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Preserving Michigan's Dark Sky Heritage

Sally Oey

Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

When you step outside at night, do you see stars? The natural darkness of night is quickly vanishing, and with it the natural nocturnal ecosystem. This has profound consequences for flora and fauna, including for human health. Yet much of the artificial light at night is unintended light pollution. This presentation will explain the problem and the simple steps everyone can take to help preserve and restore Michigan's unique dark sky resources.



Inside This Issue

Bats!

Ian Ableson

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Bats! We have nine species living in Michigan, and over half of them can commonly be found in the Southern Lower Peninsula. Six Rivers Land Conservancy Stewardship Manager Ian Ableson will discuss the impacts of bats in our native Michigan communities and talk about our individual Michigan species, bat houses, monitoring, and the threats to bats worldwide. Bring your questions about any of our native nocturnal animals.



Avian and Wildlife Habitat

John DeLisle

Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

With over 20 years of experience in the ecological field, including 10 years with NCS and another as a government entomologist and forester, John DeLisle has acquired an array of knowledge in areas such as botany, green stormwater infrastructure, soil science, habitat restoration design, wildlife food webs, native and invasive species phenology as well as many others. In his presentation, John will discuss avian and wildlife habitats in urban, suburban and semi-rural home landscapes and techniques used to restore and improve plant and structural habitat in these settings.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fall 2020

It may have seemed like forever but we've made it to the fall. Late winter, spring and summer have been plagued by the corona virus and a whole lot of social upheaval. With the election upcoming, things won't "cool down" very much until after we see what the election brings. Hopefully, a more sensible world will emerge and we can move forward on solving the virus problem so that we can eventually get back to a new normal.

That said, you are certainly aware that we have begun having our program meetings via Zoom computer conferences. This is a new and quite useful way to allow folks to get together to watch a program without any of the usual travel or exposure issues. In fact, we have also added a YouTube channel for OAS that allows us to store videos of the lectures by our speakers. We also hope to use Zoom video to send out our programs live during meetings even when we get back to meeting at the church. This way, we can serve those who may be laid up or have a problem getting to a meeting. It also allows us to have programs when there is a storm and no one can travel. No more cancellation of meetings. A move forward and we are happy to put the effort into making these things available. Why didn't we think of this earlier?

As for field trips, we did have a Young Birders trip in late July and it was handled well. The field trip committee will use this information to lay out a program for moving forward with carefully designed field trips until we get back to "normal". This has been one of the more painful results of the virus but, as was always the motto, "we shall overcome"!!

From my viewpoint, we are doing well under the circumstances. I hope that my periodic mailings about programs and other information have been useful. I don't want to pester everyone but somebody might like some of these activities, programs, etc. I also want to stress that we need to keep working on advocacy for the environment that supports our beloved birds. The world has not been friendly lately, due to our activities, and we need to keep after protecting the birds' habitats and environment. I fully intend to keep after everyone, asking for your support and action to let our legislators know what the world needs.

For my part, I have taken part in a "virtual fly-in" via Zoom to meet with legislators from Michigan under the auspices of National Audubon. I spoke with Rep. Debbie Dingell and her staff and the staff of Senator Gary Peters. They are both very supportive of protecting our environment and it is a pleasure to discuss these topics with them. I hope for more opportunities in the future.

We continue to work on becoming an affiliate of National Audubon and hope that can be resolved before too long. This will afford us more opportunities for programs and information as well as some new members. I'll employ dogged determination to keep this process moving forward.

Finally, I'll say it's a big world out there and having the opportunity to sit in on sessions of the Midwest Migration Network conference in late July opened my eyes to a great deal of scientific work being done on behalf of the birds. I hope to add an article about the conference for the electronic version of this issue. It's worth a look to see what these scientists are doing and to recognize what we can do to support their efforts for our birds.

Stay well and safe and keep birding. Hope to see you soon.

Don Burlett

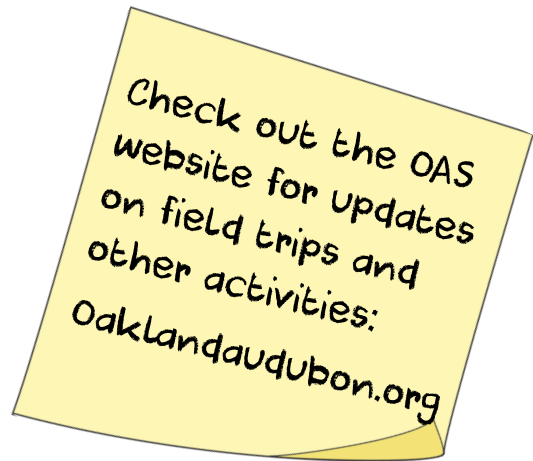
OAS BOARD MEMBERS

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Cover page banner photo: Mike Dougherty

Field Trip Report

Oakland Owlets' July 18, 2020 Field Trip at Bear Creek



After a four-month hiatus, the Young Birders' Club hosted Oakland Audubon's first in person field trip since the pandemic outbreak. Twelve masked participants met at Bear Creek Nature Park, near Rochester. The hike started in a socially distanced circle to learn about the unique natural features. Ben VanderWeide, Natural Resources Stewardship Manager for Oakland Township, graciously shared his time and expertise with participants during a brief introduction. Oakland Township Parks are one of the few park systems in Oakland County that has a millage dedicated to land preservation. Ben explained that the parks system has allocated resources to restore grassland habitat at Bear Creek which is an imperiled ecosystem.

Oakland Township has restored grasslands at Bear Creek through prescribed fire, invasive species control including removal of woody shrubs, native seed application and planting native prairie plants. In the township blog, grassland restoration is described like planting a tree and giving it time to grow. This work has resulted in an extensive bird checklist of 122 species. The park is a good place to see some grassland birds.

The group ventured onto the trail and stopped at a duckweed covered pond just beyond the parking lot. A number of turtles were basking on the logs in the pond, including a Blanding's turtle which was easily identified by the long yellow neck and dome-shaped carapace. An eagle-eyed observer caught a glimpse of a mother Wood Duck and her ducklings scurrying into the brush which was a great start for the hike.



