



THE NUTHATCH

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Follow us on 

The Native Fishes of Michigan

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Bob Muller

Michigan is a fisherman's delight. However, not all of our fishes are candidates for the frying pan. There are many kinds of fishes in our state's waters that most of us never see. Bob Muller of the Royal Oak Nature Society will introduce us to some interesting and surprisingly lovely examples.



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Night Crew

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Leslie Science and Nature
Center Presentation



Staff from the Leslie Science and Nature Center in Ann Arbor will have live owls for us to meet as they tell us what makes these birds such an interesting part of our native wildlife. Don't miss this special evening as we get up close and personal with the denizens of the night.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Preparation

As winter unfolds, we start looking at the coming year. Another set of challenges face us and we are already working on them all. What makes them possible is being as prepared as possible. That's what the Board is for and all the various groups that work to provide the activities that make us who we are.

The program committee is obviously prepared, as we already are booking speakers for 2017! Yes, I said 2017. The speaker schedule for 2016 is already filled out and we are already booking speakers far in advance. And we have listened to the feedback we have gotten. You'll be seeing many programs on birds, insects, other animals and other topics. We are working to provide a nice variety of programs – something for everyone.

The Field Trip committee has put together an impressive schedule for the group. We have a number of very interesting trips and we have introduced a new series to be led by Mike Mencotti. These will be very instructive and provide new insights into birds, their behavior and some things about their life during the seasons. You'll also notice the lineup of field trip leaders has grown and we really are expecting great things from these folks. Let's keep supporting their efforts.

The survey that we just conducted this fall has provided some insight – some things we had a pretty good idea about and a few new tidbits. We will be paying attention to these and hope to continue to grow the organization through our programs and efforts. Watch for opportunities to get involved with conservation efforts, educational opportunities and other new efforts.

As always, the website and newsletter are featured items. I can't say enough about the website, especially the photo gallery that continues to grow. Not only birds, butterflies and dragonflies but reptiles and amphibians. Who knows, we might be into insects or plants or many other things over the years to come. You might not need a field guide if you can get to our website. The newsletter is transitioning to a new editor. I did one issue before Mike Dougherty has taken over. We hope he enjoys this work and can stay a little while in this position.

As President, I also have the job to keep some of our board positions filled with active and energetic folks. We still need a Program Officer and a leader for the Young Birders program. We have seen a few responses to my pleas but we don't have the group to handle the Young Birders nailed down. We hope to have a committee of individuals to work with the Owlets leader to get a new set of programs going and to move forward. Please let me know if you want to help. This is a priority for me.

All these things are in preparation for a brand new year. I am personally preparing for a lesser workload this year and some additional travel. That will help me prepare for some work with all these folks. It's all for you. So come out and see how really prepared we are.

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope the Holidays were enjoyable and relaxing. It's time to get going on those New Year lists and new goals of birds to see. Let us be part of all that. See you soon.

Don Burlett

Page one banner credits:

Long-tailed Ducks—John Meyland, Dark-eyed Junco—Mike Dougherty, Snowy Owl—Joan Tisdale,

Snow Bunting—Joan Tisdale

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)
Saturday, January 16 8:00 AM—1:00 PM	St. Clair River Trip Meet at Lake St. Clair Metropark Lunch in Port Huron	Don Burlett
Wednesday, January 20 8:00 AM—12:00 noon	Local Parks—Bird ID and Behavior Meet at Beaudette Park off Orchard Lake Rd., Pontiac	Mike Mencotti
Saturday, January 30 7:00 AM—1:00 PM	The Pinery Provincial Park Sarnia, Ontario Meet at Park&Ride I-94, exit 243 Passport or Michigan Enhanced Driver's License required	Dave Frye Jim Koppin
Saturday, February 13 8:30 AM—12:00 noon	Great Backyard Bird Count Feeder Tour Meet at Hawk Woods Nature Center	Kathleen Dougherty
Saturday, February 20 8:00 AM—12:00 noon	Sterling State Park/Erie Marsh Meet at Sterling State Park Pavilion in Lot C-1 State Recreation passport required	Mike Mencotti Don Burlett
Wednesday, February 24 8:00 AM—12:00 noon	Kensington Metropark Meet at Nature Center parking lot Metropark pass or daily fee	Mike Mencotti
Sunday, March 6 3:00 PM—7:00 PM	Shiawassee NWR Meet at parking lot off W. Curtis Rd. At the start of auto-drive	Don Burlett
Sunday, March 20 8:00 AM—Noon	Belle Isle Park Meet in Nature Center parking lot State Recreation passport required	Mike Mencotti

