



THE NUTHATCH

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“The Yukon: Larger Than Life”

Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Tom Hince

The Yukon is one of the world’s last great areas of wilderness. It’s home to many exciting mammals and birds—a truly magical place.

Tom Hince has made several trips to the Yukon, and tonight he’ll show us just why this is such a special place.



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“The Milkweed Community”

Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Don Drife

It’s well known that milkweeds are essential for the survival of that most iconic butterfly, the Monarch. However, milkweeds are important to many more creatures than just one kind of butterfly.

Many aspects of the milkweed community are unknown even to many dedicated nature observers. Tonight we’ll have our eyes opened to this unexpected world.



“Bird ID Challenge”

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Holly and Jeremy Joswick

Get ready to have your bird knowledge tested! Tonight our speakers will divide us into teams to see which team knows the most about birds when looking at photos and listening to birdsongs.

It’s an unusual program for us, but it will be lots of fun, and you won’t want to miss it.



OAS Fleece Winter Hats!

Another opportunity to own an Oakland Audubon Society hat!

The hats will be Oatmeal Heather color polyester fleece with a Nut-hatch and “Oakland Audubon Society” embroidered on the front (same design as the OAS baseball hats). The price is \$15.00 per winter hat.

You can buy a hat at the CBC tally dinner December 17th at Independence Oaks or the January 10th membership meeting as well as future field trips. If you prefer to purchase one by mail contact either Phil Bugosh or Elaine Ferguson. Contact information and mailing information is available on the OAS website.

Supplies are limited so please consider purchasing soon.



Style of hat, but color will be
Oatmeal Heather



Photo credit: Mike Dougherty



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Winter 2016-2017

So, is your furnace blasting away already? Getting ready for winter? It's that time of year – CBC is coming fast and winter birding in all its glory is upon us. Need a few winter birds for your life list? We have the field trips to help out. St. Clair River and UP are both great for these goals. Speaking of which, the field trip committee is begging you to let them know what birds you want to see and where you'd like to bird. We can use our imagination but we really want to "feed your need" when it comes to seeing birds and locations. So, please drop Jeff Stacey a note and let him know what you want to see. We can't plan trips without that input.

Another topic of interest is our donations. The board has taken on the task of spreading our wealth to a number of needy local organizations over the past year. You can periodically see a thank you note in the newsletter for a donation we have made. Any suggestions for this are welcome. Just drop a note to a board member to let them know your ideas. No guarantees but we will consider all ideas offered. And speaking of donations, we have also decided that we need to be active both donating money and with "our time". We are trying to find some conservation-oriented activities that we can all take part in. Watch for an upcoming notification of a weekend day for actually doing some work for another organization that is conservation-minded. We feel it's a good thing to do and we always want to think of our community as worth working for.

At our board meeting in September, we discussed our membership numbers. We always look at them to see if we are growing, maintaining or shrinking. We don't get overly concerned unless it's a drastic change. At the same time, we really would like to know why some people don't renew their membership. We have surveyed our members over the past two years to see what we are doing right or wrong. However, we don't know what those former members are thinking. If you know someone who was a member but no longer is, we'd love to know why. Obviously, we can't be everything to everyone but we do want to keep our members happy and participating. Without our membership support, we can't afford to help other organizations and we do want to continue with that. So, let us know if you know why some members drop out.

Finally, as I start my next two year term, I'd like to thank all our members, our board and all my friends for the support I have had over my first eight years. I think we have moved in a positive direction and that we still have lots to accomplish. The board is dynamic and very involved. Let's keep the momentum and get some new faces involved so that we don't end up with the same old ideas and plans. Keep it fresh as the President ages!! Thanks for being part of this great organization.

Page one banner credits: Snowy Owl, White-winged Crossbill, Cedar Waxwing, Long-tailed Ducks

Joan Tisdale

OFFICER/CHAIR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

If you are motivated to contribute to the Oakland Audubon Society, there are a couple of positions open as these folks are moving on for different reasons. Here is a listing of open positions and a brief description of the roles. Please contact Don Burlett if you have interest. We want motivated people who want to make a difference in our organization.

Program Officer – This job involves scouting out speakers for programs and working with a small committee to assure that our monthly program schedule is flush with good programs. Our current schedule is complete for the next several months so the pressure is low when this position is filled.

Co-Coordinator of the Young Birders Club – This position involves working with another coordinator to assemble programs that will attract young birders to participate in nature/birding activities. Some publicity and communication skills will be useful. This will be coordinated with the President. An imagination and understanding of young people are essential for this role.

Please contact President Don Burlett to express interest in any of these positions. The Program Officer spot needs to be an Oakland Audubon member while the Young Birders Club Co-Coordinator is encouraged to be a member. You can always join when you take a spot also.

