



THE NUTHATCH

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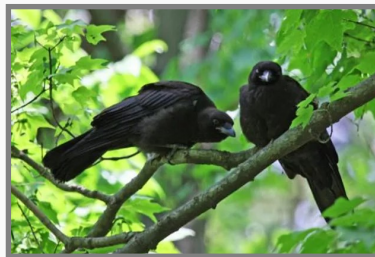
“Birds in Legend & Lore”

Gwyn Calvetti

Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Storyteller Gwyn Calvetti will be sharing a few tales!

Relax and enjoy stories drawn from folklore and an original story or two, told in the time-honored oral tradition. These birds might talk, but the stories all reflect true avian behaviors and characteristics.



“Argentina”

Sue Wright

Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

When Sue Wright’s 2019 trip to Antarctica was cancelled after 3 days onboard a ship, she joined a new trip organized by Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Tours. Sue will share her experience visiting Northwest Argentina and Iguazu Falls with the tour, as well as her visits to Trelew and to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in South America.



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“Peregrine Falcons”

Gail Walter

Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Peregrine Falcons are the fastest animal on earth and an apex predator, but they were once on the brink of extinction. Their story is one of an incredible comeback and the passion and power of conservation. Join us to learn their history, the impact of DDT, and about the falcons that reside in Kalamazoo. Gail has been the driving force behind the *Peregrine Falcon Cam* in downtown Kalamazoo and is the liaison between the falcons, the building owners and tenants, the media, the DNR, and the public.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Summer 2021

When I was a youngster, I joined the Cub Scouts and later the Boy Scouts, eventually attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. The next step was to join an Explorer Post in my area, so I did. Unlike many other Explorer Posts that specialized in flying planes, boating, or other activities, our Post specialized in “service.” We helped do almost anything — for example the hard work for local Jamborees (i.e., a large gathering of Scouts).

The experience of serving for the sake of helping others was ingrained throughout my life. For this reason, I have served in organizations and volunteered in other capacities my entire life. Over the last 40 years I have been an active officer in three scientific societies; served on the Seven Ponds Nature Center Board for 7 years; and I have been President of Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) for almost 13 years.

The one thing that all this “volunteering” has allowed me to do, has been to meet and work with many people that I treasure as friends. It has also been rewarding to work with groups of people to accomplish “stuff.” I have run conferences and major dog shows, and helped run a number of organizations. I have always believed that being part of an organization meant doing something for the organization besides paying dues. Not just go along for the ride, but contribute to make a better experience for everyone involved.

Greg Petrosky, our new Environment/Conservation Chair, has been doing a good job finding and notifying our members about a variety of volunteer opportunities. Not everyone has a lot of available time or is able to do the physical work needed for some of these opportunities. However, we are working hard to bring opportunities that fit everyone’s capabilities — helping at plant sales organized by our partners, helping with administrative work, getting involved with stewardship activities, etc. I assure you that helping is both rewarding and enjoyable; it is a forum to not only meet motivated people that will brighten your day, but also one that will make you feel better about the world that you are working to preserve.

So, next time Greg or someone else from OAS asks for volunteers, seriously consider the chance to get out there and help. You will not regret it. I have not and I am still doing it regularly. See you at a volunteer activity soon.

Don Burlett

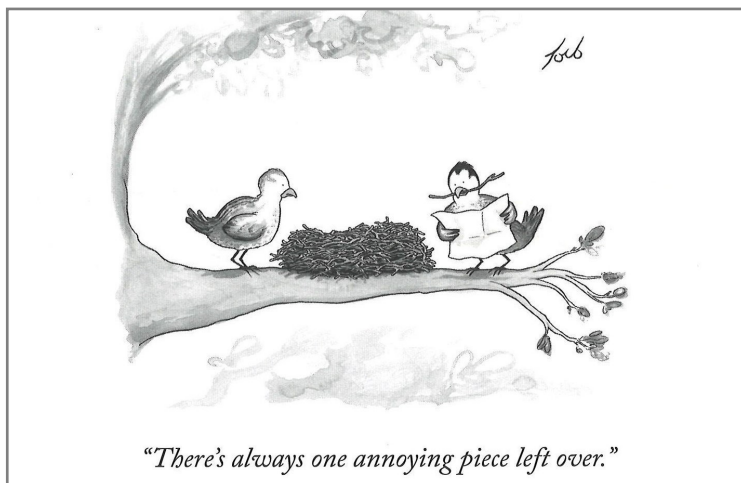
OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burrett	(330) 697-7735	baikalteal13@netzero.net
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Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	fergusonelaine6@gmail.com
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Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248) 798-0508	jdstacey@ameritech.net
Program Officer	Dave Hoch	(248) 808-3696	hochdavid1@gmail.com

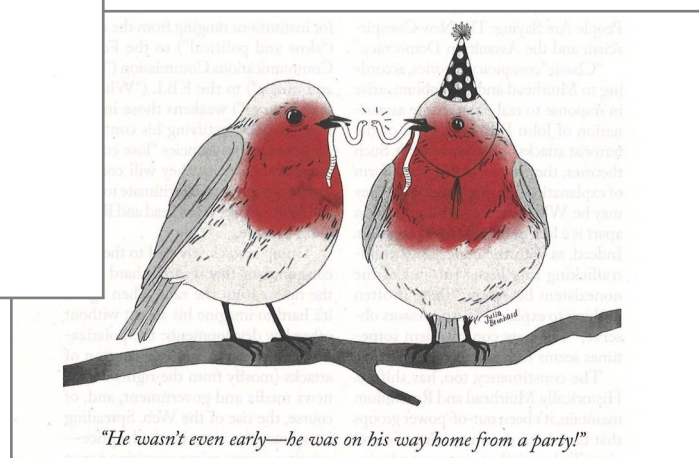
Appointed Officers

Young Birders Club Rep.	Kathleen Dougherty		kad8186@msn.com
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Environment/Conservation	Greg Petrosky		gpetrosky06@gmail.com
Advocacy Officer	Erin Parker		erinsparker@gmail.com



"There's always one annoying piece left over."

Top and Right: The New Yorker Magazine



"He wasn't even early—he was on his way home from a party!"

Photo Credits: Cover Page Banner, OAS Gallery. Program Photos, OAS Gallery, Sue Wright, and Gail Walter

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Covid-19 Update: OAS continues to adhere to the Michigan Health Department's guidelines pertaining to group gatherings, social distancing, and other recommended precautions during all field trips (see page 19).

