

THE NUTHATCH

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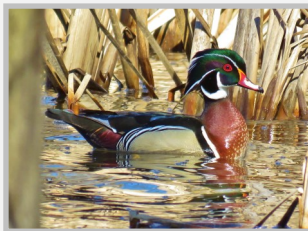
Follow us on 

“Wildlife at Duck Pond”

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

Rob Weir

Join us for a presentation by local birder and photographer Rob Weir. Rob will share some of his beautiful wildlife photography taken at a small pond in Washington Twp.



Inside This Issue

“Birding with Chinggis Khaan”

Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Don Burlett

Birding in Mongolia covers a range of habitats including steppe, taiga and desert. Birding within Mongolia also includes understanding the vast historical and cultural habitat that Mongolia has. This presentation will cover all these aspects of Mongolia and some very exciting adventures. And, of course, there will be plenty of birds to enjoy.



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“Woodpeckers of Michigan”

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Kautz

Woodpeckers are truly fascinating birds. To find a mate and claim territory, they use rapid drumming as an alternative to birdsong. Their ability to excavate wood for food, shelter, and nesting is also quite unique in the bird world. Tonight we will take a look at the nine species of woodpeckers found in Michigan, and the amazing adaptations that help set them apart.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fall 2019

You may ask yourself...how does he write these columns every newsletter? Endless inspiration? Dogged determination? Maybe sheer idiocy! Well, it really depends on when I write and what has happened recently. So, endless inspiration may be the correct answer.

This time it comes from my attendance at the National Audubon convention in Milwaukee in July. What a meeting. 600 enthusiastic folks from all over the country, all types of backgrounds, ethnicities, wow...what a time. I was really inspired by all the enthusiasm and the dedication to the cause of protecting the world for our birds. As they say, save the birds and the world will be saved also. I attended many sessions run by volunteers that were hoping to invigorate our advocacy work, make our chapters stronger, encourage us to get everyone involved – young, old, races, background, the whole group.

Well, I was inspired but also confused. As it turns out, there were many suggestions or strong recommendations that I considered and discussed with others. I was torn about which way to go. A conversation with one gentlemen gave me an opportunity to understand that one formula does not fit for everyone. We do what we have to in order to keep our organizations vital and active. So, we will take some of the lessons I learned and work toward our version of implementation. Also, we are busy with a bunch of initiatives that we will tell you about soon. So watch for opportunities to be part of an active Audubon organization.

On another note, to help me stay inspired, I wanted to make a request of you, the readers and members. Please write to me and give me your questions that you would like answered. I hope to get enough questions to fill my next column. You can ask about our plans, why we are doing some things we are doing, anything pertaining to Oakland Audubon. I really hope you are paying attention and enjoying what we are doing. That said, I can only answer questions given to me. So, step up and do your part for the next column.

I'll miss the September meeting (traveling to Colombia in my birding quest) but will return with a vengeance in October. So, I will see you then. Keep birding and keep fighting for our birds.

Don Burlett

Please Note!

The room location for the monthly membership meeting in the church has changed. We will now be meeting in the children's room - Room 132.

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikalteal13@netzero.net
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
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Think about
entering the
Nuthatch Open
SEE PAGE 21

Fill those feeders!

Cover page banner photo of the Shiawassee Basin - Mike Dougherty

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org)

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
September 7, 2019 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Drayton Plains Nature Center Meet at Nature Center parking lot.	Kathleen Dougherty
September 8, 2019 (Sunday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Kensington Metropark See website for details.	Dan Gertiser
September 18, 2019 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Red Oaks County Park Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Oakland County Parks annual or daily pass required.	Don Burlett
September 21, 2019 (Saturday) 12:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Nuthatch Open See website for entry form and details	Don Burlett
October 2, 2019 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Bear Creek Park Meet in parking lot See website for details.	Don Burlett
October 5, 2019 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	EIC @ UM Dearborn Meet at the Environmental Interpretive Center See website for details	Kathleen Dougherty
October 12, 2019 (Saturday) See website for times	Lake Erie Metropark Meet at Marshland Museum Metroparks daily or annual pass required	Mike Mencotti
October 16, 2019 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Marshbank Park Meet in parking lot by lake See website for details.	Jim Koppin
October 30, 2019 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Crosswinds Marsh Meet in parking lot See website for details.	Jim Koppin

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org)

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
<p style="text-align: center;">November 2, 2019 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Birding and Project Feederwatch Meet at the Clinton River Watershed Council lot 1115 Avon Rd., Rochester See website for details</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November 3, 2019 (Sunday) See website for times</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sarnia and Points North See website for details.</p>	<p>Dave Frye Jim Koppin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November 13, 2019 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Stony Creek Metropark Meet in parking lot at Eastwood Beach See website for details. Metroparks daily or annual pass required</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November 15-17, 2019 (Friday-Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">West Michigan Grand Haven and Holland See website for details and hotel information.</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>



Field Trip Reports

June 8, 2019 – Lapeer State Game Area

Leader: David Frye

One of spring's sweetest mornings greeted thirteen attendees at the Lapeer State Game Area. It was truly a pleasure to be out on the trails on such a morning (where else would you have rather been?). Once again, the group had the good fortune to be joined by birder and local historian, Lee Western, who added so much to the trip and served as our "local guide". The group visited four different locales within the eastern units of the SGA.

The highlight of the trip was an abundance of Cerulean Warblers singing. These elusive birds normally perch at the very tops of tall trees and are happy to stay where they are and not bounce around much--hence they are difficult to find. The group did manage to latch onto one who afforded us prolonged views of its tummy and vent. Other notables were Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, Pileated Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager, and Hooded Warbler and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (both of which were heard singing).



