</b></p>
<p><b>December 14, 2019</b> (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Christmas Bird Count</b> Contact leader for details</p>	<p><b>Jeff Stacey</b></p>
<p><b>January 12, 2020</b> (Sunday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Kensington</b> Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Metroparks annual or daily pass required.</p>	<p><b>Dave Frye</b></p>
<p><b>January 18, 2020</b> (Saturday) 7:15 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>St. Clair River from Canada</b> See website for details Passport or passport card required Bridge/ferry tolls</p>	<p><b>Mike Mencotti</b></p>
<p><b>January 25, 2020</b> (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Eagles and Snowshoes</b> <b>Stony Creek Nature Center</b> Meet at the Nature Center See website for details. Metroparks annual or daily pass required.</p>	<p><b>Kathleen Dougherty</b></p>
<p><b>February 7 - 9, 2020</b> (Friday - Sunday) Weekend Trip</p>	<p><b>Eastern Upper Peninsula</b> <b>(tentative - dependent on weather)</b> Contact leader if you plan to attend See website for details</p>	<p><b>Jeff Stacey</b></p>
<p><b>February 15, 2020</b> (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Great Backyard Bird Count</b> <b>EL Johnson Nature Center</b> Meet at the Nature Center See website for details</p>	<p><b>Kathleen Dougherty</b></p>



## Field Trip Reports

September 7, 2019 – Oakland Owlets - Drayton Plains Nature Center

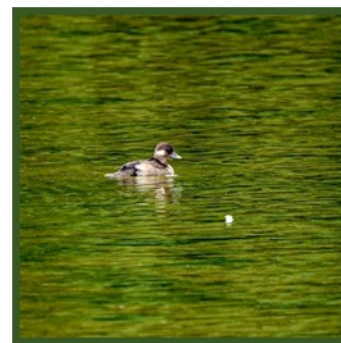
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets visited the Drayton Plains Nature Center on September 7<sup>th</sup>. OAS member and Director of Bird Studies at the Center, Terri Chapdelaine, led a 3-mile hike along the Clinton River and in other habitats on the property. The Drayton Plains Nature Center is a 138-acre natural area in Waterford. The large portion of the property was formerly used as a state fish hatchery. In the early 1900's, the state fishery department created fish rearing ponds by channelizing the Clinton River. Today, this property and associated upland forest are owned by Waterford Township Parks and Recreation. A non-profit Friends group helps with fundraising and minor maintenance at the facility. The building has been converted into a nature interpretive center where visitors can learn about local wildlife. A few of the ponds are still used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division for fish rearing, while the remaining ponds offer habitat for wetland birds and other wildlife. Drayton Plains Nature Center has diverse habitats on a relatively small parcel of land which makes it great place to go birding. The facility has an impressive bird checklist of 176 species due to Terri's work and field observations.

Twenty-three new and longtime OAS friends including three young birders gathered on a beautiful late summer morning to explore the trails and wildlife at Drayton Plains Nature Center. The group was immediately treated to



an unusual lone diving duck in one of the ponds. A female Bufflehead popped in and out of view as the group watched. Luckily, one photographer was able to capture this image for eBird. The lone Bufflehead was seen among the many Canada Geese, Mallards and domestic ducks. These birds congregate near the main path hoping for some human handouts. Most of the waterfowl at the Center are habituated to people. Many of the ducks are approachable or will approach you. Our group had an extra member join the hike, a Mallard in eclipse plumage. He stayed with the group for some time and when we were finished, he joined us for a group photo. Everyone enjoyed his company.



Many of the ponds have grown into shrubby thickets or emergent marshes. These areas provide stop-over habitat and cover for migrating birds. The pathways on the dikes surrounding the ponds allow birders to view into the shrubs at eye level. Four species of warblers were observed including a Black and White Warbler. Everyone was able to watch this warbler long enough to see its unique colors and learn its warbler ways. Warblers are hyperactive; as soon as you can spot them, they move. A chance to really see a warbler is a gift. Drayton Plains Nature Center offers habitat for warblers to rest and refuel during migration.



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## Field Trip Reports (continued)

Thirty-eight species of birds were seen on this field trip including the resident birds and migrants. The most unusual bird was the Bufflehead. A Broad-winged Hawk flew overhead as we concluded our hike, reminding us that migration is underway. Some of the summer residents lingered, but their numbers were reduced like the Eastern Wood-pewee, Yellow Warbler and Warbling Vireo. The weather was pleasant, and it was a good day to be outdoors birding.



After hiking, the group toured the nature center. The hands-on exhibits are kid friendly with the live animal displays of native snakes, frogs and turtles. **Thanks to Terri Chapdelaine for leading the hike and making special arrangements for OAS.** Almost everyone posed for a group photo near the covered bridge on the Clinton River.

Can you find the bird in the photo that joined the hike ☺ ?

Photo credits - Kathleen Dougherty, OAS Photo Gallery and Joy Bebry.

### September 18, 2019 - Red Oaks

#### Leader: Mike Mencotti

Sixteen birders enjoyed a beautiful late summer morning and some great looks at (mostly) cooperative migrants at Red Oaks County Park on Wednesday, Sept. 18. The day started slow as the birders were active before the birds, but as the sun rose, things picked up. We often had to work hard to find the birds -- as is often the case with thick summer foliage -- but the birds later relented and gave us wonderful looks. Cameras sure did help clinch those tough IDs, especially with the Blue-winged Warbler. In all, we had eight species of warblers and 31 species in all.

### October 2, 2019 – Bear Creek Park (Orion Township)

#### Leader: Don Burlett

Five birders decided that a little rain wouldn't be a problem and we found a wonderful park with different habitats (field, woods, ponds, etc.) It was cloudy and not too bright so it hindered some bird ID's. The trip was shortened to about an hour by rain but we did see a few good birds. This park will be a part of the spring schedule of Wednesday morning field trips. 15 species were seen.

## Field Trip Reports (continued)

**October 5, 2019 – Oakland Owlets - EIC U of M Dearborn  
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty**

The Oakland Audubon Young Birders' Club field trip in October was held at the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) at the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus on October 5. The group had a chance to tour the EIC and learn the history of the Rouge River Bird Observatory. Although research at the RRBO is now discontinued, the Observatory provided critical information about the importance of urban natural areas as stopover sites for migratory birds.



