



THE NUTHATCH

Follow us on 

www.oaklandaudubon.org

Follow us on 

“Wildflowers”

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Caryle Spence

Spring signals the beginning of wildflower season.

Join us this evening as OAS member Caryle Spence gets us in the mood for the glorious explosion of nature’s wildflower bounty, featuring native Michigan species from early spring into July.



Inside This Issue

“The Philippines – Islands of Endemics”

Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Don Burlett

The Philippines are a birder’s paradise. This country is made up of isolated islands in the Pacific Ocean near Asia, providing a perfect spot for isolated bird species to evolve. Boasting 7107 islands, the Philippines can also boast of having 657 species, of which 214 are endemic. Join Don Burlett as we visit seven of these islands in a quest to see many of the island’s birds. We’ll also enjoy the landscape, history and culture of these islands.



President’s Column	2
Positions Available	3
Upcoming Field Trips	4-5
Favorite Bird Tournament Results	5
Field Trip Reports	6-9
Thank You Notes	10
New News About Some Ancient Birds	11
Nature Notes	12-13
Stewardship Opportunity	14
Earth Day	15
Bird ID Quiz	16
Board Highlights	17
New Members	18
Membership Form	19

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Summer 2017

Summer is upon us, although I am not sure we would recognize it based on the weather patterns we have had to live through since “winter”!! Record warmth in February, a cold April, May started off a little cold also.....typical Michigan but with an extreme emphasis. I hope that you enjoyed a little spring and lots of migrating birds.

Personally, I feel like I haven't been around enough. What with my knee replacement, a trip to Ghana and another trip to Borneo, I haven't missed this many meetings in quite a while. Of course, I'm being selfish in pursuit of a personal birding goal but I hope you haven't missed me too much. I'll miss more time in the fall for my other knee but should be around to harass everyone until late spring next year.

Of course, it's those personal goals that keep us going during the years. My goals (seeing more than half the birds of the world and birding on all seven continents) have driven me through the years and, now that I am retired, kept my schedule busy. The same goes for you. Your goals, whether they involve seeing birds or learning more about birds or nature or whatever, are important to us. We hope that a few of you are interested in volunteering to help other conservation minded groups in our area, because we plan to offer these types of opportunities soon. Check out the newsletter to see if a possible volunteer activity has been posted. And when they appear, I hope that the entire organization responds to show what we are made of. And you don't have to do manual labor to help. Just coming along to help with refreshments or keep communication alive on the site is also useful.

Our group continues to go along as usual. Field trips have been well attended, especially our weekday outings with Mike Mencotti. Our program meetings continue along strongly. As always, I want to be sure you remember that our Program Officer (Doris Applebaum) and Field Trip Officer (Jeff Stacey) are always looking for input on potential topics for future meetings and for birds/locations you'd like to have included in our itinerary. We specifically add programs and trips when people ask for them, just to meet your needs and to add spice to our schedule. Hopefully, next spring, we'll do a Prairie Chicken trip and maybe some other special efforts. We just need to hear from you what you are interested in. It's as simple as that. It's your organization and any subject/trip/volunteer opportunity you might suggest is something we will consider.

As always, I am still looking for volunteers to help with some areas that need help. The Young Birders program has been real quiet. No volunteer leader to coordinate and help get this off the ground. We are trying to work with other Audubon groups to make it easier but we've been real quiet on this front. That doesn't mean we aren't trying. Several volunteers have been making presentations and been at several events trying to make contact with the community to open up opportunities for us to interact with children and others. Still, their efforts are not enough. We need some leadership in the quest to help the next generations move into our world of nature and conservation. Think about it! We are not asking anyone to take on a full-time job, just help coordinate some activities with support from a group within the organization. Every spring, hope springs forth and I hope for a new chance to help the community. Join me in my enthusiastic hope for change. See you at an event soon.

