

THE NUTHATCH

Volume 68, Issue 1

Spring 2026

Membership Meeting Information

“Remote West Papuan Islands” (Don Burlett)

— March 10, 2026

Off the west coast of New Guinea, Indonesia has many small islands that have become favorite birding destinations. Their attraction is due, in part, to the fact that individual islands have endemic species that are only found on each one of these. Tonight, join Don Burlett on a cruise to visit these islands and see the fabulous birds that reside there. *In person & on Zoom.*



Photo: Don Burlett

People, Places, Birds (Daniel Bernard)

— April 14, 2026

In 2025, Daniel Bernard embarked on a birding journey as crazy as it was unique: a quest to travel the entire country and see 100 species of birds in every single Lower 48 state, meet up with local birders all across the country and visit birding locales both legendary and unknown. This life-changing journey to explore the people, places, and birds of the American birding world saw Daniel living out of the back of his Subaru Crosstrek and was filled with hardships and setbacks. In the end—after travelling the farthest south, east, north, and west he’d ever been, birding with over 300 different birders across the country, and tallying 607 different species—Daniel would accomplish his goal of becoming perhaps the first person ever to see 100 species in every Lower 48 state in a single year. *In person & on Zoom.*



Photo: Daniel Bernard

Twilight Nature Hike at Stage Nature Center

— May 12, 2026



Photo: Stage Nature Center

Join us for a guided evening hike through the trails of the Stage Nature Center. There are up to two miles of trails and 100 acres of varied habitat to explore. Picnic tables and benches are plentiful and perfect for enjoying refreshments after the birding fun. The Stage Nature Center is located at [6685 Coolidge Highway](https://www.stage-nature.com). We will meet at 6:30 PM in the main parking lot. *In person only.*

Bee Is for Beneficial (Brian Peterson-Roest)

— June 9, 2026



Photo: Bees in the D

In this presentation, Bees in the D Founder and President Brian Peterson-Roest will share an introduction to the variety of bees, the benefits of bees, and the art of beekeeping. *In person & on Zoom.*

Meeting Information

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except in December, July, and August). Except for the May hike, Spring 2026 meetings will be at the Auburn Hills Community Center (Seyburn A Room) at [3350 E. Seyburn Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326](https://www.auburnhills.com).

Meetings open at 6:30 PM, and talks begin at 7:00 PM. If applicable, Zoom links are posted on our website and social media before each meeting.

In This Issue

Meeting Schedule	1	Guest Author Article	14
Contacts	2	OBA Around Town	15
From the President’s Perch	2	Help Wanted Ads	15
Field Trip Schedule	3	Cons. & Env. Corner	16–17
CBC Recap / Bird Quiz	4	Membership Messages	17
Field Trip Reports	5–8	Board Mtg. Highlights	18
YBC Field Trip Reports	9–12	Excerpt: Audubon GL	18
Bird Quiz Answers	12	Financial Statement	19
YBC Field Trip Schedule	13	Renewal Form	20
Bird Briefs	14		

THE NUTHATCH



P.O. Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

www.oaklandbirdalliance.org

Follow Us!



Board Members

President – George Harris
admin@oaklandbirdalliance.org

Secretary – Gavin Awerbuch
awerbuchgavin@gmail.com

Treasurer – Jenifer Benke
treasurer@oaklandbirdalliance.org

Membership – Robert Moll
membership@oaklandbirdalliance.org

Field Trips – Kayla Niner
fieldtrips@oaklandbirdalliance.org

Programs – Don Burlett
baikalteal13@netzero.net

Young Birders Club – Kathleen Dougherty
kad8186@msn.com

Hospitality – Julie Bolcato & Laurie Schubert
juliemk82@aol.com
laschuby@aol.com

Publicity/Fundraising – Karen Kessler
fundraising@oaklandbirdalliance.org

Website – *Vacant*

Social Media – Dan Gertiser
media@oaklandbirdalliance.org

Newsletter – Tiffany Vojnovski
tiffany.voynovski@gmail.com

Seven Ponds Representative – Greg Gossick
ggossickdds@sbcglobal.net

Conservation & Environment –
Carolyn Stickney and Katri Studmann
cstick01@gmail.com
kcstudtm@mtu.edu

Advocacy – *Vacant*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

March always feels like a promise.

Even though winter hasn't fully loosened its grip here in Southeast Michigan, the signs of spring are unmistakable. Daylight is stretching a little longer, feeders are getting busier and, if you listen closely, you can hear the very first hints that migration season is right around the corner.

For birders, March is also a time to get ready. Spring migration brings excitement, but it also brings homework. Every year, I tell myself this will be the season I really sharpen my bird identification skills. And every year, the warblers humble me all over again.

I'll admit it: for a long time, my wife Amy has been my warbler-identification crutch. A quick glance, a confident ID, and I'd nod along appreciatively. But this spring, I've decided it's time to do the work myself: brushing up on field marks, songs, and those subtle differences that separate one yellow blur from another. If you see me staring a little too long at a field guide this spring, now you know why.

Learning birds, whether it's warblers, sparrows, or the familiar backyard visitors, is one of the great joys of birding. Each new skill deepens our connection to the natural world and helps us better understand what birds need to thrive. And the best part? We don't have to learn alone. Oakland Bird Alliance is all about sharing knowledge, curiosity, and those "aha!" moments that keep us coming back outside. Join us for one of our fantastic spring field trips and you are almost certain to come away with a new nugget of bird knowledge.

As spring approaches, I encourage you to pick something new to learn this season. A family of birds you've always struggled with. A song you want to recognize by ear. A habitat you want to explore more intentionally. Spring is a season of growth for birds and for us. Here's to warmer days ahead, migrating warblers on the horizon, and lifelong learning fueled by feathers and curiosity.

Hope to see you in the field!

George Harris
President, Oakland Bird Alliance

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Field trips are free and open to the public (depending on the destination, entry fees may be required). We welcome all levels of birdwatchers. Full details, including any updates to the schedule, are posted on our [website](#) and social media. Registration is required for most trips—contact trip leader for details.

