

THE NUTHATCH

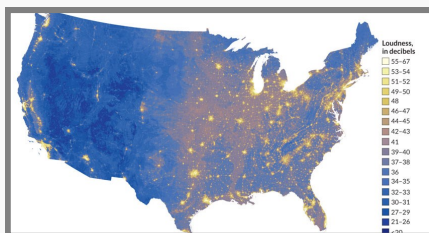
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“On Soundscapes: Listening to Stories of the Environment”

Dr. Sharon Gill

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Soundscapes reflect the combined sounds of the environment, connect us to nature, and help build memories of time and place. As humans change the sound environment, we risk degrading our experiences in nature and those of animals that rely on natural areas. Dr. Gill will discuss her research into the effects of environmental change on soundscapes and animal sounds, as well as a project merging art and science to explore human experiences of our changing environment.



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“Audubon’s Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes”

Andy Hinckle

Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

In March 2021 Audubon Great Lakes released an ambitious report titled “*Audubon’s Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes for Birds and People*,” which outlines the organization’s vision to engage communities across the region to address the threats facing the Great Lakes. Andy Hinckle, Audubon Great Lakes’ Senior Manager of Wetland Conservation, will share his perspective and discuss Audubon Great Lakes’ vision.

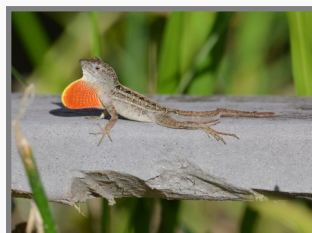


“Anhingas & Apple Snails: Everglades N.P.”

Gordon Lonie

Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

The Everglades National Park is a vast sub-tropical wilderness in Florida that has miles of sawgrass prairie, hardwood hammocks, and cypress domes. Mangrove islands in the shallow waters of Florida Bay make up 1/3 of the park. The park is famous for its birdlife and home to numerous endangered species. Naturalist Gordon Lonie will share his 2021 adventures exploring the ‘River of Grass’ and plenty of stories from 12 trips to the Everglades N.P. over 30 years.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fall 2022

As I write this, fall migration is just starting to get ramped up, although the shorebirds have been moving through for a while now. Speaking of that, I hope some of you were able to get out to see Michigan's first U.S. record of the Common Redshank that showed up at Pte. Mouillee State Game Area on July 4th for just one day. How exciting!! It has also been fun to watch all the new young birds in the yard and at the feeders begging to be fed by their parents.

After a couple of years with vacancies in our OAS Board, we finally have a full field of officers. A BIG welcome and thanks to George Harris who has volunteered to step up and fill the vacant Advocacy Officer. I know he will be a big help and do a great job! THANK YOU GEORGE!!

Just a reminder that our next two meetings (September and October) will be Zoom meetings because the presenters are not local. However, we will be back at the church for the November meeting—we are planning to stream this meeting via Zoom as well, but we hope to see everyone in person. Please check the website and your email for the Zoom links before each meeting. Also, our election is scheduled for October, and will take place during the membership meeting. President, Field Trip Officer, and Program Officer are up for election this year. Don Burlett has offered to come back as President. Jeff Stacey and David Hoch have agreed to stay on as officers for another 2 years. So please attend the meeting and vote for your officers.

It has been my pleasure to fill in for Don this past year—I know we all look forward to him coming back as OAS President. I want to thank everyone for their support and help this past year.

Have a wonderful fall and I hope that you can get out and enjoy the spectacle of fall migration. The birds might not be in their most dazzling plumages, but they are wonderful to see and watch just the same.

Wishing you the best!

Sue Wright



OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Sue Wright	(248) 330-6861	suzwright2@aol.com
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	fergusonelaine6@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Jen Benke	(734) 657-7498	scubadu9900@yahoo.com
Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248) 798-0508	jdstacey@ameritech.net
Program Officer	Dave Hoch	(248) 808-3696	hochdavid1@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Young Birders Club Rep.	Kathleen Dougherty		kad8186@msn.com
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity & Fundraising	Karen Kessler		Karenmk@live.com
Web Co-Editor	Hannah Dunbar		oddbirdstoonest@gmail.com
Social Media Administrator	Dan Gertiser	(248) 762-4354	dangertiser@comcast.net
Nuthatch Editor	Guadalupe Cummins		cummins.guadalupe@gmail.com
Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		ggossickdds@sbcglobal.net
Conservation/Environment	Greg Petrosky		gpetrosky06@gmail.com
Advocacy Officer	Greg Harris		gbharrisiv@gmail.com



Photo Credits: Cover Page Banner, G. Cummins, Program Photos, National Park Service, Audubon Great Lakes, and Gordon Lonie.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Covid-19 Update: OAS continues to monitor the Michigan Health Department’s recommended guidelines during all field trips (see page 11).

