



THE NUTHATCH

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“Grand Canyon National Park”

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Gordon Lonie

The Grand Canyon in northern Arizona is truly spectacular—one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

Gordon Lonie will show us all the sights of the national park’s South Rim including wildflowers, a pygmy forest, and historic Grand Canyon Village, then take us on a rim-to-rim hike.

See the canyon as few visitors do!



Photo credit: Gordon Lonie



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“A Borneo Birding Adventure”

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Don Burlett

Borneo is a mysterious faraway place with lots of jungles where fascinating birds and other animals live. It’s also an island occupied by three different countries.

Join us as we visit a variety of habitats to see many exotic birds, plus mammals like the orangutan and proboscis monkey, among others. Then you can judge for yourself just how mysterious it is.



Photo credit: Don Burlett

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fall 2018

Let's talk briefly about a couple of important words. First, there's Participation – it's a tricky word. It is defined as "the fact of taking part, as in some action or attempt". It's an important word because it is the foundation of all organizations. Without participation, we don't exist. Showing up for meetings, taking part in a fieldtrip, standing together to accomplish things like saving habitat, protecting birds, etc. are all based on participation. Here at Oakland Audubon, we are fortunate to have a group of people that believe in participation. Our program meetings are well attended, our field trips are typically crowded with folks and we have a very active board. As President, I try to get to as many activities as I can to set an example of participation and support of those organizing our events.

Now, we have a couple of other areas that really need your participation. The first is our upcoming elections that will take place at our October meeting. It's important, just like voting in our political elections, that we show our voice in favor of or against the leaders we have. A quiet rubber stamp is really not an endorsement of leadership. We need our members to participate in this activity. We have three offices up for election this October, including the Presidency. Please come to the meeting and let us know how you feel about the organization. The second area we need participation in is in our activities associated with protecting birds and habitat. I know that almost every "conservation-minded" organization out there is hoping to support things like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative or the Endangered Species Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. I'm sure almost everyone in this organization has been solicited to help either with money or by signing a petition or something. Don't feel that everyone should get money – be fiscally responsible. But don't back away from letting your opinion be heard. That's what our country is about and we need to vocalize what we want now more than ever. Get out there and participate in our efforts to accomplish our organization's goals – preserve habitat and wildlife.

My second word is Accountability. As a group, we are accountable to all our other members. When we make a commitment to do something, we should follow through. When you don't do that it leaves a gap or an uncompleted task that everyone expected to get done. That's not fair to those with whom you have gotten involved and to the organization as a whole. Those who spend time organizing events or activities do so with their time and effort and it only makes sense to support them and make their efforts worthwhile. Now, nothing is guaranteed in life but it is useful to follow through with your commitments. I try very hard to make sure that anything that I say I will do gets done. I'm not perfect but if we strive to do that, we may do a reasonably good job with our commitments. Please keep this in mind, as a member of an organization where we all get what we put into the organization.

Finally, as another year is winding down, I want to thank those members of the board that tirelessly volunteer to run events, sometimes with nothing to show for it. Without that effort that is given with no guarantee of participation or appreciation, we wouldn't even get out of bed to do what this organization offers. Feel free to thank the board members for that effort and the commitment to this organization.

I am about to complete my tenth year as President and I can only thank all you members for a memorable and fun time. Yes, there's hard work involved but I do find it very rewarding and worthwhile and hope that I have to some degree upheld your expectations. See you at a fall event.

Don Burlett

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikalteal13@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	kstrel11dcf@gmail.com
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Program Co-Officer	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Program Co-Officer	Margaret Moran	(248) 646-7387	marmo48009@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers

Young Birders Club Rep.	Kathleen Dougherty		kad8186@msn.com
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Seven Ponds Rep.	Dr. Greg Gossick		ggossickdds@sbcglobal.net
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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;">September 8, 2018 (Saturday) 12:00 AM – 4:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nuthatch Open</p> <p>Annual competitive birding event with cookout at Independence Oaks. Watch website for details and registration.</p>	<p>Jeff Stacey</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September 23, 2018 (Sunday) 08:00 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shiawassee NWR</p> <p>Meet in the parking lot at the west end of Curtis Rd.</p>	<p>Don Burlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September 29 –30, 2018 (Saturday-Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Whitefish Point</p> <p>Contact leader if you plan to attend. Make hotel reservations early!</p>	<p>Jeff Stacey</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October 13, 2018 (Saturday) 09:30 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oakland Owlet Program Hawk Migration Lake Erie Metropark</p> <p>Contact leader to register. Metroparks vehicle pass required.</p>	<p>Kathleen Dougherty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October 21, 2018 (Sunday) 08:00 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lake Erie Metropark</p> <p>Meet in the Nature Center parking area. Metroparks vehicle pass required.</p>	<p>Dave Frye</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November 3-4, 2018 (Saturday-Sunday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Muskegon</p> <p>Contact Don Burlett for details and hotel information.</p>	<p>Don Burlett and Dan Gertiser</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November 17, 2018 (Saturday) 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Belle Isle</p> <p>Meet at the Nature Center on the east end of the island. State recreation passport required.</p>	<p>Don Burlett and 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)
November 17, 2018 (Saturday) 08:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Oakland Owlet Program Trekking for Wild Turkeys Indian Springs Metropark Contact leader to register.	Kathleen Dougherty
December 8, 2018 (Saturday) 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Oakland Owlet/OAS Program Cranbrook Behind the Scenes Pre-registration required	Kathleen Dougherty
December 15, 2018 (Saturday) 07:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Christmas Bird Count Contact Jeff Stacey for details.	Jeff Stacey