Schedule changes and updates will be posted on our website and members will also receive email updates. Owlets trip details are listed on pages 18-19.

Pre-Registration is required for all trips and number of participants is limited, contact trip leader for details.

Check the "Field Trips" page on our website for current information!

www.oaklandaudubon.org

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
June 19, 2021 (Saturday)	Lake St. Clair Metropark (Owlets Trip)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
July 31, 2021 (Saturday)	Butterflies at Independence Oaks County Park	Doris Applebaum ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
July 31 (Saturday)	Drayton Plains Nature Center (Owlets Trip)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
August 14 [Tentative] (Saturday)	Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (by bike)	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
August 21 (Saturday)	Bear Creek Nature Park (Owlets Trip)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
August 29 (Sunday)	Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge	Don Burlett baikalteal13@netzero.net

"And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul"

John Muir

Field Trip Reports

April 18, 2021 - Maple River State Game Area

Leader: Don Burlett

It is always good to get out to bird on a nice spring day. Morning temperatures in the upper 30's reached the upper 50's by late morning while blue skies prevailed; this made a good day. Add a bunch of birds and you get a great mix. A group of 10 birders enjoyed a nice walk looking for waterfowl and early migrants around the impoundments at the Maple River State Game Area in Fowler, Michigan. We found lots of duck species, a handful of shorebirds and raptors, and a few passerines.

The highlight of the day was the flyover of 22 American White Pelicans. Graceful and armed with the "breeding knob" on the bills, what a delight! It was also nice to see Northern Pintail along with the collection of ducks. A total of 58 species were recorded during the trip.



Photo Credit: Don Burlett

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)



Photo Credit: G. Cummins



Photo Credit: G. Cummins

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Field Trip Reports (continued)

April 24, 2021 - Detroit International River Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Jim Koppin

A group of 10 birders met on a chilly and cloudy morning to explore the new and still developing Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. We visited the Humbug Marsh Unit, which represents the last mile of undeveloped shoreline along the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River. We walked some of the wooded trails and the fishing pier. Migrants were not there yet but some resident species had returned. The cormorant rookery on the bank of the Detroit River was active. Next, we headed down the road to Lake Erie Metropark. Two Osprey platforms flanked the entrance road on Jefferson Avenue; we observed two pairs of Osprey. At the wave pool area we were rewarded with two small, rare geese among many Canada Geese — Ross's Goose and Cackling Goose, which were lifers for some of the participants. Lastly, we checked the canals and lakefront for more species. The group observed a total of 44 species.

To learn more about the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, visit:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River/about.html

April 28, 2021 - Robert H. Long Nature Park & Walled Lake

Leader: Don Burlett

Seven birders enjoyed birding at Robert H. Long Nature Park and Walled Lake in Commerce Township on a warm April morning. Other than some rain later in the morning, it was a pleasant day. We birded all of the trails and found a handful of shorebirds at the muddy pond on the east side of the park. Ducks were scarce — only Mallards were present at Robert H. Long Nature Park. We found a few warblers in the northwestern section of the park, including Palm Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. We also had two flycatchers, Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Kingbird. It felt like spring and bird migration were in town.

We later headed to Walled Lake expecting to see an empty lake, but we were pleasantly surprised by our first sighting — six American White Pelicans. We noticed waterbirds on the far west end of the lake; after investigating we found rafts of Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Lesser Scaup, and one female Red-breasted Merganser. In total, this warm morning yielded 44 species.



Photo Credit: Don Burlett

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Field Trip Reports (continued)

May 5, 2021 - Bear Creek Nature Park

Leader: Don Burlett

Four birders survived a cool, windy start of the day with temperatures in the 40s that felt cooler because of the wind. This spring has been really slow for migration, with constant cold fronts and winds from the north, typically followed by cool and wet days. This field trip was a good example of this. We hiked through fields that had been subjected to prescribed burns, then walked the marsh and ponds in the northern section of the grounds. We also hiked trails through the woods. We were fortunate to come upon a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher that responded to tape and came close for observation. We enjoyed seeing Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Gray Catbird, several Swamp Sparrows, and a flyover Sharp-shinned Hawk. This was a slow spring day, primarily due to weather and the nature of the 2021 spring season. We observed 29 species.

May 12, 2021 - Cranberry Lake Park

Leader: Don Burlett

Four birders enjoyed a sunny and warm Wednesday morning at Cranberry Lake Park in Oakland Township. The combination of open fields, woods, a lake, and small ponds provides a very nice habitat. We noticed obvious signs of a prescribed burn performed in much of the open fields. This spring has been weird and dry, and the birds have been slow to arrive. However, we did get eight warblers and a few other species, which was a reasonable count. It was an enjoyable morning out among the birds. We observed 46 species.



(continued on next page)

Field Trip Reports (continued)

May 16, 2021 - Magee Marsh and nearby areas (Northwest Ohio)

Leader: Jim Koppin & Don Burlett

An unmasked (finally!) group of 13 birders traveled to Northwest Ohio for our traditional “spring warbler” trip. This is *the* warbler (and Bald Eagle) capital of Ohio. The day started with a light rain that stopped by the time we began birding, and progressed mostly overcast. The afternoon brought sun and temperatures in the high sixties. We started at the famous Magee Marsh boardwalk; many warblers and other species were seen despite the nearly leafed-out foliage. Many species were life-birds for several people in the group.

Our stops at Metzger Marsh and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (auto tour) were cut short because they were unproductive, but we observed many Bald Eagles – several adults on nests and many juveniles. It is very gratifying to see how these magnificent birds have rebounded and were able to be removed from the Endangered Species List. Trumpeter Swans were also seen in good numbers; this species has also come back from the brink of extinction. This emphasizes the importance of wetland management and appropriate legislation. We were also treated to two fly-overs of American White Pelicans, which are also fairly new to the area.

We finished the day at Howard Metropark; here the highlights were a Black-necked Stilt and a pair of very cooperative Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Both species are new breeders to the area. We also observed a very acrobatic and synchronized flight of about 200 Dunlin. We tallied 83 species including 18 warbler species.



Photos Credits: April Campbell and Sharon Korte.

