



# THE NUTHATCH

[www.oaklandaudubon.org](http://www.oaklandaudubon.org)

## “Michigan’s Top Hotspots”

**Daryl Bernard**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.**

Join Daryl Bernard, Seven Ponds Nature Center Executive Director, to explore the best birding locations throughout the Mitten State. From the southern tier of counties in the Lower Peninsula to the shores of Lake Superior, we will take a close look at the top ten hotspots in the state, the best times to visit those locations, and what makes them great. We will also get a glimpse at Daryl's "Honorable Mentions" hotspots that don't crack the top ten but are personal favorites.



Follow us on 

## “Why Pigeons are Worth a Second Look”

**Rosemary Mosco**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.**

For most of us birders, city pigeons aren't exciting. But the forgotten history of Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*) is ancient and riveting. When we observe their comical behavior and discover the genetics behind their color patterns, we become better birders. Join Rosemary Mosco, author of *A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching*, to learn why pigeons are worth a second look.



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## “WM Landfills—Important Wildlife Habitats”

**Kathleen Klein**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.**

Kathleen Klein, Community Relations Representative for WM, will present findings of the last 10+ years of bird observations for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) at the Eagle Valley Disposal & Recycling Facility and other efforts implemented at WM facilities to maintain certifications with the Wildlife Habitat Council.



Photos: Banner, Pixaby; Programs, Daryl Bernard, Rosemary Mosco, and WM.

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Winter 2023

It's sometimes hard to grasp the scope of your life, especially when you have been traveling that road for a long time. It's hard to believe that I accepted a nomination for President of Oakland Audubon back in 2006 and that I am still around doing the job. This year, I began my last year in this position. I have surpassed the recommendations of National Audubon by holding the position this long, but I believe that it was for the best. I hope that my service helped lead improvements in the organization and that we have flourished within the bounds of our territory. Our affiliation with National Audubon helped us reach more people and I really hope we see more and more involvement from the community. We are entering a critical time on this planet, one where everyone needs to be involved in helping keep the planet in reasonable shape.

As the next year approaches, we welcome several new officers to keep us moving forward. A familiar face moves from Membership Officer to Treasurer (Jen Benke), while new faces come into the roles of Secretary (Tiffany Vojnovski) and Membership Officer (Robert Moll). I have full confidence in these folks to keep the ball rolling. Next year in October, we will need to replace all three officers that are up for election – President, Field Trip Chair, and Program Chair. Another heavy load of changes on top of those this year. We are already training a new Field Trip Officer (Kayla Niner), while the board makes decisions on the other two positions. Of course, changes to non-elected board spots may arise and opportunities that could pique your interest to get involved may also come up. The interest and dedication of these volunteers make the success of our organization possible.

The coming year also offers other opportunities for our organization. We hope to be involved in getting Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) set up in at least one or two spots. These Motus units will offer opportunities for research to be conducted and to spur our own interest in local birds. We could also expand our outreach into local communities and spread the “gospel” about birds. The more people know about the natural world around them and the critical stage we are in, the more likely we will be able to make changes that will help create a better chance for us to flourish.

My one hope is that more of our members get more involved in our volunteer activities, field trips, and programs. We put real effort into doing these activities and when the response is not substantive, it doesn't keep the momentum going to sustain a robust organization and community. I know we have challenges in this regard but the effort is really what is most important on an individual level.

I'm not going away, just stepping aside to allow the next group to grab the golden ring and carry us forward. I've got a year left to keep making improvements along with a dedicated board. Join me this year in pushing the envelope a little more and make things more exciting. As you can tell, I'm an optimist at heart, always thinking we can do better. We'll see.

Finally, let's really enjoy our winter season. There's lots of birding to be done and fun to be had. See you in the snow soon!!

Don Burlett  
President

# OAS BOARD MEMBERS

## Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(330) 697 - 7735	<a href="mailto:baikalteal13@netzero.net">baikalteal13@netzero.net</a>
Secretary	Tiffany Vojnovski	(646) 265 - 3996	<a href="mailto:tiffany.vojnovski@gmail.com">tiffany.vojnovski@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Jen Benke	(734) 657 - 7498	<a href="mailto:scubadu9900@yahoo.com">scubadu9900@yahoo.com</a>
Membership Officer	Robert Moll		<a href="mailto:OASmembershipofficer@gmail.com">OASmembershipofficer@gmail.com</a>
Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248) 798 - 0508	<a href="mailto:jdstacey@ameritech.net">jdstacey@ameritech.net</a>
Program Officer	Dave Hoch	(248) 808 - 3696	<a href="mailto:hochdavid1@gmail.com">hochdavid1@gmail.com</a>

## Appointed Officers

Young Birders Club Rep.	Kathleen Dougherty		<a href="mailto:kad8186@msn.com">kad8186@msn.com</a>
Hospitality Officer	<i>Vacant</i>		
Publicity & Fundraising	Karen Kessler		<a href="mailto:Karenmk@live.com">Karenmk@live.com</a>
Website Editor	Hannah Dunbar		<a href="mailto:oddbirdstoonest@gmail.com">oddbirdstoonest@gmail.com</a>
Social Media Administrator	Dan Gertiser	(248) 762 - 4354	<a href="mailto:dangertiser@comcast.net">dangertiser@comcast.net</a>
Nuthatch Editor	Guadalupe Cummins		<a href="mailto:cummins.guadalupe@gmail.com">cummins.guadalupe@gmail.com</a>
Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		<a href="mailto:ggossickdds@sbcglobal.net">ggossickdds@sbcglobal.net</a>
Conservation/Environment	Greg Petrosky		<a href="mailto:gpetrosky06@gmail.com">gpetrosky06@gmail.com</a>
Advocacy Officer	Greg Harris		<a href="mailto:gbharrisiv@gmail.com">gbharrisiv@gmail.com</a>



Illustration by Rosemary Mosco  
<https://rosemarymosco.com/>

## ADVOCACY UPDATE

For nearly 120 years, the name Audubon has been associated with one of the most respected conservation organizations in the U.S. As a more complete picture has emerged of John James Audubon, some chapters have struggled to reconcile their mission of conservation with the more deplorable aspects of his legacy, which include buying and selling slaves, grave robbing, and support of eugenics.

While National Audubon ultimately decided to keep the Audubon honorific, a growing number of chapters have decided to drop the Audubon moniker in favor of a more inclusive name. Oakland Audubon Society has been actively participating in a series of collaborative meetings being held at the regional level. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with a potential name change.

Many people have expressed a concern that leaving behind the Audubon name would lead to the loss of a recognizable brand. Through these meetings, a number of chapters have supported adopting Bird Alliance as a new name. Regionally the Laughing Whitefish, Detroit, Chicago, and Madison chapters have all committed to changing their names to include Bird Alliance.