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea13@netzero.net
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	fergusonelaine6@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Dave Frye	(248) 627-5650	kestrel11dcf@gmail.com
Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248)798-0508	jdstacey@ameritech.net
Program Officer	OPEN		

Appointed Officers

Program Co-Officer	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Program Co-Officer	Margaret Moran	(248) 646-7387	marmo48009@sbcglobal.net
Young Birders Club Rep.	OPEN		
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity/Fundraising	Phil Bugosh	(248) 763-3163	peb729@gmail.com
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Nuthatch Editor	Mike Dougherty	(248) 972-7802	mikeodoc@comcast.net
Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		

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)
Wednesday, December 7 8:00 AM—Noon	Gulls and Waterfowl Meet in Robert Long Nature Park lot on 14 Mile Rd.	Mike Mencotti
Saturday, December 17 7:00 AM—4:00 PM (Earlier start if Owling)	Christmas Bird Count Contact leader for details	Jeff Stacey
Saturday, January 7 8:00 AM—Noon	Kensington Metropark Meet at Nature Center Metropark daily or annual pass required	Dave Frye
Saturday, January 14 8:00 AM—Noon	St. Clair River Meet at Lake St. Clair Metropark Metropark daily or annual pass required	Don Burlett
Wednesday, January 18 8:00 AM—Noon	Beaudette Park Meet in parking area off Orchard Lake Rd.	Mike Mencotti
February 4-5 Weekend Trip	Eastern Upper Peninsula Contact leader for details	Don Burlett
Wednesday, February 8 8:00 AM—Noon	Kensington Metropark Meet at Nature Center Metropark daily or annual pass required	Mike Mencotti
Saturday, February 18 8:30 AM—1:30 PM	Backyard Birding Tour Seven Ponds and Stony Creek Meet at Seven Ponds Nature Center Metropark daily or annual pass required \$3 fee at Seven Ponds	Kathleen Dougherty
Saturday, February 25 8:00 AM—Noon	Lake Erie Metropark Meet at Marshland Museum Lot Metropark daily or annual pass required	Mike Mencotti

Field Trip Reports

Kensington Metropark - September 14, 2016 - Mike Mencotti

Oakland Audubon's midweek field trip/ID workshop season continued on a high note, as 13 of us picked out warblers at Kensington. Rain threatened to put a damper on things at first, but as soon as the sun shone, the warblers cooperated - as only fall warblers can! We had to work hard to see them, but we had multiple individuals of some species in a couple of "hotspots." The day, however, belonged to the woodpeckers. A juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker finally showed up, and we had stunning flyover looks of a Pileated in the Spring Hill area. We hit the beach at the end of the trip to try to re-find a Red-necked Phalarope that was there (technically before the trip started). It was a no-show, but we all got great looks at a Pipit. Everyone chipped in as "spotters," and at least a couple of participants turned up their own Lifers. Although not everybody was able to lock on every bird, the group ended up with 60 species.

Lake St. Clair Metropark - September 17, 2016 - Dave Frye, Jeff Stacey

The weather was definitely less than ideal, but still better than the forecast. Honestly we were lucky to get this trip in. It drizzled on-and-off throughout the day until some heavier rain finally moved in ending the outing a little early. There were still 10 participants despite the conditions, and they were rewarded with 53 species of birds. There was a lot of warbler activity near the old banding sight, but good looks were tough to come by. Olive-sided Flycatcher and Ovenbird provided highlights by being much more cooperative near the end of the trip. We also observed Marsh Wrens in the wetland area.

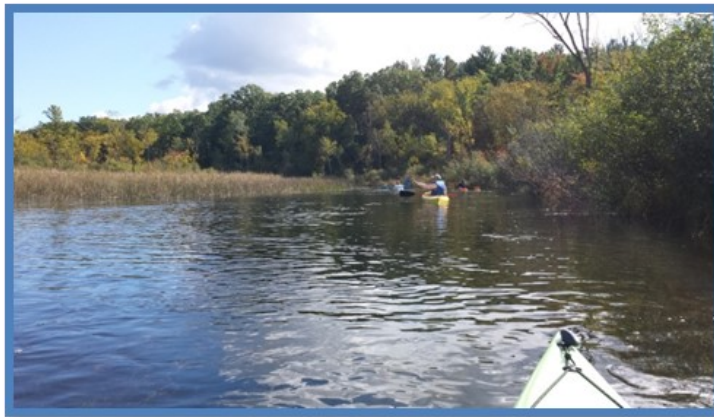
Robert Long, Heritage Park - October 12, 2016 - Mike Mencotti

Oakland Audubon's midweek field trip/ID workshop season stuck to its Plan A with an intensive trip at Heritage Park. Robert Long, the second stop on the itinerary, was temporarily closed for maintenance. No matter. The 11 attendees were treated to fine weather, fall colors, and lots of great looks at birds. The accipiters put on a show with one very confident Sharp-shinned bombing a Great Blue Heron in flight! The Cooper's Hawk we saw at close range was a bit more realistic, trying to dig out a passerine. The sparrows were the stars of the show, however. We had wonderful looks at Lincoln's, Swamp, and Song as well as Eastern Bluebirds - all with the sun just right. We even had a few late warblers and a vireo, too. It was fun to watch the turnover in species as fall progresses, and listening to them and learning -- the call notes the morning after Caleb Putnam's program was great timing. We ended up with 39 species.