Schedule changes and updates will be posted on our website and members will also receive email updates. Owllet trip details are listed on pages 10 - 11.

Pre-Registration is required for all trips — contact trip leader to register.

Check the “Field Trips” page on our website often for current information and more details!

www.oaklandaudubon.org

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
September 16, 2022 (Friday) 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Golden Preserve (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
October 1, 2022 (Saturday) ** Tentative, check website**	Sterling State Park & Union Camp Marsh	TBD
October 8, 2022 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
October 23, 2022 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Lake Erie Metropark	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
November 6, 2022 (Sunday) 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	U of M Museum of Natural History (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
November 18-20, 2022	Muskegon	Don Burlett baikalteal13@netzero.net
December 3, 2022 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Belle Isle	Jeff Stacey and Don Burlett jdstacey@ameritech.net / baikalteal13@netzero.net
December 17, 2022 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Christmas Bird Count	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
December 17, 2022 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Christmas Bird Count (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com

11th Annual Nuthatch Open - September 10, 2022

OAS welcomes all members to participate in our annual competitive birding event. Set up a team of 2-4 members and bird anywhere in Oakland County from 12:01 AM until 4:00 PM. The entry fee is waived this year.

Contact Jeff Stacey at jdstacey@ameritech.net for details. There is still time, register today!!



Field Trip Reports

July 30, 2022 - Butterfly Field Trip to Indian Springs Metropark

Leader: Doris Applebaum

Assistant Leader: Jeff Stacey

Temperatures in the mid- to upper-70s, lots of sun, and very little wind: A perfect day to look for butterflies. And the butterflies must have thought so too, because lots of them showed up to delight the 11 people who visited Indian Springs Metropark on this lovely day.

Several participants brought a long-lens type of camera. They had a very productive day, too, as several of the butterflies were quite cooperative and provided excellent opportunities for photos.

There were also dragonflies to photograph, along with hummingbird moths, and one incredible little fly which none of us had ever seen before. It posed beautifully for the cameras, and OAS Field Trip Officer Jeff Stacey took an outstanding photo of it. Jeff also took the time to find out what it was: a type of woolly bee fly. (I wanted to call Jeff my co-leader because he was so helpful all through the day, but he insisted that "Assistant Leader" was all he would accept.)

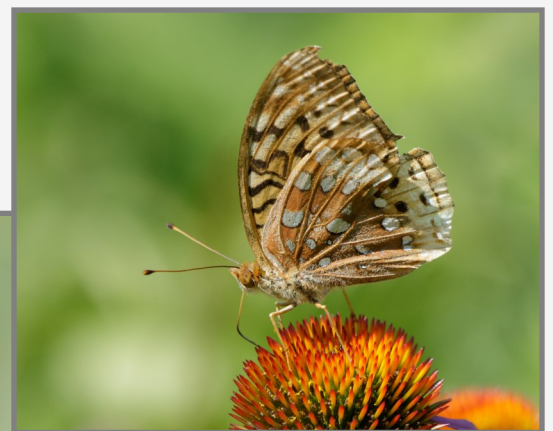
Among the most frustrating butterflies we saw were several dark species of skippers. They were so numerous that it was impossible to get an accurate count of them for my Michigan Butterfly Survey report. We kept looking for the more colorful orange species but none gave us a decent look.

It was nice to see several Monarchs, though, and it was amazing to see 11 Viceroy, those Monarch mimics that look so much like the more famous species.

As the 1:00 p.m. ending time for the walk arrived, everyone except Jeff and me headed home. Jeff wanted to try one more time for a hairstreak, which he felt sure should be around. These little gems are most numerous in July, and July 30 is getting a little late for any of these species to be seen. However, the butterfly gods, which had already been so kind to us, came through again and provided a Banded Hairstreak. And as an added attraction, the day's only Eastern Comma showed up.

In all, there were 22 species of butterflies seen: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, Banded Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Summer Azure, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Eastern Comma, Red Admiral, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy, Appalachian Brown, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch, Silver-spotted Skipper, Wild Indigo Duskywing (skipper), Northern Broken-Dash (skipper), Dun Skipper, Dion Skipper.

What an enjoyable day!



Left: Woolly bee fly (*Bombylius* sp.);
Above: Great Spangled Fritillary
(*Speyeria cybele*).