“When you recognize John James Audubon’s environmental legacy, you also have to grapple with his full legacy,” said Matt Reetz, executive director of Badgerland Bird Alliance (formerly Madison Audubon). “After talking to community members and partners, and listening to our members, we learned that for some groups, Audubon simply meant ‘birds’ — but for many others, it meant harm. It’s not enough to just put an asterisk next to the name. We needed to have our name promote our work: bird conservation that includes everyone.”

“Our approach has always been to bring nature and people together in a way that serves both,” said Gretchen Abrams, executive director of Detroit Bird Alliance (Formerly Detroit Audubon). “It was important for us to collaborate with other Audubon chapters — especially those in our region — in adopting a name that unifies our members and unifies us as organizations.”

Oakland Audubon Society will continue to take part in the regional meetings. While no formal decision has been made by the board, the topic is a regular part of our agenda. Our discussions have been respectful, insightful, and educational. More information will be forthcoming in the new year.

George Harris  
Advocacy Officer



## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Schedule changes and updates will be posted on our website and members will also receive email updates. Owlets trip details are listed on pages 21 - 22

Pre-Registration is required for most trips — contact trip leader for details.

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

[www.oaklandaudubon.org](http://www.oaklandaudubon.org)

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
December 16 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	CBC at Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty <a href="mailto:kad8186@msn.com">kad8186@msn.com</a>
January 20 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Belle Isle State Park (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty <a href="mailto:kad8186@msn.com">kad8186@msn.com</a>
January 21 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	St. Clair River	Jim Koppin <a href="mailto:jimmykoppin@yahoo.com">jimmykoppin@yahoo.com</a>
February 3 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Downriver Ducks Tour (Elizabeth Park, Bishop Park, Dingell Park)	Kayla Niner <a href="mailto:shad0wc00kiecrumbs@gmail.com">shad0wc00kiecrumbs@gmail.com</a>
February 9 to 11 (Weekend)	Michigan Upper Peninsula	Don Burlett <a href="mailto:baikalteal13@netzero.net">baikalteal13@netzero.net</a>
February 17 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Great Backyard Bird Count— Hike followed by Program at Johnson Nature Center (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty <a href="mailto:kad8186@msn.com">kad8186@msn.com</a>
March 2 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Crosswinds Marsh & Grace Lake	Mike Mencotti and Jeff Stacey <a href="mailto:mmencotti9@gmail.com">mmencotti9@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:idstacey@ameritech.net">idstacey@ameritech.net</a>
March 16 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Detroit Zoo – Polk Penguin Conservation Center (Owlets)	Kathleen Dougherty <a href="mailto:kad8186@msn.com">kad8186@msn.com</a>
March 17 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Late Winter Wildcard (location TBD the week of the field trip)	Kayla Niner <a href="mailto:shad0wc00kiecrumbs@gmail.com">shad0wc00kiecrumbs@gmail.com</a>

**Join us for the 2023 Christmas Bird Count (CBC), on Saturday, December 16, 2023.**

**An in-person tally will likely take place at Independence Oaks County Park (4 PM - 7 PM)**

— Contact Jeff Stacey & Kayla Niner for details —



Pixaby.com

# NUTHATCH OPEN RECAP

by Jeff Stacey

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Nuthatch Open birding competition was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Contestants have 16 hours (starting at midnight) to find as many species as possible anywhere in Oakland County.

The 2023 edition was a banner year with six teams competing, but the winners in the open division were a familiar group. The *Team of Three Balding Eagles and a Harpy* (Mike Mencotti, Scott Jennex, Tom Pavlik, and Mary Trombley) came up with an astounding 91 species. Their highlights included an amazing 17 warbler species, an American Woodcock, and a Gray-cheeked Thrush.

We had a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the open division with 69 species – the *Washtenaw Wingnuts* and *Team Nighthawk* (in their first attempt, no less).

The youth division was won by *Team Heron* (Audrey and Heather Klish) with a very respectable total of 68 species after being vacant last year.

A big thanks goes out to Dan Gertiser for cooking the food for the awards ceremony, and of course to all of the participants.

We hope to have even more teams compete next year!



Above: Team Nighthawk —Karen, Meredith, and Malissa

Left: Audrey, OAS Owllet and winner of the Youth Division

# NUTHATCH OPEN RECAP

*(continued)*

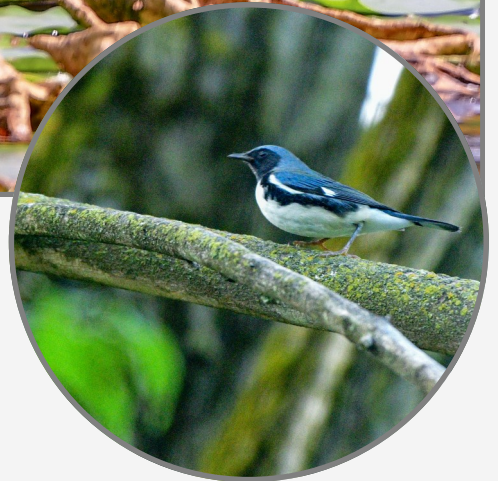


Photo Credits: Malissa Bossardet (Sandhills Cranes) and Meredith Meyer

# Field Trip Reports

## September 24, 2023 - Sterling State Park

Leader: Mike Mencotti

Twelve birders enjoyed a beautiful early fall Sunday at Sterling State Park for a morning full of warblers, raptors, and cormorants. We started at the beach as hundreds of cormorants streamed toward the lake from their roosting spot, joining the geese and gulls in the lake.

Then onto the 3-mile loop where we had what seemed to be an endless stream of Blackpolls, among the 12 species of warblers sighted that morning. It seemed like the loop gave us repeated looks of the birds, as they escorted us as we strolled through. Shorebirds and sparrows were virtually “MIA” but not the eagles or Osprey. Although the passerines did not seem to mind, the wind was a bit of a hassle for us. On the positive side, it gave us great looks at many of the birds. The group tallied a total of 63 species.



Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*)



Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*)

## October 7, 2023 - Stony Creek Metropark

Leader: Kayla Niner

When 12 birders met at the Stony Creek nature center to look for birds, it was hard to believe it had been 80°F only two days before. Instead, it was a windy day with temperatures in the upper 40s and low 50s. Most of us had dressed warmer but not quite warm enough, so we shivered down the Reflection Trail at the nature center, looking for any birds that were braving the cold weather. The trails were mostly quiet, but we did pick up a variety of species, including many Tufted Titmice, Mourning Doves, both Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, and some Wild Turkeys. The Titmice followed us down the path, but little else was seen here. On the way back to the car, an Eastern Bluebird was spotted on the top of a conifer.



Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)



Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)

Photo Credit: Kayla Niner



## Field Trip Reports (continued)

We traveled back down the road a little and did a short loop on the Osprey trail to see if we could get some early ducks, but they, too, did not cooperate. The group did get to see a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Yellow-Rumped Warbler and more kinglets. The lake was hard to see due to the vegetation, but we spotted a Great Egret, a Mallard, and some Mute Swans out on the lake. Since the birding was relatively slow, we also stopped for several interesting mushrooms.