Oakland Township also has a nest box monitoring program. At Bear Creek there are six nest boxes designated for cavity

nesters like Eastern Bluebirds. The hike was titled searching for birds: red, white and bluebirds which are descriptors of Eastern Bluebirds. Eastern Bluebirds are smaller members of the thrush family, which includes some of the best-known birds like the American Robin, and beautiful songsters such as the Wood Thrush. Male and female Eastern Bluebirds were observed on the hike near the nest boxes. Parent birds quietly guarded the nest boxes holding their nestlings.



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Field Trip Reports

Oakland Owlets' July 18, 2020 Field Trip at Bear Creek (continued)

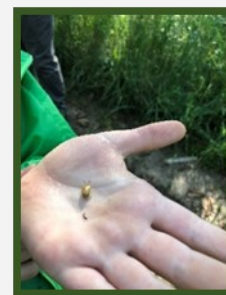


The group eventually reached a large marsh bordered by a hardwood forest near Gunn Road. Wandering about 2 miles through fields, around ponds, wetlands and forest, the group tallied 29 species of birds. Some birds were only heard and not seen, but others perched for a while so everyone could see their stunning field marks and plumage. Turkey Vultures circled high above as a Red-tailed Hawk was positioned in a sentinel pose on a distant utility structure.

A special thank you to Ben VanderWeide for generously giving his time so everyone could learn about Bear Creek. Ben accompanied the group for a time along with his son in a stroller, who may be youngest birder to ever attend a young birders' club hike. There was a lot to discover on the hike. Wyatt found a micro snail and wondered what it was. It was a beautiful day and terrific hike.

The OAS field trip committee has instituted some health guidelines during the pandemic, which include socially distancing on the trail, wearing face masks and pre-registering in advance to limit the group size.

Photo credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS photo gallery



July 25, 2020 - Butterfly Field Trip at Independence Oaks County Park Leader: Doris Applebaum

Suppose you schedule an OAS butterfly field trip with registration required because of the COVID-19 pandemic—and nobody registers. What do you do? You recruit a couple of friends who like butterflies and take them along on a walk through Independence Oaks County Park to see what species might be around.

As it turned out, we saw some very nice butterflies, including what I call the “swallowtail grand slam”: Black, Giant, Eastern Tiger, and Spicebush Swallowtails all showed up. Other welcome species were several Monarchs along with several of their look-alikes, the Viceroy's. Among the larger species were some lovely Red-spotted Purples and Great Spangled Fritillaries, and some of the smaller species included Pearl Crescents and an American Copper.

Surprisingly, we did not chalk up any of the group called skippers. At least there were none that I could identify; there were a few seen but they were totally uncooperative and did not give me a decent look.

Of course, as with any OAS field trip, we didn't ignore other interesting animals, such as the very visible Green Frogs at the small pool near the Wint Nature Center serenading us with their broken-banjo-string calls, and the Eastern Kingbird very forcefully chasing a Cooper's Hawk.

Sightings like these added spice to the total of 17 butterfly species identified. On a beautiful sunny summer day, with little wind and temperature in the low 80s, it was a perfect setting for butterflies and other nature sightings, and we had a great time.

Field Trip Reports

Oakland Owlets' August 15, 2020 Field Trip in Search of Insects

The Oakland Audubon Young Birders' Club gathered on a warm and partly sunny summer day at Indian Springs Metropark. Eleven young birders, families, and friends along with a few experts, wandered along the trails in search of the park's insects and birds. Indian Springs has an extensive restored prairie along with a demonstration native plant garden. Both places provide habitat for many pollinators. Veteran butterfly expert, Doris Applebaum, said that Indian Springs was the best place to see butterflies in Oakland County this year. Doris along with Susanne Greenlee led this field trip. Sue studied Orthoptera species (grasshoppers and their relatives) for the Nature Conservancy in the Midwest.

Sue and Doris introduced the group to several butterflies and many other insects on the hike. It was partially sunny at the beginning of the hike but became mostly sunny. Clearly, butterflies are creatures of sunshine and more butterflies were seen later. The most numerous species observed were Clouded Sulphur and Common Ringlet. **Thirteen species of butterflies** were observed, and 43 individuals were counted.



Insects were everywhere and kept Sue busy. Sue captured and displayed several bugs to the group so everyone could see their unique features. In addition to seeing insects, insect signs were abundant. Fall webworms were active and obvious along with gall insects like the Goldenrod Fly. The insect orchestra was in full chorus as well. Sue pointed out several insect calls including the Carolina Ground Cricket, Meadow Katydid, and the Dog-day Cicada. Sue's expertise helped everyone learn some of the common insect calls of late summer.

Families socially distanced and young birders were able to see some of the beautiful places at the park. Young birders club hikes encourage participants to develop a sense of wonder and curiosity about nature.

Prairie plant flowers were magnets for bumblebees and butterflies. Overall, Sue and

Doris were able to identify **33 species of insects** during the hike. The field trip was like a mini Bio Blitz where everyone was able to see some of the insect and bird biodiversity at Indian Springs. Checklists were kept and submitted to eBird and the park. **Twenty-five species of birds** were tracked along the trail. The hike concluded at the Environmental Discovery Center which is a great place to see nesting Barn Swallows. The swallows did not disappoint.



(continued on next page)

Field Trip Reports

Oakland Owlets' August 15, 2020 Field Trip in Search of Insects (continued)

A special thank you to Doris Applebaum and Sue Greenlee for sharing their time and expertise with the Young Birders Club. One young birder said that the field trip was FUN which is a compliment to Sue and Doris who made learning about insects exciting and interactive.

The OAS field trip committee has instituted some health guidelines during the pandemic, which include socially distancing on the trail, wearing face masks and pre-registering in advance to limit the group size.



Photo credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS photo gallery

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Due to the Covid-19 virus we have had to cancel a number of planned field trips. There may be additional field trips scheduled between this edition of the newsletter and the December edition. If additional field trips are scheduled an email will be sent out to the members that have an email address on file and updates will be posted on our website. We will be adhering to all State of Michigan guidelines pertaining to group gatherings and recommended precautions. Please refer to our website for current information before leaving for a field trip.