Don Burlett

Page one banner credits: American Redstart, Northern Parula, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - Joan Tisdale, Monarch Butterfly—Mike Dougherty

OFFICER/CHAIR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

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

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

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

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

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

Appointed Officers

Program Co-Officer	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Program Co-Officer	Margaret Moran	(248) 646-7387	marmo48009@sbcglobal.net
Young Birders Club Rep.	OPEN		
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity/Fundraising	Phil Bugosh	(248) 763-3163	peb729@gmail.com
Web Co-Editor	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea13@netzero.net
Web Co-Editor	Hannah Dunbar		hannahmdunbar@aol.com
Social Media Administrator	Janet Hug	(248) 736-2839	jkissnhug@comcast.net
Nuthatch Editor	Mike Dougherty	(248) 972-7802	mikeodoc@comcast.net
Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
<p style="text-align: center;">June 3, 2017 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nyanquing & Bay City SRA Meet in the parking lot of Bay City SRA</p>	<p>Jeff Stacey</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 7, 2017 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grassland Birds—Orion Oaks Meet in the Clarkston Road lot of Orion Oaks County Park</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 11, 2017 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thumb Wild Card Location TBD Check website and Facebook page as the date approaches</p>	<p>Ed Lewandowski</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 24, 2017 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Birds and Butterflies at Independence Oaks Meet at the Camp Wilderness park- ing lot of Independence Oaks</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 14-16, 2017 (Friday - Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Seney NWR UP trip See website for details</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 22, 2017 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 12 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shiawassee Basin Preserve Meet at the Springfield Twp. Civic Center in Davisburg</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 29, 2017 (Saturday) 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Butterflies at Orion Oaks Meet at the parking lot on Baldwin Road Oakland County Parks annual or day pass required</p>	<p>Doris Applebaum</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">August 13, 2017 (Sunday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pointe Mouillee SGA Meet in lot on Sigler Road You must reserve your spot with Dave Frye—see website for details</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
September 9, 2017 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Lake St. Clair Metropark Meet at the Nature Center lot Metroparks daily or annual pass required	Mike Mencotti
September 13, 2017 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Red Oaks and the Detroit Zoo Meet at Red Oaks County Park Oakland County Parks annual or day pass required	Mike Mencotti
September 16, 2017 (Saturday) 12:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Nuthatch Open See website for details	Jeff Stacey

Our Favorite Bird Tournament 2017

During the course of this year’s OAS Membership Meetings, the audience has weighed in regarding their favorites, deciding head-to-head match-ups among a field of 64 nominated birds. The “Final Four” match-ups generated this result:



15 seed – Piping Plover

3 seed – Belted Kingfisher >>> **Belted Kingfisher**

>>> **Kirtland’s Warbler**

9 seed – Kirtland’s Warbler >>> **Kirtland’s Warbler**

2 seed – Pileated Woodpecker



Congratulations to the Kirtland’s Warbler and all of its supporters for being chosen as ***OAS 2017 Our Favorite Bird!***

David Frye (OFB Tournament Selection Committee)

Photo Credits: Mike Dougherty

Field Trip Reports

Robert Long, Walled Lake, Heritage Park Trip – March 15, 2017

Leader - Mike Mencotti

On Wednesday, March 15, eight hardcore (or should we call them hard-headed) birders braved 15°F temperatures and blustery, below-zero wind chills to sharpen their birding skills at Robert Long, Walled Lake and Heritage Park. Long had a fraction of its water open, but we were able to view the differences between the gulls as well as many ducks. Unfortunately, most were along the back shore to block the strong winds, but the lighting was excellent, giving us great views.

Walled Lake had a huge group of mixed species that allowed us to study Redhead, Canvasback and Lesser Scaup. After the winds blew over a scope, we figured that was the sign to head to the Heritage Park Nature Center. There we enjoyed the warmth and feeders, as we watched in comfort some early migrants taking advantage of an easy lunch. A walk on the trails yielded Turkey Vulture as well as Cedar Waxwings and a number of woodpeckers. A total of 38 species were found, not too shabby for cold winter day.

Maple River Field Trip – April 8, 2017

Leader - Jeff Stacey

Flooding was the theme of our trip to Maple River SGA. We had a great turnout of 17 birders, but we were blocked by water at almost every turn from heavy rains earlier in the week. Fortunately, the wintering Long-eared Owls stuck around long enough for us to see them. Other highlights included a flyover of Trumpeter Swans, a hunting Northern Harrier, and both morphs of Rough-legged Hawk. We still totaled 58 species, which was close to last year's total.