Date	Event	Leader(s)
March 8 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Belleville Gulls / Ducks	Don Burlett baikaltea13@netzero.net
March 28 (Saturday) 6:00 PM – 8:15 PM	Seeking Signs of Spring Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Lake Orion (Young Birders)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
April 4 (Saturday) 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, Jackson and Washtenaw Counties	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
April 12 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Turkeys and Woodpeckers Stage Nature Center, Troy	Kayla Niner and Malissa Bossardet fieldtrips@oaklandbirdalliance.org
April 18 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Earth Walk Indian Springs Metropark, White Lake (Young Birders)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
April 24 – 26 (Weekend Trip)	Berrien County in Spring	Don Burlett baikaltea13@netzero.net
May 9 (Saturday) 6:30 or 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Magee Marsh Crazy Day Lucas and Ottawa Counties, OH	Don Burlett baikaltea13@netzero.net
May 9 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with Allen Chartier, Belle Isle (Young Birders)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
May 16 – 17 (Weekend Trip)	Bay City State Park, Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Au Gres, and Tawas Point State Park Iosco, Arenac, and Bay Counties	Jen Benke and Terri Chapledeine scubadu9900@yahoo.com
May 24 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Detroit International Wildlife Refuge Humbug Marsh Unit, Gibraltar	Kayla Niner and Malissa Bossardet fieldtrips@oaklandbirdalliance.org
June 6 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Kirtland's Warbler Tour Huron-Manistee National Forest, Roscommon (Young Birders)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
June 7 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Oak Openings Preserve Metropark, Swanton Township, Lucas County, OH	Don Burlett baikaltea13@netzero.net
June 13 (Saturday) 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Proud Lake State Recreation Area, Commerce Township	Jeff Stacey and Malissa Bossardet jdstacey@ameritech.net
June 14 (Sunday) 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Red, White, and Bluebird Walk Bear Creek Nature Park, Oakland Township (Young Birders)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com



The Oakland Bird Alliance follows the field trip guidelines listed below:

1. Pre-registration is required, and numbers are limited.
2. Stay home if you are sick.
3. Directions and details are sent in advance to pre-registrants.

The Young Birders Club—Oakland Owlets offers age-appropriate field trips for youth aged 8–18 years and families. Birders under 15 years must be accompanied by an adult. Young birders must complete a release form. Young Birders Club programs are open to birders of all ages. To register for these field trips, follow directions at:

www.oaklandbirdalliance.org/young-birders.

2025 Christmas Bird Count Recap

by Don Burlett and Kayla Niner



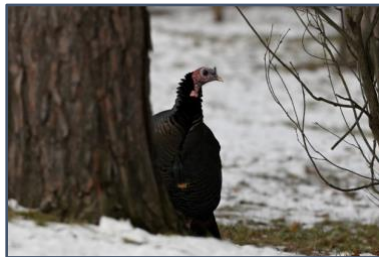
Open water saves the day for the CBC birders (Dan Gertiser)

For over 60 years, Oakland Bird Alliance (OBA) has been conducting National Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. Each year, the weather conditions and other factors affect the results, but the work of volunteers from Oakland Bird Alliance is unwavering. Altogether, this year's group comprised 60 volunteers across the 14 sections of our circle, including the Young Birders Club and several feeder watchers. As a community group, we were also pleased to welcome supporting volunteers from Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Orion Township Parks & Recreation, and the Blue Heron Headwaters Conservancy. We must also thank WM for allowing us to bird their landfill facility and Orion Township for access to one of their parks for owling.



The Young Birders Club at CBC (Kathleen Dougherty)

This year's Christmas Bird Count fell on a cloudy day with decent December temperatures and no precipitation. However, we were faced with little open water and very strong winds, which made finding birds difficult. In 2024, we counted about 70 species, thanks to the presence of more open water. This year, our count totaled only 56 species; however, given the weather conditions, we all felt it was a decent showing.



Left: Cooper's Hawk; Right: Wild Turkey (Kayla Niner)

Highlights included Brown-Headed Cowbirds, which can be rare sights at the CBC, Cooper's Hawks, Pileated Woodpeckers, and a seasonally rare Double-Crested Cormorant. We also saw high counts of both Pileated Woodpeckers and Carolina Wrens.

After the count, we gathered at the [Wint Nature Center](#) at Independence Oaks County Park for an afterparty and tally of results. Good food and good friends made for a perfect ending to a good day of birding.

BIRD QUIZ—SPRING 2026

from Don Burlett



A) _____.



B) _____.



C) _____.

For answers and explanations, see Page 12. No peeking!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

November 21–23, 2025 — Muskegon Weekend Trip

Leader: Don Burlett



Barriers and other issues (Don Burlett)



Two pictures (left) will tell you a lot about this weekend field trip. These two pictures show closures of areas where the group planned to visit and the conditions in which part of the field trip took place. These conditions, coupled with low water at the [Muskegon wastewater facility](#), made for a vastly different experience than in past years. The closures weren't limited to the wastewater facility. We also ran into closures at [Muskegon State Park](#), where construction and improvement projects closed the Snug Harbor area and the area around the shipping channel near the break walls. The leader was a bit frustrated, but we persisted in birding where we could.

Friday started as a cloudy day with cool temperatures. We began with a visit to the Coopersville Wastewater Treatment Plant, where we had a few ducks, lots of Canada Geese, and four Cackling Geese. That made the stop worthwhile. However, there wasn't much else to see there, especially with the gates closed.

We then headed to the Muskegon wastewater facility and discovered that the water level was extremely low—so much so that the Canada Geese 50 yards into the impoundment were standing on the bottom, not floating. A picture taken of one corner of the impoundment (see right) bears this fact out. We'd never seen bare ground exposed before at this facility.



Low water at the Muskegon wastewater facility (Don Burlett)

With the remaining water, we did observe lots of Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, and Canada Geese with a smattering of other fowl species. The only raptors observed on Friday were a Bald Eagle and an American Kestrel with food in its talons.

After a partial visit, which was limited because the road around the western lagoon was



closed, we departed for our next stop.

We headed to [Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve](#), where we spotted a few new species and then headed toward the Snug Harbor area of Muskegon State Park. This area was closed due to construction, so we headed to the campground area and found that area closed as well. At this point, we tried a couple of trails with no success, so we gave up and headed back to the hotel.



Above: Northern Shoveler; Below Left: Bald Eagle; Below Right: Ring-Billed Gull with prey and Bonaparte's Gull (Malissa Bossardet)

On Saturday morning, our complete group headed back to Muskegon Wastewater and did another track around the lagoons. We enjoyed the freezing weather and how the lagoons generate their own atmosphere, with fog

- ✓ Love birds?
- ✓ Have a few hours to spare?

See Page 15 for some great volunteer opportunities with the friendly OBA team!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continued



Frosty plants (Don Burrett)

shrouding the main road and frost on all the plants. We did add a Rough-Legged Hawk on this loop, but we were again disappointed by the smaller number of birds there. Passerines were almost nonexistent at the facility.

We left the wastewater facility and headed south to Harbor Island in Grand Haven. Here we found more species of ducks, including a nice group of Northern Pintails. Again, access to some additional areas was closed, so we moved on.

The next stop was [Hemlock Crossing](#), where we went indoors to watch the bird feeders. Highlights included a visiting Fox Sparrow and a Pileated Woodpecker.