Details of these outings as well as any new field trips or cancellation notices may be found on the Field Trips page of our website at:

www.oaklandaudubon.org

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
September 19, 2020 (Saturday) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Wander at Twilight Time Drayton Plains Nature Center Meet in the Nature Center parking lot.	Kathleen Dougherty
October 17, 2020 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Woodland Bird Walk Highland Recreation Area Meet at the Goose Meadows parking lot State parks passport required	Kathleen Dougherty
November 7, 2020 (Saturday) 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Owl Prowl Troy Nature Center Meet in the Nature Center lobby	Kathleen Dougherty

Bonus Program via Zoom

Tuesday, October 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Amanda Felk

"Bats: Basics and Benefits"

In "Bats: Basics and Benefits" participants learn about the traits all bats share, the difference between Megabats & Microbats, the diets of several unique bat species, how bats help humanity worldwide, and what we can do to help them in return, with an emphasis on bat houses and how they work. Educational aids include bat skeleton, bat guano, and a bat house.

Zoom Meetings Into the Future

Don Burlett

As most of you are aware, we have begun using Zoom meetings to provide virtual program meetings. We have also started using Zoom for board meetings. This has been precipitated by the corona virus and the problems of gathering in large groups. Zoom offers a way to see the speaker and listen to their lecture while viewing slides from the presentation. It's become very common and I have attended so many recently that it's becoming second nature.

That said, we need to make sure that many of you become familiar with how to use Zoom for meetings. With help from Phil Bugosh, we have gathered a few videos from the Zoom website ([Zoom.us](https://zoom.us)) and sent them to everyone in the organization. The idea is to show you how to load the Zoom app to your computer and use it for meetings. Instruction on how to use the features during meetings is very useful. Once everyone is familiar and comfortable with Zoom, it will become even more useful.

We have used Zoom for several program meetings added to the schedule over the summer months and we have recorded the lectures. These lecture videos are then going to be added to a new Oakland Audubon Society YouTube channel where everyone can go back and see these talks that you may have missed. We hope to have links available soon where you can visit and enjoy these lectures.

Moving forward, we hope to also use Zoom video for providing live coverage of future programs, even when we are able to get back together at the church. In this way, bad weather cannot prevent us from having our meetings. And, if you are sick or traveling, you have the option of "tuning in" or waiting and catching the lecture from our YouTube channel. Hopefully, this will avoid many of the pitfalls of typical meetings schedules, etc.

The possibilities are quite numerous for other uses for Zoom meetings. We can add extra programs at other times to provide education and other programs. We encourage you to suggest possible programs or other uses of this electronic tool so that we can provide as much value to you as possible as members. We look forward to seeing all of you at a meeting in the near future. And thanks for tuning in!!!



A CHANGE IN A FAMILIAR BIRDSONG

Doris Applebaum

The White-throated Sparrow's "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody" is one of the most familiar of all North American birdsongs. Of course, in Canada they insist that the bird is saying something like "My sweet Canada, Canada, Canada." Wherever it is heard, whether the 3-note "Peabody" or the 3-note "Canada," it is definitely a song of 3-note parts. That is, until it changes.

In British Columbia, a variation consisting of 2-note parts was being heard sometime after the 1960s. By the 1990s, the 2-note version had spread across Canada west of the Rocky Mountains. At first it was not particularly surprising. Sometimes a local population will develop a variation from the standard song, but it usually stays local. What was totally unexpected was that this 2-note variation eventually spread thousands of miles across Canada. By 2004 the new song was being heard in the western half of Alberta; by 2014, it was the only version being heard throughout Alberta, and it was even being documented by citizen scientists recording the songs as far east as central Ontario.

How did it spread so far? By putting geolocators on some sparrows, researchers realized that western birds share wintering grounds with birds from some eastern populations. This species sings on the wintering grounds, and it is believed that juvenile males picked up the song there and took it back to their breeding grounds.

The researchers don't know for sure if females prefer a male with a different song but, if so, a male singing the new song would have an advantage, and that could be how it became popular.

Recently, the researchers have heard yet another song variation in the western Canada population, and it appears to be spreading, offering a new opportunity for research.

While "Old Sam Peabody" can still be heard in the U.S., it appears that the White-throated Sparrows to our north are souring on "My sweet Canada."

(Information for this article was originally in *Eureka Alert! Science News* and was reported by the Center for Biological Diversity in an email they sent out on July 9, 2020. The scientific report documenting the research is from *Current Biology*, Otter et al.: "Continent-wide shifts in song dialects of white-throated sparrows" [https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(20\)30771-5](https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(20)30771-5).)

UPDATE: An item in the September 2020 issue of *Natural History* magazine indicates that the 2-note version has reached all the way to western Quebec, and, wherever it spreads, it becomes the only version that the birds sing.



Photo credit: Pixabay.com (Skeeze)

COUNTING BIRD CASUALTIES AT BUILDINGS IN CANADA

Doris Applebaum

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada has many volunteers gathering birds that collide with buildings in the Greater Toronto area. FLAP Canada started in 1992, making Toronto the first North American city to start this kind of activity. By now, many other cities have followed Toronto's lead.

Each year FLAP Canada publishes the list of birds found by its volunteers. The 2019 list, in the Spring 2020 issue of *Touching Down*, the organization's newsletter, contained 97 species (plus a listing for "unknown"). There were 3,137 birds collected; 479 were listed as alive and 2,658 were listed as dead. The list included only the birds that were found; undoubtedly the actual number was much higher.

The White-throated Sparrow had the largest number of casualties: 324, with only 49 alive. Other species with more than 100 were the Nashville Warbler with 319, 46 alive; Golden-crowned Kinglet with 225, 41 alive; Brown Creeper with 222, 80 alive; Ovenbird with 179, 32 alive; Ruby-crowned Kinglet with 148, 36 alive; and Tennessee Warbler with 115, 20 alive.

Interesting among the casualties were 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Turkey Vulture, and 2 Belted Kingfishers. All died.

FLAP Canada has produced considerable information about what can be done to limit the dangers that birds face from buildings during the day, when they collide with clear glass windows which they don't see as a barrier, and at night, when they are drawn to lighted windows in buildings especially on cloudy nights when they cannot navigate using the stars. Nevertheless, Toronto's buildings still provide thousands of dead birds each year for FLAP Canada volunteers to collect. And, of course, Toronto is just one of thousands of cities worldwide with many buildings containing innumerable glass windows.

Buildings full of glass windows are only one of the many hazards that confront birds. No wonder so many species are in severe decline.



Midwest Migration Network A Key Organization for Bird Conservation in the Midwest Don Burlett

This organization is a group of researchers in the area of bird migration that are looking at how to understand bird migration through the Midwest and how to best support these birds through conservation and management of resources. They are also interested in generating scientific data to support management of things like wind power generation sites and other topics.