Walled Lake, Heritage Park Trip - April 23, 2017

Leader - Mike Mencotti

A total of 21 participants enjoyed a spring Sunday morning, April 23, on a field trip that turned up 58 species at local parks. We started at Walled Lake, which could be hit or miss this time of year. Today was a big hit! The lake was smooth as glass, and offered fine looks at Horned Grebe, and a variety of waterfowl. Fly-over Bald Eagle and Osprey were exciting as was Purple Martin. Robert Long offered in-your-face views of some warblers, and also had some lingering waterfowl. Heritage Park yielded excellent views of Pine Warblers, and a soaring Red-shouldered Hawk that was a lifer for some attendees.

Stony Creek Metropark Field Trip – April 30, 2017

Leader - Dave Frye

Wet, chilly, windy, and threatening weather kept most at home for the bicycle trip around Stony Creek Metropark. In fact, there was just one attendee (and you're reading his account of the morning). The bicycle did not get off of its rack and, instead, a short scoping session at Eastwood Beach yielded 16 species.

Field Trip Reports - continued

Wednesday Field Trips

Leader - Mike Mencotti

April 12, 2017

Spring has sprung, and the birds and the birders were out in force for the Wednesday workshop series on April 12. Some 19 birders met at Robert Long Park to enjoy some great viewers of waterfowl, raptors, swallows, waders, and a couple of early Yellow-rumped Warblers. A loon was floating on the pond to the delight of all, and a Great Egret and Sandhill Crane were wonderful sightings. On to Heritage Park, where the woodpeckers put on quite a show. From one vantage point, we observed and studied five species of woodpeckers at once. Some lucky participants saw a Purple Finch. The trip tallied 51 species.

April 26, 2017

The April 26 installment of the Wednesday workshop/field trip series was spring birding at its finest: some warblers, a hawk flight, nesting Bald Eagles and Osprey, a rare bird, and great looks at a Barred Owl. All 17 participants were thrilled with the sights as well as with the beautiful weather that made this Kensington Metropark trip a success. One of most exciting – but subtle – birds was the rare, elusive Henslow's Sparrow, whose song is a little hiccup. This was a life bird for many, and to show what a great day it was, we found two of them! The park gave us 61 species in all, and it wasn't even May yet.

May 10, 2017

A group of 18 warbler watchers descended on Heritage Park in May, a great time of year for that sort of thing. They were not disappointed on this sunny and cool May 10. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was the star of the day, with at least six males singing and posing for photos. The warblers were tough to find, but we managed to get eight species, including a fine look at a Blue-winged. Although we were scheduled to go to Robert Long, the birds – and the road construction – precluded leaving Heritage. We all left with the promise that even more of spring migration was ahead of us. We tallied 45 species.

May 24, 2017

The Wednesday field trip/workshop series ended on May 24, not with a whimper, not with a bang, but with plenty of good birds! The 14 participants were treated to Northern Mockingbird and a lot of fly-catchers, including Olive-sided, Alder, Willow and a cooperative Great-crested that posed on the trail for us. Most of the migrant warblers moved on, but we grabbed six species, and the real treat was a Red-eyed Vireo sitting on a nest at eye level! Heritage Park rarely disappoints in spring. I would like to thank all the participants who help make this series so much fun for me. See you next fall.

Field Trip Reports - continued

Berrien County Field Trip – April 21-23, 2017

Leader – Don Burlett

A hearty group of 10 birders joined together to root out a bunch of birds in Berrien County. The weather was cloudy and breezy and cool on Friday, a little less breezy but still cool on Saturday and was sunny and warmer on Sunday. We birded a variety of places. We first began birding around Three Oaks in search of the Eurasian Collared-doves. No luck. (We later found out they had moved slightly north but we didn't find them there either). We also birded the waste water lagoons just west of town and had good luck with species there, including immediately finding a Fish Crow.

We also birded Warren Woods State Park with success in finding Winter Wren, Louisiana Waterthrush and several other warblers. We also birded the area along Avery Road and Buffalo Road, unsuccessfully looking for Longspurs. We did see plenty of Brewer's Blackbirds and other species. We also birded several times along W. Forest Lawn Road and visited Kesling Nature Preserve. We visited the beach in New Buffalo with little to show for our efforts. We also visited Galien River County Park and its canopy boardwalk. Highlights here included tremendous views of Blue-winged Teal in flight from above and a Sandhill Crane's attack on a white-tailed deer's nose.

Aside from the culinary delights (well, maybe too many burgers on Friday), it was a nice trip and everyone was involved in finding birds, which we saw plenty. As usual, we look forward to another trip to this area, maybe in May next time.