Photo Credit: Kayla Niner

Three members of the group said their goodbyes and the rest of the party went down to Eastwood Beach, where we found a track meet. Luckily, they weren't on the beach, so we studied the gulls and looked out into the lake for ducks. However, the wind was wicked and whitecaps crested the waves when they neared shore. We froze long enough to see some Ruddy Ducks and two scaup (otherwise unidentified).

We had 30 species for the North Park and 5 for the South Park (Macomb County Side) for a grand total of 34 species (one species, Mallard, was a repeat).



Photo Credit: Ray Bosshard

**Below:** Rudy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*);  
**Right:** Ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*)



Photo Credit: Kayla Niner



Photo Credit: Ray Bosshard

## Field Trip Reports (continued)

**October 27 - 29, 2023 - Muskegon**

Leader: Don Burlett

The field trip began early on Friday with a group of dedicated birders. The weather was warm but cloudy without rain, just mist during the day. Our first destination was Holland State Park where we searched for the Purple Sandpiper reported there. We successfully found the bird and several birders got a life bird right away. Otherwise, things were quiet there so we headed to Window on the Waterfront in Holland to search for other species. We were rewarded with four Dunlin along with a Sharp-shinned Hawk, coots, a Killdeer, and Mute Swans. Surprisingly, the passerines were rare and very quiet. Then we headed to Hemlock Crossing Park in Ottawa County. At the feeders, we noted lots of Dark-eyed Juncos and a very fat House Finch. We also notched our first White-breasted Nuthatch, confirming the status of our field trip.



© Malissa Bossardet Photo Credit: Malissa Bossardet  
Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

Next, we stopped at Hofma Nature Preserve, south of Grand Haven, and walked out into the marsh area. We startled a Virginia Rail on our way out and found Sandhill Cranes, American Tree Sparrows, and American Black Ducks. Our last stop for the day was a quick visit to the Muskegon Waste Water Facility. This late-in-the-day visit was rewarded with Snow Buntings, American Pipits, a Horned Grebe, and the usual collection of gulls and ducks. We noted a few Common Ravens and a flock of Wild Turkeys along the outer area of the ponds. At that point, we headed to the hotel, then on to dinner for good food and conversation.

On Saturday we headed directly to the Muskegon Waste Water Facility for a complete view of the area. It was cooler on Saturday with the wind out of the northwest versus the southwest that we had on Friday. It started out a bit cloudy, but the sun came and lightened spirits a bit. We worked the grassy impoundments (without much water) to the north of the main water treating area. We found lots of Canada Geese, an impoundment full of male Mallards, and three Snow Geese (two white phase and one blue phase). We also found lots of American Pipits, a couple of Eastern Meadowlarks, and a Horned Lark. On the ponds were the usual collection of ducks, dominated by Ruddy Ducks and Northern Shovelers. At the landfill area (southeast corner), we noted that the easternmost section of the landfill was overgrown and not active. The first section still active was covered by lots of gulls (none special), Bald Eagles, Common Ravens, and European Starlings. We also noted a new landfill section under construction almost opposite to the center road, between the two main ponds. A few sparrows and many ducks made up the list for the day. We also stumbled upon a Lesser Black-backed Gull hanging out on the concrete road just north of the western pond—a stubborn gull, in that we had to drive up to him to get him to leave.

## Field Trip Reports (continued)



© Malissa Bossardet

Above: Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*) among Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*); Right: Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Photo Credit: Malissa Bossardet



© Malissa Bossardet

After the Muskegon Waste Water Facility, we went to Lane's Landing (Muskegon State Game Area unit). We were rewarded by a few Wilson's Snipes flying around the area and a Northern Harrier (female) putting in a fine appearance flying close by. We then proceeded to Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve, where we found Cedar Waxwings and American Tree Sparrows. Next was a stop at the Muskegon State Park piers, where things were very quiet. Then we moved on to the Snug Harbor trails. There, we found a Great Horned Owl being mobbed by Blue Jays as well as a Brown Creeper. We called it a day at that point.



Photo Credit: Don Burlett

## Field Trip Reports (continued)

Sunday was colder and cloudy again with a moderate breeze. We started the day at Ottawa Sands Park near Grand Haven. Our target bird was a Red-headed Woodpecker and we were not disappointed. Having that checked off the list, we moved on to Harbor Island in Grand Haven for a few more target birds. We successfully found the Trumpeter Swan that was being reported and also a few Wood Ducks. This location also had lots of Mute Swans, Canada Geese, and ducks, including American Wigeon. Then we went to Grand Haven State Park looking for a Long-tailed Duck that was reported earlier. It was still there for us...we had that bird on the list. We then headed south to Holland and visited the Stu Visser Trails, where a few sparrows had been reported. We added White-crowned Sparrow and a Rusty Blackbird at this site. Finally, we headed to the break-walls at Holland State Park. We were immediately greeted by two flocks of White-winged Scoters flying by the walls.

That completed a solid weekend of birding on the west side of the state. We tallied a total of 84 species for the weekend and had a great time.



White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

Photo Credit: Malissa Bossardet

### November 18, 2023 - Belle Isle

Leader: Jeff Stacey

The annual joint trip to Belle Isle with Washtenaw Audubon returned to its normal slot on the calendar after a one-year, never to be repeated experiment of having it in December. To the relief of the 18 trip participants, the weather was definitely an improvement over the previous year. Even with the earlier date, we still found a good waterfowl list including eight species of diving duck and many Horned Grebes. We were also rewarded with views of two Bald Eagles on their nest while circling the island. Another improvement was that the nature center feeders were back and there were many birds taking advantage of them (including the all-important White-breasted Nuthatch). The Nashua Creek trail walk was pretty typical – a couple of really hot spots and then long stretches of emptiness. Fortunately, the hot spots were really good. A mixed group of House and Purple Finches put on a lengthy show, and there were many Cedar Waxwings in the same area. Sparrows were somewhat difficult to turn up, but we did have six species. A soaring Peregrine Falcon was a great way to close out the trip! The total count was 50 species.

# *Oakland Owlets*

## Field Trip Reports

### **August 12, 2023 - Cruising on Kent Lake and Birding at Kensington Metropark**

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

The Oakland Owlets spent a Saturday morning at Kensington Metropark hiking, hand-feeding songbirds, learning about Ospreys, and cruising on Kent Lake. The weather was friendly and cooperative.

We met at the nature center and headed to the trails. The first birds we encountered were Sandhill Cranes and Wild Turkeys foraging together on the forest floor. This unusual grouping of birds seemed normal at Kensington in that birds behave differently at this park.

Further along the trail and deeper into the forest, the group encountered a variety of woodpeckers, from the small Downy Woodpecker to the large Pileated Woodpecker. While hiking, some of us stopped occasionally to hand-feed songbirds. Kensington Metropark is known for songbirds accustomed to accepting seeds from human hands. Those with enough patience were successful—chickadees and nuthatches reacted favorably to the seed mix provided. These close encounters were something that everyone enjoyed.