A group of 10 people including three young birders explored the 300-acre Environmental Study Area adjacent to the EIC. Dorothy McLeer, EIC naturalist and program coordinator, led the hike. Along the hike, the group visited various habitats and stopped to view the Rouge River, Fairlane Lake and the mature forests on the property. When the group walked through the mature Beech Maple Forest, the towering trees and light filtering through the branches made everyone pause to reflect on the forest. Dorothy explained the differences between the trees we encountered along the trail and shared the ages of the different tree species. At stops to look for birds in the forest canopy, everyone was amazed by Dorothy's ability to mimic bird calls drawing them into view.



The Environmental Study Area has diverse plants. Everyone was entertained by Dorothy's interpretation of the plants we saw. Bristly Greenbrier, *Smilax hispida*, was one of the native vines we found. This vine grows in thickets and floodplain forests as well as mature oak-hickory and beech-maple forests. The berries offer a source of food for birds. Dorothy explained what is being done by the EIC to remove and manage invasive plants on the property to restore native plants and habitats. The Environmental Study Area is part of the original Estate of Henry Ford. Fairlane, the historical home of Clara and Henry Ford, is adjacent to the property. The EIC is open to the public and regularly offers programs for the community in addition to serving as an educational resource for the students at the University.

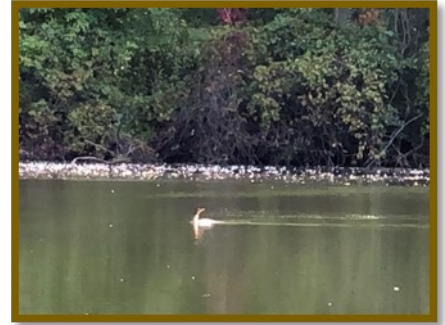


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## Field Trip Reports (continued)

Both water birds and woodland birds were seen on the hike. The Rouge River and the wetlands on the property offer habitat for waterfowl and other wetland birds. A young Double-crested Cormorant bobbed in and out of the water on Fairlane Lake giving everyone excellent views of its fishing techniques. In the forests, a few wood warblers were seen along with many woodpeckers.



The group ended the field trip in the quiet room at the EIC and watched many of the birds we saw on the hike visiting the feeders. **A special thank you to Dorothy McLeer for sharing her morning** with the Young Birders' Club family and friends. It was a warm and sunny Saturday.

Photo credits - Kathleen Dougherty & Oakland Audubon

### November 2, 2019 – Oakland Owlets - Clinton River Trail Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets' November 2<sup>nd</sup> field trip took place on the Clinton River Trail in Rochester, Michigan. A small group of birders gathered at the headquarters of the Clinton River Watershed Council. The office is a short walk from the Trail. The Clinton River Watershed Council, along with the Friends of Clinton River Trail partnered with Oakland Audubon for this hike. The Friends of the Clinton River Trail are celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the trail and this was the last event of a yearlong celebration. The morning was cold and rainy. Thankfully the group sheltered out of the elements at the headquarters before and after the hike. Luckily the rain stopped as the group hit the trail.



This portion of the Clinton River Trail runs parallel to the Clinton

River, allowing the group to see several



beautiful vistas of the river. The river meanders through a nearly 100-acre natural area which is managed by the City of Rochester Hills. This natural area provides great habitat for wildlife including birds. Numerous berry laden shrubs bordered the trail. During the late summer, fall and winter, berries are an important food source for birds since insects are less abundant. Fat rich berries offer essential nourishment to birds during colder seasons and while migrating.

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## Field Trip Reports (continued)

American Robins were seen everywhere along with another berry loving bird. A flock of Cedar Waxwings caught everyone's attention as they gorged down berries near the trail. Everyone stopped and observed this foraging for some time. It was amazing to see these distinctive birds with their subtle crests, black masks, yellow bands across their tails and bright red wax droplets on their secondaries. **Fun fact** - Cedar Waxwings are one of the few North American birds that specialize in eating fruits. Nineteen species of birds were seen on the hike plus one hawk species.

The group concluded the hike at the Clinton River Watershed Council. Information was shared about Project FeederWatch which is a citizen science project through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This project is a great way to learn about common winter birds and contribute to science. Snacks were provided by the Friends of the Clinton River Trail. **A special thank you to Gayla Houser from the Friends of the Clinton River Trail and Anne Brasie from the Clinton River Watershed Council.**



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty & Oakland Audubon Photo Gallery

## Field Trip Reports (continued)

**November 13, 2019 – Stony Creek Metropark**

**Leader: Dan Gertiser**

Three intrepid birders braved the unseasonably cold weather to bird Stony Creek Metropark on a frigid November day. It started out at a chilly 8 degrees and by the time we left it warmed up to a balmy 19 degrees. We saw 28 species with the highlights being a late Phoebe, a beautiful red Fox Sparrow and two eagles which looked as though they were pairing up for the upcoming breeding season.

Stony Creek Lake had just two places where there was any open water of any size; the rest of the lake was frozen. The number of ducks and mergansers in these two areas was amazing. Hooded Mergansers were the most numerous waterfowl along with a good number of Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, and a good variety of other ducks.



We really enjoyed the last Wednesday birding trip of the year and we are looking forward to doing it again next spring when it is much warmer. Breaking out your January clothes in November is a shock to your system. Please join us next spring when we guarantee it to be much warmer.



Photo credits: Manny Salas



## Field Trip Reports (continued)

November 15-17, 2019 – Western Michigan

Leaders: Don Burlett, Dave Frye

Venturing across the state after a significant snow storm is always interesting and 15 OAS birders took on the challenge of traveling to western Michigan for some “fall” birding. After meeting near Lansing on Friday morning, we first headed to Coopersville to visit the “goose field”. Unfortunately, the snow cover discouraged many geese from being there; only 6 Canada Geese remained. We then headed to the Coopersville Waste Water treatment facility. With the group split up, we did get a Great Egret and Great Blue Heron along with lots of Canada’s and a couple of woodpeckers.

Next, we headed to Muskegon to visit the waste water treatment facility (are you noting a trend for this trip?) where we found the water mostly frozen but with lots of Northern Shovelers and some gulls. We did, however, get looks at a Rough-legged Hawk and some Bald Eagles. After this, we headed to Muskegon State Park and the piers. It was cold and breezy and there were a few species here including Horned Grebe. We then headed south toward Grand Haven and first visited Ottawa Sands Park. Here, Red-headed Woodpeckers abounded, both adults and youngsters. Great fun! We also added some additional species of ducks, swan, etc. A final stop at Harbor Island netted a Wood Duck but not much else. We headed to the hotel and dinner where a few celebratory beers were had.