An Oakland Owlet Program – Stewardship Work Day Saturday – September 22 – 10 am - Noon Kimball Preserve in Clarkston

Young birders, their adult friends and OAS members are invited to help the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) with stewardship work at the Kimball Preserve in Clarkston along the Clinton River. This service project involves the removal of invasive species and native plant restoration. Dress for working outdoors; work gloves and hand tools will be provided, but bring your own if you have them. This event is also sponsored by the Clinton River Watershed Council. Learn about the impact of invasive species on natural areas and what you can do to stop them. The Kimball Preserve is located on Perry Lake Road just north of Clarkston Road. Follow signs near the end of the road for parking. Water and educational materials are provided by Oakland Audubon and the NOHLC. For more information and to register for this workday contact – Kathleen Dougherty – kad8186@msn.com

Field Trip Reports

May 5, 2018 - Crosswinds Marsh - Oakwoods Metropark (Wildcard Field Trip)

Leader: Jeff Stacey

Early May is usually one of the best times of the year to be out birding. A group of 12 birders (including many new faces) took advantage of some great weather to attend this wild card field trip. For those unfamiliar with wild card trips, instead of choosing a destination months ahead of time, we decide a few days ahead of time based on which areas are seeing good birds.

The first stop on our itinerary was Crosswinds Marsh. We decided to follow the birds instead of the plan, mostly based on a singing Northern Waterthrush right near the entrance. While we only got to hear that bird, it led us into areas where we were able to enjoy a Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow among others. We couldn't leave without walking at least some of the boardwalk. Waterfowl were almost non-existent, but a Red-headed Woodpecker flew by for a nice surprise.

After a short drive to Oakwoods Metropark, the group continued on. Nashville and Tennessee Warblers were near the Nature Center as well as many Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Deeper in the forest we saw Indigo Bunting and Blue-winged Warbler. All four usual vireo species were noted as well. On the return trip, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo showed up and gave everyone great looks – quite a treat for this species. All in all we tallied 82 species.

May 9, 2018 - Kensington Metropark

Leader: Mike Mencotti

The Wednesday Workshop group was met at Kensington Metropark on May 9 by fine weather and even finer birds. We knew we were in for something special when the nine attendees stood in the parking lot at 8 am and heard a number of warblers, vireos and even Wild Turkey. A walk on the Nature Center trails turned up many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles and Yellow Warblers. Not too shabby. But the real treats were at Spring Hill, where the fields and woodlot turned up Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow, Hooded, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blue-winged Warblers, and Wood Thrush. You gotta love May birding in Michigan! A total of 71 species were tallied.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

May 12, 2018 - Magee Marsh and Environs

Leader: Don Burlett

Every spring, a major migration takes place – no, not the birds, birders head to Magee Marsh. It's legendary and now very crowded. For this field trip, five rugged (real) birders braved temperatures in the 40's, winds out of the north and rain for most of the afternoon. However, it was rewarding because after the warm spell the first week of May, the weather had been keeping the warblers and other bird migrants captive at Magee.

We began by birding the boardwalk at Magee Marsh. It was rewarding in that we got excellent views of 22 species of warblers, along with many other spring birds. Baltimore Orioles, Gray Catbirds, American Woodcock and others were among the usual suspects that make this kind of day special.

We next went to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for the auto-drive tour. This worked out well as the drive means spending most of the time in the car while it was raining. We got to see (and hear) many species including Common Gallinule, Marsh Wren, Sora and Green Heron along with a nice breeding-plumage pair of Horned Grebes.

Next was Metzger Marsh where things thinned out considerably because of the wind direction. Finally, we visited the new Howard Marsh where a Black-bellied Plover was hanging out along with some other shorebirds.