In late July, this organization had a virtual conference held using Zoom meetings. The conference lasted three days and had invited lecturers and a series of sessions focused on key areas of research with regard to bird migration through this area. Included in the topics were: Banding and Ground Surveys, Great Lakes Wind-Wildlife Coalition, Radar and Acoustics, and Telemetry. These sessions were very educational and provided a number of opportunities to get involved in this work. There were discussions of MOTUS monitoring, radar use in studying migration, use of studies to help regulate wind power generation in the great lakes and much more. The website (<https://midwestmigrationnetwork.org/>) has a number of resources including recordings of the sessions that were held.

You can also join this organization at no cost and get updates and information periodically about the work that is going on. I think this is a great opportunity to further educate yourself about the best of birding in this region – during migration. I encourage as many as have an interest to take a look and see if there is something there for you.



OAS Advocacy in Action

In late July OAS President Don Burlett participated in a program with the National Audubon Society called the virtual Seabird Action Fly-In. Follow the link below to view the article about the event.

https://www.audubon.org/news/seabirds-and-fisheries-get-virtual-lift-congress-audubon-advocates?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-advocacy_20200731_flyinreg&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advocacy_20200731&utm_content=flyinreg&emci=db4833fb-15d7-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&emdi=6b2249ee-23d7-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&ceid=1377308



Participants from the virtual Seabird Action Fly-In, clockwise from top right: Adam Maxwell with Audubon Washington, Molly Adams of NYC Audubon, Nicole Gillette of Tucson Audubon, Tammah Watts of Buena Vista Audubon, Don Burlett of Oakland Audubon, Sree Kandhadai of California, and Laura McCarthy of Audubon New York. Photos: Courtesy of Adam Maxwell, Molly Adams, Nicole Gillette, Tammah Watts, Don Burlett, Sree Kandhadai, and Laura McCarthy

Picture from Audubon.org

2020 Oakland Owlets Field Trips September—December

Wander at Twilight Time - Saturday, September 19, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Drayton Plains Nature Center ~Waterford

Twilight is a transition time between light and dark. It is a time when many animals are active. Hike along the Clinton River at the Drayton Plains Nature Center. DPNC is a 138-acre natural area with trails through many wetland habitats. Bats, herons, ducks, and other water birds can be seen as the sun sets. Terri Chapdelaine, Director of Bird Studies, and Ian Ableson, stewardship manager from Six Rivers Land Conservancy, will assist with the hike. 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. Access to the nature center is free and open to the public.



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

Woodland Bird Walk - Saturday, October 17, 8:30 am - 11 am Highland Recreation Area ~ White Lake

Highland Recreation Area contains some of the most unusual and high-quality conservation areas in Oakland County. These areas include some of the best intact examples of natural communities that provide critical wildlife habitat. Friends of Highland Recreation Area will share information about how these natural areas are managed. Plan to hike 2 miles, bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. **Meet at the Goose Meadows Parking lot.** State parks passport is required for park entry.



<http://www.michigandnr.com/ParksandTrails/Details.aspx?id=455&type=SPRK>

Owl Prowl – Saturday, November 7, 4 – 6:30 pm Troy Nature Center – Troy

Owls are specialized birds with many unique adaptations. Learn about these amazing birds during this special program. Meet some of the resident owls at the Stage Nature Center to see these adaptations firsthand. After seeing the owls, venture outdoors with naturalist Christina Funk to become immersed into the nighttime world of owls. Plan to hike about 1.5 miles. Dress for the weather. Spots for this program are limited so please register in advance. The nature center is located at 6685 Coollidge Road. Meet in the nature center lobby.

<https://troynaturesociety.org/visitor-info/hours-location/>



2020 Oakland Owlets Field Trips September—December (continued)

Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 19, All Day Northern Oakland County

Young birders may be interested in learning more about this citizen science activity. Young birders are invited to join one of the OAS field leaders. For more information visit the OAS webpage after November.



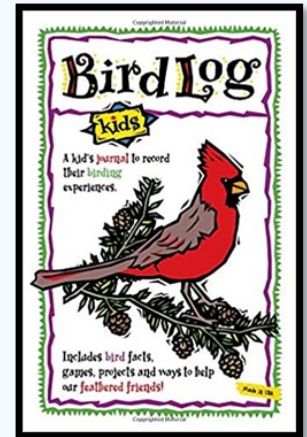
*The Young Birders' Club ~Oakland Owlets offers field trips for youth 8 – 18 years. Young birders 15 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. These age appropriate programs provide educational experiences and snacks for kids. Young birders must complete a release form. Young Birders' Club programs are open to all birders. To register for Oakland Owlets field trips contact – Kathleen Dougherty, Coordinator at kad8186@msn.com Visit <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders>
Photo Credits: Oakland Audubon Photo Gallery*

Visit [Oakland Audubon](#) for field trip updates related to Covid 19



Oakland Owlets ~ The Best Young Birders in 2019

The Oakland Audubon Young Birders' Club aka the Oakland Owlets recognizes young birders who regularly attend group field trips. When young birders attend three or more field trips during a calendar year, these birders are awarded a *Bird Log for Kids*. This journal provides a way for youth to track bird observations in a fun and engaging way. By observing native birds and making observations, kids are practicing science. The National Science Teachers Association considers the development of observational awareness a critical skill to science inquiry. When learners make in-depth observations including measurements and drawings, then they understand that evidence is an important component in making decisions. Children begin to construct what is needed to make critical decisions. Birding allows children to develop observational awareness. Watching birds in a quest to identify them is a fun and exciting way to solve a mystery. The implications of these direct observations are important building blocks to environmental literacy.



In 2019, the Young Birders' Club offered monthly field trips. One family made attendance a family affair. Megan S. was recognized for her attendance



in 2018 and continued as the top Young Birder 2019. Megan attended seven of the Young Birders' Club field trips in 2019. Since Megan had already completed a Bird Log for Kids, she was awarded a David Sibley book for her stellar attendance record. At three of the programs, Megan brought her two older brothers, Eric and Michael. Eric and Michael attend public school and enjoy the outdoors, sports, and technology.

Eric and Michael were each given a copy of the *Bird Log for Kids* after the August young birders' club field trip at Indian Springs. **The virus delayed this presentation.** As children begin the 2020 school year during the pandemic, studying birds and practicing observational awareness can help keep learners academically motivated. Megan, Michael, and Eric are pictured with their mother below. This picture captures the challenges of learning in a pandemic when precautions are necessary for learning safely.