Photo credit: Mike Dougherty

July 13, 2019 – Waterloo SRA

Leader: David Frye

Beautiful summer weather afforded 14 participants a chance to see several different areas within the Waterloo State Recreation Area in Washtenaw County. The group got off to a very good start, logging 25 species before leaving the Eddy Discovery Center parking lot! One specific dead tree was so busy that the group joked about the birds having to get advance reservations for their favorite perch. Overall, the group identified 38 species during the field trip. Highlights included Brown Thrasher, Acadian Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, and a Wood Thrush feeding its fledgling.



Photo credit: David Frye

Field Trip Reports (continued)

July 20, 2019 – Oakland Owlets - Indian Springs Metropark
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Audubon Society's Young Birders' Club, the Oakland Owlets, visited Indian Springs Metropark on Saturday, July 20. It was a beautiful warm morning. A group of 13 young birders, family and friends meandered along the trails near the Environmental Discovery Center. The adventure began when one of the leaders who had arrived early found a Henslow's Sparrow nearby. The Henslow's Sparrow is a state endangered bird.

Everyone was eager to see and hear this rare bird, so the group trekked off course to locate it. The Henslow's Sparrow was elusive, but the group was entertained by families of Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels popping in and out of their underground abodes around the playground. One keen-eyed young birder spotted an Eastern Garter Snake in dogwood shrubs taking advantage of the above-ground breeze along with access to flying insect treats. While we watched, the snake was motionless and ignored the attention.



Birding along the way, the group wandered back to the Environmental Discovery Center and directed its attention to dragonflies and swallows which were abundant there. The pond near the EDC is a place where dragonflies and swallows hunt. The structure and orientation of the EDC is ideal for swallows to nest. Barn Swallows and Cliff Swallows take advantage of the overhangs and ledges on the building to construct their mud houses. In July, these nests still have fledglings and are

the focus of swallow family life. In a short time, the group was able to see five different species of Swallows.

Down the trail, the activity level decreased. Many prairie flowers were blooming. Most notable were the Compass Plants. The flower stems tower above the rest of the vegetation. These tall stems provided perfect places for birds to survey the landscape. A family of five Eastern Kingbirds flew together while hunting from tall perches like these. It is difficult to outwardly distinguish the young birds from their parents, but the offspring could be seen begging from the adults.

Thirty-five species of birds were reported to eBird, not including the Henslow's Sparrow which was only seen by a few people. The weather was sunny and warm; by the end of the hike it was hot.



Field Trip Reports (continued)

As the sun rose higher in the sky, dragonflies and butterflies were more active. The group encountered a few dragonflies along the prairie pathways. Although dragonflies were not numerous, a couple of colorful species were observed including the Halloween Pennant and Blue Dasher. Overall it was wonderful day to be outdoors.



Nature Writer and photographer Jonathan Schechter joined the hike. If you are not a regular reader of the *Wild Side of Oakland County*, a blog written by Jonathan Schechter, it is highly recommended for all outdoor enthusiasts. Here is a link to read about Jonathan's experiences from the hike. <https://oaklandcountyblog.com/2019/07/26/swallows-dragonflies-wildflowers-and-a-snake-an-oakland-audubon-adventure/>

Thanks to Nancy Tar and TJ Lang for their assistance with the hike and Jonathan Schechter for sharing his terrific photos.



Photo credits - Jonathan Schechter (wildlife) and the group photos by Kathleen Dougherty

Field Trip Reports (continued)

July 27, 2019 – Butterflies at Indian Springs

Leader: Doris Applebaum

On a bright, sunny, and just a bit breezy day, 10 participants gathered at Indian Springs Metropark to see what butterflies (and other aspects of nature) they could find. Some of these folks had not been on any OAS field trips before and some were accomplished photographers.

The list of butterfly species seen grew slowly as we traversed various walking paths, but with the addition of 3 species in the last 20 minutes or so, we ended up with 17. Added to that were 6 kinds of dragonflies identified (some others remained mysteries); some painted turtles and a likely Blanding's turtle, which was reluctant to show its diagnostic yellow throat; and some interesting birds like Indigo Bunting, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Cliff Swallow.

Our last stop was at the entrance to the Environmental Discovery Center, so that we could see the nests of a rather unusual colony of Cliff Swallows that had taken up residence at the EDC this year. One of the swallows peeked out of a nest, giving our photographers the chance to take some excellent photos.

Butterflies identified: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Banded Hairstreak, Summer Azure, Great Spangled Fritillary, Eastern Comma, Red Admiral, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy, Appalachian Brown, Little Wood-Satyr, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch (and one large caterpillar), Wild Indigo Duskywing, Northern Broken-Dash, Delaware Skipper, and Dion Skipper (best guess, based on a photo taken by one of the photographers; I wouldn't bet my life on this ID).

Dragonflies identified: Common Whitetail, Widow Skimmer, Black Saddlebags, Halloween Pennant, Calico Pennant, and Eastern Pondhawk.

Of course, butterflies don't always sit still, and not all species were seen by everyone, but some—especially Great Spangled Fritillary and Red Admiral—were very cooperative and allowed for careful observation and good photo opportunities. All in all, it was a pleasant outing on a lovely summer day.