We then drove further south to Holland, where we visited the [Stu Visser Trails](#). It was fun to be constantly adding new species to our list at every stop. We then visited [Holland State Park](#) and enjoyed a large Great Lakes freighter leaving the port. We also found the Long-Tailed Duck that had been hanging around. We ended the day in Holland by visiting the [Window on the Waterfront](#) park, where we added a Northern Harrier Gull and a Bonaparte's Gull.

On Sunday, we decided to head back inland and visit several parks near Grand Rapids. We started at [Bostwick Lake Park](#), followed by [Pickerel Lake Nature Preserve](#); [Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve](#), and [Wabasis Lake Park](#). We then concluded the weekend of birding.

During our trip, we managed to see 58 species of birds—with a lot of work and driving around to many different sites.

No grebes or cormorants were observed, nor were a couple of duck species we had hoped to see. Overall, it was a fun trip, and everyone had an enjoyable time. A list of species observed is available upon request.



Left: Eastern Bluebird; Right: Cedar Waxwings (Malissa Bossardet)

December 6, 2025 — Belle Isle Park (joint trip with Washtenaw Bird and Nature Alliance)

Leaders: Kayla Niner and Jeff Stacey



A bevy of birders at Belle Isle Park (Allen Chartier)

Many birders turned out for the joint Washtenaw-Oakland field trip to [Belle Isle Park](#). The weather was chilly, and a cold wind was blowing in from the river. The first stop was to view the Peregrine Falcon that likes to hang out on the apartments across the river. Ducks were present, but not in large numbers. The group saw Mute Swans, Mallards, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Greater and Lesser Scaups, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks.



Left: Mute Swan; Center: Buffleheads; Right: Mourning Dove (Kayla Niner)

FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continued

The group was also able to view a Long-Tailed Duck that had been spotted by others that morning.

We also took a hike near the [Nature Center](#) which was led by Allen Chartier, a veteran bird bander, lifetime OBA member, and co-author of the [ABA Birdfinding Guide: A Birder's Guide to Michigan](#). He told us about vegetation restoration efforts on the island and changes in the bird species he has seen and banded on the island through various changes, including the removal of an interior road and the seasonal closure of another.

Upon leaving, some group members also were treated to a White-Tailed Deer and a Virginia Opossum checking out the bird feeders at the Nature Center.



Left: Birders at the shore; Center: River freighter; Right: Virginia Opossum at the bird feeders (Kayla Niner)

January 11, 2026 — Beaudette City Park and Dodge #4 State Park

Leader: Kayla Niner



Eleven cold birders watching for waterfowl
(Jeanne Sickelsteel)

Eleven cold birders met on a cold and snowy morning at [Beaudette City Park](#), where we were looking for ducks. We were treated to a small flock of Trumpeter Swans and some Mallards. However, there wasn't a huge variety of waterfowl. We walked the park and ended up with a total of 19 species, including: Ring-Necked Ducks, Mallards, Trumpeter Swans, Mute Swans, Canada Geese, a Hooded Merganser, a few domestic-hybrid mallards, and a lone Wood Duck.

Our second stop was [Dodge #4 State Park](#). It was extremely windy and nearly impossible to see anything out on the water or ice. We added a Bald Eagle to our list and attempted to scope out some swans, but the wind was bitter, and we called it a day early to get inside and warm again.



Left: Mute Swan; Center: Wood Duck; Right: Trumpeter Swans (Kayla Niner)



FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continued

February 1, 2026 — Downriver Ducks

Leader: Kayla Niner



The group at Elizabeth Park (Andrea Niner)

The group also heard a Belted Kingfisher but never saw it. Several Song Sparrows were feeding on the shoreline among the Mallards. On the south side of the island, we were treated to more Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and both Common and Red-Breasted Mergansers.

The group also heard a Belted Kingfisher but never saw it. Several Song Sparrows were feeding on the shoreline among the Mallards. On the south side of the island, we were treated to more Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and both Common and Red-Breasted Mergansers.



House Sparrows clinging to the bricks (Kayla Niner)



American Kestrel at Dingell Park (Kayla Niner)

It was a beautiful sunny morning in single-digit Fahrenheit temperatures when eleven birders gathered at [Elizabeth Park](#) in Trenton for the annual Downriver Ducks Tour.

This year, conditions were right, and we enjoyed watching and listening to the Mallards and Canada Geese bunched up in the bit of open water near the north side of the island

nearest the river. They were accompanied by some Goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers, and a Bufflehead. We also saw two immature Bald Eagles.

Floating further out amid the ice were a Herring, Ring-Billed, Greater Black-Backed Gull, and Lesser Black-Backed Gull. The gulls even posed next to each other, helping us to see their differences in size. Also of note were the House Sparrows, clinging sideways to the Chateau building, possibly trying to get some warmth from the bricks in the sun.

[Bishop Park](#) was just as fruitful: We found the Long-Tailed Duck that had been seen there earlier in the week. We also saw three sleeping Lesser Scaup and a lone Redhead and Canvasback.

Our final stop was [Dingell Park](#) in Ecorse. A White-Winged Scoter had been seen there all week, and we were hopeful it had remained. It had, and we got good looks at this surprisingly (relatively) close bird. Beyond the Scoter was a moving pool of waterfowl. It was loaded with mostly Mute Swans and Redheads, but we also found Tundra Swans, Ring-Necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and a single Gadwall. We were satisfied and called it a day, but as we were leaving, one of the group members stopped in the parking lot to point out an American Kestrel that had just alighted on a lamppost. It was a great way to end the trip.



Above: White-Winged Scoter at Dingell Park; Center: Goldeneyes at Elizabeth Park; Below: Mallards at Elizabeth Park (Kayla Niner)

Young Birders Club

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

November 22, 2025 — November Birding Adventure at Hawk Woods Park and Campground

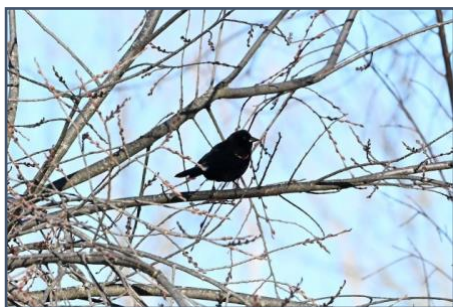
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty



Birding along the trail (Kathleen Dougherty)

After everyone arrived, the group was ready to explore the trails. The morning air was chilly, but the rising sun provided some warmth over time. As the group headed south along the Pond Trail, Ally explained that the pond was created through a mitigation agreement. While walking along the edge of the Pond Trail, the group paused to view Dark-Eyed Juncos, American Goldfinches, and American Tree Sparrows. We were hoping to find some waterfowl and encountered a few Mallards in the water.