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Field Trip Reports (continued)

May 23, 2021 - Passerines at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area

Leader: Jeff Stacey

This has been an odd spring migration and that was definitely on display for our trip to Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (SGA) on May 23. Usually on that date one can expect to see plenty of later migrants, but the only migrant we saw was an out-of-season Common Loon flying overhead. We hoped that would be an omen for things to come, but alas this was more like a mid-June trip with plenty of breeding species and not much else.



Yellow Warblers were extremely numerous along Roberts Road as expected. Indigo Buntings and Eastern Kingbirds were also plentiful. Not only did we get to see (and hear) several Willow Flycatchers, an Alder was mixed in with them too.

We cut the Roberts Road portion of the trip a little short due to the lack of diversity and headed over to the Antenna Farm to search for grassland birds. Bobolinks were happy to oblige, sitting on the tops of plants, singing away. Eastern Meadowlarks and Dickcissels were also present. But the strangest sighting of the day was a species much more likely to be seen at Mouillee proper – not one but two groups of American White Pelicans!

Even though it turned out to be a different experience than what we had originally planned, all nine participants enjoyed themselves. Several of them got life birds on the trip, which is always rewarding.



Photo Credits: April Campbell



Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports

February 13, 2021 - Great Backyard Bird Count

Leaders: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets participated in the 24th Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) on February 13th, 2021. A group of 18 birders braved deep snow and cold temperatures to count birds wintering in Oakland County. The count included two sites, the E.L. Johnson Nature Center and Beaudette Park.



The GBBC is a four-day global birding event. This year's GBBC took place from February 12th – 15th. Birders submit checklists of the birds they see where they live. Anyone can participate, the only requirement is to spend a minimum of 15 minutes birding. The GBBC is a snapshot of bird populations globally. Results in 2021 tallied 328,668 checklists submitted from 190 countries. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology estimates that over 300,000 birders were able to see 6,449 species of birds. This amazing event brings the global birding community together, showing that the love of birds connects us

no matter where we live.

OAS's GBBC started at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Hills. Naturalist **Cass Arsenault** led the group along the trails while sharing insights about programs and facilities. The mile-long hike was beautiful with fresh snow and great views of forests and fields. American Robins feasting on berries were common on the trails. Although the Nature Center Building was closed, the center's feeders were filled for regular winter visitors. Both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch were spotted. A total of 15 species were seen at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center.

The second stop on the GBBC was Beaudette Park, a local birding spot in Pontiac. At Beaudette Park, the Clinton River flows east from Sylvan Lake towards the City of Pontiac. Waterfowl often congregate along the river in winter because water is typically free of ice and open. **Kathleen Sexton** from the *Clinton River Watershed Council* joined the group to discuss the work the Council is doing in Pontiac. Although the Clinton River was an important resource to the economic development of the City of Pontiac, the river is hard to find because it is enclosed and runs below ground.



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Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

Despite the cold temperatures and limited open water, the Clinton River at Beaudette Park proved to be a viable spot to see waterfowl. Hundreds of birds were congregated in the open water —three swan species, including Trumpeter Swan, were seen on the floating ice mats. Mallards were abundant, but several species of diving ducks, including Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, and Ring-necked Duck were also present. A few hardy birders who stayed awhile were treated to close encounters with landing Goldeneyes! Few other birds fluttering in the shrubs along the riverbank and a raptor overhead rounded out the checklist to 17 species.



The GBBC was a great experience for the Oakland Owlets to participate in a global initiative and practice the work of citizen scientists. To learn more about the GBBC visit: [Great Backyard Bird Count](#).

A special thank you to **Cass Arsenault** and **Kathleen Sexton** for sharing their time and expertise with the Oakland Owlets. Thank you as well to **Manny Salas** for permission to use his photos from Beaudette Park.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty, Emmanuel Salas, and OAS Photo Gallery.

March 20, 2021 - Search for Signs of Spring at Stony Creek Metropark

Leaders: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets families and friends met at Stony Creek Metropark to explore the signs of spring and look for early migrants. This was the first day of the vernal equinox and one of the first warm days in months. A group of 12 started at the Nature Center's butterfly garden near the bird feeders. The building was closed, but the feeders were stocked and regular 'feeder' birds darted in and out. The building entrance provided a bonus bird – Eastern Phoebe; this species is one of the earliest birds to return north and often nests on human structures like building overhangs.



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Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

Stony Creek, a tributary of the Clinton River, meanders near the Nature Center and trails. The group hiked approximately a mile along the trails, first toward the creek then moving upland. Sandhill Cranes flew overhead while Northern Cardinals and Song Sparrows sang from shrub perches near the trail. We then drove to the Inwood Rustic Trails north of the Nature Center. A pair of Bald Eagles have nested on the property for a couple of years. Everyone picked an ideal location to view the eagles' nest. Both parent birds were present — the female was sitting on the nest and the male was perched nearby like a sentinel. An impressive sight of protective and dutiful parents.

The next stop a short drive away was Stony Creek Lake, a 500-acre impoundment of Stony Creek. The lake stretches across the park and offers stopover habitat for migrating waterfowl. Spotting scopes were necessary to see a mixture of distant dabbling and diving ducks. Everyone was delighted by the rich diversity of species present on the lake.

Thirty-seven species of birds (159 individuals) along with two other taxa were observed during this field trip. We visited several habitats throughout this 4,461-acre park. Stony Creek is a spectacular natural area and a wonderful birding spot.

A special thank you to **Jake Harm** at Stony Creek for assisting with park access and to **Blanche Wicke** for volunteering for this outing.

April 17, 2021 - Rose Oaks County Park - Earth Day Event

Leaders: Kathleen Dougherty



On a partially cloudy and cool Saturday evening several Oakland Owlets families and friends gathered at Rose Oaks County Park near Holly. Rose Oaks is a 640-acre undeveloped park that offers passive recreation activities like fishing, hiking, and horseback riding.

Sue Julian from the **North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy** greeted the group. Sue has been instrumental in preserving properties in the area. She taught the group how glaciers have shaped the topography of the area and the Shiawassee Watershed. The park is situated at the headwaters

of the Shiawassee Watershed and contains extensive wetlands and small glacial lakes. From Rose Oaks County Park, water meanders north into Saginaw Bay.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS Photo Gallery.