The leader then peeled back to the Boss Unit of Magee Marsh where 6 American Golden-plovers flew over about the same time as 3 American White Pelicans. All totaled, 84 species were seen on Saturday. Aside - the best bird of the spring at Magee was on Sunday when a Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen. Remarkable. Timing is everything.

May 16, 2018 - All Saints Cemetery and Preserve

Leader: Don Burlett

On a beautiful, sunny warm Wednesday morning, 7 birders ventured forth to see what was around the grounds. We identified 42 species of birds and enjoyed a very interactive sequence between several Sandhill Cranes. Needless to say, it was not a warm and friendly interaction.

Field Trip Reports - continued

May 20, 2018 - Algonac State Park and Harsen's Island

Leader: Don Burlett

Three intrepid birders took on the challenge of slogging through inches-deep mud and water to bird the trails at Algonac State Park. On a partly cloudy to overcast day with temperatures in the 50's, birding along these trails was challenging. Slippery mud and deep water were the key features. The water was so deep that we were only able to bird the Oak Savanna trail. The Lake Plain Prairie was inaccessible due to deep water after the canal. The birding was good despite the conditions with three vireos (Red-eyed, Philadelphia and Yellow-throated) along with several warblers. One highlight was Wood Thrushes singing directly overhead on an open branch.

We then drove to Harsen's Island and birded near the St. Clair Flats area. Aside from seeing some Black Terns flying over the marsh, a highlight was a flock of 20 American Pipits that landed in the field and scurried about.

Overall, a fine day of birding and another challenge accepted by our birders. A total of 68 species were observed.

May 23, 2018 - Robert Long Park and Heritage Park

Leader: Mike Mencotti

The Wednesday field trip series ended its season with gorgeous weather and some excellent birds. Nineteen participants started at Robert Long on May 23, and they found a Sora – and then 2 Common Gallinules — scampering across the trail. Most of the waterfowl had left, but everyone enjoyed viewing the nesting Osprey, as well as the Cormorants and some warblers. On to Heritage Park, where the migration was giving way to the nesting birds. However, we did find Olive-sided Flycatcher and Redstart. A total of 61 species were identified.

June 2, 2018 - Lapeer State Game Area

Leader: Dave Frye

Cold temperatures and overcast skies greeted the group as it explored Lapeer State Game Area. The area is vast and the group was able to visit three distinct sectors that provided a rich variety of birds. We were lucky enough to have Lapeer's Lee Western with us on this trip. Lee played the role of local guide and was able to pull a number of very interesting birds out of the heavily forested landscape. Highlights on this trip included Cerulean Warblers (heard), Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-Winged Warbler, Acadian and Willow Flycatchers. Overall, 56 species were observed.

Field Trip Reports - continued

June 7-8, 2018 - Kirtland's Warbler Field Trip

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

An enthusiastic group of five OAS members traveled to Grayling to see Michigan's famous Kirtland's Warbler. Several people arrived on Friday evening to visit birding hot spots on the Au Sable Birding Trail, such as Wakeley Lake Forest Area and Hartwick Pines. There is a new publication that identifies great birding stops including Houghton Lake, Higgins Lake, St. Helens, Grayling and the AuSable River area. Get your copy at <https://ausablebirding.org/maps/>.

The group joined the Michigan Audubon tour on Saturday morning at the Hartwick Pines Nature Center and then journeyed to a nearby stand of young jack pines to view the warblers. Unfortunately, the rain drove the Kirtland's Warblers into hiding during the morning tour. This did not dampen the spirits of the group. Our guide, Jim, invited us to return for the second tour. At that time, the rains had stopped and a small group of us were treated to a pair of KWs near the trail displaying and showing off for more than 30 minutes. One person traveled from Oklahoma to see these famous birds. Forty-eight species were reported with the highlight being the Kirtland's Warbler viewing. Thanks to all who travelled for their energy, fellowship and excitement.

July 10, 2018 - Lost Nation State Recreation Area

Leader: Don Burlett

This trip was an education in "birding by ear"!! The birds in the woods were very hard to find but we did hear quite a few species. We focused on education about calls while still seeing a few species worth noting. Our first stop was Skuse Road west of Gilbert Road looking for Yellow-breasted Chat (no luck). Then we went back east and hiked a trail north of Skuse east of Gilbert Road. This trek netted a nice Pine Warbler calling and working in the pines. Next we headed to a trail off Gilbert that went to Pond Number 8. This trail would have connected with the previously hiked trail. Finally, we hiked a trail off of Bird Lake Road north of Reading Road. By this time, it was getting warm and late. We totaled 56 species for the outing.