The hike ended on the Wildwing boardwalk west of the nature center. A Great Blue Heron rookery can be seen from the boardwalk; most of the birds had fledged, but some herons remained. We observed several new species in the marshy edge of Wildwing Lake, including Great Egret, Least Bittern, Wood Ducks, Mallards, and Mute Swans.

Then we drove to where the park's tour boat was docked. Barb Jensen, one of the founding members of the Southeast Michigan Osprey Recovery Team, joined our group to speak about the Osprey before we started our tour.

Ospreys are known as “fish hawks” because they primarily eat fish. These specialized birds of prey were impacted by use of DDT and by the destruction of wetlands. By the 1960's, the Osprey population in southern Michigan was decimated. Ospreys virtually disappeared in this area even after DDT was banned in 1972. In 1998, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other groups attempted to reintroduce Ospreys to southern Michigan. Kensington Metropark was one of the first sites designated for the construction of a hack box (i.e., nest box located on a platform) to aid in the reintroduction effort. Barb Jensen played a critical role in this reintroduction program and became known as the “Osprey Lady of Michigan.” Barb spent some time with the young birders sharing her knowledge and passion about this amazing bird.

## *Oakland Owlets* Field Trip Reports (continued)

After Barb's presentation, the group boarded the *Island Queen* to tour Kent Lake and to watch Ospreys and other waterbirds. We were not disappointed. The boat staff provided detailed information about Kent Lake and the park. Kent Lake is an impoundment formed by stopping the flow of the Huron River and creating a 1200-acre lake with several islands, which offer nesting refuge for birds. One of our first stops was an eagle nest —the boat was positioned so everyone could see it. There was no activity but suddenly we all saw an adult Bald Eagle perched on a branch near the nest. Everyone was excited to see the Bald Eagle so clearly. The size of the nest and the bird were very impressive.



Cruising across the lake we saw other waterbirds, including Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Common Loon, Ring-billed Gull, and Herring Gull. We were also able to view an occupied Osprey nest located outside of the park, on top of a light pole in a parking lot. Ospreys often use human-made structures for nesting.

Everyone thanked Barb Jensen for sharing her expertise and work on behalf of the reintroduction of the Osprey to southern Michigan. Two eBird checklists were kept of the birds observed during this outing.



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS Gallery.

# *Oakland Owlets*

## Field Trip Reports (continued)

### September 23, 2023 - Bat Hike at Stony Creek Metropark

Leader: Erin Parker (Metroparks)

The Oakland Owlets families and friends spent an evening looking for bats and birds at Stony Creek Metropark. Erin Parker, Interpretive Services Supervisor, led this hike.

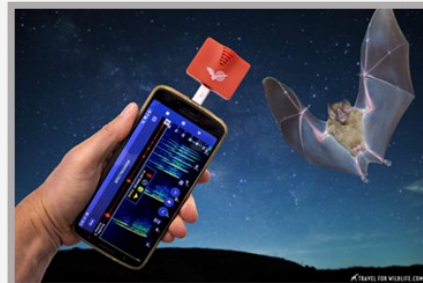
We met Erin outside of the Stony Creek nature center just before sunset. Erin had a treasure trove of biological artifacts to share with us about bats. We first discussed what a bat is — although bats fly like birds, bats are mammals. They are the only mammals capable of true flight. Through pictures, posters, and a bat skeleton, Erin explained how the stretched skin between a bat's specialized fingers, legs, and tail form membranous wings. The bat's long tail provides the framework, which is used like a catcher's mitt to snag insects in flight. Bats provide many ecological services, including pollination and insect control, which are important to agriculture around the world.



Erin discussed and shared photos of the nine species of bats found in Michigan. However, we learned that biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have discovered occurrence of a southern bat at Stony Creek Metropark. This bat was detected during our hike. All of Michigan's bats eat insects; under normal seasonal conditions they consume between 600 to 1,000 mosquito sized insects per hour. Everyone appreciated knowing this because it was a warm evening and mosquitoes were active.

While Erin was speaking, a bat darted overhead –it was a hoary bat. Erin used an *echometer* to identify this bat. This software identifies bat species by their distinct vocal signatures. The device couples a microphone with computer software that detects the echo bats emit while flying. Bats locate flying insects at night through a process known as “echolocation.” Using high-pitched sound waves to pinpoint insects, bats zoom towards them. The Metroparks System works with the USFWS to verify bat species detected at the parks.

Several species of Michigan bats are endangered or threatened. Bats have a low reproductive rate and are not quickly replaced if populations are reduced. Bats are impacted by pesticide use, by the general decline of insects, the lack of places to hibernate, loss of habitat, climate change, and the introduction of white nose syndrome. White nose syndrome is a deadly fungal disease that originated in Europe and has spread rapidly in North America in the past decade, killing millions of bats across the country.



## *Oakland Owlets*

### Field Trip Reports (continued)

As the sunlight faded, we walked toward Stony Creek in search of bats. In low light it became harder to see bats flying overhead, but Erin was detecting new echolocations frequently using the *echometer*. A few birds called as the sun was setting, including Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, American Crow, and Blue Jay. Our attention turned to the enveloping darkness.

Erin shared details about each of the bats detected and everyone quietly followed her. By the time we reached Stony Creek, we had encountered four species — hoary bat, silver haired bat, tri-colored bat, and Seminole bat. She was excited to detect the Seminole bat, a southern species newly detected in park surveys. Then, we moved back to the nature center hoping to see the big brown bats that usually fly over the building.

We found an American toad next to the building dining on the insects attracted to the light. The toad's eyes glowed from the light reflective membrane that helps them see in the dark. Erin was successful in finding both the big brown bat and also the Northern long-eared bat, a federally endangered species. With six species of bats detected during the hike this was a record-setting evening!

We made our way back to the parking lot and everyone thanked Erin for her time and our successful bat search. The moon was bright, but it was dark. Everyone gained a new appreciation of the importance of bats and their place in nature. Bat posters from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) were distributed to all participants.