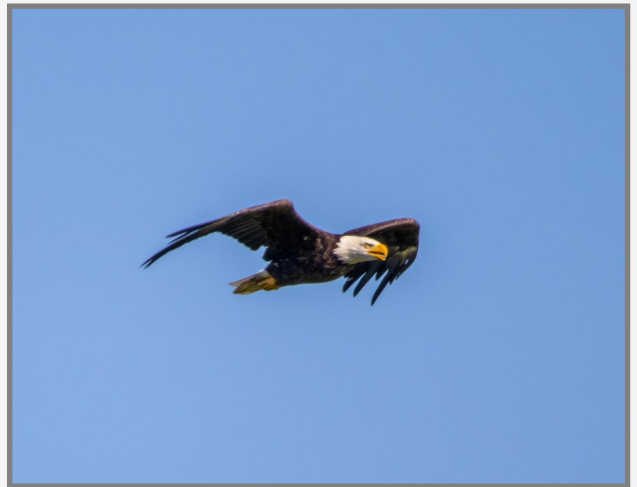
Photo Credits: Jeff Stacey

Field Trip Reports (continued)

August 27, 2022 - Pointe Mouillee State Game Area

Leader: Jeff Stacey

Our annual car caravan trip to Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (SGA) is always a popular event. Jim Fowler was gracious enough to guide us around the refuge once again and we were able to find many migrating shorebirds. We decided to concentrate on the Long Pond unit because that is where the best habitat was. Our first stop produced most of the usual suspects, but a Stilt Sandpiper was a nice surprise. Next, was an encounter with a White-rumped Sandpiper that had some of us fooled for a bit. These can be difficult to distinguish from Baird's Sandpipers, but we were able to find a couple of actual Baird's later for comparison's sake. A pair of Black-bellied Plovers in mid-molt were also in the area. For an encore, we took a quick look at the pumphouse area in the Humphries unit where we found a handful of Snowy Egrets and a sly Peregrine Falcon. The species count was 62.



Clockwise: American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), and Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*).

Photo Credits: Karen Kessler

Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports

May 21, 2022 - Red Oaks Nature Center (Friendship Woods)

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

On May 21st the Oakland Owlets visited Friendship Woods in Madison Heights to search for small and colorful warblers migrating north. Friendship Woods is a 38-acre green space owned by the City of Madison Heights and leased to Oakland County Parks as part of Red Oaks County Park. This is a local birding hotspot that provides ideal stopover habitat for migrating birds.

New World warblers breed in forested habitats of North America and overwinter in the tropics (or farther south in South America). Seeing these stunning birds during spring migration is a ritual that many birders practice. Warblers are best seen before leaves completely emerge and obscure the view, as they actively glean invertebrates as they flit along tree branches.

A small group of dedicated birders gathered at the park on a cloudy morning — fortunately, the rain held off for most of the hike. Bird songs filled the air as we started the hike. We were thrilled to discover a Blue Jay on its nest with nestlings. Birds moved in and out of the foliage along the trail, making it hard to see them clearly, but at the same time, bare branches and tree snags provided excellent views of birds in the open.

Birds observed on the hike were surprising and outside of their typical habitats. Everyone had a chance to appreciate flycatchers, which are known for their habit of catching insects from a perch. Blanche Wicke showed everyone the field marks of the Olive-sided Flycatcher, an uncommon flycatcher of northern spruce-fir forests. We saw four distinct species of flycatchers!

Warblers like the Northern Parula and Chestnut-sided Warbler were still moving north, and American Redstarts were abundant. Summer resident warblers at Red Oaks County Park, including Ovenbird and Yellow Warbler, were cheerfully singing near the trail. We hiked less than half of the park and finished early because of the rain. We observed 27 species.

Benjamin Prowse, Red Oaks County Park Naturalist, joined the hike to tell us about a fast-approaching rainstorm. He invited the group to visit the Nature Center —some participants left the group while others visited the nature center.



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and Jonathan Schechter.

Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports

June 18, 2022 - Kirtland's Warbler Tour at the Huron-Manistee National Forest

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets family and friends ventured north to visit the Huron-Manistee National Forest near Roscommon, Michigan for a chance to see one of the rarest songbirds in North America, the Kirtland's Warbler. We were not disappointed. We met U.S. Forest Service (USFS) biologist Dana Meder along a sandy road, and within minutes of arriving, Michigan's most famous warbler greeted our small group with his warbly song. After walking a short distance, we watched a pair of Kirtland's Warblers fly back and forth from their nest. Guided by the expert knowledge of Ms. Meder, the group watched from the road, careful not to enter their habitat. We visited three spots during our tour.