Field Trip Reports - continued

July 28, 2018 - Butterfly Field Trip to Indian Springs Metropark Leader: Doris Applebaum

The morning started out cool for a July day, but it warmed up fairly quickly from the mid-60s to the mid-70s. The large group of 23 people provided lots of eyes to spot butterflies, though such a large number meant that we needed some very cooperative butterflies if everyone was going to see them.

Some butterflies did cooperate, but others among the 17 species unfortunately were seen by only part of the group.

We did get a “swallowtail grand slam” by recording all 4 of the swallowtails that can be seen in our area. The large number of 10 Monarchs was actually expected, because this year is the best for that species in a long time (and it’s hard to get tired of seeing Monarchs). One of the last species seen was a cooperative Viceroy which allowed everyone to learn the difference between the Monarch and its lookalike.

Butterfly species seen: Black Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Eastern Comma, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy, Common Ringlet, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch, Northern Broken-Dash (skipper), and Dun Skipper.

Because OAS field trippers are interested in all aspects of nature, we didn’t ignore the other creatures we encountered. We were able to identify 5 kinds of dragonflies (Eastern Amberwing, Eastern Pondhawk, White-faced Meadowhawk, Widow Skimmer female, and Halloween Pennant).

A pair of Sandhill Cranes, a Green Heron, a family of Eastern Kingbirds, and several other birds were seen.

Some Painted Turtles were basking in a pond, but the most exciting animal we came across was a different kind of reptile—a large Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake. Only a few people were lucky enough to see it as it slithered across the path. Some folks even heard it rattle. It was certainly the most unexpected event on a very pleasant nature-filled walk.

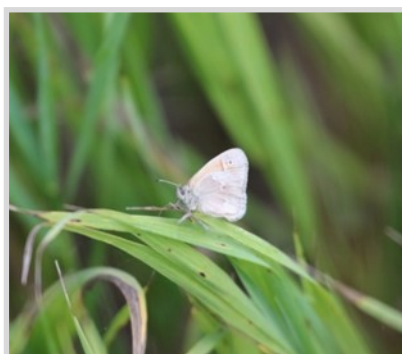
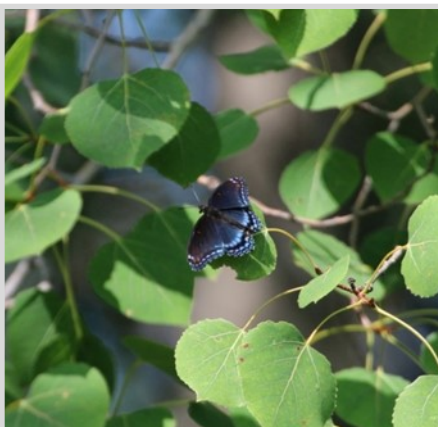


Photo credit: Don Burlett

Field Trip Reports - continued

July 26, 2018 – Oakland Owlets Field Trip to the Detroit Zoo
Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

OAS Young Birders club visited the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak on Thursday, July 26 for a special guided tour. Joined by the Detroit Audubon Society, the tour generated lots of interest. A small group attended the day of the program. In addition to the exotic birds housed at the zoo, the group was able to catalog 17 native species including a flyover by two Peregrine Falcons. Native species like Turkey Vultures take advantage of leftovers at the zoo.

Several of the zoo's iconic birds were seen including four penguin species at the penguin conservation center. Additionally, the group spent time viewing birds in the African and South American exhibits. Everyone was thrilled to see the Greater and Chilean Flamingos, the Gray Crowned Crane and the Pink Pelicans, to mention a few.

Zoo educator Carmen Volante guided the group through the Wilson Free-flight Aviary where Scarlet Ibis, Taveta Golden Weaver, African Pigmy Geese and more came into view. Everyone must see the pigmy geese. They are unbelievably tiny. A special thank you to Mike Reed and Carmen Volante for their assistance in making this event possible. The field trip was amazing.