From the Pond Trail, we entered a lowland forest with large Silver Maples and dead snags standing. There, we found several species of woodpeckers, including Downy, Red-Bellied, and Northern Flicker. Further along the trail, a viewing platform looked out onto an extensive marsh invaded by Phragmites. The dried plant stems provided cover for Red-Winged Blackbirds that were procrastinating in their migration south. The group listened to all the sounds from the marsh while observing the Redwings.



Above: Soaring gull; Below: Red-Winged Blackbird (Kayla Niner)

From the south end of the park, we ventured into an upland hardwood oak-hickory forest. Along the trail, we discovered new birds, including the bird featured on the OBA logo, the White-Breasted Nuthatch. We also spotted a Red-Tailed Hawk. By this time, the sun was filtering into the woodland, which enhanced the rusty, gold fall colors. There were many picturesque views along this trail and, by this point, the November day was unusually warm. At the trail's end, we walked into the campground site, where Ally and Nick took the group on a tour of a cabin and the lodge. While we gathered in the parking lot and prepared to put away our binoculars, Mel spotted an adult Bald Eagle soaring overhead alongside a flock of gulls and a Red-Tailed Hawk. Without her sharp eye, we would have missed the Bald Eagle. We also saw some Turkey Vultures gliding nearby, which contributed to a great ending to this wonderful fall hike. An eBird checklist including 23 species was submitted and shared with the group. The group thanked Ally and Nick for their time before heading out. A special thank-you to Kayla Niner for photographing the birds.

A group of Oakland Owlets, family members, and friends spent a pleasant Saturday morning at [Hawk Woods Park and Campground](#), an 80-acre property with trails, woodlands, a lodge, a playground, and several cabins for overnight use. Located east of M-24 and south of [Bald Mountain Recreation Area](#), the park is owned and operated by the City of Auburn Hills. Two staff members from the Auburn Hills Recreation Department, Ally Maye-Bloom and Nick Skinner, shared information about the park and programs.

After everyone arrived, the group was ready to explore the trails. The morning air was chilly, but the rising sun provided some warmth over time. As the group headed south along the Pond Trail, Ally explained that the pond was created through a mitigation agreement. While walking along the edge of the Pond Trail, the group paused to view Dark-Eyed Juncos, American Goldfinches, and American Tree Sparrows. We were hoping to find some waterfowl and encountered a few Mallards in the water.



Above: Mallards (Kayla Niner); Below: American Tree Sparrow (OBA photo gallery)

From the south end of the park, we ventured into an upland hardwood oak-hickory forest. Along the trail, we discovered new birds, including the bird featured on the OBA logo, the White-Breasted Nuthatch. We also spotted a Red-Tailed Hawk. By this time, the sun was filtering into the woodland, which enhanced the rusty, gold fall colors. There were many picturesque views along this trail and, by this point, the November day was unusually warm.

At the trail's end, we walked into the campground site, where Ally and Nick took the group on a tour of a cabin and the lodge. While we gathered in the parking lot and prepared to put away our binoculars, Mel spotted an adult Bald Eagle soaring overhead alongside a flock of gulls and a Red-Tailed Hawk. Without her sharp eye, we would have missed the Bald Eagle. We also saw some Turkey Vultures gliding nearby, which contributed to a great ending to this wonderful fall hike. An eBird checklist including 23 species was submitted and shared with the group. The group thanked Ally and Nick for their time before heading out. A special thank-you to Kayla Niner for photographing the birds.



The group gathered by the cabin (Kathleen Dougherty)

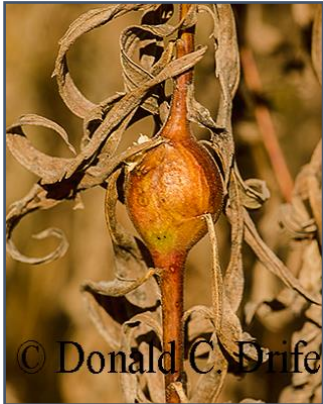
Young Birders Club

FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continued

December 20, 2025 — Christmas Bird Count at Orion Oaks County Park

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

A small but hardy group of thirteen Oakland Owlets, family members, and friends, gathered near daybreak at [Orion Oaks County Park](#) to participate in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). 2025 marked the 126th year of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the 60th year the Oakland Bird Alliance has conducted the CBC near Lake Orion. This location was Area #9, one of fourteen sections surveyed during the CBC.



Goldenrod gall (Don Drife)

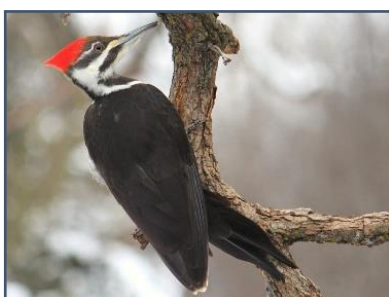
The group met near the Orion Oaks Dog Park and was greeted by Oakland County Parks naturalists Benjamin Prowse and Matt Hackett. Orion Oaks is a large and diverse recreation area with a 90-acre lake, fields, forests, and wetlands. It is a popular place to walk, bike, fish, and more. The dog park is one of the most-visited canine playgrounds in the county.

Participants filled out their CBC paperwork before setting out. The morning was chilly, with an air temperature of 15° F and wind speeds of 17 mph or more. Everyone dressed to stay warm. Recent warm weather and rain, followed by freezing, had created a layer of ice over the trails and the fallen snow. The group proceeded cautiously onto the park trails.



Benjamin led the group west onto the trails, with occasional stops to scan the tree trunks and branches for bird activity. However, there was little movement in the trees. Between the high winds and our being bundled up with hats, scarves, and hoods, it was difficult to hear any birds. Along the wooded trail, we encountered some American Robins foraging on the forest floor and Black-Capped Chickadees and White-Breasted Nuthatches moving in the trees.

Farther down the trail, Ring-Billed Gulls circled overhead, and American Crows cawed.



Above: Dark-Eyed Junco (Christopher Wood); Below: Pileated Woodpecker (T.J. Schnoebelen)

Otherwise, there was little bird activity. Benjamin guided everyone to an access point along the trail to see Lake Sixteen. Along the way, Benjamin and Matt pointed out some deer, squirrel, and rabbit tracks in the snow. They also talked about Goldenrod and Oak Galls. Galls are unique structures that house insects and larvae, which can serve as a vital source of protein for birds. The group was able to find several galls along the trail.

When the group arrived at the Lake Sixteen access point, everyone opted not to walk to the lake. The lake was completely frozen, offering no chance of seeing ducks. The group paused for a photo at a bench nearby, then followed Benjamin across an open field to return to the dog park. Everyone looked up in search of raptors, but only clouds drifted in the sky.

The group found evidence of a bird kill. A scattering of dark feathers mixed with bright white tail feathers suggested that a Dark-Eyed Junco had been preyed upon. We saw a Cooper's Hawk patrolling the park: the probable hunter.