Photo credit: Spencer Vanderhoof



The next day, we started at Grand Haven State Park where some waterfowl were about.

We got a White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck and other species. We headed inland to visit Hemlock Crossing and Upper Macatawa parks but land birding was a bit tough under these conditions. So we headed to the water.

At Holland State Park, we visited the north breakwall. Great Black-backed Gull and others were observed. However, the goal here was the Purple Sandpiper. It was found along the north breakwall and was very cooperative, posing for pictures. Before that, a Merlin made a quick pass over the pier on its way south.

Photo credit: Robert Moll

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## Field Trip Reports (continued)

Satisfied with that find, we headed to Window on the Waterfront park and were rewarded by spectacular views of a Short-eared Owl flying around and then perching in a tree. Finally, off to the hotel and dinner at a brewery (again).

The next morning, we headed out early and tried Fennville waste water treatment but the water was all frozen. Then we headed to the Fennville Farm Unit of Allegan SGA. There we discovered unharvested fields with snow. It appeared that all the geese were gone. However, we got to the stream at the west end of this tract and discovered >1000 geese in the stream along with Mallards, a Belted Kingfisher and, a remarkable find, a Greater Yellowlegs wading in the stream. Great Fun.



Photo credit: Dave Frye

We then headed north to a spot where a Snowy Owl had been reported and he was found a little distance away, based on a report from someone else. We added Kestrel also at that area. We then headed to Grand Ravines near Lansing, just to see the park. We ended the trip at Reed's Lake in Lansing with a few new ducks that we hadn't seen earlier.

After three days, we totaled 66 species and life birds for many folks. A good trip, in spite of changing and wintry conditions.



Photo credit: Spencer Vanderhoof

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



Photo credit: christels (pixabay.com)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nuthatch Open September 21, 2019 – (Oakland County) – 4 teams

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nuthatch Open began with clear skies and moderate temperatures (60's), but late morning degraded into a hot and humid day. Suddenly, by late morning, the birds had no interest in being active or making even a call, except for Blue Jays. The four teams scoured Oakland County looking for birds. Many locations were visited in the county including private yards, parks and open areas. It was tough birding and this was witnessed by the markedly lower numbers of bird species recorded. This year, there were just three Open division teams and one Youth team.

In the end, two winners were declared: Open Division – Three Balding Eagles & A Harpy (Mike Mencotti, Tom Pavlik, Scott Jennex and Mary Trombley) won the Open Division with 70 species and the Salas Family (Elizabeth, Emmanuel and Dominic Salas) won the Youth Division with 29 species.



The Open Division also had two other teams: The Three Birdkateers (Don Burlett, Phil Bugosh and Dan Gertiser) finishing second with 55 species and the Quasi-modos (Dave Hoch, TJ Lang and Bill Niemczyk) finishing third with 54 species.

And, of course, we can't thank our hosts at the tally enough, Alice and Art Marotti. The food was great as usual and they were very welcoming. Well done, Alice and Art.

Overall, the groups spotted and identified 94 species on the day!!

It was a great outing with proceeds going to the Oakland Audubon Young Birders Program. The Tally Rally at Indian Springs Metropark involved lots of food and chatter about birds seen and not seen. The trophies were awarded and everyone left feeling good about their day in the field.

We hope to see more of our local birders out there next year and we will be looking to unseat the current champions.





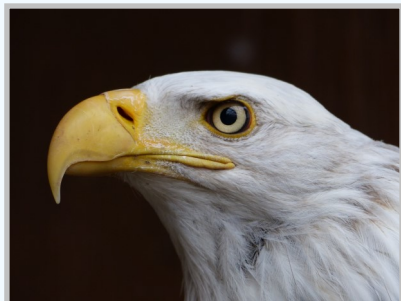
# 2020 Oakland Owlets Field Trips

## January - June

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**Eagles & Snowshoes– Saturday, Jan. 25, 8:30 – 11:30 am**

**Stony Creek Nature Center in Shelby Township**



Explore winter birds on snowshoes on the trails at Stony Creek Metropark. Hike about 2 miles to observe American Bald Eagles along with other winter birds. **Depending on snow cover**, snowshoes will be available for rental at \$5/pair or you can bring your own or you can just hike. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Explore the Nature Center after the hike. **Meet at the Nature Center** in the park at 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316. Metroparks permit is required for park entry.

<http://www.metroparks.com/facilities-education/stony-creek-metropark-nature-center/>

**Great Backyard Bird Count -Saturday, February 15, 8:30 – 11:30 am**

**EL Johnson Nature Center - Bloomfield Hills & Beaudette Park - Pontiac**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is one of the largest bird counts in the world. Start at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center observing birds at their feeders and on the trails. Then, carpool to Beaudette Park in Pontiac on the Clinton River Trail to search for waterfowl and urban birds. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.

**Meet at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center** at 3325 Franklin Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

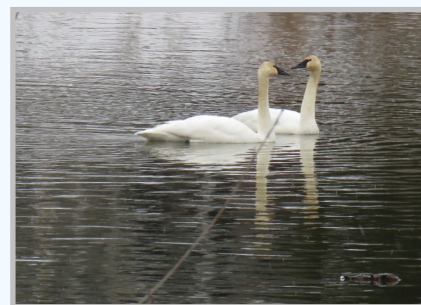
<https://www.mapquest.com/us/michigan/e-l-johnson-nature-center-283347366>

**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>

# 2020 Oakland Owlets Field Trips

## January - June (continued)

**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/>

**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](http://www.oaklandaudubon.org) or [kad8186@msn.com](mailto:kad8186@msn.com)*

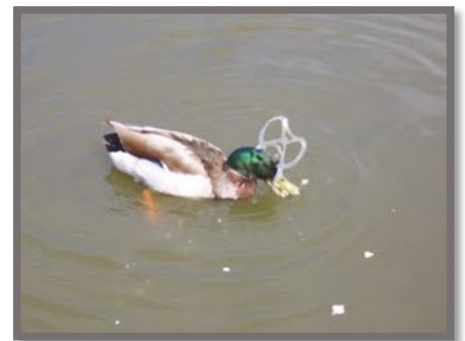


Oakland Audubon's Young Birders' Club participated in the 2019 Rouge River Water Festival at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Rouge River Water Festival is coordinated by the Freshwater Forum at Cranbrook to foster and enhance environmental literacy of the Great Lakes and freshwater resources locally. The Rouge River Water Festival celebrates the Rouge River Watershed which spans three counties, encompasses 467 acres and is home to 1.35 million people.