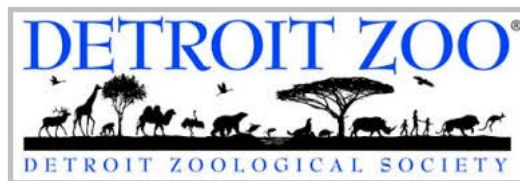


Photo credit: Kathleen Dougherty

Upcoming Oakland Owlet Programs

An Oakland Owlet Program – Stewardship Work Day

Saturday – September 22 – 10 am - Noon – Kimball Preserve in Clarkston

Young birders, their adult friends, and OAS members are invited to help the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) with stewardship work at the Kimball Preserve in Clarkston along the Clinton River. This service project involves the removal of invasive species and native plant restoration. Dress for working outdoors; work gloves and hand tools will be provided, but bring your own if you have them. This event is also sponsored by Clinton River Watershed Council. Learn about the impact of invasive species on natural areas and what you can do to stop them. The Kimball Preserve is located on Perry Lake Road just north of Clarkston Road. Follow signs near the end of the road for parking. Water and educational materials are provided by Oakland Audubon and the NOHLC. For more information and to register for this workday contact – Kathleen Dougherty – kad8186@msn.com

An Oakland Owlet Program – Hawk Migration

Saturday, October 13 – 9:30 am – Noon - Lake Erie Metropark

Witness migrating hawks and raptors at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown. Situated along the western shore of Lake Erie, this park is an Important Bird Area and part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Hawk migration is well underway, but hawks can be seen into the late fall. A Hawk-watch volunteer will lead the program. Plan to hike, birdwatch and visit the Marshland Museum. Snacks and educational materials will be provided by OAS. Dress for being outdoors. Metroparks fees apply - <http://www.metroparks.com/parks/lake-erie-metropark/>

To register and for more detail contact Kathleen Dougherty – kad8186@msn.com . Young Birders must be accompanied by a parent or an adult. Meet at the Marshland Museum Parking Lot.

An Oakland Owlet Program – Trekking for Wild Turkeys

Saturday, November 17 – 8:30 – 11 am – Indian Springs Metropark

It's time to talk Turkey. Wild Turkeys can weigh more than 20 pounds and grow up to four feet tall. This time of the year, they can be seen foraging for acorns in clearings and forest openings. Take a hike to search for Wild Turkeys and other birds at Indian Springs. Meet at the Environmental Center Parking Lot. Tour the Center after the hike. Snacks and educational materials are provided by OAS. Indian Springs Metropark is located at 5220 Indian Trail in White Lake, MI. Metroparks entry fee required. <http://www.metroparks.com/parks/indian-springs-metropark/> Young Birders must be accompanied by an adult or parent. To register and for more details contact Kathleen Dougherty – kad8186@msn.com



Photo credit: Mike Dougherty

Upcoming Oakland Owlet Programs (continued)

An Oakland Owlet/OAS Member Program – Cranbrook Institute of Science Saturday, December 8 - 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Take a behind-the-scenes tour at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. The Cranbrook Institute of Science holds over 150,000 artifacts and specimens from twelve different scientific fields, including Anthropology, Geology, Botany, and more. The Institute's mineral collection is rated as one of the top five private holdings in the nation. Other highlights include the 58,000 specimen Billings Herbarium and the Native American artifact assemblage. Cameron Wood, Curator of Collections, will lead the tour. Plan to enjoy the institute after the tour on your own. If you come early, you can enjoy lunch in the Café Reflections which opens at 11 am. The Cranbrook Institute of Science has a wonderful array of exhibits and incredible learning opportunities. **Space is limited, and pre-registration is required.** Contact Kathleen Dougherty at kad8186@msn.com to register.



CRANBROOK
INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE
Michigan's Museum of Natural History

Miscellany

Submitted by: Doris Applebaum

BIRDS VS. BUGS = VALUE FOR HUMANS

Researchers studying the amount of insects eaten annually by insectivorous birds have come up with some startling statistics. They estimate the total weight of the birds as 3 million tons, and the weight of all those insects as 400 million tons. That indicates that birds eat more than 100 times their own weight in insects, and the total is approximately equal to the weight of all the meat and fish consumed by humans in a year.

Many of the insects that birds consume are those that humans consider pests, so those birds are providing a valuable service for us.

It's becoming all too obvious, however, that many species of insectivorous birds are in steep decline because of the loss of habitat, predation by cats, overuse of pesticides, and other threats.

Ironically, among those other threats is the reduction of insects worldwide, as research indicates that insect populations themselves are in serious decline.

When we humans take it upon ourselves to kill off insects, we are messing up natural ecosystems, with the danger that we not only kill insects but also inadvertently endanger the birds that are willing to reduce insect populations for us.

Insectivorous birds help us by providing valuable ecosystem services, but they also need our help. It's a two-way street.

(Statistics for this article are from "The Incredible value of Insect-eating birds" in "Anthropocene Stories" transmitted on the Internet on August 1, 2018.)

WHAT'S IN A NAME? MAYBE SOME FUN

Taxonomy is the branch of science that concerns the official scientific naming of species. Many people consider this kind of science to be quite dull.

However, in the June 2018 issue of *Natural History* magazine there is something to dispute that outlook. It's a review of a book titled *The Art of Naming* by Michael Ohl. The author writes seriously about the importance of taxonomy, but he includes some entertaining sidelights.