The Kirtland's Warbler is successfully breeding in the Huron-Manistee National Forest, where it uses young jack pine forests managed by the USFS. The USFS and other land managers are responsible for the comeback of this iconic warbler. In 1986, Kirtland's Warblers were seriously declining. The breeding birds census that year found only two hundred breeding pairs. Fast forward to 2019, the warblers were removed from the endangered species list. The last breeding bird census recorded 2,300 breeding pairs, which exceeded the expectation target for their recovery — a testament to the power of teamwork. Nevertheless, the Kirtland's Warbler remains a conservation-reliant species and land managers must continue to provide appropriate breeding habitat.

Other birds observed during the tour included Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Bluebird, Killdeer, and Nashville Warbler. We caravanned to other locations within the Huron-Manistee National Forest and saw summer residents such as Brewer's Blackbird, Common Raven, and Common Nighthawk. At one of the locations, the group was mesmerized by four Common Nighthawks feeding overhead. The group also discovered a Killdeer nest along a road; we took a close look at the nest while the Killdeer entertained everyone with the predator-distraction-broken-wing display. A total of 22 species were seen during the trip.



Thank you to **Dana Meder**, USFS Biologist and member of the Kirtland's Warbler Committee.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS Gallery.

Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

July 16, 2022 - Indian Springs Metropark

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets visited Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake to explore the prairie restoration area near the Environmental Discovery Center (EDC). This prairie habitat supports a great deal of biodiversity. Several flowers were in bloom and we had a chance to see important plant-insect interactions, including the connection between milkweed species and the monarch butterfly.



At the pond near the EDC, we encountered a flurry of swallows soaring over the pond and going back and forth to the EDC building, which provides a suitable nesting structure for Barn Swallows and Cliff Swallows—we observed nests along with newly fledged young. Other swallows including Tree Swallows, Bank Swallows, and Purple Martins were part of the aerial formation as well.

Deeper into the prairie, we were greeted by the bouncing trills of the Field Sparrow. The repetitive clear strong song originates from a small, rusty-capped, brown buffy bird with pink bill. Although common, Field Sparrows have declined over the last 50 years due to habitat loss. Field Sparrows are old-field specialists and depend on undeveloped fields and prairies for breeding and survival.



Farther along the trail, we encountered a female (hen) Wild Turkey. The hen was not disturbed by the group and moved slowly through the tall plants. Given its large size and proximity everyone was able to see her. It became apparent she was not concerned about us, she was pre-occupied with watching over eight poults (young turkeys) foraging with her. Young Wild Turkeys are precocial, which means that upon hatching, they are feathered and able to leave the nest within hours. Newly hatched poults stay with their mothers for a few days while they learn to find food on their own; at this stage they dine primarily on insects.

The group was swarmed by deer flies and turned back from the woodland trails. As a result, we did not see the White-breasted Nuthatch, OAS's mascot, which we try to see on field trips. Mary Korde did venture into the woods and shared great photos of the flowers we missed, including the stunning Michigan Lily. We continued birding on our way back to the EDC. After the hike, the group visited the EDC to see unique exhibits and spend time in the underwater room that extends into the pond.



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty, Ray Bosshard, and Mary Korde.

Oakland Owlets Field Trips

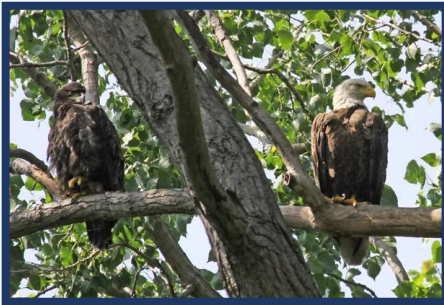
September 2022 - December 2022

Bats & Birds – Friday, September 16, 2022, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Golden Preserve, Springfield Township

Explore the Six Rivers Land Conservancy's Golden Preserve during an evening hike. We will join Stewardship Manager Ian Ableson to monitor bats at the preserve with an echo meter. This device identifies bats by their echolocation signatures. The group will also search for birds — the Golden Preserve is a diverse natural area located along the main branch of the Shiawassee River. Plan to hike on uneven trails. Bring insect repellent.



Migration Bird Walk – Saturday, October 8, 2022, 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, Trenton



The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge is an important stopover site for migratory birds. Uniquely positioned on the Detroit River, before the river empties into Lake Erie, the refuge is a well known migratory corridor in Southeast Michigan. This greenspace is a great place for birds to rest and refuel. The Oakland Owlets will participate in a guided hike with a refuge interpreter and tour the newly constructed John D. Dingell Visitor Center.