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Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

A short distance from the parking lot, an extensive boardwalk over a wet meadow surrounding Mallett Lake leads to the trails. The group stopped along the boardwalk to take in the scenery. Surrounded by noisy Canada Geese, Red-winged Blackbirds darted back and forth. The ruckus calls of Sandhill Cranes were confirmed by the sighting of a crane moving through the cat-tails. The big bird was so well camouflaged that if it had not moved, it would have gone unnoticed.



The long line of 25 birders snaked along the path as the daylight streamed to the forest floor. Woodpeckers hopped along the leafless trees. Along the edge of Esler Lake, the group observed a beaver lodge in the distance, Canada Geese, and a Great Blue Heron hunting along the shoreline. We hoped that birds would be more active at dusk, but we struggled to find birds. The recent cold temperatures had also quieted frogs which would normally be calling loudly at this time of year. Still, an occasional chirp or peep was heard from a few hardy chorus frogs and spring peepers.



The group reached Richardson Lake with hopes to see additional birds, but birding at the park was lacking...the birds! Twenty species of birds (60 individuals) were seen during the field trip. One of the target birds (Pied-billed Grebe) was heard on Mallet Lake only after most of the group had left. The dramatic shifts in the weather may have had an impact on birds at the park. Even though bird activity was low, the vistas along the trails were spectacular.



A special thanks to **Sue Julian** for sharing her expertise. Thank you also to **Blanche Wicke** for volunteering and for helping to manage this larger than expected group.

Oakland Owlets

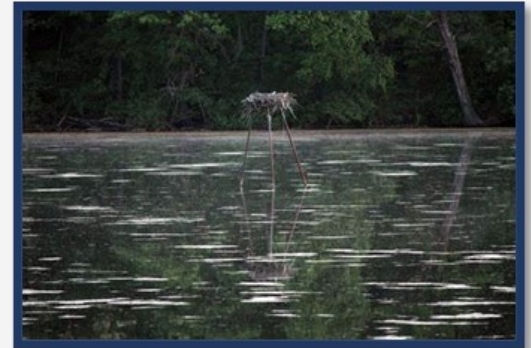
Field Trip Reports (continued)

May 22, 2021 - Kensington Metropark

Leaders: Kathleen Dougherty

Oakland Owlets families and friends visited Kensington Metropark on May 22 to see the Ospreys.

Kensington Metropark was designated as a reintroduction site for Ospreys in southern Michigan more than 20 years ago after the species was extirpated from southeast Michigan. Since then, Ospreys have rebounded and are now found throughout Michigan. **Barb Jensen** and volunteers from **Michigan Osprey** discussed the natural history of these special raptors and the Osprey Reintroduction Program. Barb also explained the adaptations that make Ospreys an important component of the ecosystem and showed the tracking devices used to monitor Osprey migration. The Osprey taxidermy mount displayed during the presentation was of an individual that died during its first year on the tracking project.



The next stop was the Bald Eagle nest visible from Island Road. The nest was covered by leaves, but one of the parents was perched on a tree snag nearby. Everyone had a clear view of the Bald Eagle. Island Road extends into the middle of Kent Lake which afforded great views of numerous Canada Geese and Mute Swans.

The group then headed to Wildwing Lake to the Heron Rookery. The rookery is located on a small island of the lake and is visible from the boardwalk. Great Blue Herons were coming and going from the approximately 25 large stick nests placed on bare tree limbs. Great Blue Herons nest in colonies, some of them can approach 500 nests! It is hard to mistake Great Blue Herons because of their size and behaviors. These birds are 4.5 feet tall and have wing spans of between 5.5 – 6.5 feet. Other birds were also active on the lake, including Red-winged Blackbirds and Barn Swallows. After a while, we walked to the Nature Center.



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Oakland Owlets

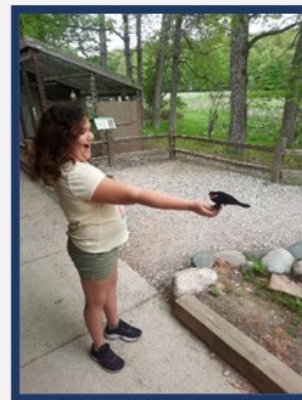
Field Trip Reports (continued)

Near the Nature Center we encountered a Sandhill Crane greeter; cranes are accustomed to people at the Kensington Nature Center. We were advised not to feed them. Many stopped to photograph the meeting showing the bird that people are not associated with food.



The final stop at Kingfisher Lagoon near the Nature Center proved to be another good spot to watch wildlife. In addition to birds, everyone saw turtles, fish, and small mammals. Because birds are associated with hand feeding at the Kensington Nature Center, group members were given sunflower seeds and instructed to use it to hand feed only the songbirds (permitted by park rules). A few young birders were successful. The group gathered for a photo, and we took home our thoughts of the day.

Forty species of birds were tallied during the field trip proving that Kensington is a great place to bird.



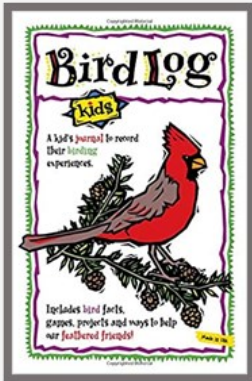
A special thanks to **Barb Jensen** and **Michigan Osprey** for an excellent presentation.

Learn more about the Osprey Reintroduction Program at [Osprey's southern Michigan comeback a team effort - YouTube](#), and about Osprey Migration at www.michiganosprey.org.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty, Rashmi Overbeek, Jim Stayer, and Oakland Audubon Photo Gallery.

Oakland Owlets

Outstanding Young Birders in 2020 (By Kathleen Dougherty)



In March 2020, Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) suspended field trips due to the pandemic. The Oakland Owlets, OAS's Young Birders' Club, resumed field trips in July 2020 with precautions. Families responded favorably for opportunities to get outdoors since everyone

had been cooped-up for months. The Oakland Owlets held eight field trips in 2020. Despite this abbreviated schedule, three young birders qualified for recognition by attending Oakland Owlet field trips —Megan, Quinn, and Owen. These youth were designated as Young Birders of the Year and awarded a *Bird Log for Kids*. This age-appropriate journal is a resource for youth to track bird observations in a fun and engaging way. The bird log encourages youth to document sightings, make in-depth observations, and consider the environmental aspects of birding. By participating in field trips, youth gain confidence in birding. These experiences foster environmental literacy and lead to a deeper understanding of birds and the environment. Such educational activities are supported by the National Science Teachers Association because they develop critical skills in science inquiry.