The person who discovers a new species has the right to decide on its two-part (genus and species) scientific name. While the genus name is typically written in Latin, the rule about the species name is not as strict. For instance, there is the tarantula *Aphonopelma johnnycashi*, named by someone who appreciates country music.

Then there's a group of beetles in the genus *Gelae* (pronounced "jelly"), which includes *Gelae donut*, *Gelae rol*, and *Gelae belae*. And how about the fly genus *Piezia* (which could be pronounced like "piece-a" or "pizza"). Here we find *Piezia kake*, *Piezia pi*, and *Piezia rhea*.

Who says taxonomy can't be fun?

NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

My last column was at the very beginning of spring migration. Now, after a long summer, the attention of some birders turns to other things, like butterflies and dragonflies that are quite prevalent during July and August when birds have mostly stopped singing. We can enjoy these insects briefly before we must turn our attention back to the fall bird migration starting in August and September. So I'm happy to answer this insect-related question:

What are the differences between dragonflies and damselflies? Do they both migrate? Where do they go?

All insects are in the Class Insecta (birds are in the Class Aves). The next taxonomic level down from that is Order, and all dragonflies, damselflies, and spreadwings belong to the Order Odonata. The next major taxonomic division is the Family, and there are many families of dragonflies and damselflies across North America, including Broad-winged Damsels (Calopterygidae), Spreadwings (Lestidae), Pond Damsels (Coenagrionidae), Petaltails (Petaluridae), Darners (Aeshnidae), Clubtails (Gomphidae), Spiketails (Cordulegastridae), Cruisers (Macromiidae), Emeralds (Corduliidae), and Skimmers (Libellulidae). All these families are represented in Michigan, with 167 species recorded so far (47 damselflies, 120 dragonflies). Check out the website of the Michigan Odonata Survey (<http://michodonata.org/>).

Damselflies are generally smaller and very slender, although the Elfin Skimmer dragonfly is nearly as small as many damselflies, and the Great Spreadwing is long and slender, larger than some dragonflies. The main characteristic that separates dragonflies from damselflies is the way they hold their wings when perched. Dragonflies always hold their wings flat, while damselflies hold their wings folded over their backs (spreadwings are slender, and perch with their wings half open). Taxonomists group damselflies into a Suborder, Zygoptera, and dragonflies into the suborder Anisoptera. This taxonomic category is probably not familiar to birders, as in general bird lists are kept neat and tidy into Orders and Families. Perhaps most often we will see birds (often tropical species) of the order Passeriformes referred to as Suboscines and Oscines, which refers to two suborders of perching birds that divide the more primitive species like flycatchers, woodcreepers, antbirds, and vireos from more advanced species like thrushes, tanagers, warblers, and sparrows, based on whether their songs are simpler, innate, and stereotyped (suboscines) or more complex, learned, and variable (oscines) as well as anatomical differences in their vocal apparatus.

The study of dragonfly migration is still in the early stages. Many of you know that Green Darners migrate, with spring arrivals noted in Michigan during April and larger numbers noted at hawkwatches and other sites during fall migration in September. It has been difficult to develop a method of marking individual dragonflies because the aerodynamics of their flight makes them very sensitive to placing anything on their wings, as is done with Monarch butterflies. There has been some success using numbered "buttons" placed on the thorax of dragonflies, similar to what is used to study honeybees. Observers have also noted that Black Saddlebags are common fall migrants in our area, and other species may undertake these movements as well. The Wandering Glider is perhaps the most widely distributed dragonfly in the world, and as its name suggests, it is known for its tendency to move around the globe. I encountered this species in the Galapagos, and it has been recorded on every continent except Antarctica. Some species undergo movements similar to what some butterflies do. That is, a northward movement in late summer. Perhaps the dragonfly that does this most often is the Red Saddlebags, a southern species which was only confirmed in Michigan about 20 years ago (I photographed one in Monroe County and another observer collected one in the northwestern Lower Peninsula the same month and year!). Other southern species not yet recorded in Michigan may undertake northward late summer movements, and could be found by diligent searchers. Two of those searchers, OAS members Julie Craves and Darrin O'Brien, have a blog of their adventures documenting several new species for the state in recent years. (<http://urbanodes.blogspot.com/>). I am not aware of any evidence that damselflies migrate, but this is essentially unstudied at this time.