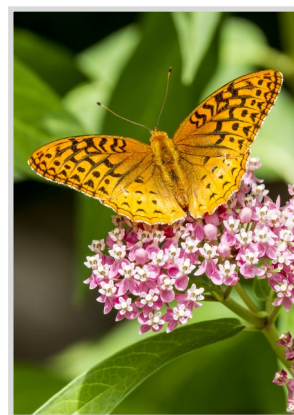
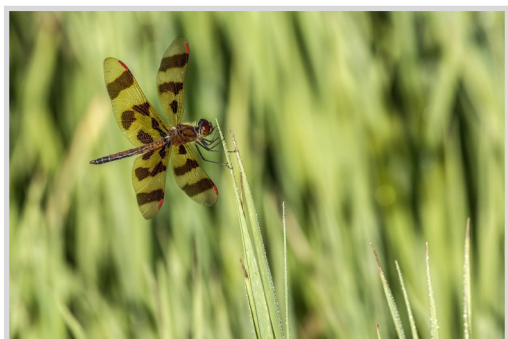
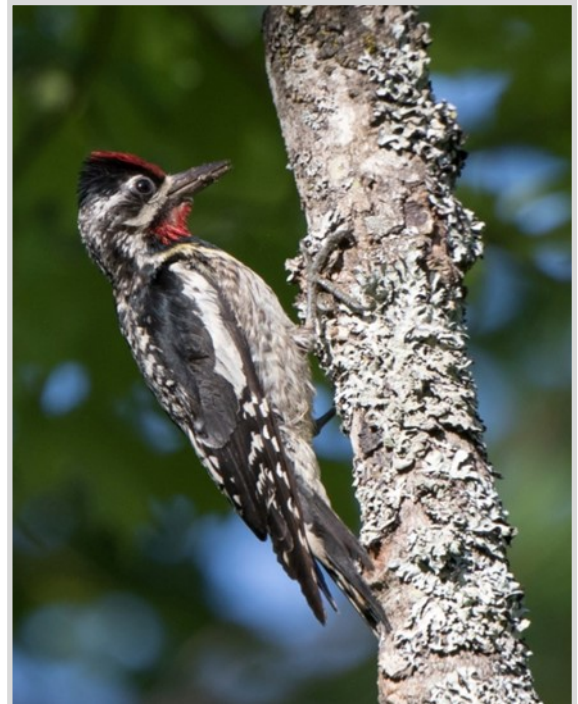


Photo credit: Mike Dougherty

Field Trip Reports - continued

August 2 - 4, 2019 – UP Boreal Chickadee Quest
Leaders: Don Burlett and Jeff Stacey

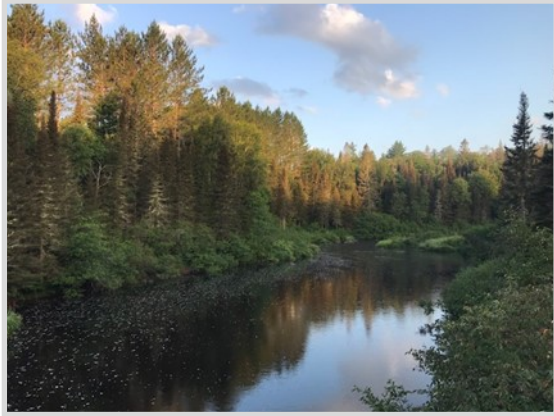
The quest for the Boreal Chickadee began on Friday morning as 8 intrepid explorers headed north. A quick stop at Hartwick Pines produced Evening Grosbeak, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, hummingbird, lots of Red-eyed Vireos and a couple of Scarlet Tanagers. We proceeded north with a stop at St. Ignace for pasties and then headed to Seney NWR. It was a bit quiet but a Common Loon with a youngster was calling, making it great fun. We also caught an American Bittern in the open hunting for lunch. We tried unsuccessfully to find a Black-backed Woodpecker that had been seen near Seney. A quick stop in AuTrain produced nothing, so we headed for the night in Marquette.



On Saturday, we were up early and headed to the McCormick Wilderness on the Huron Bay Grade/Peshekee Grade. We worked our way up the road and eventually found some bird activity near a small rain puddle beside the road. Right before we left, we heard the call of the chickadee and we were rewarded with great looks at two Boreal Chickadees. We also stumbled upon our first group of warblers. We did travel farther north and hiked a trail where more warblers and an Alder Flycatcher were calling. We returned to Marquette and visited the beautiful Echo Lake Nature Preserve. After lunch we headed back to Seney for another drive and another pair of loons with youngsters. It was great fun watching one of the youngsters pop his head into the water to watch mom and dad fishing. Surprisingly, we caught another American Bittern in the open hunting.



Field Trip Reports (continued)



After the night in Newberry, we headed directly to the Munuscong potholes to bird. Nearby, we found over 20 Bobolinks feeding and cavorting. We caught yet another American Bittern here, flying away from us.

In the end, we had 96 species, 13 of which were warblers, the Boreal Chickadee, the days with bitterns and a whole lot of fun.



Photo credits: Jeff Stacey – Grosbeak, Sapsucker, Chickadee and Bittern; Dan Gertiser – remainder of shots.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

August 18, 2019 – Pointe Mouillee SGA

Leader: David Frye and Jim Fowler

Mostly sunny skies and mid-70s weather greeted the 20-participant group as they drove onto the narrow dikes of Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. The group was ready for anything, as the wetland area normally delivers bird species not to be found anywhere else in the Midwest. The group was only disappointed by the fact that, as water levels were very high, there was an almost complete lack of habitat for shorebirds—which are a big feature for this area during other more normal August days. The group was treated to some very interesting sights, nonetheless.

At the top of the highlight list were two young American White Pelicans. On previous visits, our groups have observed adult pelicans, but these were fledglings - they were born and raised in Pointe Mouillee this summer. The group marveled at this evidence that we now have pelicans breeding in this wetland! Another highlight was a small mud flat upon which a King Rail was seen at the left-most edge, just having crept out of the tall grasses. Everyone in the group took up positions with their scopes and gear to get just the best angle for viewing, when the rail skittered across the flat to the opposite end. This caused a quick and awkward repositioning of everyone and their gear to another spot 40 yards to the left, at which time the rail simply walked off into the rushes, no longer to be seen.

Other highlights included 4 different sightings of Wilson's Snipes (most of any other shorebird there on that morning), a half dozen Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a pair of Sedge Wrens that the group waited out and were rewarded with very nice views, an Osprey having just caught a fish and orienting it face first in its talons, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Savannah Sparrow, and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Overall, the group tallied 56 species.