At the Rouge River Water Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders from Oakland County Schools within the Rouge River Watershed visit Cranbrook to learn about water issues from partners and resource experts. Kathleen Dougherty and T.J. Lang presented to three classes this year. Approximately ninety children, teachers and parents learned about how plastic pollution impacts birds. Young Birders' Club presenters shared information from the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) developed by global experts to help kids understand that plastic pollution is widespread and persistent.

Every year, World Migratory Bird Day partners develop lessons to enrich and enhance the study of migratory birds. This year's WMBD focused on how plastic is prevalent in the environment and is harming birds. Birds are entangled in plastic and ingest plastic which ultimately causes death. Water birds are most at risk of ingesting plastic. Plastics degrade into micro-plastics which persist in the environment. Even birds living in isolated habitats are impacted because ocean currents and waters carry unwanted plastic far from the source of pollution.



The WMBD curriculum includes activities and lessons for students to take actions to combat the threats that plastic pollution causes to the environment. Service-learning activities like planning trash collections to researching how different species of birds are harmed are described. The YBC presentations helped students realize that plastic pollution is a global problem, but they can do things locally to respond. One message from this curriculum is "be the solution to plastic pollution". Teachers received information about the OAS Young Birders' Club field trips and other activities. It was a great outreach opportunity.

Photo credits – Kathleen Dougherty





# WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2019-2020

by Ron Pittaway

<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2019/wff19.htm>

**GENERAL FORECAST:** This is not an irruption (flight) year for winter finches in the East. Most winter finches will stay in the north. There are abundant spruce cone crops across the boreal forest in Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland. Most conifers (except pines), birches and other seed crops are good to excellent in much of the Northeast. This should be a good winter to see finches in traditional hotspots such as Ontario's Algonquin Park, Quebec's Laurentian Mountains, New York's Adirondack Mountains, and northern New England States. For the details on each finch species, see individual forecasts below. Three irruptive non-finch passerines are also discussed. The forecast applies mainly to Ontario and nearby provinces and states.

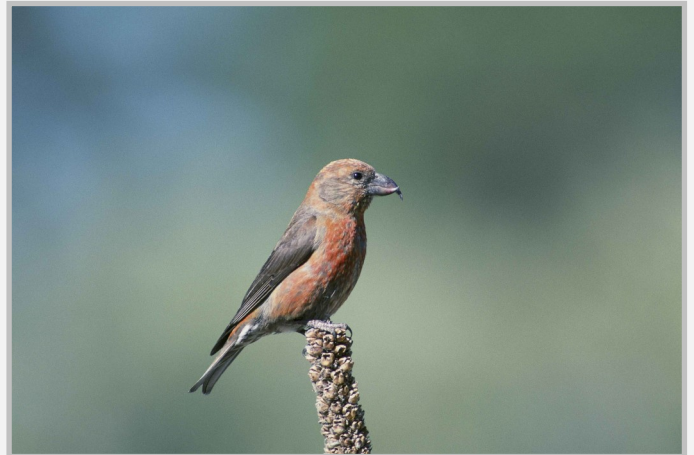


Photo credit: PublicDomainImages@Pixabay.com

**PINE GROSBEAK:** Most Pine Grosbeaks will stay close to the breeding grounds this winter because the mountain-ash berry crop is excellent in the north. The abundant cone crop and a large seed crop on black ash will provide additional food to hold grosbeaks in the north. A few Pine Grosbeaks may drift south to Algonquin Park where they are seen most winters.

**PURPLE FINCH:** Most Purple Finches usually migrate south of Ontario in the fall, but this winter many will remain in the province where tree seed crops are excellent. At feeders they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

**RED CROSSBILL:** Red Crossbills are currently widespread in the East. Expect to see them where there are large cone crops. Red Crossbills comprise at least 10 “types” in North America. The types are usually impossible to identify without recordings of their flight calls. Recordings can be made with an iPhone and identified to type. Matt Young (may6@cornell.edu) of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology 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. Matt reports that Type 10 is the most common type now in the Northeast, but there are also some Type 3 from the West and a few Type 1 and 2. See Matt Young’s guide to Red Crossbill call types in link #4 below.

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** This crossbill is currently widespread and locally common in Ontario and Quebec where spruce cone crops are excellent to bumper. Expect to see White-winged Crossbills this winter in Algonquin Park. It feeds on native conifers with small cones such as white, red and black spruces and hemlock.

**COMMON REDPOLL:** Most redpolls will probably stay in the north this winter because seed crops on birches, alders and spruce are excellent this year. A winter trip to northern Ontario should yield redpolls. A few Common Redpolls may get south to Algonquin Park, but likely no farther. For subspecies ID and photos see link #2 below.



## WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2019-2020

(continued)

**HOARY REDPOLL:** Hoaries are not expected in the south this winter because it is not a redpoll irruption year. A road trip to northern Ontario is recommended to see Hoary Redpolls. Watch for them in flocks of Common Redpolls. For subspecies ID and photos see link #2 below.

**PINE SISKIN:** Many siskins should winter in central and northern Ontario where cone crops are excellent to bumper on white spruce. Siskins relish nyger seeds in silo feeders. Siskin irruptions related to climate variability are discussed in link #3 below.

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** Most Evening Grosbeaks should winter in the north because conifer and deciduous seed crops such as black ash are generally excellent to bumper. However, we may experience an echo flight after the considerable southward movement last winter. The best spot to see this striking grosbeak is the feeders at the Visitor Centre in Algonquin Park. At feeders it prefers black oil sunflower seeds. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 2016 listed the Evening Grosbeak as a species of Special Concern due to strong population declines in central and eastern Canada.

**THREE IRRUPTIVE NON-FINCH PASSERINES:** Movements of these three passerines are often linked to movements of boreal finches.

**BLUE JAY:** This jay moves south in varying numbers every fall. Expect a small to moderate flight along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie because the red oak acorn, beechnut, hazelnut and soft mast crops are very good to excellent in Ontario. Good numbers of Blue Jays should visit feeders this winter in Ontario.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** Boreal populations of the Red-breasted Nuthatch will not migrate south this fall. The excellent spruce and fir cone crops will hold Red-breasted Nuthatches on the breeding grounds this winter. The dynamics and population consequences of irruptions in the Red-breasted Nuthatch are discussed in link #5 below.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** The excellent native mountain-ash berry crop across the boreal forest should keep most Bohemians Waxwings in the north this winter. Some, however, usually wander south into settled areas where they are attracted to European mountain-ash berries, ornamental crabapples and buckthorn berries.