NATURE NOTES (continued) by Allen Chartier

- Paulson, Dennis. 2011. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East*. Princeton University Press.
- Dunkle, Sidney W. 2000. *Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America*. Oxford University Press.
- Mead, Kurt. 2003. *Dragonflies of the North Woods*. Kollath-Stensaas Publishing.
- Legler, Karl and Dorothy, and Dave Westover. 1998. *Color Guide to Common Dragonflies of Wisconsin*. Published by author (Legler).
- Curry, James R. 2001. *Dragonflies of Indiana*. Indiana Academy of Science.
- Rosche, Larry, Judy Semroc, and Linda Gilbert. 2008. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio*. Second Edition. Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
- DuBois, Bob. 2005. *Damselflies of the North Woods*. Kollath-Stensaas Publishing.
- Lam, Ed. *Damselflies of the Northeast: A Guide to the species of eastern Canada and the northeastern United States*. Biodiversity Books, Forest Hills, NY.

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

Pretty much everywhere, at any time, has the potential for a special birding experience, so this is difficult to answer. I have had the privilege of birding on 6 continents, with my most recent trip to Peru in July 2018, which is one of my excuses for getting this column late to the newsletter editor! You can read about this trip, with many photos (it was a hummingbird photography trip – 55 species seen), on my blog (<http://mihummingbirdguy.blogspot.com/>).

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

Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

The Delicate Politics of Chasing Owls

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/12/opinion/sunday/owl-watching.html>

Seeing owls and chasing them when you know where they are is a delicate balance between observing them and harassing them. This article discusses this topics and offers reasons for and against. Food for thought.

Shorebirds, The World's Greatest Travelers, Face Extinction

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/04/27/opinion/shorebirds-extinction-climate-change.html>

This online article describes the heartbreaking situation that shorebirds face. With video and graphics, the plight of shorebirds is discussed. This will tear at your heart and let you understand how dire the situation is.

Might Epigenetics Hold the Secret to Super Fast Adaptation?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/04/30/might-epigenetics-hold-the-secret-to-super-fast-adaptation/#4863906e3863>

If you're into the science of genetics and how it can be used to explain a phenomenon like adaptation of birds, this is the article for you. How birds can generate viable populations from just a few birds might explain how invasive species can thrive in a new location. Read on if you're into science.

How Did Birds Lose Their Teeth And Get Their Beaks? Study Offers Clues

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/05/02/607117197/how-did-birds-lose-their-teeth-and-get-their-beaks-study-offers-clues>

The transformation from toothed, flying reptiles to birds with bills is discussed based on a study of fossils found. An interesting look at the transformation to our birds of today.

Why Some Birds Migrate (And Others Don't)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/05/07/why-some-birds-migrate-and-others-dont/#3ebbf1ef2ceb>

Why birds migrate has always been simplistically described as being based on food source. But just let scientists into the discussion and it gets much more complicated. Think energy optimization and modeling (not the runway type). Read on for a different look at migration and why.

Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

We Finally Know How Birds Can See Earth's Magnetic Field

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2018/04/04/we-finally-know-how-birds-can-see-earths-magnetic-field/#7f21540320e1>

Another clue into how birds see the magnetic field they used to help with migration. Science again strikes a blow against our ignorance of the world around us.

Thirsty Ravens' Tap-Tap-Tapping Creates Data Glitch At LIGO

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/05/15/thirsty-ravens-tap-tap-tapping-creates-data-glitch-at-ligo/#2b54f9f86ddd>

A little story of ravens and their mindful use of resources to keep them happy, sometimes at the expense of humans. Here's a light-hearted story about some rascals that like a cool piece of ice on a hot day!

How Do Young Birds Know When To Leave The Nest?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/06/25/how-do-young-birds-know-when-to-leave-the-nest/#2d73d4c3bbb0>

The battle between parents getting their young to leave the nest and the needs of the young to develop before they leave is discussed and analyzed. Predation is the big pressure on some bird species and this article discusses this in detail.

Why Don't Birds Have Teeth?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/06/30/why-dont-birds-have-teeth/#7a6a0e0b74ae>

Another article discussing theories behind the lack of teeth in most birds. Evolution and adaptation are part of the formula but you need to read to discover the ideas involved.

Owls See the World Much Like We Do

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/03/science/owls-vision-brain.html>

The vision of owls is discussed along with many of its features. There's even a small video showing how owls track movement. Fascinating material.

Parrots Use Chemistry And Physics To Create Brilliantly Colorful Plumage

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/07/06/parrots-use-chemistry-and-physics-to-create-brilliantly-colorful-plumage/#5264ac5275f7>

This article goes deep into the science behind feather coloration in parrots, which is much different than for many other birds. A good article for those who can understand chemistry and physics. Stay enlightened!