As we made our way back across an open field, birds were mostly inactive. However, once we arrived at the edge of the lowland forest, a Pileated Woodpecker suddenly appeared, flitting among the trees. Everyone stopped. The woodpecker moved in and out of sight as it circled to the rear of the tree. We also heard a Red-Bellied Woodpecker nearby. The location was ideal habitat for woodpeckers, with its tree snags and larger hardwood trees.



The small but hardy group on the trails (Kathleen Dougherty)

Young Birders Club

FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continued



At the entrance to nearby Camp Agawam
(Kathleen Dougherty)

As the group headed back to the parking lot, we saw a few more species along the trail; however, the total number of species observed was low, numbering only 11. The group gathered for snacks and drinks in the parking lot before departing. We thanked Benjamin and Matt for their time and expertise, and Kathleen thanked everyone for their participation and invited them to the CBC gathering at the end of the day.

Additional checklists for the CBC for Area #9 recorded 27 species. A final total of 56 species were reported for the entire CBC area.

January 17, 2026 — Winter Walk: Exploring Corvids at the Environmental Interpretive Center

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

A group of Oakland Owlets, together with family members and friends, enjoyed a special program at [Environmental Interpretive Center](#) (EIC) at the University of Michigan's Dearborn campus on this cold and snowy day. Dorothy McLeer, Interpretive Naturalist and Professor at the University, greeted our group. We gathered in a quiet room looking out at the Center's bird feeding station. It was a wonderful place to view birds outside the windows and, within a brief time, we accumulated a substantial checklist of birds totaling 15 species.

While the Wild Turkeys grabbed everyone's attention, Dark-Eyed Juncos foraged on the ground nearby and birds continued to stream in and out of the feeders. Everyone was surprised to see several Red-Winged Blackbirds who had forgotten to migrate. Bright red male Northern Cardinals added color to the monochromatic landscape. Good views of American Goldfinches showed some hints of



Above left: A view of EIC from outside; *Below left:* A view of the feeding stations from inside EIC; *Right:* EIC's collection of hand-carved Michigan birds



Dorothy in character as Dr. Star Kraven-Madd

yellow, with both males and females sporting their camouflage winter plumage. The male Wild Turkeys strutted under the feeders swinging their beards back and forth, making the experience extra memorable.

The EIC also featured several exhibits highlighting the importance of the Rouge River Watershed. The EIC is also home to the Rouge River Bird Observatory, which was established in 1992 to study the use of fragmented natural areas by birds in an urban setting. The Center has an extensive display of hand-carved birds representing the avian species in the area. Dorothy provided details about the creators of the carvings and mentioned that the interpretive displays will be updated soon. This project is being undertaken by the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.



Dorothy pointing out tracks in the snow

The group then moved into one of the classrooms to learn about the members of the Corvidae family in Michigan. Dorothy got into character as Dr. Star Kraven-Madd, a persona she's created for her discussions of the traits and unique adaptations of crows, ravens, and jays. The presentation was funny, factual, and an unquestionably unique way to understand these fascinating birds that serve many ecological roles and adapt to an ever-changing environment. Everyone learned how to distinguish crows from ravens and how these birds associate with predators such as coyotes and wolves.



Above: Wild Turkeys at the feeding station; Right: Wild Turkey tracks



After being indoors long enough for the temperature to climb into the double digits, the group then moved to the outdoor classroom. The morning snowfall had stopped, and we wandered onto the trails in the natural area adjacent to the EIC. This 120-acre space serves as a living laboratory for environmental study. The main branch of the Rouge River is its western boundary though, unfortunately, the river was almost completely frozen.

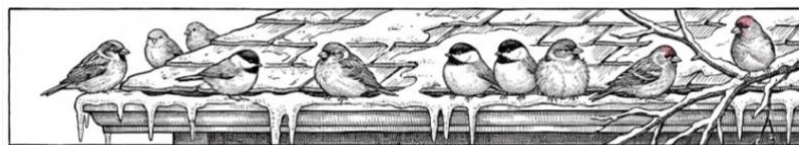


Gathered by "From Acorn to Oak," EIC's first mural of 2026, by Indigenous artist Jamie John

Photo credits: Kathleen Dougherty

As we entered the forested habitat, we saw and heard two woodpeckers that had visited the feeding station: the Downy and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers. We also saw evidence of Wild Turkeys from the footprints they had left in the snow. Dorothy guided the group along the trail to the Rouge River, sharing some history of the property. In addition to the birds at the feeding station, we saw a soaring Red-Tailed Hawk and a Carolina Wren. There were many other tracks and signs of animals along the trails. It was nice to get outdoors to appreciate nature and birds.

Dorothy invited everyone back to the EIC for their Maple Sugaring Program, and everyone thanked her for sharing her expertise with the group. The checklist for this program totaled 17 species of birds and is available upon request.



BIRD QUIZ ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

- Swainson's Thrush:** Olive-backed thrush in our region with heavy breast spotting. Has the boldest face pattern of the thrushes in our area, prominent buffy spectacles, and buffy facial area.
- Gray-Cheeked Thrush:** Heavily spotted breast with drab gray-brown upper side and grayish facial area with partial pale eye ring.
- Hermit Thrush:** Relatively heavily spotted breast, gray-brown above with contrasting reddish tail (the most easily identifiable among these birds). Complete white eye ring; flanks and undertail coverts are buffy in our area; buffy tips on greater coverts.

How did you do with the IDs of these birds? Keep score throughout the year to see how you do!

Young Birders Club

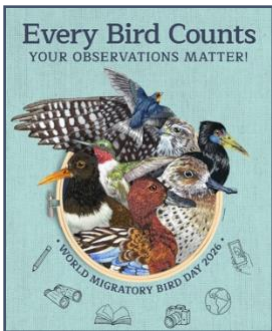
Field Trip Details – April to June

Earth Walk — April 18 (Saturday), 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM Indian Springs Metropark, White Lake

Celebrate Earth Day and birding with a morning hike at Indian Springs Metropark. Indian Springs is at the headwaters of the Huron River, and the park has several bird-friendly habitats and an eBird checklist of 198 species. Early spring ephemerals like Trout Lily and Hepatica may be seen during the walk. Explore this park to see some early-arrival summer residents, including Eastern Meadowlark, Swallows, and more. The group will also visit the Environmental Discovery Center. Park entry fees apply.



Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day — May 9 (Saturday), 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM Belle Isle Banding Station, Detroit



Witness bird banding at Belle Isle's Banding Station (weather permitting) during this year's spring World Migratory Bird Day. This year's theme is "Every Bird Counts—Your Observations Matter," which spotlights the importance of eBird and other community science projects. Allen Chartier, veteran bird bander, lifetime OBA member, and co-author of the [ABA Birdfinding Guide: A Birder's Guide to Michigan](#), may be banding birds at the Belle Isle Banding Station. Allen's work provides critical information about bird migration and bird populations. This is a wonderful chance to see birds closely and learn about bird banding. Plan to take a short hike and visit the Belle Isle Nature Center if time permits. A recreation passport is required for park entry.