OAS recognizes the importance of encouraging young birders' interest in birding and honors the passion and commitment of young birders. Greater knowledge develops a stronger appreciation of birds. Supporting the next generation of birders creates a larger birding community and celebrates the importance of birds as essential components of the environment.

Megan has been part of the Oakland Owlets since 2018 and has received this recognition for

the past three years. Megan is an elementary school student in Oakland County and lives with her parents, two older brothers, and family pets including tropical birds and fish. Megan wants to pursue a career in ornithology. She likes being outdoors to find peace and quiet, and enjoys birding and studies birds around the world. Megan does not have a favorite bird (she likes them all), but noted that the song of the Black-capped Chickadee sounds happy and optimistic. Megan enjoys studying science at school and thinks bird conservation helps protect bird habitats by keeping them clean and healthy. OAS provided Megan with another resource to further her interests.



Megan with her parents at Beaudette Park

Quinn, an enthusiastic young birder, joined the Oakland Owlet field trips in 2020. He has a great eye for finding birds. Quinn's parents are avid outdoor people and take him on regular adventures to see birds throughout the area. Quinn is always excited to share his most recent bird sightings.

Another young birder new to the Oakland Owlets in 2020 is Owen. Owen watches birds at home and in his neighborhood. He is a skilled birder already. At the April field trip, Owen added a new species to the trip's checklist as the sunlight faded.

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Oakland Owlets

Outstanding Young Birders in 2020 (Continued)



Quinn with his parents at a recent hike

When asked what he likes about being outdoors, Owen provided these observations... *“he likes to be surrounded by nature and see not only birds, but other wildlife like woodchucks. He also likes being outdoors in the fresh air.”* Owen’s favorite bird is the Brown Creeper. Another favorite bird he likes but has not yet seen is the Pileated Woodpecker. Owen attends elementary school in Oakland County and enjoys math. Birders are STEM learners. Owen shared his thoughts on bird conservation... *“he wants birds to have habitats for a long time. Life would not be as good without birds.”* Owen attends Oakland Owlet field trips with his parents and younger sister.



Owen, Quinn & Megan at a recent field trip

Owen’s thoughts and impressions are poignant in that all birders appreciate birds and cannot imagine a world without them. National Audubon

suggests that providing habitat for birds creates a healthy environment for everyone.

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. These outdoor experiences can lead to scientific inquiry. OAS is grateful for the agencies that provide outdoor experiences to the birding community and young birders’ parents who take the time to bring their children to Oakland Owlet field trips.

Young Birders’ Club field trips and programs are open to all birders. Youth under 15 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 programs. Young Birders’ Club programs and field trips are supported by OAS members. Thanks to all members for this support!

Visit <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders> to learn more about upcoming field trips and programs.

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty

Oakland Owlets Field Trips

June - August 2021 (cont.)

Summer Birding Walk – Saturday, June 19, 8:00 - 11:00 am
Lake St. Clair Metropark – Harrison Township near Mt. Clemens



Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCM) is a premiere birding spot in southeast Michigan. See some of the resident birds at the park while exploring the wetlands and shoreline of Lake St. Clair. Plan to hike about two miles and drive to locations within the park to see as many species as possible. Dress for the weather. A Metroparks permit is required for park entry.

Clinton River Critters – Saturday, July 31, 9:00 pm - 11:30 pm
Drayton Plains Nature Center – Waterford Township

Explore the bounty of life along the Clinton River as it flows through the Drayton Plains Nature Center (DPNC). Through the property, the river is diverted to create fish rearing ponds. Kathleen Sexton, Director of Education and Stewardship at the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC), will identify some of the organisms living in the river. Learn how these creatures are indicators of clean water. Participants will have a chance to sample the water. Terri Chapdelaine, Director of Bird Studies at the DPNC, will help spot birds as we walk the trail and dikes. DPNC is managed by Waterford Township Parks and Recreation. There are no park entry fees.



Bug Hike – Saturday, August 21, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Bear Creek Nature Park – Oakland Township



Bear Creek Nature Park has wonderful natural areas. Search the fields, woods, and wetlands for insects with bug experts Susanne Greenlee and Doris Applebaum. Insects are abundant in late summer. We will explore the diversity of butterflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers, and more. The group will also be keeping a bird checklist during the walk. Bring binoculars and a hand lens if you have them. Dress for the weather and plan to hike more than a mile. There are no park entry fees.

2021 Oakland Owlets Field Trips June - August 2021



Oakland Audubon follows Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines for COVID-19

1. **Pre-registration** is required and number of participants is limited.
2. **Social distancing** is practiced on the trails.
3. Participants must wear **face masks**, especially when we stop to talk.
4. Participants need to bring their **own optics**.
5. **Stay home if you are sick** or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.
6. **Temperature checks** will be made with a touchless thermometer before the field trip begins.
7. Travel with only people from your household. **No carpooling**.
8. 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



— EARTH DAY IS EVERYDAY —

On April 20, 2021 OAS participated in the “*Earth Day is Everyday*” celebration organized by the West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation Commission. The event was a chance for the community to interact with conservation organizations and learn about their groups. The event was held outdoors at the Recreation Activity Center and featured cold temperatures, snow, and rain. Extreme weather for all!



Despite the meteorological challenges, over one hundred people stopped by the OAS display. Three OAS members volunteered their time to promote birds and our organization.

OAS set up a Migration Course for the kids, a *Flying WILD* activity. Children chose a bird and set out on migration. The stops along the course demonstrated real world impacts of human activity on migrating birds. After going through the course, kids reported if they had been successful or died along the way. One girl scout reported she was killed by an outdoor cat, an unfortunate consequence of irresponsible pet owners. The American Bird Conservancy estimates that outdoor cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds annually, one of the biggest human-caused threats to birds. Keeping cats indoors helps protect birds!



OAS provided guests information on how to create bird friendly yards, the Seven Simple Actions to protect birds from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and also information about OAS.

A special thank you to **Greg and Michele Petrosky** and **Kathleen Dougherty** for their volunteer efforts so OAS could participate in this community event. Everyone at OAS greatly appreciates members' invaluable help to highlight the work and mission of our organization.