Field Trip Reports - continued

Huron River - October 2, 2016 - Kathleen Dougherty

After several days of continuous rain, the Huron River water level was high. Fortunately, the rain stopped just in time for the field trip. A small group of five people met at the Heaver Canoe and Kayak Rental in Proud Lake State Park. The group paddled upstream to the dam just below Proud Lake. Along the way, we were treated to beautiful scenery and soaring Turkey Vultures drifting in an almost cloudless sky. A total of 15 species and 86 individuals were observed. Birding from a kayak is an experience unlike birding on foot. Many of the birds are hidden high in the tree canopy. By chance, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet landed in the shrubs adjacent to the river. Due to the high waters, herons and egrets



regularly seen along the river were absent.

Painted Turtles were basking as well along the river's edge. The weather was sunny and mild.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty

Haehnle Sanctuary - October 30, 2016 - Kathleen Dougherty

Eleven members gathered on a chilly, but otherwise dry Sunday afternoon to tour the Haehnle Sanctuary near Jackson, Michigan. Gary Siegrist from the Jackson Audubon Society and Michigan Audubon Society guided the group on the trail and offered valuable insights about the Sanctuary. The recent rise in water levels in the Mud Lake Marsh has created unfavorable conditions for night roosting habitat for Sandhill Cranes and as a result numbers were down. Mr. Siegrist explained the various projects underway to improve habitat at Haehnle. In addition, he shared nearby hot birding spots with the group. The Jackson Audubon Society oversees the conservation, education and stewardship at the Haehnle Sanctuary.



Field Trip Reports - continued

Indiana Cranes Weekend - November 11-13 - Don Burlett

The trip began Friday morning with a drive to Indiana on a sunny day. Immediately upon entering Indiana, we visited Pokagon State Park to check out the water and woods. We got a Common Loon there along with some waterbirds. We then proceeded to Fox Island Park near Fort Wayne. This was quiet but we added Golden-crowned Kinglet and White-throated Sparrow. Next was a drive to Eagle Creek Park near Indianapolis. This park had a new species for us, Carolina Chickadee, which was studied quite well along with pictures. We ended the day driving to Terre Haute for the evening.



Northern Harrier

Photo Credit: Spencer Vanderhoof

The next morning, which was cold at about 30°F, was again sunny and we headed to Goose Pond FWA with a short stop at the state forest just



Northern Mockingbird

Photo Credit: Spencer Vanderhoof

west of Linton. The state park produced some rarities for us – Palm Warbler, Eastern Phoebe and Northern Mockingbird. We then got to Goose Pond to find lots of waterfowl and 8 Whooping Cranes. Great views were had by all as four flew directly over us. We later birded the area adding other sparrows and birds. In the afternoon, we drove to Logansport for the evening.

On Sunday, we were up early to drive to Jasper-Pulaski FWA to see the Sandhill Crane spectacle. They didn't disappoint, with at least 6000 birds coming and going, dancing and flying by us. This topped off our "Crane Weekend". We then drove to Indiana Dunes to be disappointed by fair weather and few birds.

All-in-all, a great weekend with 74 species and a few life birds for the participants.



Whooping Cranes

Photo Credit: Spencer Vanderhoof

Field Trip Reports - continued

Kensington Metropark - November 16 - Mike Mencotti

Oakland Audubon's midweek field trip/ID workshop series entered the traditionally cold season, but the star of the show was definitely the balmy, sunny weather. Oh, and the birds were pretty cool, too. Kensington promises a lot of waterfowl this time of year, and Wildwing Lake (in Livingston County, by the way) did not disappoint. Although the birds stayed in the back area, the beautiful sunshine and a lot of spotting scopes allowed all 15 of us wonderful looks at Pintail, Gadwall, Ring-necked and Wood ducks, Wigeon and Cormorants. Sorting through them was hardly work. Island Road allowed us awesome looks at a Bald Eagle. Although the passerine migration has screeched to a halt, Brown Creeper was a delight in two spots. We took a detour to Walled Lake to try for the Black Scoters, but could not locate them. The Common Loons there were hardly consolation prizes. We still managed to dig up 40 species on the trip.

Belle Isle - November 19 - Don Burlett

Nineteen intrepid birders from both Oakland and Washtenaw Audubon Societies showed up on a cool/cold and blustery Saturday morning. In spite of some rain, sleet, hail and snow, these souls braved almost gale force winds to check out some birds. The first stop at the pond near the Nature Center produced a number of ducks. We then began touring the island and found the St. Clair River devoid of Tundra Swans and with only small number of other ducks or grebes. We did see a Peregrine Falcon chase a duck and land on the fishing pier near the Detroit Rowing Club grounds. Great pictures were had of this very showy bird.