### FINCH INFORMATION LINKS

1. Finch Facts, Seed Crops and Irruptions.

<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2012/winterfinches.htm>

2. Subspecies of Common and Hoary Redpolls – ID Tips and Photos.

<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2015/redpollsRP.htm>

3. Climatic dipoles drive two principal modes of North American boreal bird irruption

<https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/112/21/E2795.full.pdf>

4. Crossbills of North America: Species and Red Crossbill Call Types.

<https://ebird.org/news/crossbills-of-north-america-species-and-red-crossbill-call-types/>

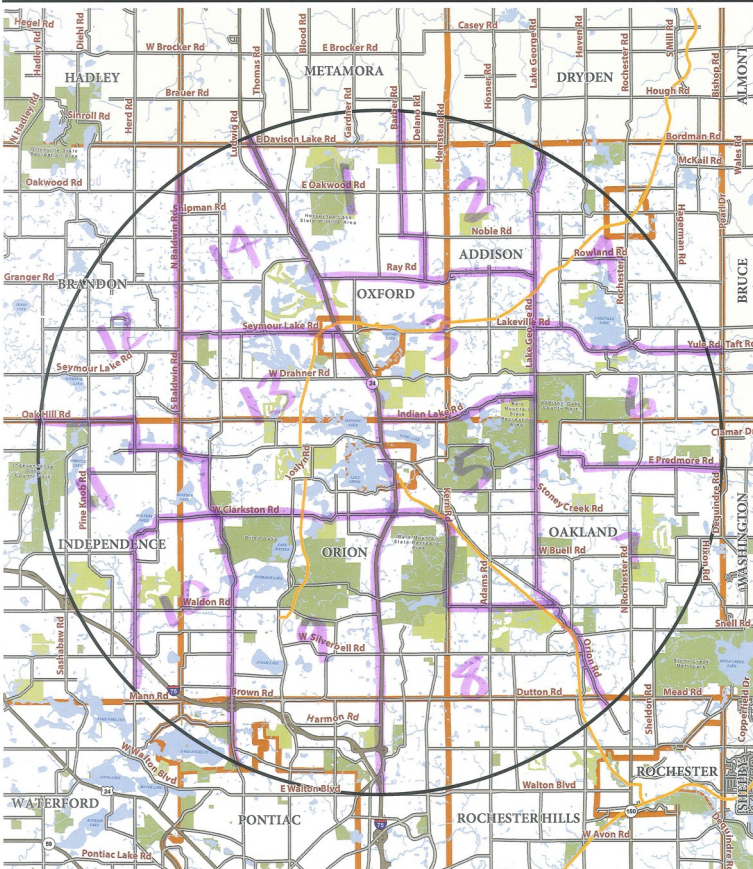
5. Dynamics and population consequences of irruption in the Red-breasted Nuthatch.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332970249>

## 2019 Christmas Bird Count

The OAS will be participating in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on December 14, 2019. **Your help is needed!** You can join a team to go out in the field for the count, or if you live in the count area you can help by doing a feeder watch. At the end of the count day (4:00 p.m.) join us at the Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park for the count compilation, food and fun! Please contact Jeff Stacey for more information.

### · Oakland Audubon Society · Christmas Bird Count ·



□ Count Area  
 ■ Lakes & Rivers  
 ■ Private Recreation Land  
 ■ Public Recreation Land  
 ■ Municipal Boundary  
 — Highway  
 — Major  
 — Trail  
 Map created on November 18, 2010  
 The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.



**Wanted: Feeder Watchers**  
We really need some additional bird feeder watchers for the count.

If you live in the area circled on the map and would like to participate in the count from the comfort of your home, contact Jeff Stacey.

· [www.OaklandAudubon.org](http://www.OaklandAudubon.org) ·

## NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

The purpose for this column, which was started a few years ago, was for me to answer natural history questions from Oakland Audubon members. After some initial success, it appears that interest is declining significantly, and I have not received any new questions in nearly a year. Please forward your questions either directly to me by email ([amazilia3@gmail.com](mailto:amazilia3@gmail.com)), or to any OAS officer who will forward them to me. You can also send photos, if you have a question or comment about anything you may want me to comment on or attempt to identify. Maybe we could start a new theme for this column, possibly titled “what is this?”

For now, I would like to thank Oakland Audubon for once again providing some financial support to continue my bird banding efforts at Lake St. Clair Metropark. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Many of you may not be familiar with this project, so I am devoting this month’s column to a summary of its history and purpose.



When I first joined Oakland Audubon Society in 1976 (when I was 19 years old), the president was Dr. Dan McGeen, who was a bird bander and showed me the first bird in-hand that I’d ever seen, a Lincoln’s Sparrow. The OAS Coordinator for Field Studies was Ellie Cox, who got members involved in a variety of bird conservation and monitoring projects. She also taught a bird class at Oakland Community College. Ellie, who passed away in 2012 at the age of 92, was a force of nature herself! In the mid-1980s, Ellie began bird banding projects, and I started helping her as one of her banding assistants. In 1989, she began bird banding projects at Lake St. Clair Metropark (named Metro Beach Metropark at the time), including monitoring and attempting to band Black Terns with her husband Howard in the north marsh of the park, where there was a nesting colony of about 100 pairs. They documented the decline of this colony from 1989-1999 to its eventual disappearance. At the same time, Ellie set up a songbird banding station in the “back” of the park along the maintenance road adjacent to Point Rosa Marsh. She operated about 14 mist nets two days a week (Saturdays and Sundays) during spring migration (late April to early June) and fall migration (late August to early October) from 1989-1999. She enlisted the help of many volunteers, most of them Oakland Audubon members, and that included me, once a week. Over the 10 years of her project, she banded 13,219 birds of 108 species.



## NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

Another project, of many, that Ellie got me involved in was the hawkwatch at Holiday Beach, Ontario, where I began counting hawks in 1976 and where I volunteered one day a week doing that until 1997. By 1987 I helped establish the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory as an official organization, and we had gotten an observation tower there. Soon, I had convinced the hawk counters to also count the many migrating passerines that passed through, including hummingbirds. In 1997, after 19 years as a hawk and songbird counter, I “retired” from counting and established a songbird banding station near the beach, using an old abandoned restroom as a base of operations. I was able to operate here under a sub-permit for the station held by Phil Roberts, thanks to the experience I had gained under Ellie Cox. Along with a crew of volunteers and banding trainees, we attempted to operate that station on as many days as possible during the fall season (early August to late November). During my tenure there, we also began banding hummingbirds in 2000, and Oakland Audubon provided financial assistance to that operation, allowing us to purchase new mist nets, which are delicate and easily damaged by wildlife (especially deer), and are expensive (\$150 - \$200 each). We operated 10 nets at this small station during my tenure from 1997-2003, and we banded 5943 birds of 97 species.