Bird Ancestors & Biodiversity – Sunday, November 6, 2022, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
University of Michigan Museum of Natural History, Ann Arbor

Discover Michigan's ancient history and wildlife inhabitants of the past during a group exploration of the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History. The museum interprets the latest scientific research and its application to the natural world today. This museum is the only place in the world where guests can see the nearly complete skeletons of a male and female Mastodon. These specimens, known as "the prehistoric power couple," were excavated from a nearby farm. After a short introduction, the Owlets will discover how museums maintain important biological and historical records. Admission and parking fees may be applicable.



Oakland Owlets Field Trips

September 2022 - December 2022

Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 17, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility, Orion Township

During this field trip the Oakland Owlets will participate in OAS's Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC is one of the oldest Citizen Science activities in the country –this is the 123rd year of this national event. We will explore the Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility in Orion Township. This landfill, which is operated by Waste Management (WM), provides critical habitat for wildlife. They take extra measures to certify this site by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC). We will collect information on birds utilizing the site during the winter to help WM with documentation efforts. Plan to explore this restricted area on a hike and dress for being outdoors. Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. A special thank you to WM's Community Relations Representative, Kathleen Klein, for making this field trip possible.



OAS continues to follow health precautions and guidelines for COVID-19

1. Pre-registration is required and number of participants is limited.
2. Face masks may be required to enter some facilities.
3. Stay home if you are sick or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.
4. Directions and details are sent in advance to those that pre-register.

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: OAS Photo Gallery & University of Michigan Animal Diversity Website (previous page); Pixabay & OAS Photo Gallery (above).

BIRDSONG MIRACLE: THE WIZARDRY OF MERLIN

by Annis Pratt

Some years ago, I ran across a little old man and a little old woman birdwatching in Michigan's Ludington State Park. He held their one pair of binoculars, and she was telling him where to look.

"My vision is awful," she explained, "and he's deaf." "This way I tell him where I hear a bird and he spots it for us."

My all-time favorite bird watching spot is from the porch of my Betsie River cabin – for years and years I enjoyed the dawn chorus, the birds that flew down to cock their heads at me from the pines, and a series of songs from the bushes all day long.

But then, the last few years, there has been an ominous silence and dispiriting absence of fluttering wings. I thought that global warming was eradicating the birds; my spirits fell at what seemed like a silent spring.

Then, I saw a post from my fellow Facebooker Hans Voss, an enthusiastic Traverse City birder, about a free iPhone app from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology that could pick up bird songs and identify them for you. I downloaded it, went out on my porch, turned it on.

Voila!

It picked up the Mourning Dove and the enthusiastically territorial American Robin that I could hear, and then informed me of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, and Red-Eyed Vireo singing beyond the range of my hearing.

Miracle! I must be going deaf (or are my ears full of wax?).

Two warblers that nested by the river and sang all day long had been sadly missing – Redstarts and the Common Yellowthroat, but Merlin reassured me that they were still around, singing their hearts out. It mentioned Tufted Titmice and Cedar Waxwings, which I was able to confirm by sight later that week, along with an Indigo Bunting, a Scarlet Tanager, and a Nashville Warbler —identifications I had no reason to doubt from previous encounters. There is a very tall stand of pine trees across the river where

Ravens lurk, so when Merlin tuned in on their mysterious croaks I was glad to know that those faithful river denizens were still in the area.

I make a distinction between birdwatchers and birders: as the former, I have kept lists since 1947 and have been carefully documenting birds at the cabin dating back to when we bought it in 1992. I do not, however, keep a "life list" that I rush around the world adding to (which is why birders are called "twitchers" in England); I am every bit as enthusiastic when I hear a Wood Thrush or Ovenbird in their customary nearby forest as if I happen (rarely) to spot a bird I've never seen before, a "lifer" that is much more important to a birder.

Nonetheless, I am very careful about what goes on my list: I have to either see it or hear a song I am entirely familiar with. Which is why I have my doubts about some of Merlin's tantalizing but unconfirmable observations along the Betsie River: A Chimney Swift (this far north?). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (would be a first here!).

I doubt that either birders or birdwatchers would add a bird to a list merely from Merlin's say-so; I would love a take on how others handle this (delightful) conundrum.

But why can't I see all the birds that used to flutter around the cabin? Am I that little old man and woman rolled into one, when there is only one of me? My first thought was that the birds were still there, but my (declining) vision kept me from seeing them. Then I noticed the iridescent glimmers flashing on trees and bushes all around the cabin, and realized that the little aluminum flags my daughter installed to deter the Downy Woodpeckers from making Swiss cheese of our woodwork were deterring other birds as well.

So for now I am content just to sit and listen, occasionally plunging into the woods to find whatever little singer my handy-dandy piece of modern technology has flushed out for me.