Later, we hiked some trails in the interior of the island to find lots of Cedar Waxwings and a few other nice birds. The highlights of the interior portion were a few Purple Finches feeding with the Robins and Waxwings and then a large troop of ~150 Rusty Blackbirds (yes, there were really that many). We watched them come in and start to scour the wet areas near the east end of the trails.

It turned out to be a good day for birding with 47 species seen. Fun was had by all and a few stopped for lunch afterward.



Peregrine Falcon

Photo Credit: Jeff Stacey

A MYRTLE COMEBACK?

If you began birding several decades ago, you probably put the Myrtle Warbler on your life list. Then some research indicated that the Myrtle Warbler and Audubon's Warbler readily interbreed in a hybrid zone in western Canada. This cost both of them their individual identities as they were merged into a new species called the Yellow-rumped Warbler and were reduced to subspecies status. If you had both of these species on your life list, you had to reduce your total by one.

At one time similar research merged the Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole into a species called the Northern Oriole—until further research again separated those two.

Now it looks as though the Myrtle Warbler and Audubon's Warbler may also regain individual species status. In fact, recent DNA research indicates that the Yellow-rumped Warbler is not just two species but likely three, and maybe even four!

There is a bird in Guatemala called "Goldman's Warbler" that the research suggests should also be considered a full species rather than just a form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler. A Mexican species called the "Black-fronted Warbler" has also been part of the Yellow-rumped complex and may possibly warrant separate species designation, though the evidence is not as strong for that form.

The research may provide a good reason to disassemble the Yellow-rumped Warbler complex, but it can't happen until the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union says so. Each July, this committee publishes changes to the AOU's official checklist of species. So it will be several months before you may get the chance to again count the Myrtle Warbler and Audubon's Warbler as separate species on your life list.

(Information based on an article in the Autumn 2016 issue of *The Living Bird* published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.)

Article submitted by Doris Applebaum



Yellow-rumped Warbler
Photo credit Joan Tisdale

WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2016 – 2017

by Ron Pittaway

GENERAL FORECAST: Cone crops average poor in Southern Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic Canada, New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, but crops are generally good to bumper in Northern Ontario, Western Canada and Alaska. The dividing line is roughly James Bay south along the Ontario-Quebec border. White-winged Crossbills and often Pine Siskins prefer to move east or west rather than go south in search of cone crops. Many crossbills and some siskins may have already relocated to northern Ontario and across the boreal forest to Yukon where spruce cone crops are abundant. Purple Finches in the East are currently moving south in numbers. See individual forecasts for other finches and further details.

NOTE: Many birds will have a difficult time finding natural food sources this winter in Southern Ontario and the Northeast.

INDIVIDUAL FORECASTS: Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. Follow finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird.

PINE GROSBEAK: Most should stay in the north because native Mountain-ash berry crops are good to bumper (some poor areas) across the boreal forest. A few may wander to southern Ontario where they like European Mountain-ash berries and small ornamental crabapples. At feeders they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

PURPLE FINCH: Eastern Purple Finches were moving in early September at the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac in Quebec. The poor seed crops on most coniferous and deciduous trees indicate that Purple Finches will leave northern breeding areas. Purples prefer black oil sunflower seeds at feeders.

RED CROSSBILL: A scattering of Red Crossbills will likely wander widely in the Northeast this winter. Listen and watch for them on large-coned ornamental pines and spruces. Red Crossbills comprise at least 10 “call types” in North America. Most types are impossible to identify without analyzing recordings of their flight calls. Matt Young (may6 at cornell.edu) at The Cornell Lab of Ornithology will identify types if you email him recordings.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: This crossbill irrupts south only in years of widespread cone crop failures. Many eastern crossbills have probably moved to northern Ontario and to abundant spruce cone crops in western Canada. However, expect some White-winged Crossbills to be scattered across southern Canada and the northeastern USA. Both crossbill species increasingly use feeders with black oil sunflower seeds when conifer seeds are scarce.

COMMON REDPOLL: Last fall and winter's large irruptive southward flight was unexpectedly halted north of latitude 45 degrees by a bumper seed crop on Balsam Fir. If redpolls move south this year, they will likely continue to southern Canada and the northern states because birch seed crops are generally low across the Northeast. In redpoll flocks, check for larger and darker “Greater” Common Redpolls (subspecies *rostrata*) from Baffin Island (Nunavut) and Greenland. Redpolls prefer nyger seeds in silo feeders with or without perches.

WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2016 – 2017 (continued)

HOARY REDPOLL: Watch for Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls. The “Southern” Hoary Redpoll (nominate subspecies *exilipes*) breeds south to northern Ontario and is the subspecies usually seen in southern Canada and northern USA. However, “Hornemann’s” Hoary Redpoll (nominate *hornemanni*) which was formerly considered a great rarity south of the tundra is now reported more often likely because its ID features are better known. See link #2 below for photos and identification marks of Common and Hoary Redpoll subspecies.