Bird Briefs (articles to look at on-line)

Submitted by Don Burlett

Meet The Invasive Insect That Is Changing An Entire Forest Bird Community

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/07/19/meet-the-invasive-insect-that-is-changing-an-entire-forest-bird-community/#6bda52753bfa>

If you have any fears for species that live in hemlock forests, be ready to learn that they are endangered. An introduced species is causing quite a change and it isn't a good one. Read on.

Insectivorous Birds Annually Consume As Much Energy As New York City

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/07/25/insectivorous-birds-annually-consume-as-much-energy-as-does-new-york-city/#4c3972d52afd>

Think that birds aren't important? Think again.. A summary of data looking at birds and what they eat is impressive. They're at the top of the list for consuming plant-eating insects. Farmers should pay attention to these great protectors of plants.

Where Do Birds Go To Molt Their Feathers?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/07/27/where-do-birds-go-to-molt-their-feathers/#ed349729fc8c>

Birds molting their feathers is an annual event. It has been found that most bird species move from their breeding location to other places to molt. Since this is an important event and is crucial for species survival, much interest has been centered on where and why. A good read for those interested in the lives of birds.

California's Birds Are Testing New Survival Tactics on a Vast Scale

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/30/science/california-birds-climate-change.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fscience&action=click&contentCollection=science®ion=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=4&pgtype=sectionfront>

Changes in our world are leading to changes in our birds' behavior. Here's a shining example of birds adapting to that change, at least as well as they can. Interesting reading of some very good research into the bird world.

Brainier Birds Live On Islands

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/07/31/brainier-birds-live-on-islands/#383073646a39>

Adaptation and evolution in birds is discussed relative to development on islands. It's an interesting discussion and a view into research done by ornithologists to discover why changes occur. A good read.

BIRD ID QUIZ (Fall 2018)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

Last issue (summer '18) photo quiz answers:

a) Alder Flycatcher, b) Acadian Flycatcher and c) Eastern Wood-Pewee

Explanation: The Alder Flycatcher (as well as the Acadian) have eye-rings and are olive-gray above versus the gray above for the Wood-Pewee. The Acadian has a yellow (or paler) lower mandible while the Alder bill appears all dark. The head shape, although it can be deceptive, is rounder for the Alder than the Acadian. The Wood-Pewee has less pronounced double wingbars and is gray above, white on breast with gray at sides and pale yellow undertail coverts. The hints given later in the issue were the calls according to Sibley. The rreeBEEa of the Alder (also wee-bee according to the Nat. Geo. field guide), the KEET of the Acadian (peet according to Nat. Geo.) and PEEaweee of the Wood-Pewee (pee-yer according to Nat. Geo.) are all diagnostic calls. These are always tough differentiations but experience with the calls and some close examination will get you through.

How'd you do with the ID's of the winter birds? Keep score throughout the year to see how you do!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 24, 2018

Our donation of \$100 to Osprey Watch of South East Michigan has been returned—for a very welcome reason: the Osprey population is stable and healthy, so OWSEM no longer needs funding for radio-tracking the birds, which has been discontinued.

Planning is well underway for this year's competitive birding event, the Nuthatch Open, scheduled for September 8.

The Field Trip Committee will meet in October to plan field trips for the first half of 2019.

Our Facebook page now has 981 likes—closing in on 1,000.

Social Media Administrator Janet Hug was notified that her photo of the wayward Fork-tailed Flycatcher seen in Flushing, MI, will be printed in the *Flushing News*.

Website Editor Hannah Dunbar has added a Search Bar on the top of each page, making it easy to search for topics, especially photos of various species.

Seven Ponds Nature Center Representative Dr. Greg Gossick reported that the annual birdathon in May and the wine-tasting event in June were successful fund-raisers. Also, the nature center scheduled a new event for August 11 called "Party at the Ponds." Many nature-oriented activities will be available for the public—and everything will be free.

In accord with the OAS bylaws, an election of certain officers will be held this fall. This year we will vote on the positions of President, Program Officer, and Field Trip Officer.

Doris Applebaum, Secretary



Have you seen something interesting or have a unique story to tell about a trip, hike or other experience?

Have you read a good book about the natural world you'd like to review?

We're always looking for input from our members for the newsletter!

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., September 11	7:00 p.m.	The Conservation of Manatees	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., October 9	7:00 p.m.	Grand Canyon National Park	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., November 13	7:00 p.m.	A Borneo Birding Adventure	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 7:00 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!

Gavin Awerbuch

Joy Bebry

Patrice Cole

Marcy Klein

Carol Richards Family

Brian Hicks

Our membership drive for 2019 is underway! Please pay your membership dues at a monthly meeting or by mailing in the membership form on page 23.

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.*