Louisiana Waterthrush



Brewer's Blackbird



Cattle Egret



Hermit Thrush

Photo Credits: Jeff Stacey

Field Trip Reports - continued

Oak Openings (Toledo, Ohio) Field Trip – May 13, 2017 Leader – Don Burlett

A group of 13 birders headed south to visit this popular location in search of several key species. We were rewarded by great looks at Lark Sparrow and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Unexpectedly, we also reaped a group of Henslow's Sparrows and Summer Tanagers. We birded the Girdham Road area first and then headed back to the nature center and walked a trail in the woods. We then traveled north to Sager Road looking for open grass species. We then went back to the lodge area and birded Tornado Alley. From there we drove north to Irwin Prairie where the water level forced closure of some of the boardwalk. We marched on (some with shoes off, other getting wet, only Jeff wearing rubber boots) and were rewarded with a surprise Common Nighthawk. All-in-all, it was a good day with 73 species.



Henslow's Sparrow



Orchard Oriole



Summer Tanager



Lark Sparrow



Yellow-throated Vireo

Photo Credits: Jeff Stacey

Your Membership At Work

Thank you notes were received from the Hawk Woods Nature Center and the Howell Nature Center for donations made to these organizations last quarter made possible by your continued support and membership.



May 1, 2017

Oakland Audubon Society—

Thank you for your continued support and donation. I plan to use the funds to install an electric line for the bird bath heater.

As always your friend,
Mike



May 1, 2017

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

Dear Friends at Oakland Audubon Society,

Thank you for your donation of \$200 recorded on March 1, 2017.

It is because of the caring and commitment of people like you that we are able to continue our work with local wildlife, including the rehabilitation of over 3,000 injured and orphaned birds, mammals and reptiles every year.

Your thoughtful gift also supports the permanent residence of over 70 birds, mammals, and reptiles in our Wild Wonders Wildlife Park. These "Animal Ambassadors" have sustained injuries requiring ongoing care, many of them participate in wildlife programs that help educate the public about the importance of coexistence and conservation.

On behalf of these innocent creatures, "Thank you!"

Dana DeBenham

Dana DeBenham
Wildlife Director

This letter acknowledges your contribution to Howell Nature Center, a designated 501(c)(3), EIN: 47-4324628. No goods or services were provided to you in exchange for the gift. Please retain this letter as a receipt for your permanent tax records.

1005 Triangle Lake Rd., Howell, MI 48843 • P 517-546-0249 F 517-546-1677 • howellnaturecenter.org



NEW NEWS ABOUT SOME ANCIENT BIRDS

Research has turned up some unexpected fossils of birds. It seems that at one time there were two different groups of birds—the ancestors of the ones we know today, and a previously unknown group which included at least 50 species.

Both groups descended from toothed dinosaurs. They diverged from each other about 150 million to 130 million years ago and then shared the skies for more than 60 million years.

Anatomical studies show that both groups flew in similar ways, but the “other” birds had a completely opposite system of shoulder joints, which told researchers that this was an altogether new category of birds.

By the time the famous asteroid hit the Earth some 65 million years ago, both groups of birds had lost their teeth and developed a toothless beak. The asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs also sent the “other” birds into extinction, but the ancestors of our modern birds survived. The reasons for this are not definitive, but there are some clues.

Birds that survived 65 million years ago were plant eaters that had to cope with tough plant fibers. Although they had no teeth, they had developed a gizzard to help them digest those fibers. They were also probably able to eat the available seeds. The seeds would have had a hard shell, making them durable enough to provide some nutrition until the devastated ecosystems could recover.

Another clue is in the birds’ air sacs. Both groups had them in their hollow bones, but those of our modern birds’ ancestors were larger. That would have provided more ability to breathe in the poor air resulting from the fires caused by the asteroid’s impact.

Another very interesting clue was found in the fossilized eggshells of some “other” birds. The eggs were partly buried in soil, and the chicks were almost fully developed, indicating that when they hatched they probably were on their own with no parental care. This is much like today’s megapodes such as the Brush Turkey.

Because the majority of today’s birds come out of the shell very dependent on their parents for an extended period, the thinking is that the ancestors of modern birds also provided parental care to the chicks, helping them survive. The unprotected chicks of the “other” birds would have been much more vulnerable.

Whatever the reasons, those “other” birds could not make it past the asteroid, whereas modern birds are still around—and aren’t we glad about that.