In 2001, I was able to obtain my federal permit to band hummingbirds in Michigan, and in 2004 I was able to add songbirds to that permit. Ellie Cox had not banded at Lake St. Clair Metropark regularly since 1999, but the naturalists in the park still had an interest in the research and data that her project was generating. So, in 2004, I re-started that songbird banding project in the Point Rosa Marsh area, using as many net locations from the 1989-1999 effort as possible, given that there had been changes in vegetation, water levels, and tree falls. Unlike Ellie’s project before, I was able to band hummingbirds as well. My volunteer base started from Oakland and Macomb Audubon members who had helped Ellie previously, and supplemented by interested passersby who I convinced to help slog around in the mud and water all day. From 2004-2014, I again operated during spring and fall migrations, but extended coverage to include early April to early June in spring, and early August to early November in fall. In addition, I started earlier in the morning than Ellie had, to take advantage of peak bird activity just after sunrise. In 2014, marsh restoration efforts in the park flooded out the banding station, making it nearly impossible to band back there any more. Over my 10 years of effort there, I banded a total of 24,844 birds of 125 species. I am in the process of checking and validating data to allow a comparison of Ellie’s ten years of banding (1989-1999) to my ten years of banding (2004-2014) adjacent to Point Rosa Marsh.



## NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

In 2015, because both the park naturalists and my team of banding volunteers wanted to continue banding in the park, I set up a tentative banding station with about 12 nets adjacent to the Meadow Loop nature trail, close to the front of the park, and in a much drier area.

This experiment was a success, and in 2016 we began a full schedule of spring and fall bird banding at this new location, setting up 17 nets in an area of about 3 acres.

In 2017, the HCMA purchased a complete set of nets for this station, and in 2018 Oakland Audubon provided

financial assistance as did some of the banding volunteers who generously donated to help replace damaged nets back at the “marsh” site as well. I hope to be able to operate at this new location for 10 years (through 2025), and be able to compare the birds captured at this drier “meadow” location to the 20 years at the wetter “marsh” location. In the past 4 years we have banded at this new location, some differences are already evident, and I have been posting regular updates to my birding and banding blog (<http://mihummingbirdguy.blogspot.com/>). From 2015-2019, I have banded a total of 11,298 birds of 108 species. This brings the total number of birds banded in the park to 49,361 birds of more than 125 species.



Allen Chartier

In spring of 2020, it is almost certain that the 50,000<sup>th</sup> bird will be banded in the park when we band the 639<sup>th</sup> bird (the 2016-2019 spring average is 900 birds). Oakland Audubon has been a supporter of this research since its inception in 1989, initially through the efforts of Ellie Cox, and subsequently by providing many volunteer assistants, and financial assistance. The management of Lake St. Clair Metropark uses the data from these bird banding efforts to assist with land use decisions, as well as public outreach and education. Comparing numbers from year to year, learning which species prefer which microhabitats, understanding the effects of practices including invasive plant removal, and the stopover ecology of migrant birds, are some of the important aspects of this research. Oakland Audubon members should be proud of their contributions to this long-term monitoring, and I am very grateful for your many forms of support. If you would like to volunteer to help with bird banding in the future, which would include helping set up nets, net poles, and feeders, possibly learning how to extract birds out of mist nets, and helping record banding data, you would be most welcome. Please contact me to inquire (amazilia3@gmail.com).

## **Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)**

**Submitted by Don Burlett**

### **Vampire Finches – Blood-thirsty Birds**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/08/science/vampire-birds-galapagos.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

A story of Galapagos finches that resort to blood as a food source when times get tough. Makes you want to take a trip there, garlic in hand!

### **Hybrid Speciation: Creating a New Species that is not Evolutionary**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/06/23/hybrid-speciation-when-two-species-become-three/#1b09ba996624>

This Article explores the creation of new species by hybridization of two species. An interesting look at the nature of this route versus evolutionary change. Worth a quick look.

### **Are Ortolan Buntings Endangered Or Not?**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/06/26/are-ortolan-buntings-endangered-or-not/#7f003be35402>

The survival of Ortolan Buntings might depend on no longer allowing eating of these birds in France. A battle between chefs who wish to provide this cuisine and those who want to protect them is ongoing.

### **Antibiotic-Resistant Superbugs Hitch Rides On Australian Gulls**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/07/14/antibiotic-resistant-superbugs-hitching-rides-on-australian-gulls/#683e1e846967>

Scary stuff happening in this world. Here's an example of human activity that is creating a threat to humans. And the birds are unwittingly becoming part of the pathway to problems. A warning tale, at the very least.

### **Even Unhatched, Birds Exchange Survival Skills**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/science/birds-embryos-communication.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

Who'd a thunk it! Birds communicating via vibrations while in the egg! Communication is far beyond what we think. Just another amazing aspect of nature. Check out this study and how they found this activity.

### **Why Are London's Iconic Sparrows Disappearing?**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/07/25/why-are-londons-iconic-sparrows-disappearing/#249aae452ad5>

Here is an article about the decline of House Sparrows in England. They find that avian malaria is a major cause but the frightening aspect is that, although this has been around for a long time, climate change may have kicked this into high gear, resulting in a major decline in populations. Interesting read, especially in light of our current world.

### **Stunning fossils show pterosaurs had primitive feathers like dinosaurs**

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2188405-stunning-fossils-show-pterosaurs-had-primitive-feathers-like-dinosaurs/>

Interesting look at fossils and how they indicate how feathers were developing back in the day. They also describe three feather types that were observed. Fun stuff.



## **Bird Briefs (continued)**

**Submitted by Don Burlett**

### **How Did Songbirds End Up In A Shark's Stomach?**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/08/02/how-did-songbirds-end-up-in-a-sharks-stomach/#62ad55d47786>

If you guessed birds falling into the sea upon migration, you were probably right. But it is interesting to see sharks scavenging birds that hit the water.

### **Overlooked No More: Florence Merriam Bailey, Who Defined Modern Bird-Watching**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/17/obituaries/florence-merriam-bailey-overlooked.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

This is an interesting look at the life of a woman who may have started Birdwatching as we know it today. She observed, published and helped start a movement back a hundred years ago. A must read for the average birder.