THROW A PARTY! by Guadalupe Cummins

I live in Dearborn and have a typical small, urban backyard... and, I like to throw parties! Parties for butterflies and other insects, spiders, and birds. I invite them to my small green space by having native plants, leaving things a bit messy year-round (perhaps too messy), offering clean water year-round, and keeping my cat Maggie indoors (also by stomping out like a crazy lady when the neighborhood cats cross my yard). It is not very pretty or overly colorful, but this year it was particularly rewarding.

Spring began with the native bees that had hibernated in a wooden block emerging in April. They were slow and quiet for a couple of weeks or so...foraging and taking shelter (which was a good thing with the crazy snow we had in April). Then they got busy nesting and closed a lot of the holes back up. I think it is funny they like that block so much; luckily, they also took a liking to the proper 'bee tubes' I placed nearby.

The parsley, which overwintered in my sunroom and was moved to the outside of the kitchen window, soon became black swallowtail heaven. They loved it! When black swallowtail caterpillars are ready to pupate they grow restless and wander off. Side note: In the summer of 2020, I had a pot with fennel that had 12 caterpillars on it! (I had to build an annex to keep them fed). One day when they were all big, they started disappearing one by one, so I assembled an enclosure and brought the last two inside to do their thing. It was amazing! Each one paced around the enclosure and eventually settled down to pupate and metamorphose into a chrysalis. Later, one metamorphosed into a beautiful butterfly I released the morning of August 10, 2020, and the other overwintered in the garage. In early spring I left the enclosure outside so it could sense when it was time. I released her on May 22, 2021 –not much was blooming, but the native red osier dogwood sure was! This year, I was lucky to find one caterpillar wandering off on the brick wall and finally settling for a spot under the gutter next to the potter wasp burrows. It is still there, I have the feeling it will overwinter with us.

The buggy highlight of my summer was the monarch that chose my swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and the caterpillar that made it its home. Have you ever smelled swamp milkweed? Find one and take a sniff...you will fall in love and find a spot for it in your yard. Although I missed the morning it metamorphosed into a butterfly, I was able to observe how it went from being a hungry caterpillar to the most beautiful chrysalis.

Blue Jays, one of my favorite backyard birds, nested in the arborvitae next to the side walk. What a treat! I enjoyed hearing every noise and call the pair did while building the nest and incubating (the male brought food to the female), and later, the babies begging as their food was brought in. Knowing they found my yard to be safe and with enough bugs to feed their babies made me happy. Both parents tended to the nest –they also kept intruders at bay, like a poor Common Grackle that walked too close after having a drink and the sparrows that normally loiter in the arborvitae. One morning, I saw mommy Blue Jay pick up a giant ant and feed it to her hungry babies! Another day, I saw her (or him) pound a black swallowtail caterpillar on the garage roof (that happens too when they wander off!). Then, it was time...on a really hot day, the babies

had had enough and jumped off the nest – baby Blue Jays are cute, one napping in the arborvitae waiting for mom, even more! Recently I saw an immature Blue Jay at the feeder; I like to think it is the baby, now a teenager, that likes my yard.

Neither the House Wrens nor the Black-capped Chickadees used the nest box, but they both visited over the summer, and that is ok too. The House Wren still gets points for using the box as a dummy nest for two years in a row. Cardinals brought a baby over last week –they didn't mind the feeder was not there for most of the season, I had only recently hung it out again. I was also amused with seeing a Carolina Wren having a blast at the birdbath; it seemed to be playing, not just bathing.

Now, as the summer continues and September approaches, the party goes on. Hummingbirds, which are busy with their babies in the height of summer, enjoy the homemade nectar as well as the blue lobelia, Mexican sunflower, cardinal climber...and the little flies (I hide banana peels near the feeder). I had three hummingbirds visit my yard for the first time this year. I have seen many different kinds of bees, bumble bees, and wasps – they are all very busy now. The resident spiders enjoy the evenings, the milkweed bugs feast on the swamp milkweed, and the leaf-hoppers show off their colors. The other day I saw three different-looking lady bugs!

The party will go on a bit longer, and then my yard will be safe for those that want to sleep over (overwinter) until the party starts over next year.



Photos by G. Cummins

OAKLAND AUDUBON AROUND TOWN

Wildlife Surveys at Pine Tree Acres Landfill and Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility June 29 and July 15, 2022

OAS conducts wildlife surveys at Waste Management (WM) sites to support certification with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), an organization that promotes sustainability, wildlife preservation, biodiversity, and environmental education on corporate lands. The WHC program aligns with the philosophy and goals of OAS.