Young Birders' Club programs and field trips are supported by members of the Oakland Audubon Society. **Thanks to all members for this support.** Young Birders' Club field trips engage and encourage youth to learn about birds and conservation. Learners interact with native birds in local place-based natural settings. Children experience authentic learning opportunities that are rich and meaningful. Outdoor experiences can lead to scientific inquiry and enrichment. Oakland Audubon is grateful for the agencies that provide outdoor experiences to the birding community and young birders' parents who take time to bring their children to Oakland Owlet field trips.



Young Birders' Club field trips and programs are open to all birders. Youth under 16 years must be accompanied by their parents. All young birders are asked to complete release forms to participate and allow OAS to use photographic images to promote our program.

Photos credit: Kathleen Dougherty

THOSE AREN'T ORDINARY SWANS!

Annis Pratt

My friend and I had parked our car on Euclid Road where it crosses the backwaters of the Manistee River up north in Mesick, and were scanning the lagoon for ducks. Suddenly, a tremendous concatenation broke out: two enormous swans flew down, right over our heads.

We were dumbstruck by their almost seven foot wing span and by their sonorous bugling as they came in for a landing on the lagoon.

“Those aren’t ordinary swans,” we exclaimed to each other.

Usually, we would see Mute Swans nesting in the cattails along Euclid Road. Although almost as large, they live up to their name by their silence. Most swans you see are Mute Swans. They are not native to North America, but were introduced from Europe to ornament lakes and parks. As anyone who has gotten too near their nesting sites in a kayak or canoe knows, they mount powerful attacks against both humans and rival species like Trumpeter Swans. This time, however, the Trumpeters had won the battle, and were nesting right where the Mute Swans used to brood.

The following summer I came across two of their young, grown almost to adulthood, in possession of the same territory. They flew close together, landed on the lagoon, and made their way, side by side, in a kind of synchronized water formation, carrying on a sing-song conversation all the way. To my amazement, they got up on the road and waddled over to me. These wild swans that once were close to extinction had apparently made friends with the folks of Mesick!

This was especially surprising because human beings were always their most dangerous predators, almost wiping them out in our greed not only for their meat but for their downy skins (used for powder puffs) and feathers (to ornament women’s hats and make highly prized quill pens). Fifty years ago, there were only 70 Trumpeter Swans left in the whole of North America. Now, after concerted efforts to restore them, there are about 50,000 — 2652 counted for Michigan in 2019.

Scientists recovered the species by gathering eggs from northern Canada and other places where Trumpeters were still found and raising them until they were two years old. 124 of these young swans were released in Michigan. “Dan Kennedy, the endangered species coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, notes that ‘Their population made a drastic upswing between 2000 and 2010.’”

<https://howardmeyerson.com/2015/11/17/trumpeter..>

“So, how can I tell which is which if they aren’t trumpeting,” you might very well ask.

Although Trumpeter Swans are larger, their wing span difference is only 80 inches compared to the Mute’s 74 inches, which means that, if they are floating, it will be hard to distinguish one from the other just by size. Fortunately, there is a dramatic difference between the bright orange coloration of the Mute Swan’s beak and the more solid black of the Trumpeter’s. (If a large swan with a black beak whistles rather than trumpets in flight, it is a Tundra or Whistling Swan, which have also returned to our waters.)

Meanwhile, I live in hope of someday hearing a flock of Trumpeter Swans flying in full chorus fill the sky.

It is always a good idea to let an hour’s walk refresh your spirits - even the most ordinary swallow or sandpiper can lift your heart with a joy that mitigates the pain of these difficult pandemic times. Find your own special places – if you take the time to ramble along with your eyes open and your ears pricked, it is amazing how Mother Nature can make your troubles fall away and bathe your tired soul in contentment.

WHAT ABOUT THE “OTHER” MONARCH?

Doris Applebaum

Much has been written about the plight of the Monarch butterflies that make an amazing migration of thousands of miles, from places in eastern North America as far north as southern Canada to a specific area of Mexico. Recognition of the steep decline in the population of these butterflies in the past few decades has resulted in considerable activity to try to help this iconic species. Some increase in the population has been noticed recently, and efforts in this regard continue.

There is another population of Monarchs, however, that has not had as much publicity but has suffered an even more devastating decline. These are the Monarchs that live west of the Rocky Mountains and spend the winter in a specific area of northern California. That population has declined by a catastrophic 99% over the past several years.

One reason is the destruction of many of the overwintering sites needed by these western Monarchs.

Another major clue to the decline was discovered in a 2019 study of milkweeds in California’s Central Valley. Milkweeds, of course, are the only kinds of plants that Monarch caterpillars can eat. Samples of milkweeds from places like farms, homes, retail stores, and wildlife refuges were tested. Dozens of pesticides were detected, and every one of the milkweed samples contained at least some.

Fortunately, there are now efforts being undertaken to try to solve these problems. The Xerces Society, an environmental organization dedicated to the protection of invertebrates, has partnered with some universities to gather support for restoring overwintering sites.

They are also encouraging farmers, homeowners, and people involved in maintaining parks and other natural areas to plant milkweeds for caterpillar food, as well as plants to provide nectar for the adult butterflies throughout spring and summer to early fall, while avoiding the use of pesticides.

The Xerces Society also offers “habitat kits” for growing milkweeds and other plants on large-scale properties. Each kit has more than 1,000 native plants that not only support Monarchs but also other pollinators. There are four types of kits, each suited to a particular region of California.

The future of western Monarchs may not yet be secure, but now that the dangers are known and being addressed, there is hope that their precipitous slide toward extinction can be reversed.

(Information for this article was found in the Spring 2020 issue of *Wings*, a publication of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.)

Rivers of Birds

Annis Pratt

One night last spring, self-isolation blues were getting to me, so I went to look at the stars. There was a full March moon, and, while I stood gazing at it, a concatenation of bugling and cackling reached me from way high up. I wouldn't have known what it was if I hadn't heard Sandhill Cranes at the same time last spring, flying north on the rivers of the sky. Thousands of them pass through Michigan along The Mississippi Flyway, migrating from their wintering grounds in the Gulf of Mexico to breeding sites in Canada.

I would have jumped up in the air and clicked my heels if I could (I did it mentally, anyway).

In these lonely days, we are allowed to get fresh air and exercise if we keep 6 feet apart and upwind from each other. Watching birds on their spring migration ratchets me right out of my funk.