### **Ancient bird foot found in amber has bizarrely long toes**

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/07/fossil-bird-in-amber-has-unusually-long-toes/>

A nice article about some bird remains found in amber, pointing back to an old, long gone group of birds. The long toe and its attached features provide some insight into how these birds found and obtained food.

### **Amateur Fossil Hunter Unearths Another Giant Penguin In New Zealand**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/08/22/amateur-fossil-hunter-unearths-another-giant-penguin-in-new-zealand/#1040ca6239ea>

Giant penguins!! Sounds like a science fiction story but they really did exist. And New Zealand seems to hold the record for giant species.

### **Meet Squawkzilla, The Giant Parrot Just Discovered On New Zealand**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/08/08/meet-squawkzilla-the-giant-parrot-just-discovered-on-new-zealand/#1089a925368a>

First, it's giant penguins, now giant parrots. What doesn't New Zealand have that is larger than life? Another interesting archeological find down under. Another fun read.

### **Marauding Cat Destroys Colony Of Threatened Australian Seabirds**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/08/18/marauding-cat-destroys-colony-of-threatened-australian-seabirds/#4d9d720c7393>

Think that one free-roaming cat can't be a problem for birds? Read on in horror. One cat nearly dismantled an entire bird colony. Just saying that cats should be kept indoors and away from birds.

### **The Perfect Storm: Hurricane Dorian And People May Annihilate Three Bird Species**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/09/03/the-perfect-storm-hurricane-dorian-and-people-may-annihilate-three-bird-species/#397eb922132a>

This article describes the potential loss of species in the Bahamas from a hurricane and human activity. This is becoming a terribly common state of affairs. Sad story.



## *Miscellany*

Submitted by: Doris Applebaum

### A WIN FOR BIRDS AT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty has always been a symbol of welcome to people arriving in the United States. Now it has added a feature that makes it special to those of us who love birds.

A new Statue of Liberty Museum has opened to the public, and, typical of modern construction, the building has lots of glass. The good news is that most of the glass has a fritted-dot pattern. People don't notice the pattern, but birds see it, and they realize that this is a barrier to avoid. From the time the glass was installed in the summer of 2018 until the museum opened in May 2019, not one bird collided with the building.

With scientists estimating that hundreds of millions of birds die in collisions with clear glass in buildings every year in North America, the Statue of Liberty is an excellent example of how to reduce that death toll.

(Information about this new museum was in the Summer 2019 issue of *Bird Conservation* magazine published by the American Bird Conservancy.)

### eBIRD AND SHARKS

We typically look to eBird for information about birds, but research that includes monitoring of tiger sharks in the Gulf of Mexico has also found eBird data helpful.

Tiger sharks are well known to eat just about anything, and that doesn't just include fish, squids, and other marine denizens; tires and other manmade objects have also been found in tiger shark stomachs.

The researchers in the Gulf of Mexico study used gastric lavage on live sharks to obtain their stomach contents, and also analyzed stomach contents of some dead sharks. Samples from a total of 105 sharks were studied.

In 41 of the samples obtained, using visual identification in some cases and DNA analysis in others, 11 different bird species were identified, and all were terrestrial species. No seabirds were found.

Using eBird data, the researchers determined that the dates of interactions between the birds and the sharks occurred right around the peak of migration of those birds through the Gulf. The likely cause of those interactions was thought to be the storms that frequently occur during migration periods, and a terrestrial bird knocked to the surface of the water by a storm would be easy prey for a cruising shark.

Do tiger sharks in other bodies of water have the same kind of luck with birds? The answer to that awaits further research.

(Information for this article was found in the October 2019 issue of *Natural History* magazine, published by Natural History Magazine, Inc.)

## BYE, BYE, BANANA?

by Doris Applebaum



Photo credit: PublicDomainPictures@pixabay.com

When I was a child (many, many years ago), I loved to eat bananas. Still do. However, the bananas I eat today are not the same kind that was around back then. That banana was mainly the species called Gros Michel (“Big Mike”), and it’s extinct. By 1960, it was wiped out by a killer called Panama disease, caused by a fungus.

Bananas are not typically grown from seed; they’re cloned. That’s why if you look inside a banana, you won’t find any seeds. Every banana is a genetic duplicate of every other individual of that species, and because the bananas are genetic twins of each other, disease can run rampant among them once it gets started. That’s what happened to Gros Michel.

Today, bananas are grown in many countries on several continents. The main species grown nowadays is called the Cavendish and, like Gros Michel, it’s grown by cloning. And, unfortunately, it’s in big trouble.

While the Cavendish was thought to be immune to Panama disease, it turns out that there are different varieties of that disease, and one of them is deadly to the Cavendish. That variety has spread across Asia and Africa and recently was seen in Colombia in South America, causing that country to declare a national emergency.

A devastating aspect of this disease is that it can move through a banana crop undetected until it’s much too late to stop it. Is there any hope? Maybe.

There are some researchers working on a smartphone app which uses artificial intelligence (AI) to scan banana plants, looking for any early sign of disease. If any is found, the app can alert the farmer.

With the app, scientists hope to develop a system connecting farmers worldwide so that whenever disease is detected in its early stage, farmers can share the information with researchers. This could give scientists time to tackle the disease at the very beginning of an outbreak and prevent a massive spread.

If AI can save the banana, it will not only allow us to continue eating a favorite fruit, it will also save the livelihoods of many small-scale farmers who depend on this crop.

Sometimes we humans outsmart ourselves with our modern technology, causing unpleasant unintended consequences. If the AI banana app works as hoped, it will be one example of a true victory for modern technology.

(Information for this article was gleaned from the book titled *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit that Changed the World*, by Dan Koeppel; an item in the 8-23-19 issue of *The Week* news magazine; and the Anthropocene Weekly News Dispatch of 8-28-19 on the Internet.)

## BIRD ID QUIZ (Winter 2019)



A) \_\_\_\_\_



B) \_\_\_\_\_



C) \_\_\_\_\_

**For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see page 32.  
No Peeking!**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

Membership Officer Dave Frye will be leaving Michigan in the next year or so. He will be around long enough to mentor the new Membership Officer, whoever that may be. Dave reported the good news that we met our membership and revenue goals for 2019.

The latest batch of OAS baseball-type hats has sold out.

Special thanks were extended to OAS member Pat Brandon, who has donated a bat house and four bird feeders for door prizes at our membership meetings.

Our Facebook page now has about 1,350 likes and about 1,400 followers.