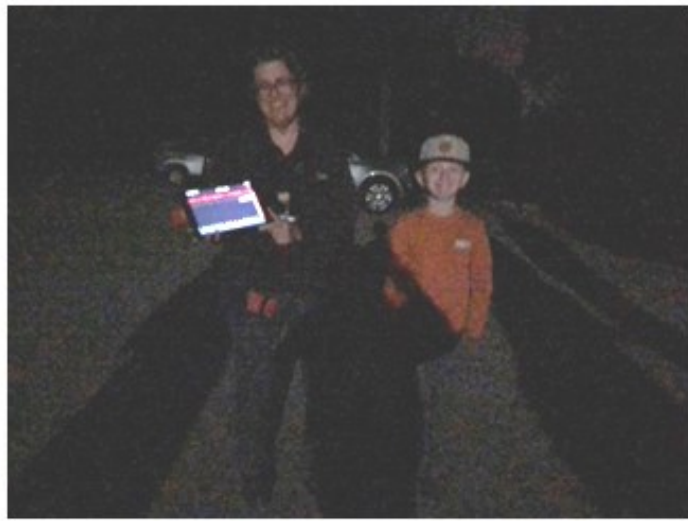


Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and Carolina Biological Images



# *Oakland Owlets*

## Field Trip Reports (continued)

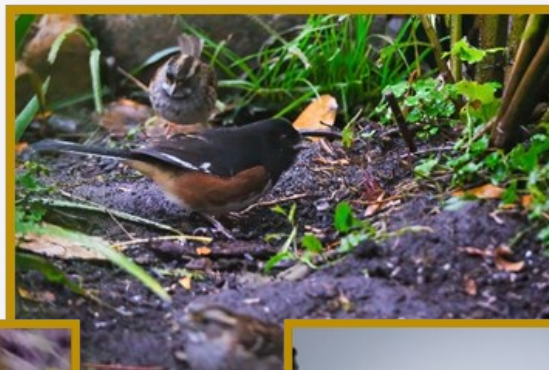
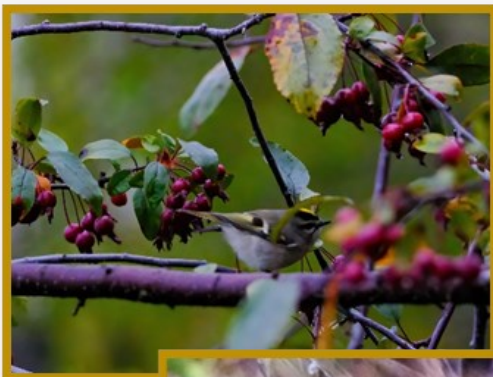
**October 14, 2023 - World Migratory Bird Day at Lake St. Clair Metropark**

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

A small group of Oakland Owlet Families and Friends gathered at Lake St. Clair Metropark to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, which marks the spring and fall migration of birds between the Americas. The nonprofit organization Environments for the Americas along with multiple partners showcase this biannual event. We had hoped to observe the ongoing bird banding project at this park conducted by Allen Chartier. Sadly, the weather on October 14<sup>th</sup> was not ideal and banding for that day was canceled. Although the weather kept many of the participants home, a few people arrived in the morning ready to see birds. Initially, the rain held off and we were able to experience how inclement weather impacts migration.



The birds were very active despite the clouds and overnight rain. Along the trails, we observed migrating birds refueling on berries and invertebrates. At times, there was so much activity in the vegetation that it was hard to track all of the birds. Small passerines bounced between shrubs and hid behind leaves. At one point, the group was engaged by a small group of kinglets —Golden-crowned Kinglets and Ruby-crowned Kinglets moved together making comparison of both species obvious. It was awesome to see an Eastern Towhee with a White-throated Sparrow in the background. White-throated Sparrows were present in greater numbers. A lone Eastern Phoebe was near a canal capturing insects.



## *Oakland Owlets*

### Field Trip Reports (continued)

Temperatures were still mild, but many migrating insectivores had already left for warmer locations. We encountered a few warblers moving through on their way to their wintering grounds including Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Everyone attempted to focus on the tiny birds along the trail, but our attention was drawn in many directions.

The presence of so many migrating birds surely attracts predators. Merlin and Cooper's Hawk were two avian predators seen during the hike, which certainly benefited from the abundance of birds. The Merlin posed on a tree top branch for a long time allowing everyone in the group to see it. Numerous sparrows flitting between the path and the vegetation were seen as the group walked along the canals and wetlands. The birds seemed to sense the changing weather patterns.

The group planned to hike to Lake St. Clair along the boardwalk, but it started to rain. We changed plans and quickly walked back to the nature center that was now open. Somewhat wet from the rain, everyone took time to shake off the water and then visit the feeding station window. Many of the birds we already listed were at the feeding station. The time provided everyone with good looks at both the White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, along with regular feeder birds like White-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker. Many Red-winged Blackbirds were also taking advantage of the feeders before leaving the area.

Although the rain shortened our time on the trail, the group was able to tally an impressive bird checklist of 32 species. Most of the group opted to end early, but a few ventured out to the boat launch area to see the cormorants, which were abundant. They numbered in the hundreds. Most of the other birds present were already seen on the trail.

A special thank you to **Nathan Stouffer** for providing photos of the birds as well as to the participants for braving the unpredictable weather.



Photo Credits: Nathan Stouffer and Kathleen Dougherty

# *Oakland Owlets*

## Field Trip Reports (continued)

### November 4, 2023 - Late Season Hawk Watching at Lake Erie Metropark

Leaders: Kathleen Dougherty, Don Burlett, and Jim Koppin

The Oakland Owlets visited Lake Erie Metropark to visit the *Detroit River Hawk Watch* (DRHW) count station and observe the seasonal hawk migration. November is near the end of this migration and when bigger raptors like Golden Eagles can be seen.

The best weather conditions to witness hawk migration include sunshine, light winds from the north, increasing barometric pressure, and no rain. The weather of the day, however, was warm, mostly cloudy, and with winds from the south.

Our group was greeted by Sam, one of the apprentice counters. Sam distributed brochures about the DRHW count and announced the count would be delayed because of the overcast skies. Jessie Fletcher, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologist who oversees the DRHW count, also joined our group. Jessie shared the natural history of hawk migration, how the count is conducted, and the geographic significance of the count site. Jessie thought the migration would be slow until the skies cleared and recommended that the group take a hike and return later.

Bird activity on the Detroit River early on featured gulls, ducks, and terns. No raptors had crossed the river since the group arrived. Everyone enjoyed watching Bonaparte's Gull and Forster's Terns feeding on small fish in the river, but most of the group wanted to move on and see other birds. Don and Jim led the group along the trail near the boat launch.

On the trail, White-throated Sparrow and Song Sparrow were singing, but when we stopped to focus, everyone saw other birds. Wetland pools along the trail provided resting places for dabbling ducks like Mallards. These ducks were wise to stay in the park, as duck hunting season was evident just beyond the park boundaries. On the boardwalk over the Huron River, which empties into the Detroit River, a Belted Kingfisher announced its presence. In the distance, many ducks floated on the water too far away to distinguish.



## *Oakland Owlets*

### Field Trip Reports (continued)

A platform overlooking the wetland area outside the nature center provided great views of several birds, including Wood Ducks, Mallards, Great Egrets, Killdeers, Great Blue Heron, and Dunlins. Everyone enjoyed these birds from this vantage point. Along the trail, there were multiple opportunities to see several species of resident songbirds and others en route to their wintering grounds. Boardwalks extending into the marsh along the trail are like windows into wetlands —staying quiet and attentive allowed everyone in the group to see and appreciate the birds we encountered. Some migrants like Rusty Blackbird and Hermit Thrush, along with resident birds like Brown Creepers and Cedar Waxwings, kept everyone's eyes busy.