PINE SISKIN: Some will irrupt south because cone crops in the Northeast are generally poor. Siskins were moving south in mid-September at the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac in Quebec. However, some eastern siskins have likely relocated to abundant spruce crops in western Canada. Siskins prefer nyger seeds in silo feeders. See link #4 which discusses siskin irruptions related to climate variability.

EVENING GROSBEAK: The Evening Grosbeak is the world’s most spectacular winter finch. Its breeding populations continue to increase in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick due to increasing outbreaks of spruce budworm. Watch for them in Algonquin Park, Adirondacks and northern New England. A few are likely at feeders in southern Ontario where they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

THREE IRRUPTIVE PASSERINES: Movements of these three passerines are often linked to the boreal finches.

BLUE JAY: Expect a much larger than usual flight of jays from mid-September to mid-October along the north shorelines of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The acorn, beechnut, hazelnut crops were generally poor but variable in central and southern Ontario. Drought has damaged many seed crops.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: An early southward movement began in early summer and continues as this forecast is posted. This widespread movement is evidence of poor cone crops in the Northeast. It indicates that Purple Finches, White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins are on the move too.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Very few Bohemians breed east of James Bay in Canada. Most Bohemians will likely stay in northern Ontario and western Canada because native Mountain-ash berry crops are good to bumper (some poor areas) across the boreal forest. In recent winters, however, Bohemians have been coming south regularly every winter possibly due to reliable annual crops of abundant Buckthorn (*Rhamnus*) berries. Watch for Pine Grosbeaks eating their favorite European Mountain-ash berries and small ornamental crabapples.

Article submitted by Don Burlett

NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

What causes species irruptions? The Snowy Owls are one example, but that's been covered a lot I think. I was more interested in winter finches. Two years ago, you couldn't find a single Pine Siskin anywhere in southern Michigan. Last year, they were absolutely all over the place; this year, pretty much in-between.

“Winter finches” consist of a few species in the family Fringillidae, namely Pine Siskin, Common and Hoary Redpoll, Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Red and White-winged Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak. Every 3-5 years, these species migrate farther south than normal, in slightly irregular, but predictable movements called “irruptions”. Other species do this as well, including Blue Jays, Bohemian Waxwings, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. It has long been known that annual variations in food availability, such as cone crops and “mast” (beech), are the drivers of these movements. But until recently, predicting these irruptions has not been very reliable. But my good friend in Ontario, Ron Pittaway, has been publishing his “winter finch forecasts” for over a decade now. Ron is widely connected with birders, as well as foresters, throughout Canada, and has come up with ways to predict which species will move south, and how far, based on cone, berry, and mast crops across northern Canada. Jean Iron, his wife and an outstanding birder in her own right, posts these forecasts on her website annually. The current forecast can be found at <http://www.jeaniron.ca/2016/finchforecast16.htm>

Some individuals of normally migratory species choose to overwinter in colder climates. How do they survive (or not)? What do they do differently during the winter (e.g. diet) and what do you think their survival rate is? A couple examples we had last winter included the Northern Mockingbird at Lake Erie Metropark and the Harlequin Duck in Michigan Center.

Most of the migratory species that overwinter in Michigan are short-distance migrants. Every once in a while, a longer-distance migrant will stay for a while, such as Cape May and Pine Warblers, Baltimore Orioles, and even Summer Tanagers. But most of these do not stay all winter and either move on before winter deepens in January or February, or they perish. Many of these short-distance migrants are seed-eaters, at least in part, and can survive on wild seed crops, and at our feeders. These include sparrows like Song, White-throated, and White-crowned, as well as one strict seed-eater, the American Goldfinch which is also migratory. Other species change their diet in winter, from largely invertebrates in summer to fruit in winter. This includes species like American Robin, Eastern Towhee, Gray Catbird, and Brown Thrasher. I would include Northern Mockingbird in this category too, except they tend to be only partially migratory or non-migratory in most of their range. Also, Cedar Waxwing tends to favor fruit all year, and so even though they too are migratory, they can overwinter in Michigan in good numbers.

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NATURE NOTES by Allen Chartier
(continued)

What I find interesting is that a few other species change their diet to fruit in winter, but do not overwinter in colder climates, including Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, and Eastern Kingbirds. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Tree Swallows are well known because they overwinter farther north than any other members of their families. This is due to changing their diets to fruit in winter. Indeed, the eastern subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler, perhaps to be re-split to a full species, is known as “Myrtle” Warbler because they feed extensively on Wax Myrtle berries in the southeastern U.S. In Michigan, they seem to survive the winter by feeding largely on Poison Ivy berries. Tree Swallows have only very rarely been noted in Michigan as late as the Christmas Bird Count period. I do not know if this is related to the berry species they prefer to feed on in their vast overwintering flocks in Florida, or if it is more physiological related to their cold-tolerance.