(Information for this item is from *New Scientist*, 4 March 2017.)

Article submitted by Doris Applebaum

NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

How can I use a short-term weather forecast to decide where to go birding? I'm specifically talking about during migration, but maybe there are some interesting techniques during non-migration times as well.

The drivers of bird migration are largely hormonal and genetic in a broad sense, but weather does play a role on a day-to-day scale. Weather systems will ground nocturnal songbird migrants as they will not fly in the rain, while good conditions will allow them to fly all night long. In spring birders watch for events that will result in a “fallout” of migrants. Typically the weather will be good south of us, but with rainy or stormy conditions coming through our area. So it is a good idea to watch what the weather is doing. Fallouts might be more pronounced if these storms pass through in the few hours before sunrise, when migrants are descending for the day; the northbound migrants fly into the stormy weather and immediately drop to the closest woodlot for shelter. These systems are often associated with cold fronts in spring, which can have a detrimental effect on the birds. While it may be a wonderful thing to see hundreds of Least Flycatchers or Scarlet Tanagers hopping around on the ground at your feet (as I have, at Pt. Pelee in the 1980s), it can threaten the survival of the birds. It is always a good idea to give these stressed birds the space they need for sheltering and feeding.

In fall, fallouts of songbirds are much less pronounced than in spring. Hawks migrate during the day, and avoid crossing large bodies of water. Hawkwatchers have long been tuned into the weather patterns, keeping an eye on the passage of cold fronts. These weather systems are typically low pressure cells, which rotate in a counter-clockwise direction. If the center of this system passes to our south, the winds will shift to northwest after its passage. If it passes to our north, they will be from the southwest. Hawks (and other birds) can sense the change in barometric pressure, and prefer to migrate with the tail winds from the north. So, those conditions will result in good hawk migrations at the sites where the geography of the lakes concentrates them, like Lake Erie Metropark. If you want to see jaegers and other waterbirds migrating, a cold wet northeast wind at Port Huron is your best bet in our area.

NATURE NOTES by Allen Chartier
(continued)

Is there any place that you've gone that has been a particularly special birding experience- where and why?

Any day of birding, anywhere, can be special. The first time we traveled west of the Mississippi River was to California in 1982, where I saw about 100 life birds. The first tropical birding trip that Nancy and I took was to Rancho del Cielo in northeastern Mexico in 1983. It was our first real adventure, with a harrowing bus ride down to Gomez Farias to get there, followed by a very rough 7-mile, 2-hour ride in the back of a truck up a logging road, and the accommodations lacking electricity and plumbing. It was a magical week, as we were far enough from traffic and flight patterns that we heard nothing but natural sound the whole time. It was our first experience in cloud forest which to this day is my favorite habitat. Seventeen years later, we had a similar experience at Cana Camp in Darien National Park, Panama. This camp is remote - a full day's travel on horseback from the nearest village. The two of us booked a birding guide, and we met two other caretakers and a cook who had ridden in from that village the day before. The quiet and solitude here too was magnificent.

Allen has not been getting any questions from the membership. If we want Allen to continue this column, he needs to know what you need/want to know. Don't be shy! If you have a question you would like Allen to answer in a future Nature Notes column or a topic you are interested in hearing more about, you can email it to him at:

amazilia3@gmail.com

A Conservation Stewardship Opportunity

The OAS will be participating in a volunteer conservation stewardship work day with the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) on Saturday, August 5 in Independence Township. We will be helping with some trail maintenance, invasive species control, and planting of native plants. This is a great opportunity for you to become involved with other members of your organization and contribute to conserving and maintaining natural habitat in the local area for birds and other species, and have some fun. Your help is needed and appreciated!

The work day will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and lunch, water, and tools will be provided. All you really need to bring is yourself, maybe a friend, work gloves, and some enthusiasm.

Details about the location and how to sign up will be on the OAS Website and on our Facebook page. If you'd like to see the experience a couple of other groups have had participating, short videos can be found here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6w--FjJSME

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ncFUYpE3JQ



NOHLC is a community based land conservancy that has been working to conserve and protect the headwaters and surrounding habitats of the Clinton, Flint, Huron, and Shiawassee Rivers since 1972. NOHLC has interests in 58 properties totaling over 1,500 acres. Of these, 20 are owned by NOHLC while the remainder have Conservation Easements which protect the land from any development while keeping it in private ownership. You can learn more about NOHLC at www.nohlc.org.