Kirtland's Warbler Tour — June 6 (Saturday), 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Huron-Manistee National Forest, Roscommon

Journey to northern Michigan to see Michigan's famous Kirtland's Warbler (KW), which nests almost exclusively in the Jack Pine forest in northern Michigan. Once endangered, its comeback is a remarkable conservation success story. Many organizations, including the U.S. Forest Service, have partnered for more than 50 years to increase the KW population. Removed from the federal endangered species list in 2019, the KW remains a conservation-dependent species. Visit the nesting grounds of the KW with U.S. Forest biologist Dana Meder to see the KW and other resident birds. Plan to stay afterwards for the Kirtland's Warbler Festival in Roscommon, Michigan's first Bird City. A list of lodging options will be available in advance for interested tour participants.



Red, White, and Bluebird Walk — June 14 (Sunday), 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bear Creek Nature Park, Oakland Township



Celebrate the birds that display the colors of the American flag with a Flag Day morning hike. Bear Creek Nature Park, a 107-acre natural area, offers easily accessible trails and a variety of habitats. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation staff maintain nest boxes at the park for cavity-nesting birds like Eastern Bluebirds, and the natural resource stewardship team also manages the natural areas. The park has an extensive grassland habitat, along with hardwood forests, wetlands, and ponds—and a bird checklist featuring 152 species observed thus far. Plan to hike and view birds. There is no park entry fee.

Photo credits: *Above:* Eastern Meadowlark; *Center:* Kirtland's Warbler; *Below:* Eastern Bluebird (OBA photo gallery)
World Migratory Bird Day 2026 art by [Luisa Lacerda](#)

Bird Briefs (Items to look at online)

from Don Burlett

Silly Bird-and-Word Quiz: A fun online challenge



Original artwork by Elaine Chuang

Instead of providing articles on avian topics, I decided to pass along a bird-and-word quiz that I found amongst my emails. This quiz was created by Elaine Chuang of Seattle, which she sent to some friends. The idea was based on the well-known children's book [Elf on a Shelf](#). The quiz uses pictures and challenges you to figure out the bird-and-word combination. You can find the quiz [here](#) and the answers [here](#). Have fun and enjoy!



Spring Bluebird Festival: March 28th in Ann Arbor

by Kurt Hagemester



Eastern Bluebirds (Michigan Bluebird Society)

The Michigan Bluebird Society is pleased to announce its annual Spring Bluebird Festival on Saturday, March 28th at the Washtenaw Community College's [Morris Lawrence Building](#). This all-day, free educational event will include programs on bluebirds and other bird topics, a Bluebird & Nature Expo featuring products such as nest boxes for sale, as well as nature and environmental exhibits, kids' activities, and much more. The keynote program "Enjoying Bluebirds More," will be presented by Julie Zickefoose, a nationally known naturalist, author, wildlife artist, and blogger. Ms. Zickefoose has written about bluebirds for many years with *BWD Magazine* (formerly *Bird Watcher's Digest*) and attracts many bluebirds and other native birds to her property in southern Ohio.

To obtain more information on the event, visit the event page at www.michiganbluebirds.org/springfestival. No registration is required, but optional box lunches must be ordered in advance from the page.

About the Eastern Bluebird

The Eastern Bluebird used to be more common across Michigan. However, habitat loss, the introduction of farming chemicals, and competition from non-native species caused their numbers to plummet dramatically in the early to mid-20th century. Fortunately, conservation efforts starting in the 1960's have helped bring the bluebird back to most parts of the state. The placement of large numbers of nest boxes in open habitats is one of the key actions that has contributed to their comeback. Today, bluebirds are known to nest in all 83 counties in Michigan.

The Eastern Bluebird prefers open, grassy habitats and naturally nests in hollow tree cavities. Nest boxes offer bluebirds nesting alternatives to tree cavities, which they have a difficult time finding. In southern Michigan, nest boxes should be put up by early March, when the birds are starting to establish nesting territories. Bluebirds will actively nest from April into September and can have two to three broods of young. They are widespread throughout Washtenaw County, but are usually not seen in the dense, urban parts of Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti.

The Michigan Bluebird Society's main purpose is to educate the public about how they can help these beautiful native birds and to help initiate projects that increase bluebird nesting habitats in Michigan.



Eastern Bluebird nestlings, approximately 12 to 14 days old (Michigan Bluebird Society)

Kurt Hagemester is Past President and Co-Founder of the Michigan Bluebird Society, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to education and conservation of bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds. He has been a bluebird landlord for over 27 years, authored articles, and presented programs on bluebirds across the state.

Oakland Bird Alliance Around Town: Winter 2026

Adapted from oakgov.com and a [press release](#) by Michigan Audubon

Oakland County Designated as First Bird City Michigan Community of 2026



Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commissioners and staff, Oakland County Planning staff, and OBA's own Don Burlett and Kathleen Dougherty celebrate the Bird City designation (*Photo credit: Linda Smith, Michigan Audubon*).

Michigan Audubon recently designated Oakland County as the first Bird City Michigan community of natural resources 2026. By focusing on habitat, threats, public engagement, and sustainability, the county is restoring much of its 7,000 acres of parkland into a sanctuary for the health and well-being of its 1.3 million residents.

Oakland County and OBA collaborate on annual projects that residents can get involved in. From hosting World Migratory Bird Day at Red Oaks Nature Center to managing the Christmas Bird Count at Orion Oaks County Park, the OBA provides the “how-to” for residents to move from enthusiasts to advocates. Because of the significant impact OBA volunteers have on bird conservation and community connections, Michigan Audubon awarded OBA the inaugural Chapter of the Year award in September 2025.

”The power of the Bird City Michigan designation lies in the fact that it’s not just about government action; it’s about residents taking ownership of their local environment,” says George Harris, OBA President. “We urge everyone to connect with their local Audubon chapter or other conservation organization. Together, we can turn a passion for birds into county-wide policy.”



Volunteer with the Oakland Bird Alliance

Apprentices for Climate Watch Squares

Oakland Bird Alliance conducts semiannual surveys as part of the National Audubon Climate Watch project. Each individual surveys a 10 km X 10 km square, with 12 locations within the square. The surveys occur between January 15th and February 15th in the winter and May 15th and June 15th in the summer. The surveys focus on the White-Breasted Nuthatch but also collect data on all species observed. These surveys take 3 to 4 hours each time. We are looking for individuals who would like to learn the ropes and possibly take over existing squares or begin new squares as part of this project. Contact Kathleen Dougherty or Don Burlett if you are interested.