The Rouge River runs through Birmingham's Quarton Lake, where, in the spring Canada Geese sort themselves into mating pairs amid clamorous lunging and imprecation. If you aim your binoculars away from the shore, you often see migrating ducks resting on their journey. One March Saturday, I got into one of those arcane bird watcher's conundrums trying to figure out whether the little ducks gliding and diving in the middle of the lake there were Buffleheads or Hooded Mergansers, only to come back on Sunday to discover both species present.

From that distance, the males with their prominent white head markings looked quite similar: the key was in their mates. The female Bufflehead has a small, round head and is brownish all over, but the female Hooded Merganser has a wild rusty mane that looks, my bird guide says, as if she had attacked it with a hair dryer. Figuring out the intricate details that Mother Nature bestows on her creatures focused my mind wonderfully, and helped me rise above my gloomy preoccupation.

There is something reassuring in the way birds migrate on predictable routes and schedules. In my back yard, for example, a Red-winged Blackbird has appeared around March 5 (my mother's birthday) every year since I started keeping feeder lists in 1982 (my family has always thought we might come back to each other as birds, maybe it is her?)

Bird species tend to migrate through our area at set times. If you happen along the riverside path in Birmingham's Linden Park during the first week in May, a bunch of us with binoculars around our necks and frantic looks on our faces will be scrambling about in the bushes tallying migrating warblers, teeny tiny birds given to darting about way high up in the treetops (warbler neck is a significant muscular affliction of this season.) These little birds travel at night, descend at dawn, and don't fly in the rain: if we have had a wind from the south and a nighttime rainstorm, we might get the warbler "fallout" that we have waited for all year long.

Between 1992 and 2010 we kept records for Oakland Audubon in Linden Park and Quarton Lake, 112 species of year-round and summer residents and 26 varieties of warblers passing through on their spring and fall migrations. Tired and hungry on flights from as far away as South America, they spot the glittering currents of the Rouge River and descend for restorative stopovers on their way to Canada and the Arctic Circle.

(Continued on next page)

Rivers of Birds (continued)

I think most of us became nerdy listers as the secondary effect of the sheer delight of bird watching. Just looking at birds is a mood lifter, as I first discovered as an anxious ten year-old New Yorker when a kindly Audubon Club maven plopped me down in the middle of a Central Park multi-species fallout with colorful, active, and excitedly chirping birds perched on the trees and bushes in every direction.

Although climate change and destruction of stopover habitat has led to a sad decline in bird numbers, Scientific American reports that it is also shifting the timing of bird migrations, but only by two days each decade - not enough to throw them off their seasonal feeding schedules.

It is heartening, too, that so many of our fellow creatures are adapting themselves to global warming. The Scientific American notes “a [study](#) of 52 species published in *Ecology Letters* found that birds’ bodies are getting smaller over time while their wingspans are getting longer, apparently in response to rising temperatures. The smaller size may allow the animals to lose body heat faster as the climate warms, the researchers suggest.”

The fall migrations have already started: many flocks are made up of juveniles and females, so now is the time to study up on all of those “confusing fall warblers,” otherwise known as “little brown jobbies.”

Visit Linden Park off of Lincoln at Shirley and Douglas Evans Nature Preserve off of Evergreen between 14 and 13 mile roads.

References:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/millions-of-birds-are-migrating-earlier-because-of-warming/>

<https://www.audubon.org/mississippi-flyway>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/22/science/geese-social-coronavirus.html>

<http://bit.ly/2BVNEQC>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-make-these-next-few-weeks-a-little-easier-courtesy-of-birds/>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ele.13434>

Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Crime Investigation Tool Reveals Origins Of UK's Feral Parrots

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/12/18/crime-investigation-tool-reveals-origins-of-uks-feral-parrots/#14385c611042>

Understanding where “introduced” or released birds come from was the focus of this scientific investigation. Urban myth or legend was dispelled as they looked at bird records from over 100 years. Another parrot investigation to mull over.

How an Eye Surgeon Got a Picture of This Rare Pastel Bird

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/03/science/south-philippine-kingfisher-photo.html?referringSource=articleShare>

This is a short article on how to document birds that are rare. A Philippine birder got pictures of a fledgling kingfisher. This sort of work is very demanding and the results were worth it.

Passeriformes Family Groups

<http://www.birdfamiliesoftheworld.com/passeriformes-family-groups/?fbclid=IwAR2vRaMXBieMOXN8UQGGRQfds8Ljp8lqY22fQsXAopK7Xlned0jSkRXtB6n8>

This is just a listing of the Passeriformes family of birds, listing how many species are in each grouping. This is just for the lister in your family, unless you want to be amazed at the listing itself.

These Birds Eat Fire, or Close to It, to Live Another Day

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/28/science/birds-diets-survival.html?auth=login-email&login=email&referringSource=articleShare>

When they say “eat fire”, they really mean it. This is a short article about adaptability in birds with regard to feeding behavior. Cute look at some behaviors of birds.

The Comfort of Common Creatures

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/05/11/magazine/quarantine-nature.html>

An essay on using birds to deal with the coronavirus. Worth a read under the current circumstances.

Social Distancing Makes For Global ‘Big Day’ Bird Watching Records

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2020/05/16/social-distancing-makes-for-global-big-day-bird-watching-records/#6b3e876a7257>

If you thought that social distancing during the pandemic would affect birders, you got it wrong. Read about the result of the Global Big Day. Good for birders!!!

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Feral Parakeets Nest With Storks To Avoid Predators

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2020/05/20/feral-parakeets-nest-with-storks-to-avoid-predators/#40b103f03a9d>

Parakeets are really smart characters, using whatever they can to improve their lot in life. Nesting with storks is another example of their smarts. Fun read about how they have adapted and the results of research into their behaviors.

What are birds doing? David Allen Sibley knows.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Books/Book-Reviews/2020/0520/What-are-birds-doing-David-Allen-Sibley-knows>

A book review on a new book by David Sibley. Looks at what it's like to be a bird. Great illustrations and lots of interesting reading.

Birds Are Eating Hundreds of Plastic Bits Daily, New Studies Find

<https://www.ecowatch.com/birds-microplastics-food-chain-2646064992.html?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1>

A quick article on birds and their consumption of plastic. A really disheartening article and a hint that plastic use is really hurting the planet.