At the end of the trail, we were rewarded with multiple Great Egrets dotting the wetland's edge. Several species of ducks were also seen feeding in the deeper pools of water, including Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, and Mallard. We also flushed Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, which were a treat to see.

We concluded later than expected and a few people returned to the DRHW count site for a chance to see a Little Gull. The overall bird checklists for the day included more than 40 species. Although the hawk watch was slow, the birds at Lake Erie Metropark were numerous. The DRHW numbers for November 4 listed 41 birds, including 2 Golden Eagles. The DRHW Day's Summary can be found at: [Day's Summary - Detroit River Hawk Watch](#).

A special thank you to **Jessie Fletcher** from the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and DRHW volunteers. Also, thank you to **Don Burlett** and **Jim Koppin** for sharing their expertise with the group. Lastly, thank you to **Ray Bosshard** and **Jeff Stacey** for sharing their photos.

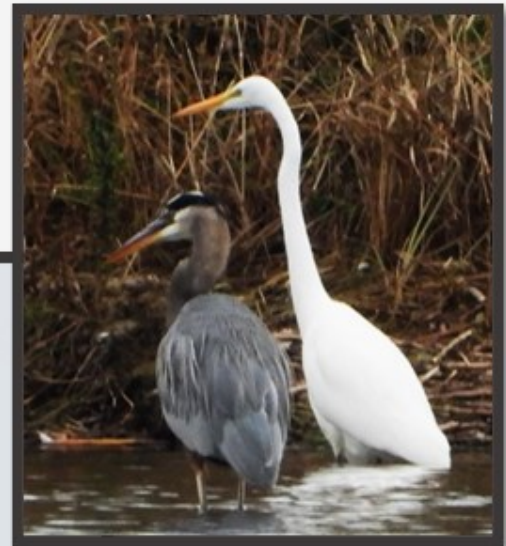
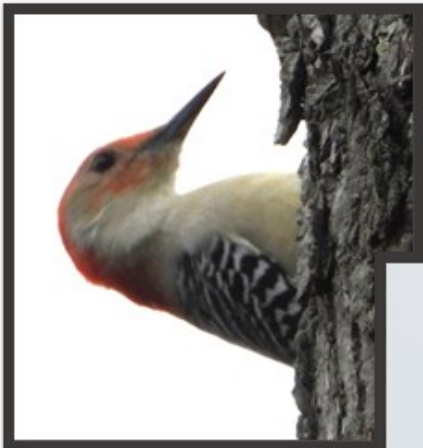


Photo Credits: Ray Bosshard, Jeff Stacey, Kathleen Dougherty (group photos)

# Oakland Owlets Field Trips

## December 2023 - March 2024

**Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 16, 2023; 8:30 am - 10:00 am**  
**Eagle Valley, Orion Township**

Be part of the 124<sup>th</sup> National Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). We will visit WM's Eagle Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility. Birds are attracted to Eagle Valley to search for food —some are foraging for leftovers while others are hunting. The facility is a good spot to see gulls and raptors. We plan to explore this restricted area on foot and by car. WM will use the information we collect during the trip as part of the Wildlife Habitat Council certification. Dress for being outdoors. Participants will be required to sign a WM liability waiver. We are grateful to Kathleen Klein, WM's Community Relations Representative, for making this field trip possible.



**Rambling along the Riverfront – Saturday, January 20, 2024; 8:30 am - 11:30 am**  
**Belle Isle, Detroit**

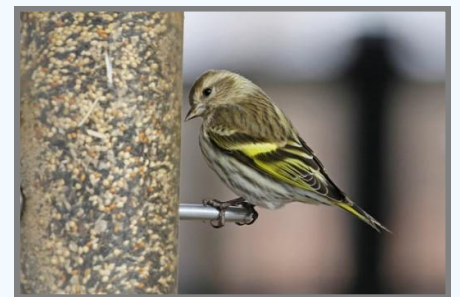


During the winter, the open waters of the Detroit River provide habitat for numerous birds. The Oakland Owlets will gather to see the birds of Belle Isle. With over 262 different species of birds observed on the island, Belle Isle is one of the premier birding spots in Detroit. Plan to hike, drive to a few locations, and visit the nature center. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Belle Isle is a state park maintained by Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and park entry fees are applicable.

**Great Backyard Bird Count – Saturday, February 17, 2024; 8:30 am - 11:00 am**  
**Johnson Nature Center, Bloomfield Hills**

Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) at the Johnson Nature Center. The GBBC is a global event that tracks birds for four days. The Johnson Nature Center is an oasis for birds, as it is situated in a suburban community of Oakland County. Plan to hike the trails and observe birds at the center's feeding station.

This field trip is co-sponsored by the Johnson Nature Center. Participants are invited to stay after the hike to participate in programs at the nature center. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars.

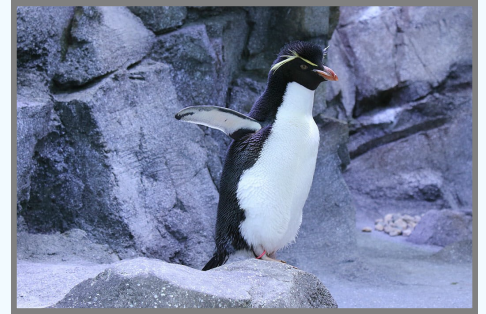


# Oakland Owlets Field Trips

## December 2023 - March 2024

**Pondering Penguins – Saturday, March 16, 2024; 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak**

A field trip to see penguins would require extensive travel south of the Equator. However, the Oakland Owlets can explore these amazing birds locally at the Detroit Zoo's Polk Penguin Conservation Center (PPCC). The PPCC is an impressive facility that provides the opportunity to view five species of penguins. A 326,000-gallon underwater gallery allows guests to see penguins moving through the water. Owlets will complete a workbook to test their Penguin IQ during the visit and explore the free-flight aviary. Admission and parking fees are applicable. Space is limited.



### **OAS is following the following field trip guidelines:**

1. Pre-registration is required and number of participants is limited.
2. Stay home if you are sick
3. Directions and details are sent in advance to those that pre-register.



*The Young Birders' Club ~ Oakland Owlets offers age-appropriate educational experiences for youth 8 – 18 years old. Young birders 16 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. All 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](mailto:kad8186@msn.com)*

Visit <https://www.oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders>

Photo Credits: OAS Photo Gallery and Detroit Zoo Penguin Gallery.

# OAKLAND AUDUBON AROUND TOWN

## Haven Hills Festival - September 23, 2023

OAS was once again invited to participate in the Haven Hills Festival hosted by the Friends of the Highland Recreation Area. The festival celebrates the Edsel and Eleanor Fords' historic Haven Hill Estate and the natural beauty and historic wonders of the Highland State Recreation Area.