This past summer, OAS Secretary Doris Applebaum, and Kathleen Dougherty, Young Birders Club Coordinator, conducted pollinator and bird surveys at two WM sites. They surveyed the Pine Tree Acres Landfill in Macomb County on June 29 and the Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility in Oakland County on July 15. These surveys provide valuable data to assess wildlife health at these sites and guide WM's conservation efforts. **OAS greatly appreciates WM's ongoing support and partnership!**



Photo by Kathleen Dougherty

Doris Applebaum and Aaron Dubois (WM Intern) at Eagle Valley on July 15, 2022.

Wildlife Surveys at Stellantis Headquarters - May 16 and July 25, 2022



Photo by Wildlife Habitat Council

Wetlands at the Stellantis site are home to a Blue Heron rookery that has been active since 2006.

OAS has collaborated with Stellantis (formerly Chrysler) for over five years. Our efforts include conducting wildlife surveys, participating in Earth Day activities, guiding nature walks, and giving talks about birds and nature to their employees. Wildlife surveys typically include spring and fall bird surveys and summer butterfly surveys. Stellantis partnership with OAS and other conservation organizations helps them maintain the facility's Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) certification.

On May 16, former OAS President Don Burlett, and former Publicity & Fundraising Officer Phill Bugosh, conducted a spring bird survey. They documented 44 bird species as well as evidence of coyote, beaver, squirrels, deer, and chipmunks. A butterfly survey was conducted by Don Burlett and OAS Secretary, Doris Applebaum, on July 25—the survey documented 11 species of butterflies

OAS greatly appreciates Stellantis's ongoing support and partnership!

Children's Book Reading at the 27th Letter Bookstore, June 25, 2022

OAS Newsletter Editor, Guadalupe Cummins, joined our friends from Detroit Audubon for Story Time at [27th Letter Bookstore](#), an independent bookstore in Southwest Detroit, to read "*Un Pajaro en Casa*" by Blanca Gomez.

The crowd was small, just one distracted kid, but Toffee listened quietly.



Great Lakes Audubon Chapter Meeting, July 20, 2022

Kathleen Dougherty, Young Birders Club Coordinator, represented OAS at the Great Lakes Audubon Chapter Meeting in July. This meeting is held monthly and brings together leaders from affiliate chapters in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Kathleen gave a presentation about OAS's Young Birder Club (YBC), the Owlets. She shared tips for sustaining YBCs and discussed what OAS is doing to encourage youth to participate in our field trips. She had several questions from other chapter leaders. **Thanks Katheen for all your work with the Owlets and their families!**

***Bird Briefs* (articles to look at online, click titles below)**

from Don Burlett

[How Migrating Birds Use Quantum Effects to Navigate - Scientific American](#)

Many of you know about bird migration and their sense of direction, which enables them to know where they are going. This article provides a very nice, scientific explanation of this process and how it is accomplished, based on real information about the birds and the planet. Nice paper to read.

[Bird flu has killed nearly 1,500 threatened Caspian terns on Lake Michigan islands | Interlochen Public Radio](#)

A devastating article describing the crisis Caspian Tern colonies suffered due to the bird flu outbreak this past summer.

It has been a quiet summer for articles on birds. If you see an interesting article worth sharing in this column, please let **Don Burlett** know by sending the title and the link to: baikalteal13@netzero.net

NATURE NOTES by Allen Chartier

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

amazilia3@gmail.com



BIRD ID QUIZ

(Fall 2022)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see Page 19

No Peeking!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 23, 2022

President Sue Wright was pleased to welcome our two newest board members, Karen Kessler and George Harris, to their first board meeting. Karen is our new Publicity and Fund-raising Officer, and George is our new Advocacy Officer.

The OAS website continues to be popular, with over 600 “visits” during the 4-week period prior to this meeting.

Dr. Greg Gossick, our Chapter Representative for Seven Ponds Nature Center, reported that in order to maintain services and events, there will be a small increase in the nature center’s membership fee, as well as a nominal fee for attending nature center events. The latter is needed because many people register for an event but don’t show up, leaving people on the waiting list without a chance to participate.

Conservation & Environment Officer Greg Petrosky emphasizes the need the people to use native plants, and he was delighted to report that the recent Blue Heron Headwaters Conservancy native plant sale and the Oakland Conservation District’s native tree and shrub sale were both very successful.

Each year, OAS members willingly respond to requests for wildlife surveys by Waste Management, Inc., (at two landfills) and Stellantis Corporation (at their headquarters property in Auburn Hills). These surveys are continuing this year. They are needed for the corporations to maintain their prestigious “Wildlife at Work” certifications from the Wildlife Habitat Council.