Perhaps most amazing are the rare instances of strict insectivores that overwinter in Michigan. This includes the Brown Creeper and kinglets, most often Golden-crowned Kinglets. The creeper searches the surface, and under the bark, of trees for insect larvae and eggs that are laid in late fall by insects with spring hatches. The kinglets do the same, though they typically search dead flower heads of herbaceous plants including asters and goldenrods, for insect eggs and larvae. It is not clear to me why the slightly larger Ruby-crowned Kinglet almost never overwinters as far north as Michigan, while the Golden-crowned Kinglet does so every year.

Ducks that overwinter tend to be influenced more by weather conditions than food sources. Many species only migrate as far south as the freezing lakes and rivers force them to go. This includes many diving ducks such as scaup, Redhead, and Canvasback, and even more tied to the ice-edge are Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Common Mergansers. Harlequin Ducks are very rare migrants through Michigan, so it is hard to say why one would linger in an inland location, such as the one at Michigan Center last year (a first as far as I know), other than the availability of open water and food sources. As climate change continues to progress, there will no doubt be more winters that are warmer, with less ice on the Great Lakes, which will allow (force?) some of these species to linger farther north.

Please continue to send me questions so that this column can continue. It is always helpful to have a few questions to choose from to make this column relevant to current events, or to the appropriate season.

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

Auburn Hills Festival in the Woods at the Hawk Woods Nature Center

Oakland Audubon Society volunteers were at the *Auburn Hills Fall Festival in the Woods* on October 15, 2016. In addition to having a table to introduce people to our organization the team assisted in presenting the Flying Wild Migration program to attendees.

The volunteers had a lot of fun educating folks about OAS, assisting with the Flying Wild Migration activity, and just interacting with the attendees. and it was estimated that over 1000 people attended the event, and a great opportunity to introduce folks to the OAS and birding.

A special thanks to the OAS volunteers that helped with this event!



2016 Christmas Bird Count

The OAS will be participating in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on December 17, 2016. Your help is needed! You can join a team to go out in the field for the count, or if you live in the count area you can help by doing a feeder watch. At the end of the count day (4:00 p.m.) join us at the Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park for the count compilation, food and fun! Please contact Jeff Stacey for more information.

Many of you know the history behind the CBC. For those that don't here's a copy of the original article by Frank Chapman from *Bird-Lore* published in 1900, which helped establish the first count or census. It has grown into an international event that allows citizen scientists to collect valuable data for scientific research and understanding.

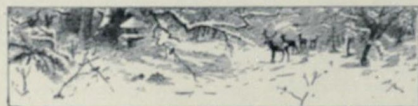
A Christmas Bird-Census

IT is not many years ago that sportsmen were accustomed to meet on Christmas Day, 'choose sides,' and then, as representatives of the two bands resulting, hie them to the fields and woods on the cheerful mission of killing practically everything in fur or feathers that crossed their path—if they could.

These exceptional opportunities for winning the laurels of the chase were termed 'side hunts,' and reports of the hundreds of non-game birds which were sometimes slaughtered during a single hunt were often published in our leading sportsmen's journals, with perhaps a word of editorial commendation for the winning side. We are not certain that the side hunt is wholly a thing of the past, but we feel assured that no reputable sportsman's journal of today would venture to publish an account of one, unless it were to condemn it; and this very radical change of tone is one of the significant signs of the times.

Now BIRD-LORE proposes a new kind of Christmas side hunt, in the form of a Christmas bird-census, and we hope that all our readers who have the opportunity will aid us in making it a success by spending a portion of Christmas Day with the birds and sending a report of their 'hunt' to BIRD-LORE before they retire that night. Such reports should be headed by the locality, hour of starting and of returning, character of the weather, direction and force of the wind, and the temperature; the latter taken when starting. The birds observed should then be added, following the order in which they are given in the A. O. U. 'Check List,' with, if possible, the exact or approximate number of individuals of each species observed.

Promptness in sending these lists to BIRD-LORE (at Englewood, N. J.) is urged in order that the best of them may be published in our February number, where they will be not only of interest to other participants in the 'hunt,' but will also constitute, in a measure, a census of Christmas bird-life.



(192)



Bird-lore.

New York, National Association of Audubon Societies.

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/8259>

2, 1900: [http://](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/87255)

www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/87255

Page(s): Page 192

Contributed by: Gerstein - University of Toronto (archive.org)

Sponsored by: University of Toronto

BIRD ID QUIZ (Winter 2016)
Who Am I?



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

Last issues photo quiz answers: a) Orange-crowned Warbler, b) Blackpoll Warbler, and c) Pine Warbler.

How'd you do with the ID's?

Photo credits: Joan Tisdale

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

September 22, 2016

Good news: Because we can no longer use the entrance door nearest to the Children's Center at the First United Methodist Church, which makes it very inconvenient for our membership meetings, we will have a new meeting location at the church. Beginning in October, we will meet in the Thomas Parlor, which is the room immediately on your left as you go through the main entrance of the church off the large Pleasant Street parking lot.

Membership Officer Dave Frye reported that we ended the 2016 membership season with a total of 200 members, including 31 new members.

Dave has produced a membership directory; the members will be asked if they would like to have one.