Thank you to Jody Harrington, Mary Korde, Mike Mansour, Greg Petrosky, Laurie Schubert, and Kathleen Dougherty for representing OAS at this event. Nearly 50 people stopped by to check out our display and talk with our volunteers.



## Rouge River Water Festival - September 21 and 22, 2023

OAS participated in two days of the weeklong Rouge River Water Festival held at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Kathleen Dougherty, Young Birders Club coordinator, developed an educational presentation about this year's World Migratory Bird Day theme: "Water is Essential to Birds." Eight elementary classes from nearby schools learned about local birds that depend on water. Thanks to Bev Steffens for helping with the program!



## Conservation & Environmental Education in Higher Learning Classes

Thank you to the OAS members who volunteered to help with the Michigan State University Extension Conservation Stewards Classes in Oakland County this past fall and the Environmental Education Class at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus. With your help, OAS supports advocacy, education, and conservation in the birding community.



## HISTORICAL RECORDS & ENTERING THE MODERN AGE

by Don Burlett

One of the privileges of being President of Oakland Audubon was to keep the records of "the Society." This involved keeping many boxes of written records.

I am happy to report that we have finally digitized and preserved this fragile paperwork so we would not lose this collective history. We hope to possibly make some records available for reading by our members in the future —the board is planning how to do this.



Having these records in digital format makes sharing some of their content possible —I hope to share a few historical highlights before I exit the Presidency. Below is the first installment:

### **Historical Highlight:**

*"Hand-written records of the first meeting of the Pontiac Chapter of the Michigan Audubon Society held on March 5, 1958."*

The records show a presentation from William Perry, the President of Pontiac Chapter of Michigan Audubon. Elections were held, and a limited number of officers were elected. They postponed the assignment of several committees until a later date.

The historical precedent of having elected officers and a board of committee/activity chairs was established early on. This basic structure is continued today. Of course, slightly before this meeting, the group was the Pontiac Bird Club. It's interesting to see the names of the officers elected at that meeting.

We are celebrating 65 years of existence and continue to grow as an organization. I hope you enjoy this look into our past and that you continue to help build this history.

1.

A meeting of persons interested in organizing a Pontiac chapter of the Michigan Audubon Society met March 5, 1958 7:30 P.M. at Pontiac Central High School.

Mr. Wm Perry, Executive Director of the Michigan Audubon Society opened the meeting. He discussed the objectives and activities of the Michigan Audubon Society and showed slides to illustrate.

With Mr. Perry serving as temporary chairman the following officers were elected:

President: John Youngpeter  
V. President: Jerry Wilson  
Secy. Treas. Don Nagel

It was decided not to have a Corresponding Secy. until the need for one is felt later. It was also decided that the Chairmen of the standing



## HISTORICAL RECORDS & ENTERING THE MODERN AGE

(continued)

2.

Committees would make up our Executive Committee.

The persons who volunteered for chairmanship of Committees are:

Program - Dr. Dan McGee

Field Activities - Kenneth Sanderson

Conservation - Jim Card

Public Relations - Al Madden

Hospitality - Jean McGee & Beatrice Card

It was decided not to set up a Membership or Ways and Means Committee at this time.

Mr. Perry suggested our regular election be held in October.

The monthly meetings



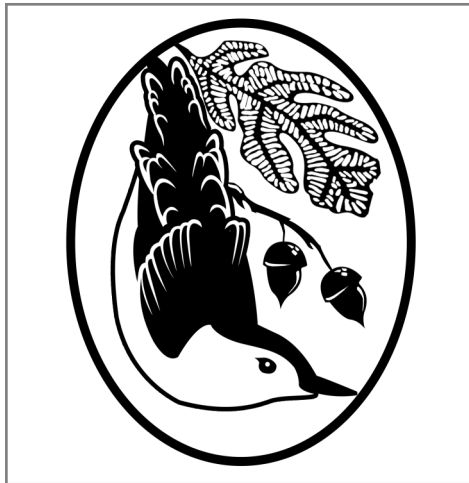
3.

will be held on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Our first regular monthly meeting will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 P.M. in Room 312 at Pontiac Central High School.

The first field trip planned was for Sunday March 23 at 2 O'clock at Kensington Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 O'clock.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mona Madden,  
Acting Secretary.



## WE ARE STILL SAVING STAMPS!



Pixaby.com

For more than 30 years, OAS has been sending large packages of canceled stamps to Audubon of Florida. They in turn sell stamps by the pound to a stamp dealer and use the proceeds to help offset the cost of maintaining their raptor rehabilitation facility. OAS member Doris Applebaum collects them to send to Florida.

Any foreign stamps are welcomed in this project, as well as any U.S. commemorative stamps. Commemoratives spotlight a particular subject and are available for only a relatively short period, so they are considered valuable to stamp collectors.

Recent beautiful sets of stamps show endangered species, waterfalls, women's soccer, railroad stations, and works of artist Roy Lichtenstein.

Another beautiful example is a booklet of 10 different tulip blossoms. Though these are not technically commemoratives, they will appeal to collectors of plants on stamps.

Semipostal stamps are also collectible. These are a type of stamp that raises funds for a cause by charging a few cents extra. For several years, a stamp showing a tiger's head has raised money to save endangered species. Other semipostal stamps currently available raise money for research on breast cancer, PTSD, and Alzheimer's disease.

These are only a few of the recent possibilities—and any commemorative stamps from years gone by are very welcome also.

The stamps known as "definitives" are not included in this project. These are small, usually square, stamps

that often show a U.S. flag. Definitives may cost the current first-class rate but may also show lower or higher values, in which case they may feature a variety of subjects. They are available for extended periods of time and there are so many in circulation that they are not valuable to stamp collectors.

Christmas stamps are not usually useful, but we do send those showing paintings of religious subjects, since there are collectors of art on stamps and also collectors of religion on stamps who might be interested. We put them in a separate packet within the larger package of stamps so they can be easily removed in case they are not acceptable.

OAS is always looking for stamps to send to Florida. If you would like to be part of this project, take your stamps to any OAS event. You don't even have to remove the stamp from the envelope. Bring in the entire envelope if you wish, but if you do cut the stamps off, try to leave at least ¼ inch on each side. Do not remove the stamp entirely from its backing on the envelope.

You can give the stamps to Doris, or to any OAS officer, who will get your stamps to her. She sends packages of stamps periodically to Audubon of Florida. If you are not sure whether a stamp is useful for this project, bring it in anyway. Doris looks over every stamp to make sure it is acceptable before sending it on its way.

This is a very easy and inexpensive way to help a worthwhile project connected with birds. So—save those stamps!

Doris Applebaum

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

*from Don Burlett*

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

How birds navigate during migration has been a mystery for many years. Recent scientific work has pointed towards the use of the Earth's magnetic field. How does that work? This report gathers information from a number of research labs and points towards a very reasonable explanation. The article is really scientific, so if you want the Reader's Digest version, keep watching for other articles. This in-depth article is really fascinating.