Seven Ponds Nature Center has received a free defibrillator, plus staff training in how to use it, from the local fire department. The boardwalk leading from the parking area to the nature center building is hazardous in winter and will be replaced. One of the signs directing people to the nature center was vandalized, and a social-media notice about this resulted in over \$2,000 being donated for a replacement—an example of the power of social media.

Our first money received from Amazon Smile was \$11.75 (hopefully lots more to come in the future).

A fall bird survey will be conducted at Chrysler World Headquarters in Auburn Hills, to help them maintain their “Wildlife at Work” certification.

As a result of a suggestion at the September membership meeting, we will provide a list of local wildlife rehabilitators in our newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Doris Applebaum

Secretary

**MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE**

**Welcome New Members!**

**Jocelyn Anderson, Bob Lathrop, William Niemczyk, Kayla, Rod, and Andrea Niner,  
Robin and Steve Read, Liz and Victor Salas Family, John Semchena,  
Donna and Craig Will**

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

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
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.

Jan 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.

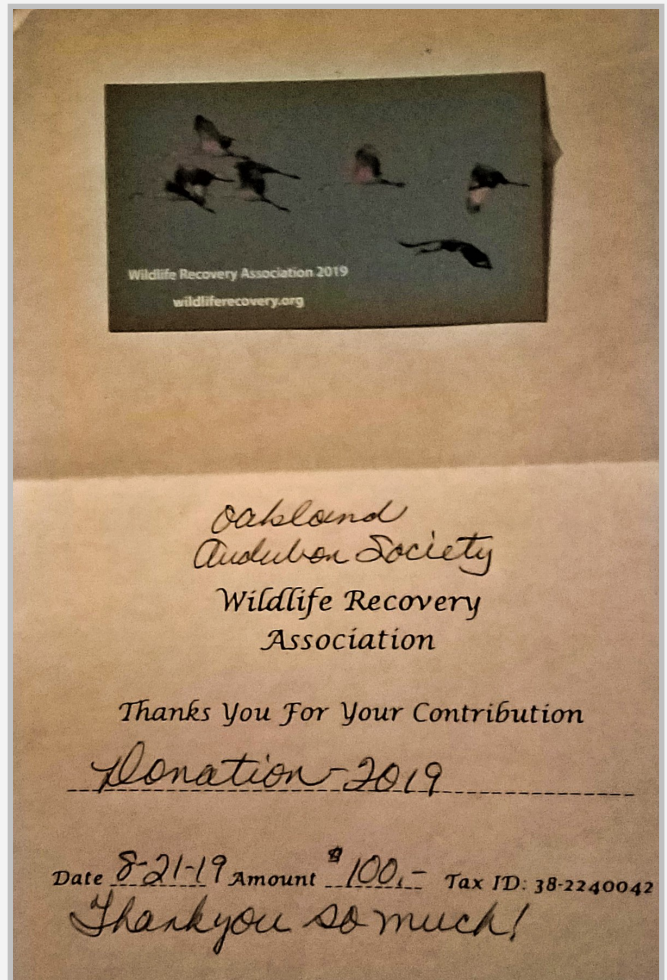
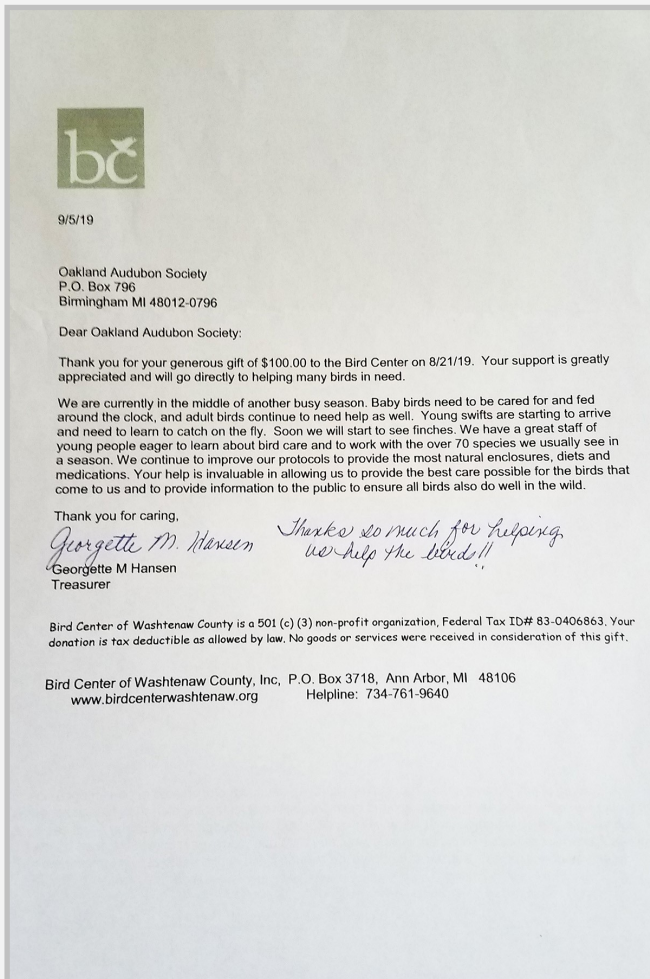
The OAS website now has an interactive map showing scores of birding locations in Oakland County. Check it out at the Hotspot link on the home page.

Doris Applebaum  
Secretary



## Your Membership At Work

Thank-you letters were received from the Wildlife Recovery Association and the Bird Center of Washtenaw County for donations OAS provided. Thank you for helping to support local conservation minded organizations.



## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., January 14	7:00 p.m.	“History of Point Pelee”	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., February 11	7:00 p.m.	“Invasive Species”	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., March 10	7:00 p.m.	“Antarctica - The Final Frontier”	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 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 28

This issue (winter ’19-’20) photo quiz answers: a) Rough-legged Hawk, b) Red-tailed Hawk and c) Northern Goshawk.

Explanation: a) This is a light juvenile (or adult) Rough-legged Hawk. The pale head, slight streaking on upper breast and dark belly also are diagnostic. It also has small feet and, a special hint, it likes to sit on the very tops of trees, unlike Red-tailed Hawks. b) This a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk. Note the white eye-brow, white throat and streaking on breast. Also the tail is finely barred. c) This juvenile Northern Goshawk has the strong white supercilium that is common for this species. Also has buff on upper breast and speckled feathers on mantle. Yellow eye common for juveniles. The head also seems smaller compared to body versus buteos.

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  
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.*