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty



Dear Oakland Audubon Society Friends,

Remember me? I'm the one who always used to ask you to sign 'Constituent Forms' for the *Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)* to deliver to your Member of Congress. Nowadays, we have to let them know how concerned we are with Climate Change with a handy-dandy monthly telephone call. It would be wonderful if you could sign up to give 10 minutes (only 10 minutes!) a month to this action.

You can sign up for a specific date once a month to call your Congressperson's office via the CCL's *Monthly Call Campaign* at <https://cclcalls.org/>. When you sign up, just before your chosen date, you will receive a reminder and a script. This [video](#) explains why your participation in this campaign is so important.

CCL develops long-term relationships between Members of Congress and their constituents to forward climate legislation, specifically **H.R. 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act** (www.energyinnovationact.org). CCL is waiting for this bill to be reintroduced in the new Congress. For further information go to: www.citizensclimatelobby.org.

It would be wonderful if you could get on board with this easy, short-time action!

Cordially,

Annis Pratt



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



WILDLIFE & THE COLD-WEATHER DISASTER OF 2021

by Doris Applebaum

The unexpected cold and icy weather of early 2021 presented many southern U.S. states with a disaster of incredible proportions. Perhaps hardest hit was Texas, where millions of people lost their electric power, their water, their property; many even lost their life. Some residents of Jackson, Mississippi, were still without water weeks after the event itself was over. However, while the news media described the awful situation of the people, they rarely mentioned how it affected the wildlife. A Detroit News article on March 1 provided some indication about the magnitude of that disaster.

Bats, which have been killed by the millions in recent years by the fungal disease known as White Nose Syndrome, took another hit when many of them left their winter shelter because of the cold, and died as they used up their meager fat resources trying to get away from the frigid conditions. Bats are major predators of insects that damage farmers' crops. Their services will not be available nearly as much this year. No doubt farmers are hoping that insects were hit just as hard by the cold, but that will make it difficult for the surviving bats and insects' other predators to find enough food.

Much luckier were some alligators in Oklahoma; they managed to survive by keeping their snout above the frozen water. Being reptiles, they could let the rest of their body pretty much shut off activity in order to save energy.

Sea turtles are also reptiles but do not have the same fortunate ability. Unbelievably, well over 10,000 sea turtles were found stunned by the cold along the Gulf of Mexico coast and were being cared for by rescue organizations; many of them did not survive.

Many species of fish were reported killed in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas; it was expected that it would take weeks for all the dead fish to wash ashore.

Fortunately for the monarch butterflies that winter in Mexico, their northward migration had not yet started, but the likelihood of survival for those wintering along the Gulf Coast was extremely poor.

And what about the birds? Many songbirds were among the casualties. The Detroit News article reported that birds that depend on seeds or berries were especially hard hit. Many robins, bluebirds, other kinds of thrushes, and catbirds were found dead in Texas, and many songbirds were found frozen to death in Oklahoma (the temperature in Tulsa was 13 degrees below zero at one point).

A February 25 email from the National Butterfly Center (NBC) in Mission, Texas, on the Mexico border reported that, while they were worrying about the monarchs, their workers were also called upon to help many songbirds in distress. Fortunately, some people in the area donated peanuts, peanut butter and jelly, oranges, and sunflower seeds, or money to purchase these items, as the NBC geared up to help birds that had not yet died but could not find food in the frozen wastes. They estimated that the need for this would continue through the spring migration. Migratory birds fly north expecting lots of food to be available, and they do not typically fatten up prior to leaving their wintering areas.

While several Brown Pelicans were found dead in Texas, at least some wintering Whooping Cranes appeared to have found a way to cope, by feeding on fish that had been killed by the cold.

It seemed as though Mother Nature played a cruel trick on the South, but anyone who understands the reality of climate change knows that the fault is not hers. Disasters like the frozen South occur because human beings have refused to take the necessary actions that many scientists have been pleading for over the past 30-plus years, as we continue to spew carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. And it's surely inevitable that more nasty surprises are in store for us—and for wildlife.

THE MACAW & THE BEE

by Doris Applebaum

Lear's Macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*) is one of the most critically endangered of all parrot-type species. It is confined to one kind of habitat—caatinga dry forest in northeastern Brazil, and is highly dependent on licuri palm trees, which provide most of the food that this species eats.

Like many other parrot species, Lear's Macaw is beset by human-caused problems like habitat loss, capture for illegal trade, and hunting. The lack of preserves for the licuri palm is another problem for this particular species.

As if all of this is not enough, Lear's Macaws lose many nest sites to Africanized honey bees (sometimes referred to as "killer bees"). This bee is a hybrid between two subspecies of the honey bee—the African (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) and the European (*A. m. mellifera*). The result is a highly aggressive bee that has become an invasive species in many parts of the world, and it competes for nest sites with several parrot species, both in natural cavities and in nest boxes. There have even been occasions when these bees killed parrots.

Because Lear's Macaw numbers are so dangerously low, a project was begun to see just how badly the Africanized honey bees were affecting it. What the researchers found was that in many areas there were 10 times as many bee hives as macaw nests.

The next step was to treat bee hives with permethrin, a synthetic chemical that works like a natural chemical found in chrysanthemums. Birders often use it as an insect repellent on their clothes when planning tours to tropical areas. Permethrin has been shown to be safe for birds, is not very toxic to other kinds of vertebrates, and has worked well to deter Africanized honey bees from usurping nest boxes put in place to help other kinds of parrots.

For two years, cavities with bee hives were treated in Lear's Macaw habitat. The result was an increase in the availability of nest sites for the birds, with an increase of over 70% in macaw nests in those areas.

Continued hive eradication is needed, but the good news is that there has been a notable reduction in one of the serious problems facing this spectacular, beautiful, severely threatened species.

(Information for this article was found in the Winter 2020-2021 issue of PsittaScene magazine, published by the [World Parrot Trust](#).)



Image Credit:

Lear's Macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*).

Joao Quental, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY—A NAME THAT IS PART OF OUR HISTORY

by Don Burlett

The Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) we know today, began in 1958 as the Pontiac Audubon Club. It was supported by the City of Pontiac Parks and Recreation Department. Back then, there was a President and three Vice-Presidents – 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice-Presidents of Programs, Membership, and Field Trips, respectively. These designations were not related with progression to the Presidency (1). For example, when the officers from 1973-74 changed in 1975, it was the 3rd Vice-President who became President. Barbara Hirt was Corresponding Secretary.