At the time of this meeting, it was not certain that the annual Nuthatch Open competitive birding event would take place this year. *Note: The Nuthatch Open has been confirmed and will be held on September 10, 2022 (see page 4).*

Doris Applebaum
Secretary

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Hello all,

I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is George Harris and I am the new *Advocacy Officer* for OAS. I live in Farmington with my wife, Amy, and two cantankerous cats. I keep a green birding list on eBird under the name *MIBirdByBike* and enjoy hiking and biking the hotspots of Oakland County.

My goal as *Advocacy Officer* is to help keep everyone informed about opportunities for all of us to be a voice for birds and our shared habitats. We all have the ability to convey our concerns about issues affecting wildlife to elected officials. In the coming months, I'll be sharing some simple actions that you can take to help foster a cleaner, healthier environment as well as local, regional, and national environmental news.

It's my sincere hope that collectively, our small actions can provide big benefits for the birds and habitats that we all enjoy!

Yours in birding,
George Harris

Hi!

It's my great pleasure to join OAS in the role of *Publicity & Fundraising Officer*.

I've been an OAS member for about a year now, and I have greatly enjoyed meeting the wonderful, dedicated people of this great organization. They are doing crucial work to support conservation and outreach, helping to ensure the great variety of birds that we enjoy today will be around for future generations.

I am so happy for the opportunity to contribute to this critically important cause.

Karen



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

The 2023 Membership Drive is underway!

You can renew your membership in one of two ways:

- 1) Use the "Renew OAS Membership" link on the Membership tab on our website (<http://www.oaklandaudubon.org>), to pay online using PayPal. [CLICK HERE](#) or
- 2) Mail a check along with a membership form (page 20)

Mail renewal forms to:

Oakland Audubon Society
C/O Jenifer Benke
2145 Colony Club Ct.
West Bloomfield, MI 48322

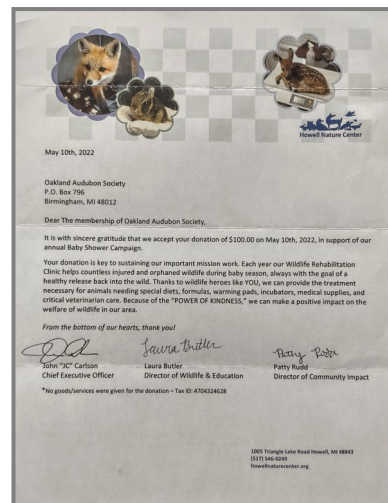
If you would like to check the status of your membership or have questions, contact OAS Membership Officer Jen Benke at: 734-657-7498 or scubadu9900@yahoo.com.

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

Your Membership At Work

A **Thank-You** letter was received from Howell Nature Center for the donation OAS provided. Thank you for helping OAS support local conservation minded organizations.

The Howell Nature Center teaches people, through mutual love and respect, to be faithful caretakers of one another and the world around us. They are a premier wildlife rehabilitation clinic, have a native Michigan wildlife teaching zoo, and provide comprehensive outdoor education and recreation programs to people of all ages.



MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, May, July, and August) at the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham. **Some OAS meetings and programs will be at the Church and also transmitted online via Zoom, while others will only be offered only via Zoom. Meetings open at 6:30 PM and talks begin at 7:00 PM.** If a meeting is offered via Zoom, specific instructions and links will be posted on the “meetings” page on our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org and on OAS’s Facebook page prior to that meeting. **Updates to the schedule will be posted on our website.** Please contact a Board member if you have questions.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., September 13	7:00 pm	On Soundscapes: Listening to Stories of the Environment	Zoom
Tues., October 11	7:00 pm	Audubon’s Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes	Zoom
Tues., November 8	7:00 pm	Anhingas & Apple Snails: Everglades National Park	First United Methodist Church

Bird Quiz Answers for Fall 2022 Quiz on Page 16

This issue’s photo quiz : a) Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper, b) Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper, c) Juvenile Least Sandpiper

Explanation: As fall approaches, sandpipers return to our area. Along with the adults come juveniles with plumages that are sometimes confusing.

- a) Larger than some, with brown breast sides below neck, pale bill at base with darker tip, pale-fleshy legs, and long tail (projecting beyond wings).
- b) Dark cap, short-straight bill, uniformly scaly upper-side, dark cheeks, and dingy breast.
- c) Finely tipped dark bill with slight droop, greenish legs, faint line above eyes, and rufous tones to upper parts.

How did you do identifying 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: _____)

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

C/O JENIFER BENKE

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.*