Epic 7,500-mile cuckoo migration wows scientists

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52815286>

You may have heard about this cuckoo's migration before but it is interesting to see the route and understand how far a "land" bird sometimes travels for food and other means of survival.

Rewilding: rare birds return when livestock grazing has stopped

<https://theconversation.com/amp/rewilding-rare-birds-return-when-livestock-grazing-has-stopped-137948>

An inside look at what happens when farming is stopped. Hints at overpopulation and the use of land to provide food for everyone. Something to think about.

Australia's Night Parrots Can't See At Night

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2020/06/17/australias-night-parrots-cant-see-at-night/#685f069418be>

An interesting article about a bird that was thought lost and then re-found after 100 years. Its vision is the amazing thing about this bird – it's not adapted for night work. Worth a quick read.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

It's Time to Build a Truly Inclusive Outdoors

<https://www.audubon.org/news/its-time-build-truly-inclusive-outdoors?ms=digital-eng-social-facebook-x-20200600> fb link -

[corina newsome building inclusive outdoors&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=20200600](#) fb link -

[corina newsome building inclusive outdoors&fbclid=IwAR2sGhvS0V_rvF2xyOS3Fd5ahU3nKmPfmtbmNJXxpN9I2wsJGzfyYVCcS3A](#)

In today's world, this article touches on an important issue, inclusivity. We should all be aware that we want our community to be wholesome and inclusive. A must read to keep us on point.

Little known giant colony of Bank Swallows under threat in Byron gravel pit

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/little-known-giant-colony-of-bank-swallows-under-threat-in-byron-gravel-pit-1.4990978>

This article discusses efforts to save a colony of Bank Swallows. As always, a key to these efforts is the involvement of the community. A reminder that our beloved birds do need our help, most of the time.

Hummingbirds see colors we can only imagine

https://earthsky.org/earth/wild-hummingbirds-see-colors-humans-can-only-imagine?utm_source=EarthSky+News&utm_campaign=cala9032ad-

[EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2018 02 02 COPY 01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c643945d79-cala9032ad-393644497](#)

An interesting article that also includes work by a local birder who is working on his degree. Fun stuff and another bit of knowledge about hummers.

Dawn song of the male Great Tit attracts other males rather than females

<https://phys.org/news/2020-06-dawn-song-male-great-tit.html>

This article will add a new element to your understanding (or lack thereof) about bird songs. This work pointed to a concept about bird songs that may not be correct all the time. Lots to learn yet.

Color Differences Between The Sexes Driven By Simple Molecular Mechanisms

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2020/06/23/color-differences-between-the-sexes-driven-by-simple-molecular-mechanisms/#3860765a16f3>

This article is for the scientifically-inclined birder. It discusses coloration differences between sexes of birds on the basis of genetics and other chemical topics. Not for the "lite" birder.

Bird Briefs (continued)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Canada's Sparrows Are Singing a New Song. You'll Hear It Soon

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/02/science/sparrow-bird-song.html?referringSource=articleShare>

[https://www.cell.com/current-biology/pdf/S0960-9822\(20\)30771-5.pdf?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0960982220307715%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/current-biology/pdf/S0960-9822(20)30771-5.pdf?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0960982220307715%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)

You've probably already heard that White-throated Sparrows are starting to use a new call in some areas. Read a few details on this discovery.

(also see the article on page 10 of this newsletter)

Bird droppings carry risk of antibiotic resistance

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/07/200713133452.htm>

A short item describing studies that include bird droppings and some indication of antibiotic-resistant materials being found in them, especially in urban settings. Just a little something to worry you some more.

A Bird Named for a Confederate General Sparks Calls for Change

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/bird-named-confederate-general-sparks-calls-change-180975376/>

McCown's Longspur is named for a confederate general who is a bit controversial because of his involvement with Indian displacement and racial history. At the same time, he was the person who discovered this species. In today's world, the name causes controversy and it shows that the world of birds is not outside this sphere of influence. A quick read to see how bird names can also be a contentious issue.

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

BIRD ID QUIZ (Summer 2020)



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 25, 2020**

The board met via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. President Don Burlett said that he hoped to connect with the members via ZOOM during the summer months.

Don reported that his year-long commitment to another organization, which would have required him to miss being our President in 2021, has been pushed back one year. So he will be able to run for President in October 2020, to serve one year of that 2-year term. Former President Sue Wright has indicated a willingness to serve the second year of that term.

The company that prints our newsletter has given us a reduced price.

We have requested a refund for two canceled membership meetings at the church which had been paid for in advance.

Birding field trips have had to be canceled at least through July. There will be a butterfly field trip in July. We hope to have our Nuthatch Open competitive birding event in September with some new rules in effect.

There will be a Young Birders Club field trip to Indian Springs Metropark in August to look for insects, but some other events have been canceled, and others may have to be.

Membership Officer Jen Benke reported that we have 212 members, which is slightly ahead of last year, but dues income is down, apparently from fewer large-amount membership payments.

Our Facebook page now has about 1,600 likes/followers. With not much to update people about, Social Media Administrator Dan Gertiser has been using some information provided by National Audubon and Great Lakes Audubon.

Website Editor Hannah Dunbar has been working on a condensed mobile version of the website. It is not an app; it's accessible from a phone at the same website address.

Seven Ponds Nature Center Chapter Representative Dr. Greg Gossick advised that expenses are a concern since all fund-raising events have had to be canceled. The nature center building is open, though much of it has had to be placed off-limits.

We were going to support a young birder's attendance at an American Birding Association summer camp, but the camp was canceled. The funds that were set aside for that will be used to help a young birder in 2021.

OAS is donating to a Wolf Awareness Initiative project, including purchase of some posters.

Doris Applebaum, Secretary



You shop. Amazon gives.

If you are an Amazon user and would like to help benefit OAS, simply [CLICK HERE](#) add us to your favorite charity list and then shop! A percentage of your purchases will be donated to OAS and will help support our organization.

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

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

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!

Recent Membership Renewals

Over the last few months, our previous Membership Director, Dave Frye, received a few renewals by mail. He marked the letters to be forwarded to the new Membership Director, Jen Benke. However, none of the forwarded letters/renewals have been received by Jen. Either the Post Office returned them or (fill in your own idea).

If you would like to check the status of your membership, please email Jen Benke at scubadu9900@yahoo.com.