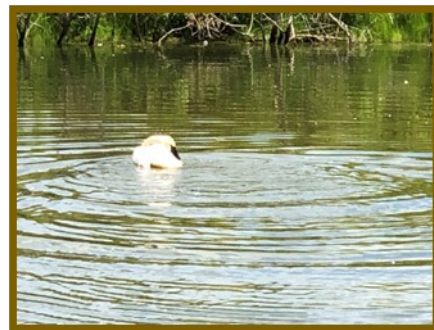
During the afterglow, a portion of the group visited the "Antenna Farm" on Haggerman Rd, hoping to see several reported rarities. Getting rather lucky rather quickly the group found Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, and Henlow's Sparrow, before heading home after what turned out to be a very good day, bagging 61 different bird species in all.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

August 17, 2019 – Oakland Owlets - Shiawassee Basin Preserve

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

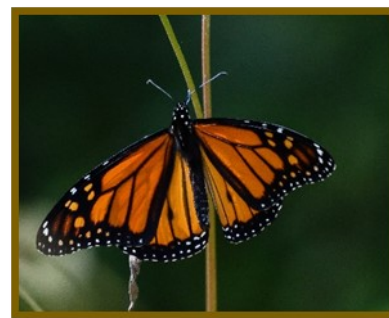
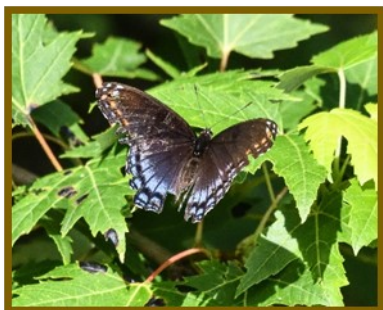
Butterflies and Birds were the target species of the August Oakland Owlets field trip on Saturday, August 17 to the Shiawassee Basin Preserve in Davisburg. The group was lucky to have two butterfly experts lead the hike. Doris Applebaum, Oakland Audubon Secretary, has been involved in numerous butterfly counts and leads a butterfly hike for members annually. Sue Greenlee, a property steward for Six Rivers Land Conservancy, has conducted a butterfly count for more than 15 years at the Golden Preserve. Sue is also an Orthoptera expert studying grasshoppers and their relatives in the Midwest as part of her post graduate degree. Doris and Sue were excellent guides and able to identify the insects the group encountered. Everyone enjoyed their knowledge and patience.



A group of 14 young birders, family and friends gathered to learn about butterfly biology and identification near the trail head. Sue Greenlee shared lots of information with participants and provided nets for catching and releasing insects. After a wonderful introduction to the hike, the group hit the trail. Within minutes of leaving the parking lot, we saw a pair of Trumpeter Swans in the open water on the pathway. Trumpeter Swans are the largest waterfowl species in North America. In the 1930s, these birds were near extinction, but conservation efforts have been successful and now their numbers are rebounding. These majestic birds are still uncommon.

The Shiawassee Basin Preserve is owned and managed by Springfield Township Parks and Recreation. The property encompasses 514 acres which includes one of Michigan's largest high-quality prairie fens. This wetland is globally significant and provides habitat for rare and endangered species like the Poweshiek Skipperling (a butterfly) and the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake. The group hiked along an upland trail and were able to view this protected habitat.

Ten species of butterflies and numerous individuals were seen on the hike including the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Pearl Crescent, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy, Northern Pearly-eye, Appalachian Brown, Monarch and Least Skipper. Doris and Sue shared facts and natural history information with the group as each butterfly was encountered. Doris mentioned that this is one of the best years for the Red-spotted Purple. Six individuals were seen along the pathway during the trail preview. Monarch caterpillars were also abundant.



Field Trip Reports (continued)

Sue caught and released several species of insects along the hike. The group was able to see tree crickets, field crickets, grasshoppers, katydids, bees, dragonflies, damselflies and more. Everyone was amazed to see these tiny creatures with the aid of magnifiers and hand lens. Insects have some intriguing stories like the temperature cricket. By counting the number of chirps the cricket makes in 15 seconds and then adding 40, this number is equivalent to the air temperature. Everyone had a better understanding of insects after the hike.

Although the primary focus of the hike was insect discovery, the group managed to record 26 bird species along the way. Turkey Vultures, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts soared overhead as we hiked. The complete bird checklist was reported to eBird. With so many keen eyes looking into the vegetation, there were other interesting sightings. A Gray Treefrog was spotted resting on a leaf near the trail. The amphibian posed long enough to several of the photographers in the group to capture its image. The scientific name of this small treefrog, *Hyla versicolor*, reveals its ability to camouflage itself on the substrate. This treefrog is also called the weather frog because it calls when there is an approaching low-pressure cell associated with impending rain. This frog was not calling, and the weather was warm and sunny for the hike.

A special thank you to Doris Applebaum and Sue Greenlee for sharing their expertise. In addition, thanks to Stevie for the wonderful frog and butterfly photos. The Shiawassee Basin is a great place to hike. Photo credits - Kathleen Dougherty and Stevie.



Oakland Owlets Learn All About Owls



The Oakland Audubon board recently approved that one membership meeting program per year be designated for young birders. Young Birders' Club membership meeting programs are selected to appeal to children but are of interest to all members and guests. These programs often feature live animals with age-appropriate information about local wildlife. The Young Birders' Club membership program is held at the June meeting close to the end of the school year, in hopes that young birders can attend an evening program during a school night. The Young Birders' Club membership meeting was started in 2018 and suggested as part of a plan to rejuvenate the Oakland Audubon Young Birders' Club. The 2018 program was about Birds of Prey and presented by the Howell Nature Center.

This year's Young Birders' Club program was **All About Owls** which is the moniker of the Young Birders' Club – the Oakland Owlets. Christina Funk, educator and naturalist from the Troy Nature Center, shared information about several Owls from the nature center. The Troy Nature Center acquired these injured owls from the Organization for Bat Conservation when their facility closed in 2018. Ms. Funk was formerly an educator at the OBC prior to taking a position at the Troy Nature Center. She was familiar with these owls and has had a long-term relationship with several of these birds.