Volunteers for Outreach Activities

Each year, Oakland Bird Alliance attends a variety of events, including the Clinton River Water Festival, Hawkfest, and Earth Day events where we table a booth, offer presentations, or both. Typically, at least one board member is in attendance; however, without volunteers to help with the tables and display, we get stretched beyond our capabilities. We are looking for members and any individuals willing to dedicate part or all of a day to help man our table at these events. As Outreach events get scheduled, we will contact volunteers to make sure we can do the events. Please contact George Harris or Kathleen Dougherty if you are willing to help at outreach events.

OBA Web Coordinator

Do you love birds and websites? We're looking for a Volunteer Web Coordinator to help keep the Oakland Bird Alliance's online nest looking sharp and welcoming! This is an appointed board position, which means you'll get a front-row seat to the behind-the-scenes magic that keeps our bird-loving community soaring. You'll also have a real voice in shaping how we connect with members, partners, and the public through our website.

What you'll do:

- Update and polish our website using a drag-and-drop platform (like Wix or WordPress).
- Keep events, news, and programs fresh and up to date.
- Collaborate with our small but mighty team to make sure our online presence reflects our mission and joy for birds!

What we're looking for:

- Experience with website editing tools (Wix, WordPress, or similar).
- A creative eye and an enthusiasm for communicating with style.
- Someone who can commit about **5 hours a month** and attend **monthly board meetings (virtual options available)**.

What's in it for you:

- A chance to make a tangible impact on local bird conservation and community engagement.
- Connect with a passionate, friendly flock of fellow bird enthusiasts.
- Get an insider's look at how a nonprofit organization runs—and help it take flight!

Interested? Send us a note at admin@oaklandbirdalliance.org telling us a bit about your background and why you'd like to join the team. Let's make our website sing! 🐦🎵

by Katri Studtmann

Dark Skies for Migrating Birds

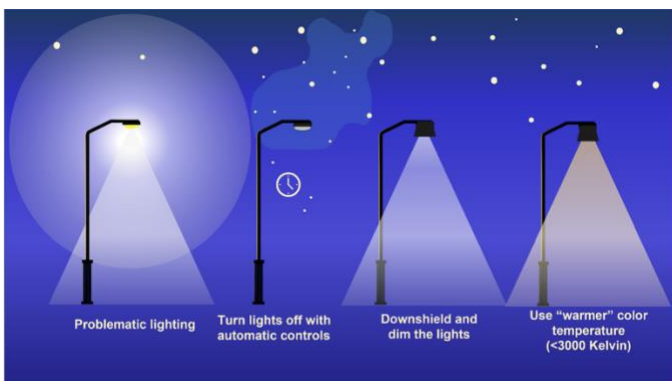
Spring migration season is a highly anticipated and exciting time for many birders as winter starts to dwindle in Michigan. The Great Lakes is an important migration corridor and, during peak migration, millions of birds travel through the region.

Migrating birds face many threats during migration, but one threat that can be particularly problematic is light pollution. Light pollution consists of artificial light used by humans to illuminate buildings, yards, parking lots, and other spaces during the night.

Light pollution is problematic for migrating birds because over 80% migrate at night. Migrants can become disoriented by artificial lights, causing fatalities due to increased window strikes, exhaustion from circling lit structures, and increased risk of predation.

Migration is a taxing feat for birds, so wasting precious energy being disoriented by light pollution is a huge problem for them. Luckily, light pollution is an easily combatable problem and is something everyone can help minimize.

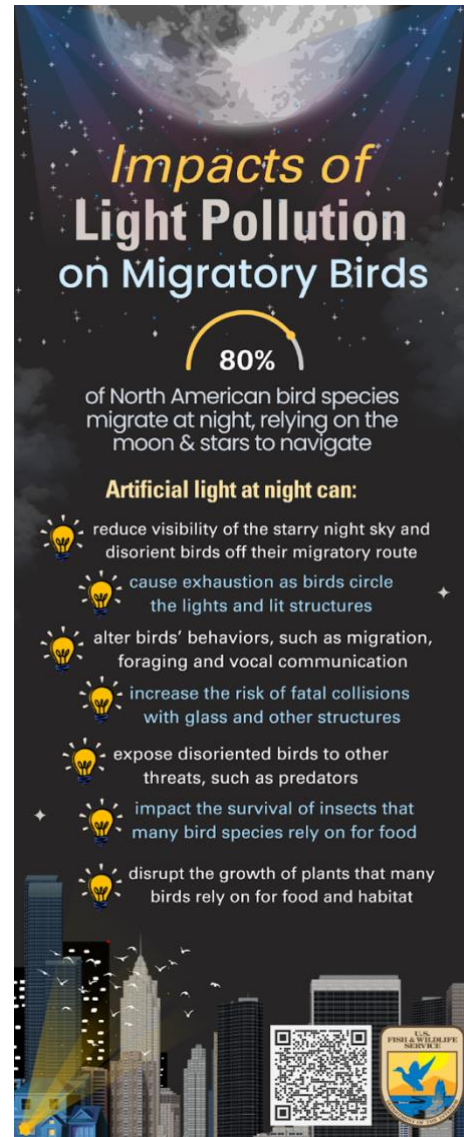
Although light is sometimes needed, it often does not need to be kept on all the time—or can be minimized. During peak spring migration (March 15th–May 31st) and fall migration (August 15th–October 31st), Safe Passage Great Lakes encourages homeowners and businesses to shade or turn out lights between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM (or dawn). These hours are when migrating birds are most susceptible to the effects of light pollution. However, if you live near a [body of water](#), turning off your lights at night is a good practice year-round.



[Diagram](#) by United Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The easiest action to combat light pollution is to turn off lights when they are no longer needed or consider putting lights on a motion-sensor timer. Many artificial lights shine up into the sky, though what usually needs to be illuminated is the ground.

By downshielding exterior lighting or putting a shade on the light, you can concentrate the light where it is most needed. Some other actions you can take at your home include: turning off exterior decorative lights, extinguishing floodlights, pulling blinds down at night if lights are on indoors, and using warmer light colors (blue light is especially harmful to birds, wildlife, and humans!).



[Infographic](#) by Rosalie Wetzel, United Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Additionally, if you want to get further involved, you can talk to other people in your community to encourage them to turn off their lights during migration season. Many local businesses, schools, and government offices keep their lights

on all the time, and writing to these establishments can sometimes help to educate their team members and reduce light pollution! The Audubon Society has great prompts for writing to both Elected Officials and Building Managers. Communities can also pledge to participate in programs such as the National Audubon [Lights Out Program](#) and Michigan Audubon's [Safe Passage Great Lakes](#).