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

October 11, 2015 – Bay City/Tobico Marsh – 12 participants

The weather was cool early (~50°F) with sunny skies and strong winds. It slowly warmed into the 70's as the morning wore on. We worked around the pond at the nature center at Bay City SRA, then along the woods working east until we came to the shoreline area. There were some active sparrows, kinglets and other small passerines. At the shoreline we had some ducks and gulls and were surprised by the flying Wilson's Snipes at the reeds along the shoreline. We worked our way back to the nature center and then headed to Tobico Marsh. In all, 46 species were tallied for the day. Trip leader: Don Burlett.



Wilson's Snipe - Joan Tisdale

Belle Isle – November 21, 2015 (19 participants)

A group of 19 birders from Oakland and Washtenaw Audubon tracked around Belle Isle on a cold and snowy day looking at ducks and other species of birds on a cloudy, rainy day (temperatures were in the low30's). We had a good collection of birds with 47 species sighted during the outing, with large numbers of Canada Goose, Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Trip leader: Don Burlett.



Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye - Joan Tisdale

Canvasback - Mike Dougherty

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Muskegon Area - November 14-15, 2015

We had a surprisingly large contingent of 18 birders travel to Muskegon for a fun weekend of birding. Strong winds from the west had been blowing the previous couple of days, so we were hopeful that a special bird or two rode them into the west part of the state. We discussed strategies at a group dinner on Friday evening.

Saturday morning we headed over to the Muskegon Wastewater Treatment complex. Limitless numbers of Ruddy Ducks were the first to greet us. At the initial stop, we saw our first of several American Pipits of the day. At the second stop we found a Red Phalarope that had been sighted the previous day. Continuing around the lagoons, there was a very late male Blue-winged Teal along with over a thousand Northern Shovelers. There were also plenty of gulls to look through, but we were unable to spot any rarities. The grassy fields were our last stop, and there we found a couple Lapland Longspurs amongst many Horned Larks.

After a quick lunch in town, we did some hiking in Muskegon State Park. Notable sightings included Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and quite a few Golden-crowned Kinglets. We also birded both sides of the channel before heading back for another group dinner.

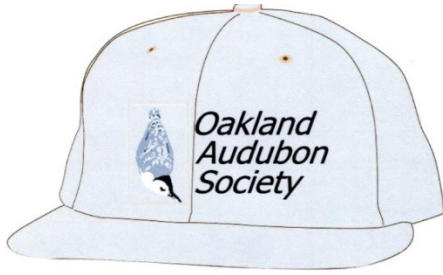
On Sunday morning, we drove to Holland State Park. It was another windy day and the breakwall was often topped by waves, but our patience was rewarded when a flock of Snow Buntings landed on the beach for a short time before heading out (incredibly) across the lake.

A portion of the group made a detour to Lake Lansing on the way home, and they were lucky enough to pick up three Franklin's Gulls. It was a fun and productive weekend.

Trip leader: Don Burlett.



American Pipit, Snow Buntings, Red Phalarope
Photos by Jeff Stacey (taken on field trip)



SHOW YOUR NATURE-LOVING SIDE!

Oakland Audubon is giving you an opportunity to own an OAS ball cap. The hat is stone color, low profile, unstructured with a buckle back adjustment.

The hats feature an image of a White-breasted Nuthatch with “Oakland Audubon Society” in black lettering. The above design is a preproduction image; the final product will vary slightly. Advance order price is \$15.00 each. After the deadline the hat price will be \$18.00 with limited availability.

See the ordering instructions below.

Pre-Order Deadline is February 10, 2016 with your check or cash payment.

Make your checks payable to Oakland Audubon Society

Orders can be placed at January and February monthly meetings.