On June 11th, Ms. Funk introduced Oakland Audubon members and guests to Mortimer, Sam and Autumn, three resident owls at the Stage Nature Center in Troy. Sam is a female Barred Owl; Mortimer is a gray-phase Screech Owl and Autumn is a female Great Horned Owl. Funk, an experienced and patient naturalist, took each owl around the room of over seventy attendees and shared natural history information and unique stories about their rehabilitation. These owls are unable to be released back into the wild and serve as educational ambassadors for their species. Although the room was filled with so many people, there was an overall silence and respect for these birds and speaker. It was a great opportunity for everyone to see these magnificent birds of prey up close and view their unique and beautiful adaptations. Everyone learned a lot and at times were treated to some unusual behaviors like how far an owl can rotate its head. The young birders in the audience were extremely knowledgeable and keen to see the birds.

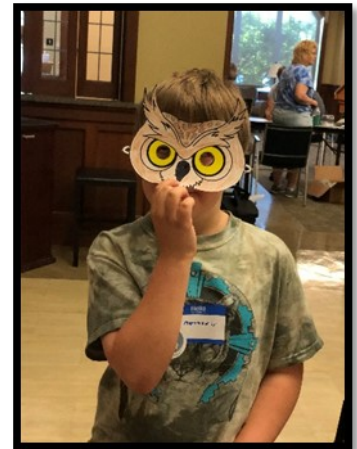
The Stage Nature Center has a webpage dedicated to the owls where visitors can explore each owl individually. The Stage Nature Center is undertaking a project to build new enclosures for these birds and is seeking funding for this effort. The owls are used for educational programs at the Stage Nature Center. Christina Funk has been instrumental in supporting the re-homing of these educational owls. For more information about the owls and programs at the Stage Nature Center which is operated by the Troy Nature society visit their website: <https://troynaturesociety.org/>



(continued on next page)

Oakland Owlets Learn All About Owls (continued)

In addition to the live owl presentation at the June OAS membership meeting, other young birder activities were offered. Prior to the presentation, the Young Birders' Club volunteers provided a chance for the kids to make and take a Great Horned Owl mask. A special thank you to Michele Petrosky and Kathleen Dougherty for their assistance with this activity. Young birders were also highlighted as part of the door prizes for the evening. Several members donated prizes for the young-birders-only drawing. Most kids took home prizes.



Oakland Audubon also recognizes the generous contribution of Mark and Diane Hoagland for contributing to the speaker's fee for this special program for young birders. Diane's son Jim was a former coordinator of the Young Birders' Club when he was sixteen years old. The Young Birders' Club at Oakland Audubon has a long history of support of youth programs involved in nature study and especially bird conservation. For information and field trips for young birders, visit the Oakland Audubon Young Birders' Club webpage: <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders>

Oakland Audubon membership programs are held regularly on the second Tuesday of the month except May, July, August and December, from 7-9 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham. For more information, visit: <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/meetings> Oakland Audubon Programs and field trips are free and open to the public.

Photo credits – Kathleen Dougherty & OAS photo gallery

2019 Oakland Owlets Field Trips

September - December

Walk the River in Waterford – Saturday, September 7, 8:30 – 11:30 am – Drayton Plains Nature Center ~ Waterford

The Drayton Plains Nature Center is a 138-acre natural area in Waterford along the Clinton River. The site is a former fish hatchery. Several ponds were constructed for the hatchery along the river. The property has an impressive bird checklist with 176 species recorded. Director of Bird Studies, Terri Chapdelaine, will assist with the tour. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Plan to hike about 2 miles. **Meet at the Nature Center Parking Lot** at 2125 Denby Road in Waterford, MI for directions



<https://www.waterfordmi.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Drayton-Plains-Nature-Center-1>

Rouge River Birding – Saturday, October 5, 8:30 am – Noon University of Michigan-Environmental Interpretive Center ~ Dearborn

The Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) is the gateway to a 300+ acre natural area that provides opportunities to study birds and the importance of stopover habitat in a rapidly developing urban area. Plan to hike 1.5 miles and tour the EIC with a staff naturalist. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Visitor parking is available at the Monteith Parking Structure (MPS), adjacent to the Center for \$.50/hour payable at the parking lot kiosk. There is no fee for the program. **Meet at the EIC, the bird shaped building adjacent to the MPS.**

Visit <https://umdearborn.edu/about/visit-campus/maps-directions>

Birding & Project FeederWatch Saturday – Nov. 2 – 8:30 – 11:30 am ~ Rochester

Take a hike along the Clinton River Trail to see some of the common winter birds that are often seen at bird feeders. Learn how to identify these resident birds and winter visitors. There is also a chance to see some water birds. Additionally, discover how to participate in Project Feederwatch. Dress for the weather and plan to hike 2 miles. Bring your binoculars. This hike is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Clinton River Trail celebrating its 15th anniversary. **Meet at the Clinton River Watershed Council Parking Lot** located on 1115 Avon Road, Rochester, MI Directions - <http://www.crowc.org/>



CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Outdoor Adventure & Ducks - Saturday, December 7, 10 am – 1 pm ~ Outdoor Adventure Center & Belle Isle ~ Detroit

Visit MDNR Outdoor Adventure Center and search for ducks along the Detroit River. Carpool to Belle Isle after touring the OAC. Dress for weather. Binoculars and spotting scopes recommended. **Meet outside the OAC.** An admission fee of \$2/person or \$5/person based on group size. RSVP to Kathleen by Dec. 2. Bring cash to pay admission on Dec. 7. Parking is free on the east side of the Center. A state parks passport is required at Belle Isle. For directions

https://www.michigan.gov/oac/0,5736,7-329-68730_71858-355521--.00.html



The Young Birders' Club ~ Oakland Owlets offers field trips for youth 8 – 18 years. Young birders under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult. These age-appropriate programs provide educational experiences and snacks for kids. Young birders must complete a release form. Young Birders' Club programs are open to all birders. To register for Oakland Owlets field trips contact – Kathleen Dougherty, Coordinator, at www.oaklandaudubon.org or kad8186@msn.com



Where Have All The Purple Martin Houses Gone?