The Field Trip Committee is almost done scheduling field trips for the first half of 2017. There will be 2, possibly 3, weekend trips.

Some improvements are being considered for the Nuthatch Open competitive birding event.

Preparations for the December 17 Christmas Bird Count will soon be under way.

Our Facebook page has now topped 700 "likes."

OAS will participate in a joint Young Birders event with Detroit Audubon on October 23 at Kensington Metropark.

We have learned that the Howell Nature Center is having some financial difficulties. The board authorized a donation to help the nature center, which is currently the largest wildlife rehabilitation facility in Michigan.

The next Favorite Bird Tournament will start at the November membership meeting.

November 17, 2016

President Don Burlett is scheduled to have a knee replaced in late December, but that will not deter him from going on a birding trip to Ghana in 2017.

OAS membership is down, so we will embark on a membership drive to try to improve that situation.

Field trips for the first half of 2017 are set, and preparations for this year's Christmas Bird Count are well under way.

Get ready for more OAS hats. We are ordering winter hats (fleece/polyester) and hoping that they will be available at the CBC tally.

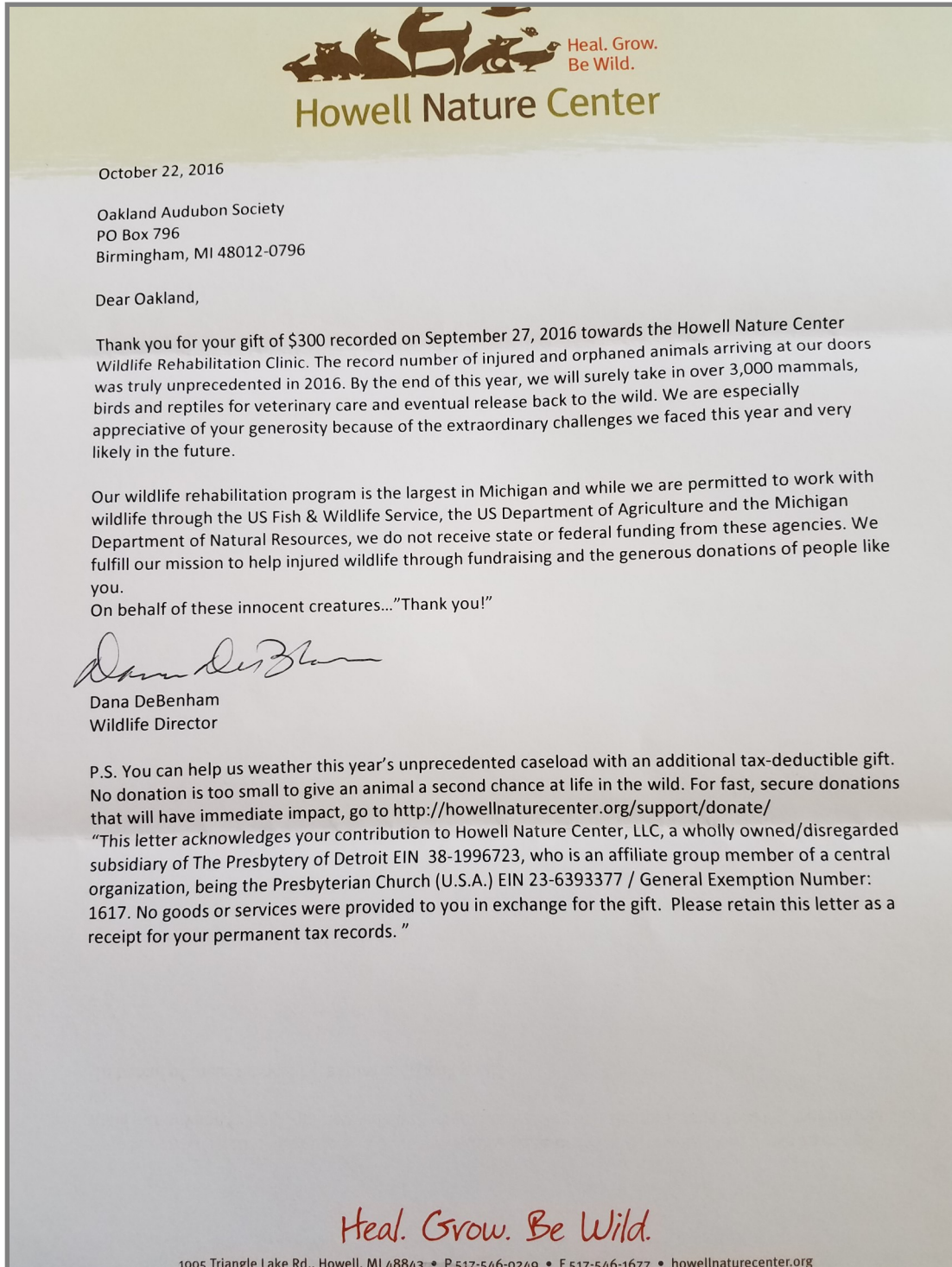
We have a new OAS Chapter Representative for Seven Ponds Nature Center. Dr. Greg Gossick is taking on this position as of January 1.