OR mail your order with payment to:

Oakland Audubon Society

PO Box 796

Birmingham MI 48012-0796

Hats are expected to be available for pick-up at the March 8, 2016 monthly meeting

NUMBER OF HATS NEEDED _____

NAME _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please return your payment and order form by mailing to

Oakland Audubon Society PO Box 796 Birmingham MI 48012-0796

A WINDFALL FOR BIRDS

For many years the name Altamont Pass has been synonymous with the deaths of hundreds of birds, especially raptors. That's because in Altamont Pass, California, thousands of wind turbines were erected with no concern about their deadly effect on birds.

In 2004, several Audubon chapters in the San Francisco Bay area filed a lawsuit against four Alameda County wind companies, hoping to reduce the deadly toll. As a result of this lawsuit, the chapters ultimately secured a Settlement Agreement that aimed at a reduction in bird deaths of at least 50%, with ongoing monitoring, plus habitat conservation plans to help the bird populations recover.

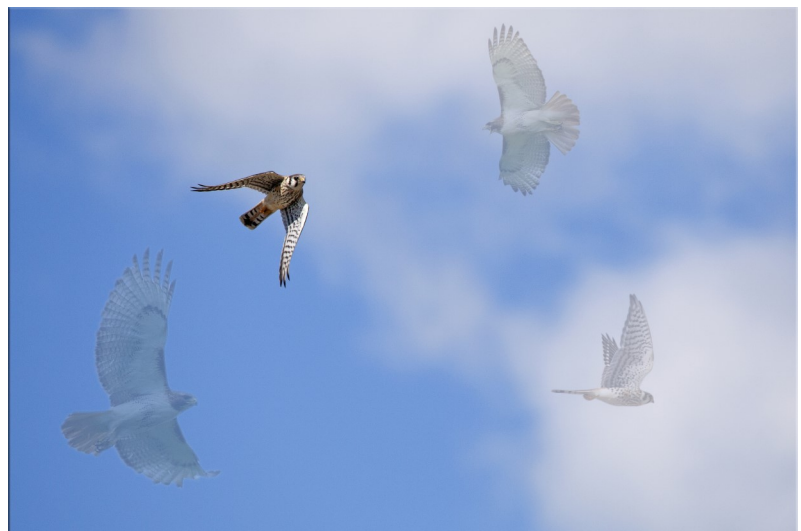
Unfortunately, one company—Altamont Winds, Inc. (AWI)—backed out of this agreement. This company was documented as having killed more than 350 raptors over a recent 10-year period, including Golden Eagles, American Kestrels, Red-tailed Hawks, and Burrowing Owls.

Over the years, AWI kept asking Alameda County to extend its operating permit so it would not have to abide by the Settlement Agreement. Most recently AWI asked for another 3-year permit renewal, and they were successful by a 3-2 vote. But suddenly, to the pleasant surprise of conservationists, AWI decided to shut down its 828-turbine wind farm effective November 1, 2015.

Part of the reason may have been the progress that AWI saw its rival wind companies making in repowering their wind turbines. Repowering involves replacement of old-style wind turbines with newer, more efficient models, which produce energy with much less avian mortality. Or perhaps AWI felt that getting rid of its outdated turbines would be economically beneficial.

Whatever the reason, it's good riddance to several hundred bird-killing turbines, and congratulations to the Audubon chapters whose persistence produced such a positive impact on the birds of the Bay Area.

(Information for this article came from an e-mail sent out by Golden Gate Audubon Society, received in early November 2015.)



Article submitted by Doris Applebaum

Illustration by Mike Dougherty

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea113@netzero.net
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	elaine127.ef@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	baikaltea113@netzero.net
Web Co-Editor	Joan Tisdale	(248) 258-6585	tisdalej@att.net
Social Media Administrator	Janet Hug	(248) 736-2839	jkissnhug@comcast.net
Nuthatch Editor	Mike Dougherty	(248) 972-7802	mikeodoc@comcast.net
Seven Ponds Rep.	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea113@netzero.net

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., Jan 12	7:30 p.m.	The Native Fishes of Michigan	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., Feb 9	7:30 p.m.	Night Crew	First United Methodist Church (see below)

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, June, July and August) at 7:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham, Children's Center (Room 132). The facility is located on the south side of Maple Road between Southfield and Cranbrook Roads. There is plenty of lighted, free parking 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.