Jerry Rogers, August 2019

My quest for Purple Martin Houses in the tri-county area (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb) started because I had my foot in a walking boot this spring from having foot surgery, and I wanted an easy way to find Purple Martins, for my year's list.

My quest was not so easy. I called the Metroparks Nature Centers in all three counties; and all the Nature Centers that were near a good water location, with no luck.

This species in Eastern North America now breeds almost entirely in human built birdhouses. A real problem in Purple Martin conservation is the introduction into North America of European Starlings and House Sparrows.

Properly sited and managed nesting structures are extremely important in Purple Martin conservation. My new quest is to find sites in and around Oakland County where there will be good location and stewardship for the conservation of Purple Martins.



Purple Martins at Ottawa NWR

OAS conducts Bird Surveys for North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy

This summer members of the OAS assisted with bird surveys at two of North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy's properties. The following thank you note was sent by Pete Blank of NOHLC, who organized the surveys.

To everyone receiving this email, thank you very much for helping with the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) bird surveys this year. We especially appreciate the help of the Oakland Audubon Society members.

We surveyed two properties (the Kimball Sanctuary and the Sashabaw Creek Preserve) and had 10 people participate. One of the main reasons to collect these data is to see whether the stewardship NOHLC is doing at these properties will improve habitat for birds. So it will be very interesting to see how the bird communities at these sites change over time.

I've attached the data we collected this year. Thank you to those of you who submitted your data to eBird and shared your checklists with me. Below is a very brief summary of what we found:

- We detected 50 species across both sites (over two surveys at each site)
- We observed 36 species at the Kimball Sanctuary and 41 species at the Sashabaw Creek Preserve
- The most common species were robins, chickadees, and blue jays
- To me, some of the more interesting and less common species we observed were Acadian Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Broad-winged Hawk, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Wild Turkey
- Because the Sashabaw Creek Preserve has more open, grassy habitat than the Kimball Sanctuary, we were able to find several species that prefer open habitats such as Eastern Phoebe and Field Sparrow at Sashabaw Creek
- Some forest-interior specialists were only seen at Sashabaw Creek, such as Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager

Thank you again for your help and participation.

Good birding!

Pete Blank

NOHLC



2019 NUTHATCH OPEN

Put together a team and unseat the current champions!



THE 7th ANNUAL NUTHATCH OPEN

OAKLAND COUNTY'S COMPETITIVE BIRDING EVENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st, 2019

BIRDING LOCATION: ANYWHERE IN OAKLAND COUNTY

AFTER-PARTY: INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK

Oakland Audubon Society welcomes you to compete in our annual competitive birding event. Proceeds for this event will support the development of our **Young Birders program**.

Rules:

- 1) The competition will start at 12:01 AM and run until 4 PM. All checklists must be submitted by 4 PM. One point will be deducted for each full minute late.
- 2) Teams must consist of 2-4 members.
- 3) See as many species as possible within the timeframe. All birds listed must be seen or heard by all members of the team to be counted. Each species counts as one point.
- 4) All participants must observe ABA Code of Ethics.

Entry fee:

\$25 per team. Teams need to pre-register for the event by September 19th.

Divisions:

Open Division – Any Composition

Youth- More than 50% of the team must be less than 18 years of age.

Awards:

Trophies will be presented to winning teams in each division. These trophies will be perpetual and will rotate each year to the winners of the divisions.

One of the greatest things about birding is the honor system we all abide by with regards to listing. This event will run with that in mind.

AFTER-PARTY: A Cook Out will take place at Indian Springs Metropark (Meadowlark Pavilion) following the event and be concurrent with judges' final tally for the trophies ceremony. You are welcome to bring friends and family and additional items for the cook out. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be provided for all team members (2 per team member); additional orders can be purchased during the Cook Out.



TEAM NAME:

MEMBERS: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, EMAIL

1)(Captain)

2)

3)

4)

DIVISION CATEGORY (CHECK ONE)

OPEN

YOUTH

BASIC REGISTRATION: \$25. Make Check Payable to:
Oakland Audubon Society

2 food items per team member

Indicate # of hot dogs

Indicate # of hamburgers

Additional food items can be purchased at \$2 per item during the Cook Out.

Feel free to bring whatever other food or drinks you would like for the Cook Out.

Send form and payment to:

Oakland Audubon Society
P. O. Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Bird Therapy: On The Healing Effects Of Watching Birds

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/05/31/bird-therapy-on-the-healing-effects-of-watching-birds/#3d6f1415bba6>

The value of Birdwatching for your mental health is the focus of this book review. It's about a book called *Bird Therapy* and it discusses the value of getting out to watch birds as a means to deal with problems. Most of us are aware of the therapeutic value of going out to bird but the book discusses many different aspects. Worth a look.

Meet The Bird That Refuses To Die

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/05/28/meet-the-bird-that-refuses-to-die/#6f25dd206660>

This article discusses the nature of flightless birds and how they develop. It's based on a rail in the Indian Ocean that has developed based on evolutionary processes. It's an interesting look at what happens when islands disappear in the sea and re-emerge again. A thoughtful look at how species develop special characteristics based on need and the changes they face.

How Rachel Carson Helped Save The Brown Pelican

https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2000/How-Rachel-Carson-Helped-Save-The-Brown-Pelican?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=RachelCarson_WildlifeFact_Mag&utm_content=RachelCarson_WildlifeFact_Mag_FB_05272019&utm_source=Facebook

This is a review of how Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* moved people to act on DDT and saved the Brown Pelican in Louisiana. It's the time-honored story of how you have to act to save the world from itself. The use of insecticides and other chemicals that we don't understand completely is always a concern that we should understand.