The board of directors decided to make donations to seven organizations during 2017. Members will be notified as donations are sent out to each organization, all chosen based on feedback from members answering the questionnaire sent out in 2016.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary

Howell Nature Center thanks the OAS

This thank you from the Howell Nature Center was received in acknowledgement of the donation made by the OAS last quarter.



Michigan Audubon thanks the OAS

This thank you from the Michigan Audubon was received in acknowledgement of the donation made by the OAS last quarter.



Connecting birds and people for the benefit of both

August 19, 2016

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

Dear Friends at Oakland Audubon Society,

Thank you for your tax-deductible contribution of \$100.00 to support the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (WPBO). Since WPBO is a program of Michigan Audubon, your payment is processed as a donation to Michigan Audubon, a 501(c)3 organization, designated to support WPBO. For your records, the society's Charitable Trust License number is MICI 1782. Your contribution was received on August, 19, 2016, and you received no material goods or services for your donation.

Michigan Audubon is excited about the growth opportunities at WPBO, and generous donations like yours are an important part of that growth. You are helping to preserve important, endangered habitats and bird species. You stand behind our commitment to continued, expert research in bird conservation. Your support allows us to reach more people as we educate the public about species monitoring, habitat protection, and why conservation work is so important.

Watch for regular updates about the work at WPBO in our bi-monthly newsletter, the *Jack Pine Warbler*, and follow us on social media channels for sighting reports and news. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (517) 580-7364, or send them to us at membership@michiganaudubon.org.

With sincere thanks,

Heather Good, Executive Director
Michigan Audubon

MICHIGAN AUDUBON

Suite 200 · 2310 Science Parkway · Okemos, Michigan 48864

P: (517) 580 - 7364 • www.michiganaudubon.org

The Rouge River Bird Observatory and Seven Ponds Nature Center thank the OAS

These thank you notes from the Rouge River Bird Observatory and the Seven Ponds Nature Center were received in acknowledgement of the donations made by the OAS last quarter.

M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Gift Receipt

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

The Regents of the University acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your gift of \$100.00.

We deeply appreciate your generosity and commitment to the University and its programs. Thank you, once again, for your invaluable support.

Sincerely,



Jerry A. May
Vice President for Development



Kevin P. Hegarty
Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

GIFT ID	GIFT CREDIT DATE	DESIGNATION	GIFT AMOUNT
17119132	August 31, 2016	UM-Deartborn Rouge River Bird Observatory - 303732	\$100.00

* Federal tax law requires us to inform you that no goods, services or privileges were provided in exchange for this donation.

We appreciate your interest in Seven Ponds Nature Center, and we gratefully acknowledge your contribution. The nature center serves the community as a sanctuary for plants and animals, a living classroom for environmental education, and a peaceful retreat for visitors. The center places a special emphasis on programs for young people, and serves thousands of children each year. Please visit Seven Ponds whenever you can, not only to participate in our activities but to enjoy the peaceful beauty.

Your contribution may qualify for tax deduction within the legal limits of the law.

Seven Ponds Nature Center Board of Directors

“The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to save all the pieces.”

Aldo Leopold

DEAR OAKLAND AUDUBON,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR \$100.00 GROUP MEMBERSHIP TO SEVEN PONDS, AND FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER. HOPE SOME OF THE GROUP MEMBERS WILL VISIT THE CENTER THIS SUMMER. THE VARIETY OF HABITATS HERE SUPPORTS MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF BIRDS, INCLUDING BLUEBIRDS, SCARLET Tanager, SANDHILL CRANE, PILEATED WOODPECKER, BOBOLINK, AND MANY MORE. PLUS A WONDERFUL VARIETY OF WILDFLOWERS, MAMMALS, BUTTERFLIES, ETC. ALL THE BEST!

SINCERELY,
MIKE CHAMPAGNE

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., January 10	7:30 p.m.	The Yukon: Larger Than Life	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., February 14	7:30 p.m.	The Milkweed Community	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., March 14	7:30 p.m.	Bird ID Challenge	First United Methodist Church (see below)

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, June, July and August) at 7:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham, in the Thomas Parlor. The facility is located on the south side of Maple Road between Southfield and Cranbrook Roads. There is plenty of lighted, free parking and barrier-free access. Our meetings are free and open to the public. For meeting cancellation information, check our website, call a board member or call the church at (248) 646-1200.

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

Jenifer and Martin Benke, Julie Bolcato, Nathan Collins, Michelle and David Hoch Family, Edna Rubin, Robert Schnorbus, Mahmoud Tayeh Family, Lisa and Spencer Vanderhoof

Our membership drive for 2017 is underway! Please pay your membership dues at a monthly meeting or by mailing in the membership form on page .

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

Your Membership at Work

A donation has been made to the following organization this quarter:

Howell Nature Center



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.*