(1) OAS Officers, 1973

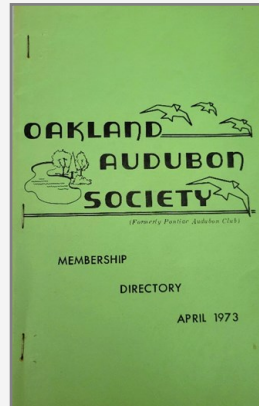
PONTIAC PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY	
Membership Directory - April 1973	
<u>OFFICERS</u>	
President:	Elle T. Cox
1st Vice-President: (Programs)	William P. Pascher
2nd Vice-President: (Membership)	Carolyn Stevens
3rd Vice-President: (Field Trips)	Richard Parker
Recording Secretary:	Rebecca Radcliffe
Corresponding Secretary:	Barbara Hirt
Treasurer:	Roy Witzke
<u>Permanent Address</u>	
Oakland Audubon Society 2335 Pontiac Lake Road Pontiac, Michigan 48054	

In 1973, a motion to amend the constitution of the organization and change the organization's name from "Pontiac Audubon Club" to "Oakland Audubon Society" was made by Vice-President William Pascher and seconded by Audrey Weir. The motion was passed 43 to 2. This was captured on the organization's February general meeting minutes (2).

(2) General Meeting Minutes, February 1973

A vote was taken on the proposed amendment to Article 1, Section 1 of the Club's Constitution which would be amended to read "The name of this Organization shall be the Oakland Audubon Society.". The motion was made by William Pascher and seconded by Audrey Weir. It passed by a 43 to 2 vote.

(3) Cover of 1973 OAS Directory



After that, the "new" organization provided its first membership directory (1, 3).

Interestingly, the 1973 directory lists our own Doris Applebaum (current OAS Secretary) as a member. That is a great deal of longevity for a member in any society.

The Pontiac Audubon Club had a logo quite different from the one we have today – Northern Cardinals were very popular at that time and adorned the club's patch. I recently received a patch from Barbara Hirt, who graciously returned the emblem to us for historical purposes. I will have to do more research to determine when the logo was changed to the White-breasted Nuthatch we know today (4).

(4) Pontiac Audubon Club patch and OAS logo



It is always interesting to look back to learn the history of this organization, get a glimpse of where we came from, and look at how founding members paved the way for what we are today. We are certainly thankful to them.

I hope this quick look back was fun and educational. I will try to provide additional historical perspectives down the road, so that the space in my basement taken by these records is not wasted space!

Bird Briefs (articles to look at online)

by Don Burlett

Shorebird Atlas

<https://www.shorebirdconservation.org/shorebird-atlas>

This link takes you to the *Shorebird Conservation Organization*; they provide instructions on how to become a shorebird atlas participant. An opportunity to be a citizen scientist.

How Does That Song Go? This Bird Couldn't Say

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/science/bird-honeyeater-australia.html?referringSource=articleShare>

When bird populations plummet, it can have strange effects on some species. When young birds don't have adults to teach them their songs, they don't know what to do. The Regent Bowerbird in Australia is an example. Interesting read.

What Killed These Bald Eagles? After 25 Years, We Finally Know

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/03/humans-accidentally-created-death-trap-bald-eagles/618413/>

For the detective in you, this story unfolds a mystery that took 25 years to solve. The case involved the death of more than 70 Bald Eagles. It is also a tale of ecology and disaster.

Moving forward: Next Steps in 'alala' recovery include Maui and 'io' research

<https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2021/04/02/hawaii-news/moving-forward-next-steps-in-%CA%BBalala-recovery-include-maui-and-io-research/>

If you are interested in work associated with the recovery of threatened birds, this article is for you. It describes conservation efforts for the Hawaiian Crow in Hawaii.

Birds Can See Earth's Magnetic Fields, And Now We Know How That's Possible

<https://www.sciencealert.com/birds-see-magnetic-fields-cryptochrome-cry4-photoreceptor-2018>

We have all probably heard that birds are able to perceive the magnetic fields and use them for navigation. Here is an article that explains this in scientific terms. Interesting concept.

Cascading effects of noise on plants persist over long periods and after noise is removed

<https://phys.org/news/2021-04-cascading-effects-noise-persist-periods.html>

The idea that noise affects plants is not something everyone is aware about. The nature of the effect is also of interest. For those who like plants and those interested in science in general, here is an article worth reading.

This Bird Predicts Hurricanes Better Than Meteorologists

<https://blog.nature.org/science/2018/09/26/this-bird-predicts-hurricanes-better-than-meteorologists/#:~:text=The%20veery%20is%20a%20thrush,in%20South%20America's%20Amazon%20region.&text=He%20found%20that%20in%20the,cut%20their%20breeding%20season%20short>

This is an interesting article that provokes thoughts about birds and their knowledge of the world around them. Predicting hurricane seasons months in advance is something to marvel about. An interesting read.

BIRD ID QUIZ

(Summer 2021)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see Page 30

No Peeking!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

March 18, 2021

The Board met again via *Zoom* due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our board and membership meetings have worked out well. The *Zoom* contract will be renewed.

It was decided that our May 11 nature walk will be held at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. It is expected that registration will be required, as for any field trip.

The scheduled field trip to Magee Marsh in Ohio had to be canceled because that park is not currently open. There will still probably be a field trip to that general area.

Our Facebook page has had visitors from Bangladesh, India, and China. Social Media Administrator Dan Gertiser had planned to launch a photo contest but decided against it. Instead, he is inviting people to send in photos to be posted on our Facebook page.

The OAS website now has an Advocacy page.

OAS volunteers will be monitoring 10 nest boxes in West Bloomfield this year.

Seven Ponds Nature Center Chapter Representative Dr. Greg Gossick reported that the Corks & Caps fundraiser, originally scheduled for June 4, has been rescheduled for August 6 due to pandemic concerns.

Young Birders Club Coordinator Kathleen Dougherty reported that field trips have been scheduled through June.

OAS will have representatives participating in Earth Day activities in West Bloomfield (a "live" event) and at Chrysler Headquarters in Auburn Hills (a virtual event).

April 29, 2021

Treasurer Elaine Ferguson reported that several members have taken advantage of the newly available PayPal option to renew their membership.

General and Young Birders Club field trips are scheduled through August. Programs for membership meetings have been scheduled through October 2021.