Post-Brexit UK Is Safe, Thanks To Its Legendary Ravens

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/05/23/post-brexit-uk-is-safe-thanks-to-its-legendary-ravens/#62817a4e25a8>

A cute story about how tradition in some locations must get a helping hand from man. In this case, returning Ravens to the Tower of London after a 30 year absence. Fun read.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Escaped Pet Parrots Are Now Established In 23 U.S. States

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/05/21/escaped-pet-parrots-are-now-naturalized-in-23-u-s-states/#6515d3f354cb>

An interesting look at parrots in the US. Here, escaped or released birds have established populations in many locations across the US. In some cases, there are more of some parrots than in their native habitat. Enjoy this article on the 25 species found living in the US. And don't tell the President; he may impose tariffs on their homelands for letting these birds into the US!!

A Miraculous Discovery Near Medellín Yields Insight on a Mysterious Songbird

<https://www.audubon.org/news/a-miraculous-discovery-near-medellin-yields-insight-mysterious-songbird>

An article about a bird rediscovered in Colombia and what has happened since its re-discovery. This is always of interest to birders, especially those wishing to see species around the world. The insights into its disappearance and return are key interests.

Millions of Birds Are Vacuumed to Death Every Year for Our Martini Olives

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/3k3vd8/millions-of-birds-are-vacuumed-to-death-every-year-for-our-martini-olives

If you ever think that human activity is harmless, think again. In our desire to have everything we want, we sacrifice much of the world around us. This is one example of how birds suffer at the hands of humans, for our convenience and desires. Think again when you order a martini with an olive or munch down on a bunch at a picnic!

'Green Oscar' Awarded For Venezuelan Parrot Conservation

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/05/13/green-oscar-awarded-for-venezuelan-parrot-conservation/#2c345c252fbc>

This story covers the work of a group of Venezuelans that have worked for years protecting a parrot and are now being recognized for their efforts. A story worth reading and using as an example of how we should be concerned about our birds.

Natural high: why birdsong is the best antidote to our stressful lives

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/04/birdsong-antidote-to-stressful-lives-dawn-chorus-day>

Another story about the value of bird songs for our mental health. Be it a record of bird songs or a 90 second bird song segment on the radio, the songs of birds are good for us. You could, of course, just step outside to listen but, if you like, there are others ways to improve your life.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Vanishing Penguin Colony Puts Emperors On Thin Ice

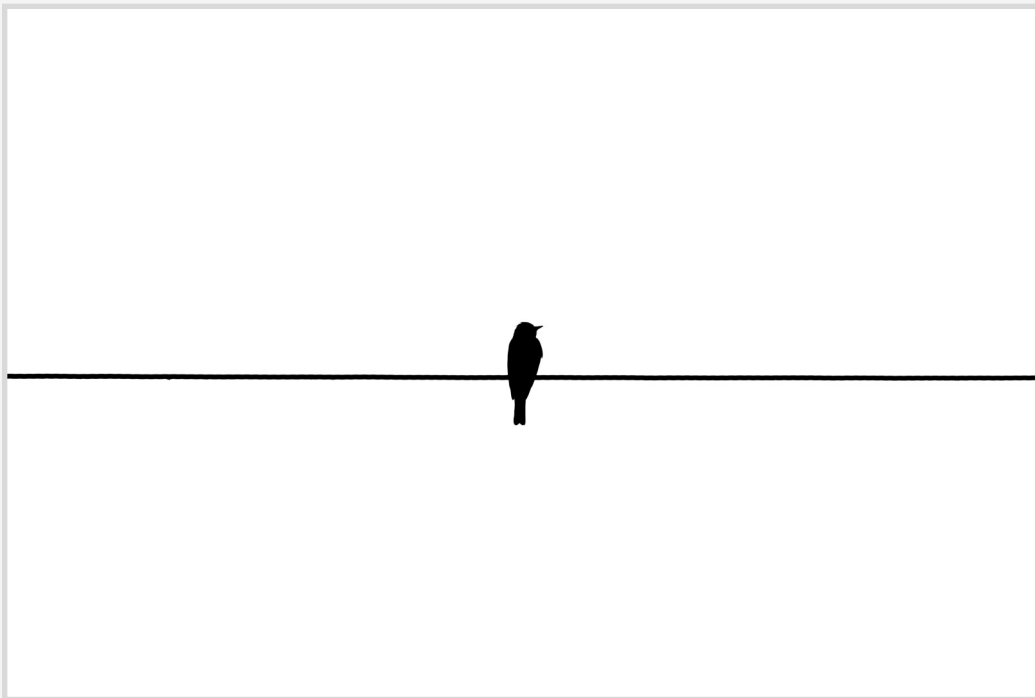
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/05/06/vanishing-penguin-colony-puts-emperors-on-thin-ice/#45f920f77d16>

This is a terrifying story of loss of penguins and an uncertain future. Having been to Antarctica, it really hits home when a species of penguins is literally “on thin ice”. Worth a quick read to understand the plight of these birds.

Photos Help Answer a Question About Chickadees and Cattails

<http://www.startribune.com/photos-help-answer-a-question-about-chickadees-and-cattails/421324113/>

Ever wonder about why chickadees spend time amongst cattails? Just remember: it’s all about food. This article talks about how photographs were used to understand this activity. (Thanks, Tracy!)



BIRD ID QUIZ (SUMMER 2019)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

**For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see page 29.
No Peeking!**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 29, 2019

Beginning in September, our membership meetings will be held in a different room at the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham—the children’s room, Room 132.

President Don Burlett participated in a meeting with the staff of U.S. Senator Gary Peters. He learned, among other things, that the Senator’s office has a constituent-services staff to aid anyone who needs help with any government agency.

Membership Officer Dave Frye reported that we have 208 members—exceeding our 2019 goal of 200.

Our latest batch of OAS baseball-type hats is selling out fast.

Social Media Administrator Dan Gertiser reported that our Facebook page now has 1,257 likes, and in the 4 weeks prior to this board meeting, 3,789 people were reached via our Facebook page.

Our Amazon “Smile” participation is up and running. When you purchase something on this website and designate OAS, it will help us financially.