Please mail future renewals to:

Oakland Audubon Society

C/O Jenifer Benke

2145 Colony Club Ct.

West Bloomfield, MI 48322


Your Membership At Work

Thank-you letters were received from North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, and Michigan Nature Association for donations OAS provided. Thank you for helping to support local conservation minded organizations.



May 22, 2020

Oakland Audubon Society
PO Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012



Nature Worth Preserving

Dear Oakland Audubon Society,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$100 in May 2020 to the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) in honor of May 5th's Giving Tuesday, a day dedicated to supporting non-profit organizations.

We were humbled and overwhelmed by the support of individuals from nearby and far away on Giving Tuesday. We are so thrilled to say that we surpassed our goal of \$5,000, and donations are still coming in. This is not only a helpful and needed boost for our organization's financial stability during this uncertain time. It is also a great boost for our morale. We are so grateful.

During these difficult times, your donation is especially impactful in allowing us to continue with our mission to protect the land, water and wildlife in the northwest Oakland County headwaters region. It's supporters like you, Oakland Audubon Society, who help to ensure that the beautiful, rare ecosystems of our unique headwaters area will continue to be valued and preserved.


Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Safety and well wishes to all.

Sincerely,
Sue Julian
Sue Julian
Executive Director

Thank you so much for your support during this tough time! - Shannon

Shannon Steel
Shannon Steel
Associate Executive Director

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



CONSERVING, SUSTAINING, AND CONNECTING NATURAL AREAS, LANDS, AND WATERS THAT MAKE THE PLACES WE LIVE SPECIAL.

May 11, 2020

Mr. Don Burtlett, President
Oakland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

Dear Don,

Please accept our sincere thanks for Oakland Audubon Society's \$100 gift and for your organization's support of our mission of conservation and stewardship. We are deeply grateful for your confidence in our work; your investment provides vital support for us to continue providing sustainable conservation options to those wishing to protect their property in perpetuity. Because of your gift, our vital watersheds, native wildlife, and critical habitats will be here for future generations.

2019 was a year of success for Six Rivers, and it wouldn't have been possible without your support. We added almost 10 acres to our Anchor Bay Woods Preserve. Throughout spring, we hosted eight Garlic Mustard Pull Stewardship Workdays at various properties under our protection. Over fifty volunteers from FCA's Motor Citizens program helped us pull a few thousand pounds of garlic mustard, one of our common spring invasives. We assisted Macomb Township in acquiring a future 40 acre nature park, and in June, we were proud to join Casso Township officials in the ribbon cutting and dedication hike for the newly acquired Belle River Park, a successful Six Rivers assist project.

These achievements are only possible because of the dedication of organization's like the Oakland Audubon Society. We are ever grateful for your leadership, your support, and your commitment to the mission of Six Rivers that allows us to do the things we do. Thank you for doing your part to protect the Nature Near You!

Again, thank you once again for your support. It is a privilege and an honor to work with you to preserve our natural heritage, and our work couldn't occur without your generosity.

In friendship,
Kristen Myers
Kristen Myers, Deputy Director

NOTE: This message serves as receipt in the amount of \$100 dated 05/06/2020. No goods or services were provided. Six Rivers Land Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

4480 Otter Rd., 2nd Floor • PO Box 80902 • Rochester • Michigan • 48308-0902
Phone: 248-601-2816 • Fax: 248-601-0106 • www.sixrivers.org



Michigan Nature Association
2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100
Okemos, MI 48864
866.223.2233

Thank you for your support!

July 30, 2020

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

Dear Friends:

Thank you—you made our day! Your ongoing support of the Michigan Nature Association speaks volumes for your commitment to protecting Michigan's rare plants and animals and the natural communities they need to survive. We are truly honored that you are part of the MNA family!

Your gift of \$100.00 was received on July 28, 2020 and will be put to work immediately to safeguard important natural areas, restore critical habitat, assist with much-needed scientific research, and connect young people to nature in order to foster our next generation of conservation leaders. Your generosity will make a lasting impact that will benefit Michigan for decades to come.

Thank you again for your thoughtful donation. Because of you—and people like you—MNA will continue to lead the state in the protection of rare, threatened and endangered species, now and forever. If you have any questions or comments about our work, events or other programs, please don't hesitate to contact me at (866) 223-2231 or michiganature@michiganature.org

With gratitude from everyone at MNA,
Sherry Steyer
Sherry Steyer
Member Services Coordinator

p.s. Please check out our events page at www.michiganature.org or join us on Facebook to check on the status of events, outings, hikes and workdays.

This letter serves as your gift receipt. The Michigan Nature Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor.

Michigan Nature Association • 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100 • Okemos, MI 48864 • 866.223.2233 • www.michiganature.org

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., September 8	7:00 p.m.	Preserving Michigan's Dark Sky Heritage	Via Zoom
Tues., October 13	7:00 p.m.	Bats!	Via Zoom
Tues., October 27	7:00 p.m.	Bats: Basics and Benefits	Via Zoom
Tues., November 10	7:00 p.m.	Avian and Wildlife Habitat	Via Zoom

When possible, monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, May, July and August) at 7:00 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham, in the children's room, Room 132. The facility is located on the south side of Maple Road between Southfield and Cranbrook Roads. There is plenty of lighted, free parking. Our meetings are free and open to the public. For meeting cancellation information, check our website, call a board member or call the church at (248) 646-1200.

Bird Quiz Answers for Summer Quiz on Page 25

This issue (fall '20) photo quiz answers: a) Rufous Hummingbird, b) Ruby-throated Hummingbird and c) Broad-billed Hummingbird. Yes, these have all been seen in Michigan!

Explanation: a) Probably female, rufous color in tail and on flanks, tail projects beyond wing tips, b) Probably female, tail projects beyond wing tips, much less rufous on flanks and c) Green coloration overall, orange bill with black tip, notched tail. (Consult with Allen Chartier for more detailed differentiation of rufous and ruby-throated.)

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



OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Mobile: (____) _____

Email address: _____

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

Check also if you are a member of:

____ National Audubon Society

____ Michigan Audubon Society

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

Check if you have the skills to help:

____ Become a board member

____ Lead a field trip or present a program

____ Fill an open position (Position: _____)

Please check appropriate line:

____ Member renewal

____ New member

____ Change of address

OAS Membership Fees

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

Our Mission

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

Please make checks payable to:
OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mail to:
OAS MEMBERSHIP

2145 COLONY CLUB CT.

WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN 48322

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