OAS plans to offer baseball-type caps and winter hats with our White-breasted Nuthatch logo. Also in the works: a handsome coffee mug with a beautiful drawing of our logo.

Three OAS members participated in the West Bloomfield Earth Day, soldiering on through a rainy day.

OAS also participated in the Stellantis (formerly Chrysler) Earth Day, though this event was done virtually. President Don Burlett and videographer Mike Dougherty (former OAS newsletter editor) produced a video that was shown at this event.

OAS will do a wildlife survey at the Stellantis Headquarters in Auburn Hills. We have done this for several years but had to skip 2020 due to the pandemic. Surveys will also be done for Waste Management, Inc., at their facilities in Macomb and Oakland counties. The surveys are part of these companies' "Wildlife at Work" certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC).

OAS has received 5 *Feather Friendly kits*. This material helps prevent birds from crashing into glass windows. The kits will be given to the 5 people who best describe why they deserve one.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary





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!

OAS FUNDRAISING MERCHANDISE



Oakland Audubon Mugs. These 11 ounce white ceramic mugs are printed in full color on both sides. They are microwave and dishwasher safe.
\$10.00



Ball cap. Stone color hat from Adams Fashion Headwear featuring a cool-crown mesh lining and an adjustable leather back closure. They are embroidered with a nuthatch and "Oakland Audubon Society" on the front.
\$20.00



Knit hat. Embroidered with a nuthatch and "Oakland Audubon Society" on the front. Made from soft sweater fleece, this comfortable beanie will help keep chills at bay. Fabric is 100% polyester sweater fleece. The only color available is heather gray (color is darker than shown here).
\$15.00

To pre-order, contact Publicity/Fundraising Officer
Phil Bugosh at peb729@gmail.com

(Payment and pick-up will be arranged at a later time)

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

The membership drive for 2021 is underway!
You can renew your dues by mailing the form on page 31 or
renew online, on our website, using PayPal – [CLICK HERE](#)

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

Thank-You letters were received from the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC), the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC), and the Drayton Nature Center for donations OAS provided. Thank you for helping OAS support local conservation minded organizations.



Protecting our clean water for nearly 50 years.

March 26, 2021

Oakland Audubon Society
ATTN: Don Burlett
P.O. Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012

Dear Don,

Thank You So Much! Thank you so much for your recent contribution of \$100.00, which we received on 3/26/2021.

We have been continuing to work hard to care for the Clinton River. As always, and even more during this global crisis, we rely on the generosity of people like you to get it all done.

Over these past months, we have adjusted, regrouped, pivoted and brainstormed from every angle to find different ways to do our work and engage with residents and businesses safely and effectively.

Your generous support helps provide the financial stability we need to continue to do our work amidst all these challenges. Although interrupted several times due to restrictions, we continued our trash cleanups to the extent possible. Our spring and fall Adopt-A-Stream monitoring took place using a mix of less volunteers and more staff time. Large projects are moving forward, just a little more slowly.

We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2021! Stay tuned in the coming months for ways you can help us reflect on and celebrate this amazing milestone.

Generous people like you, who care about the Clinton, have been with us every step of the way. We are so grateful.

Please visit our website www.crwcc.org or our Facebook page anytime to see what's going on in the watershed.

kindest regards

Anne Brasie
Executive Director



This letter serves as your receipt for your donation. Your membership is current for one year. The Clinton River Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Dear OAS -
I wish to express my sincere thanks for your recent donation of \$100 to the Drayton Plains Nature Center. Your generous contribution will go towards property maintenance and public education. It's great to hear from a kindred group, whose relationship goes all the way back to the 1970's!
Sincerely -
Ken Chappelaine
V.P. Friends of the DPNC



7150 Dixie Highway
Suite 2
Clarkston, MI 48346
Mailing: PO Box 285
Clarkston, MI 48347
248.795.2808
nohlc.org

Friday, April 2, 2021

Oakland Audubon Society
Attn: Don Burlett
PO Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012

Dear Don & Oakland Audubon,

Thank you for your generous gift on March 23, 2021, of \$100.00 to North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy.

Thank you for hosting us at your monthly membership meeting in March. It was a pleasure reconnecting with your members and sharing in their passion for pollinator conservation.

As we forge ahead this new year, we thank you for the confidence you have in our staff, volunteers, and our mission. It's with deep gratitude to you for the time and thought your organization spends preserving the natural beauty for now and the future.

Warmly,

Sue

Sue Julian
Executive Director

Alicia Arkwright
Development Director



North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization (tax ID 23-7207644) under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Nature Worth Preserving
Right in your backyard.



Thank You!

Board of Directors

Emily DuThinh
President

Michael Metz
Vice President

Michael Dougherty
Treasurer

Bette Moen
Secretary

Directors
Pamela Beile
Nicole Breadon
Kelly Daly Flynn
Jean Granich
Susan Julian
Lora Perkins
Todd Roesser

Performance Auditors
Christopher Benedict
Marilyn Zigarac

Staff

Sue Julian
Executive Director

Alicia Arkwright
Development Director

Chris Harman
Communications & Outreach

Mary Herzenstiel
Administrative Assistant

Dana Campbell
Office Manager

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Monthly membership meetings normally held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, May, July and August) at the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham are on hold. **OAS meetings and programs continue to be offered online via Zoom. Meetings open at 6:30 PM and talks begin at 7:00 PM.** 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 each 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., June 8	7:00 p.m.	Birds in Legend & Lore	Via Zoom
Tues., July 13	7:00 p.m.	Argentina	Via Zoom
Tues., August 10	7:00 p.m.	Peregrine Falcons	Via Zoom

Bird Quiz Answers for Summer 2021 Quiz on Page 26

This issue’s photo quiz : a) Least Flycatcher, b) Great Crested Flycatcher, c) Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Explanation: A relatively easy set of birds to ID.

- a) The picture gives no perspective on size, but this is a small flycatcher with short wings and bill. It has a bold, complete eye-ring and overall pale gray-olive color. It is best identified by the *CHEbek* call.
- b) A large, secretive flycatcher with rich coloration – gray head, olive back, rufous wings and tail, and bright yellow belly; note the contrasting black and white tertials. Also note that the yellow on the belly extends further forward than any other *Myiarchus* flycatcher.
- c) This flycatcher perches upright, always on a conspicuous perch. Dark head and flanks with conspicuous white throat and belly.

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.*