The recent “Corks and Caps” wine- (and beer-) tasting event for Seven Ponds Nature Center brought in an amazing \$38,000.

Doris Applebaum

Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

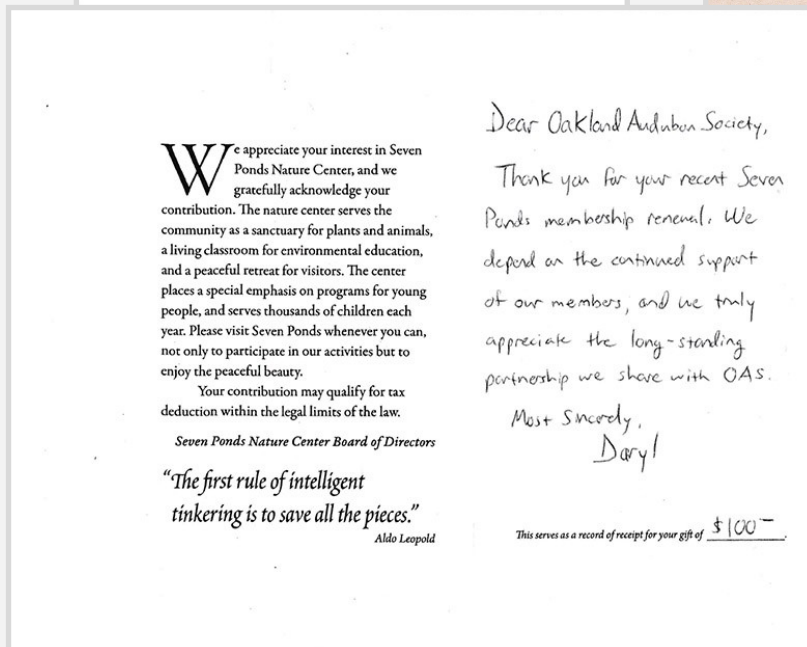
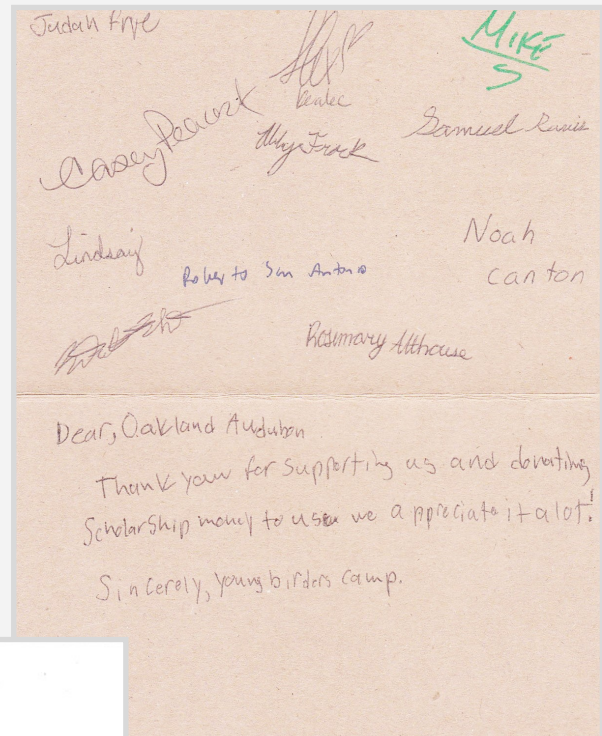
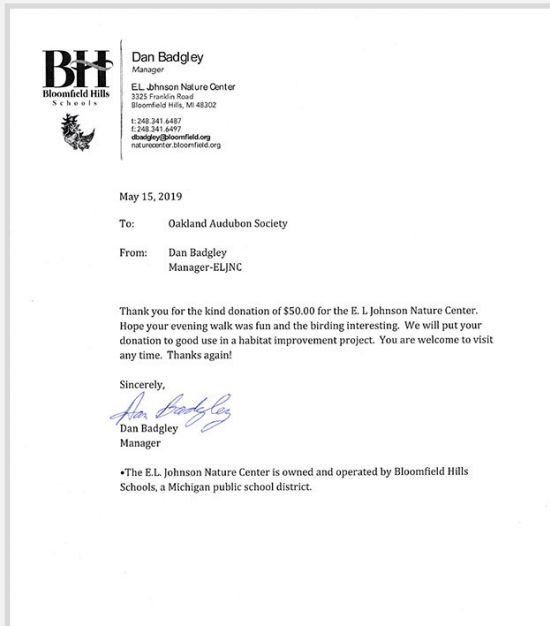
Kyle Grazier, Jay Slater, Lizbeth and John Stevens

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!

Your Membership At Work

Thank-you letters were received from the Seven Ponds Nature Center, the E.L. Johnson Nature Center, and from participants at the Young Birders Camp for donations your membership helped to support! Thank you for helping to support local conservation minded organizations.



NATURE NOTES by Allen Chartier



Allen is waiting for your questions!

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

amazilia3@gmail.com

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., September 10	7:00 p.m.	“Wildlife at Duck Pond”	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., October 8	7:00 p.m.	“Birding with Chinggis Khaan”	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., November 12	7:00 p.m.	“Woodpeckers of Michigan”	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 and barrier-free access. Our meetings are free and open to the public. For meeting cancellation information, check our website, call a board member or call the church at (248) 646-1200.

Bird Quiz Answers for Summer Quiz on Page 25

This issue (fall '19) photo quiz answers: a) American Pipit, b) Northern Waterthrush and c) Savannah Sparrow

Do you really need this? Explanation: a) head held upright, long legs, pale lores (can’t see the white outer tail feathers) b) all brown upperparts without pale edgings on wings, bold eye stripe, less vertical in stance, dark bill and c) wing feathers have complicated edgings and centers, yellow lores, bill is shorter and bigger at base, crown striped, pink legs.

How’d you do with the ID’s of the spring and summer 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.*