A Special Honor

At the last OAS Board Meeting, the following was submitted for review.

I believe that the Oakland Audubon Society should recognize past and present, Mr. Allen Chartier's contributions to local conservation efforts and to the Birding Community on the whole. We value his knowledge and personal commitment to the preservation of our natural world and appreciate his generous support and participation with us in activities aimed at promoting its betterment.

His efforts well qualify him for Life Membership status in Oakland Audubon Society.

Please consider this proposal favorably at an upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

The Board vote was unanimous and the Oakland Audubon Society is pleased to grant the status of Life Member to Allen Chartier and once again thanks him for his hard work and contributions.

He joins the two other Life Members of the OAS - Julie Craves and Betty Challis.



Photo by Janet Hug

NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

We're giving Allen a well-deserved break for this edition of *Nuthatch*. He is, however, looking for your questions for future editions! So, please feel free to send him requests for future columns related to nature topics. The topics don't need to be limited to birds. He only asks that your questions be specific and focused enough to be answered in a page or so. We're sure there are plenty of questions out there that you've always thought and wondered about, and now is your opportunity for answers! Don't be shy!

If you have a question you would like Allen to answer in a future Nature Notes column, you can email it to him at

amazilia3@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

November 19, 2015

The board unanimously decided to confer OAS Life Membership on Allen Chartier in recognition of his many contributions to local conservation efforts and the birding community.

A new kind of addition to our field trip schedule: several Wednesday birding visits to local areas, led by Mike Mencotti.

OAS will have a ball-cap type of hat featuring our name and logo available for purchase in 2016.

Our newsletter, which has been bimonthly for many years, will change to a seasonal schedule (4 issues per year) beginning in March 2016.

Our Facebook page "likes" number has increased to 544.

The new Reptiles & Amphibians photo gallery on our website already has 29 species and more will soon be added.

Results of the OAS member survey were discussed. The board will use the results to see where member services can be improved.

OAS will participate in the Earth Day celebration at Chrysler World Headquarters next April. Programs have been scheduled for membership meetings through November 2016.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary

Your Membership at Work

As was noted in the last issue of *Nuthatch* in the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting, a contribution of \$500 was given to the Rouge River Bird Observatory(RRBO) to help support the important work they do. We received the thank you letter below from the RRBO.

The following is a description of the mission of the RRBO from their website (www.rrbo.org):

The Rouge River Bird Observatory was established in 1992 to explore an understudied yet increasingly important area of research: the importance of urban natural areas to birds. In our increasingly urbanizing world, habitat fragments in metropolitan areas become more critical to birds. Understanding how birds use them is essential for conservation. RRBO is a donor-funded project of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center.



VICTORS FOR MICHIGAN
TRANSFORMING STUDENTS · POWERING OUR REGION

October 22, 2015

Oakland Audubon Society
c/o Mr. Don Burlett, president
P.O. Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

Dear Mr. Burlett,

Thank you for your recent gift from the Oakland Audubon Society to the UM-Dearborn Rouge River Bird Observatory and for being a victor for Michigan!

Every gift matters to this campus. Your gift will help us continue to support the RRBO's research on urban natural areas to birds. Thank you.

If you ever have any questions about this or any other fund or program on our campus, please do not hesitate to contact me apcaldwe@umich.edu, (313) 583-6428.

Go Blue!

April Caldwell
Donor Relations & Stewardship Officer

OFFICER/CHAIR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

If you are motivated to contribute to the Oakland Audubon Society, there are a few 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 is 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 Co-Coordinator of the Young Birders Club is suggested to be a member. You can always join when you take a spot also.



OAS members on last year's St. Clair River field trip

Photo: Mike Dougherty

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Our membership drive for 2016 has begun!
Please use the form on page 13 to pay your dues.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST OAKLAND AUDUBON MEMBERS!

Tina Fitzgerald
Antonio Xeira
Brian Nolan

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

BIRD ID QUIZ

Who Am I?



(A) _____



(B) _____



(C) _____

Last month's bird quiz answers:

A – Purple Finch

B – House Finch

C – Pine Siskin

Photo credits: A) Robert Epstein B) Joan Tisdale C) Robert Epstein



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.*