Earth Day at Chrysler



On April 19, 2017 Don Burlett, Janet Hug, and Laurie Schubert once again represented the OAS at Chrysler's Earth Day celebration at the FCA headquarters in Auburn Hills. As you can see below they manned a display table full of information about birds, birding, and the OAS for the FCA employees and other visitors. Many folks stopped by to chat and learn about the OAS and birding.



AVOCADOS FROM MEXICO: NO!

The owner of some land very near the Cerro Pelon Monarch Sanctuary in Mexico has given permission for his land to be cleared to plant avocado trees. This has resulted in destruction of land that Monarch butterflies at the sanctuary need as a buffer area against bad weather. Obviously, this is not good for the Monarchs, and the native people who try to take care of the sanctuary are distressed about it.

This is one of many threats to the survival of Monarchs that participate in one of the world's most amazing animal migrations. If you like avocados but can tell that the ones you plan to buy are from Mexico, please don't buy them. Look for avocados that come from some other area.

(This information was received from SEMBA, the South East Michigan Butterfly Association.)

BIRD ID QUIZ (Summer 2017)
Breeding Bird Season!!



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

Last issues photo quiz answers: a) Indigo Bunting (female), b) Eastern Wood-pewee and c) Orange-crowned Warbler. How'd you do with the ID's?

Photo credits: Joan Tisdale

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

.MARCH 23, 2017

The Field Trip Committee has completed scheduling of field trips through the rest of 2017. There will be 2 trips to the Upper Peninsula and several Wednesday morning trips.

Our Facebook page currently has 765 likes.

Dr. Greg Gossick has started his term as the OAS Chapter Representative to Seven Ponds Nature Center.

OAS has sent out donations to the Howell Nature Center and Osprey Watch of South East Michigan.

A new outreach effort by OAS is aimed at helping local parks and preserves with maintenance activities, such as trail work. Our first such outreach is expected to be for the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy in August. Volunteers are needed.

OAS was scheduled to help out at an event for teachers called "Sharathon" at Hawk Woods Nature Center on March 25.

OAS will also have a presence at the "Spring into Science" event at Cranbrook Institute April 6 and 7, at the Chrysler Corporation World Headquarters Earth Day event on April 19, and at the Earth Day event at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills on April 22.

Janet Hug will represent OAS at a memorial tribute to well-known Osprey researcher Sergey Postupalsky, who died last year. The tribute will take place on April 18-19 at Fletcher Pond near Alpena and will include dedication of a memorial bench and signage.

APRIL 20, 2017

Website Editor Hannah Dunbar is working on a new website for OAS. When it is in operation, it will be less expensive, easier to use, and more professional looking than our current site.

Only 5 OAS winter hats are still available for purchase.

Our Facebook page currently has 771 likes.

Donations from OAS have been sent to Hawk Woods Nature Center and Seven Ponds Nature Center.

OAS members signed up to help at several recent local events, answering questions and providing information for attendees. These kinds of activities are giving OAS the chance to become better known.

Also helping in this regard, Membership Officer Dave Frye agreed to give some presentations at the Holly Library.

Dave has also agreed to do presentations for some 6th-grade Earth Science classes, an important step in our efforts to provide environmental education to children.

Doris Applebaum

Secretary

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., June 13	7:30 p.m.	Wildflowers	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., September 12	7:30 p.m.	The Philippines – Islands of Endemics	First United Methodist Church (see below)

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

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Welcome New Members!

Victoria Hotchkiss, Michael Jensen, Sharon Korte, Jackie Parko

Our membership drive for 2017 is underway! Please pay your membership dues at a monthly meeting or by mailing in the membership form on page 20.

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



OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Mobile: (____) _____

Email address: _____

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

Check also if you are a member of:

____ National Audubon Society

____ Michigan Audubon Society

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

Check if you have the skills to help:

____ Become a board member

____ Lead a field trip or present a program

____ Fill an open position (Position: _____)

Please check appropriate line:

____ Member renewal

____ New member

____ Change of address

OAS Membership Fees

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

Our Mission

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

Please make checks payable to:
OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mail to:
OAS MEMBERSHIP
2780 SCENIC MEADOWS DRIVE
ORTONVILLE, MICHIGAN 48462

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