### **[The Steller's Sea-Eagle in North America: An economic assessment of birdwatchers travelling to see a vagrant raptor - Pease - People and Nature - Wiley Online Library](#)**

This was an analysis of expenditures and other monies associated with seeing the Steller's Sea-Eagle that visited the northeast U.S. last year. Using surveys completed by people who went to see the bird, they were able to estimate the value of this birdwatching for the economy in general. This article supports the idea that birdwatching is a money-intense hobby that can affect local and general economies.

### **[Space weather disrupts nocturnal bird migration | PNAS](#)**

This article covers a study of geomagnetic disturbances caused by solar flares and similar activity of the sun. They tied this to radar doppler data to show that disturbances of this sort affect bird navigation and this can affect migration. Unfortunately, only the abstract is available (the full article can be purchased). This article ties to the article about how migrating birds use quantum effects to navigate (top of this page).

### **[Albatross movement suggests sensitivity to infrasound cues at sea | PNAS](#)**

If you enjoy technical explanations of bird actions, this is an article for you. The basic proposition is that albatrosses use "infrasonic" information (i.e., sound below 20 Hz) to read activity in the ocean and to get information on wind direction and speed. They use this information to optimize their flight over large expanses of ocean. Researchers used a variety of information and modeled the response of albatrosses with GPS tracking to see how the birds responded. Quite an interesting article. Although very technical, the abstract and conclusions are not too hard to understand.

### **[25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER FINCH FORECAST \(2023\) - FINCH RESEARCH NETWORK \(finchnetwork.org\)](#)**

The 2023-2024 finch forecast compiled by Tyler Hoar of the Finch Research Network.

### ***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](mailto:amazilia3@gmail.com)**

# BIRD ID QUIZ

(Winter 2023)



A) \_\_\_\_\_



B) \_\_\_\_\_



C) \_\_\_\_\_

**For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see Page 31**

**No Peeking!**

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### September 18, 2023

All materials in the President's records since Oakland Audubon Society's beginning in 1958 have been digitized for easier access.

Sue Wing announced that she will be spending considerable time out of state in the future and will be unable to continue as OAS Hospitality Officer after December.

Jen Benke, our new Treasurer (and former Membership Officer) reported that our finances are in good shape.

Robert Moll, our new Membership Officer, thanked Jen for helping him learn the ropes in his new position.

The Nuthatch Open competitive birding event in September was a success, with more teams participating than ever before.

The possibility of a name change for OAS continues to be discussed. It was reported that the term "Bird Alliance" has generated considerable interest among chapters thinking about a change.

Doris Applebaum  
Secretary

### Congratulations to Christina Funk!



Congratulations to Christina Funk, Supervising Naturalist at the Stage Nature Center, for receiving the Recognition Award from the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education. This award is reserved for exceptional environmental educators and awarded to only two recipients annually.

The Oakland Owlets attend Christina's program featuring owls at the Stage Nature Center annually.

OAS celebrates Christina's achievement and honors her work, commitment to environmental education, and continued advocacy for birds. The owl programs at the Stage Nature Center are always fun and educational.

Be sure to congratulate Christina and visit her at the Stage Nature Center in Troy. Here is a link to learn more about the center: [Stage Nature Center – 100 acre nature preserve offering educational programs and free access to trails \(troynaturesociety.org\)](https://troynaturesociety.org).



# MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

## Welcome New Members!



Meredith Meyer, Rashi Mysoremutt, Tiffany Vojnovski, Patricia Ingam, Tina Kowitz, Deborah Logan, Barbara Moorhouse, Edward O'Brien, Rebekah Randle, Carolyn Stickney, Charlene Williams.

Our **2024 Membership Drive** is underway. You can renew your membership in one of two ways:

- 1) Use the “*Renew OAS Membership*” link on the Membership tab on our website (<http://www.oaklandaudubon.org>), to pay online using PayPal. [CLICK HERE](#) *or*
- 2) Mail a check along with a membership form (page 32)

**Mail renewal forms to:**

Oakland Audubon Society  
C/O Robert Moll  
PO Box 796  
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

If you would like to check the status of your membership or have questions, contact OAS Membership Officer Robert Moll at: [OASmembershipofficer@gmail.com](mailto:OASmembershipofficer@gmail.com).

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

## Climate Watch Volunteers Needed!

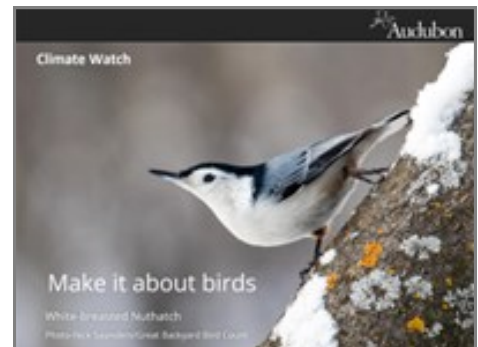
OAS has participated in National Audubon’s Climate Watch community science program since 2016 with the help of a small group of volunteers. Climate Watch collects data on the shifting range of birds impacted by climate change. In a 2019 Climate Report by the National Audubon Society (NAS) *Survival by Degrees*, Audubon predicts that up to two-thirds of North America’s birds are vulnerable to extinction by climate changes.

Climate Watch enlists volunteers to survey birds locally twice a year. OAS surveys for Climate Watch are within Oakland County. We monitor one of the target species, the White-breasted Nuthatch. Field surveys are conducted in January/February and again in May/June during the breeding season. Field surveys occur within blocks where volunteers visit up to twelve points; each point is surveyed for five minutes. This survey effort is approximately four hours per season. Checklists are submitted to Climate Watch at the end of each season.

The winter Climate Watch surveys begin *January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024*. If you are interested in learning more about this important community science project and want to see how climate change is impacting birds, contact Kathleen Dougherty at [kad8186@msn.com](mailto:kad8186@msn.com).

Join OAS’s Climate Watch team. This field work informs climate science and supports the work of National Audubon.

Thank you!



## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

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

### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Program	Location
January 9, 2024	7:00 pm	Michigan’s Top Hotspots	First United Methodist Church
February 13, 2024	7:00 pm	Why Pigeons are Worth a Second Look	Zoom
March 12, 2024	7:00 pm	WM Landfills –Important Wildlife Habitats	First United Methodist Church

### Bird Quiz Answers for Winter Quiz on Page 28

This issue’s photo quiz : a) female Redhead, b) female Ring-necked Duck, c) female American Black Duck

Explanation: Female ducks can be a challenge at times, but a few key points can help distinguish them.

- a) Note rounded head and blue-gray bill with black tip, female has a warm brown color overall.
- b) Note sharp peak on head shape, has a faint pale spur at shoulder, pale white eye ring, reddish eye, darker cap and gray cheeks.
- c) Dark overall with distinct line between grayer head and body, slightly darker cap, dark olive bill, also has blue secondary patch on wing.

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:**

OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

C/O ROBERT MOLL

PO BOX 796

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48012-0796

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