- [National Audubon Lights Out Program](#): A nationwide effort to make buildings safer for birds
- [Safe Passage Great Lakes](#): A regional initiative for migratory birds
- [Responsible Home Outdoor Lighting](#): Practical advice for homeowners from DarkSky
- [BirdCast](#): Migration forecasts, alerts, and live maps

If you would like to learn more about light pollution, the following resources are all great sources of information:

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGES



Welcome, New Members!

April Campbell, Ellen Greenlee, Tori Guido, Misty Gunn,
Mike Kelliher, Kathleen Klein, Amanda Kristofik, and Patrick Morgan

The 2026 Membership Drive is underway. You can renew in one of two ways:

- 1) Use the “*Renew OBA Membership*” link on the Membership tab on our website (<http://www.oaklandbirdalliance.org>), to pay online using [PayPal](#) or
- 2) Mail a check along with a membership form (Page 20)

Mail renewal forms to:

Oakland Bird Alliance
c/o Robert Moll
PO Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

To check the status of your membership or if you have questions, contact OBA Membership Officer Robert Moll at: membership@oaklandbirdalliance.org.

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

Oakland Bird Alliance Online Store

We have an online store!

Your generous support helps us offer field trips, organize monthly programs, engage young birders, and support bird conservation.

Thank you!



Contact Karen Kessler
at Karenmk@live.com
with questions or
feedback.



2026 Spring Bluebird Festival

The Michigan Bluebird Society invites you to attend its **FREE** 2026 Spring Bluebird Festival at the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, in Ann Arbor, on **Saturday, March 28th, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**. Enjoy a day of bluebird-related exhibits, supplies, and speakers.

For more information, visit:

www.michiganbluebirds.org/springfestival

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 22, 2026

President: Volunteer hours for the annual report to National Audubon must be updated by the end of the month. Information about Michigan Audubon Advocacy Day in Lansing on March 11th will be sent to members.

Treasurer: See Page 19 for a detailed financial report. Extra expenses in 2025 included binoculars, publicity banners, and program fees.

Membership Officer: Numbers are slightly down, with 68 members with a 2026 effective date; however, the year has opened with 18 new memberships.

Program Officer: Programs are scheduled through January 2027, and planning for the rest of 2027 is in progress.

Newsletter Editor: Materials for the Spring *Nuthatch* are due on February 2nd.

Social Media Administrator: OBA's Instagram account is live; need additional photos to post, as these generate interest.

Website Editor: There were 551 site visits in the previous 30 days from 352 unique visitors. George will post upcoming field trips and meetings until the position is filled.

Field Trip Officer: Field trips are going well; volunteer leaders are wanted for future trips.

Seven Ponds Representative: New budget approval is scheduled for the next board meeting. Membership has decreased since COVID; renewal reminders are being sent. The Holiday Auction generated \$18,000. Upcoming programs are listed on the website.

Publicity/Fundraising: Project SNOWstorm was well attended. There is a \$19.48 pending disbursement from the online store. OBA now has stickers and business cards; a quote is pending on converting the logo into an embroidery file.

Hospitality: The Christmas Bird Count and afterparty went well.

Young Birders Club Coordinator: It would be useful to create a foldout display of backyard birds for events. Kathleen shared a call for volunteers for the Migratory Bird Day event at Red Oaks on May 9th.

Old/New Business: Renewal with the City of Auburn Hills is ongoing. OBA will collaborate with the city on five in-person programs in 2026.

George shared the 2026 tabling events and monthly volunteer hours spreadsheets and encouraged the Board to fill these out regularly.

Robert shared a request for volunteers at the Tawas bird festival.

The next board meeting will be held on March 19th.

Highlights are compiled by the Newsletter Editor from meeting minutes submitted by Secretary Gavin Awerbuch.

How Birding Brought One Michigan Chapter Leader to 48 Countries

Excerpted from the [Audubon Great Lakes blog](#)



Don celebrating Bird 6000 in China (Don Burlett)

Little did Don Burlett know that a sports injury would introduce him to birding, an interest that would take him to all seven continents, connect him with people around the world and lead him to serving as president of the Oakland Bird Alliance in southeastern Michigan for 18 years.

As a young boy Burlett was fascinated by rocks, constellations, planets and even insects. It was after sustaining an injury playing volleyball that he was forced to slow down and his passion for birding took flight. One day during his recovery, he watched ducks gather on a body of water that was thawing from the warmth of a nearby powerplant near Cleveland. He used his Peterson's Field Guide to note the species he was seeing and how they behaved.

This interest in how birds behave is connected to his training as a scientist. Burlett has a PhD in organic chemistry and, for him, seeing a new bird is a small act of discovery.

He honed his bird identification skills with a member of the Greater Akron Audubon Society. As he tracked his sightings he began to travel across the US to spot rarer birds. Today, he's birded on all seven continents, in forty-eight countries, in all fifty of the United States, and in most provinces of Canada.

View the [entire post](#) to discover how Don prepares for his travels, tracks his species counts, and Don's engagement with the community through birding.

OAKLAND BIRD ALLIANCE FINANCIAL STATEMENT (unaudited)
January – December 2025

	ACTUALS
Bank Balance as of 12/31/2025	\$28,711.08
PayPal Balance as of 12/31/2025	\$1,825.16
Cash on Hand	\$30,536.24
CASH BASIS	
INCOME	
Membership dues	\$3,155
Donations received	\$2,841
Merchandise sales	\$781
YBC donations (Nuthatch Open)	\$75
National Audubon	\$935
MI Audubon Award	\$500
INCOME TOTAL	\$8,287
EXPENSES	
Bank charges	\$36
Charitable contributions	\$1,600
Hospitality	\$50
Insurance	\$1,449
Mail fees and postage	\$192
Michigan Corporation fee	\$30
PayPal fees	\$85
<i>Nuthatch</i> costs	\$165
Merchandise costs	\$246
Programs and field trips	\$2,165 (includes binocular purchase for outreach)
Publicity	\$768 (includes new banner and table cover for events)
Rent	\$300
Website and PayPal link	\$436
Young Birders Club	\$312
Zoom	\$204
Grant expenditures	\$1,068 (grant received in 2024)
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$9,106
SHORTFALL	\$(819)



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Make checks payable to:

OAKLAND BIRD ALLIANCE
 C/O MEMBERSHIP
 PO BOX 796
 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48012-0796

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State / Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Please indicate with an (X) any personal information you do not want listed in our membership directory.

Check Appropriate Line:

- ___ Member renewal
- ___ New member
- ___ Change of address

Are you a member of:

- ___ Michigan Audubon
- ___ National Audubon

Membership Fees:

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

OBA welcomes volunteers — please join us if you can! *Check below if you have the skills to help.*

- ___ Become a board member (position: _____)
- ___ Lead a field trip or present a program
- ___ Outreach at community events
- ___ Other _____

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