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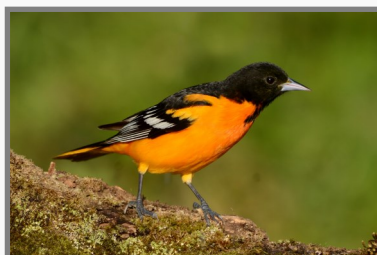
www.oaklandaudubon.org

“Grow a Bird Feeder”

Kat Carter

Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

North America has lost nearly one in three of its birds in the last half century. Are we doomed to watch the rest go the way of the Carolina Parakeet and Passenger Pigeon? Not if we act on their behalf. There are many things we can do to help; the most essential is to grow a bird feeder. This engaging and educational program covers the “how’s” and “why’s” of growing a bird feeder.



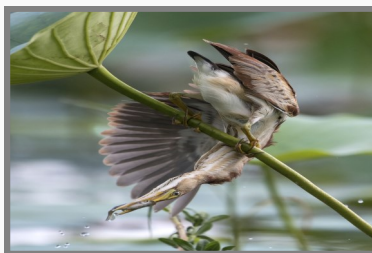
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“Marsh Bird Monitoring in Michigan”

Erin Rowan

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Secretive marsh birds have seen steep declines across the Great Lakes region, most likely due to habitat loss and degradation. Audubon Great Lakes, MI Birds, and MI DNR are working together to restore habitat and monitor marsh birds in priority areas, like St Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, an Important Bird Area and Michigan Wetland Wonder site. Learn more about this important work and how you can get involved.



“Bird Names and Changes Currently Occurring”

Jordan Rutter & Gabriel Foley

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Bird Names for Birds is an initiative advocating for the replacement of honorific English common bird names. Honorific names, such as Cooper's Hawk or Wilson's Warbler, have been applied to birds as a way of recognizing specimen collectors, project funders, personal friends, and the like. Jordan Rutter and Gabriel Foley, co-founders of *Bird Names for Birds*, will discuss why honorific names are problematic, why changing those names is important and beneficial, and what steps have been taken to date to rename birds.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fall 2021

Well, it's finally here. Time for me to step down as President of Oakland Audubon Society (OAS). This is happening for two reasons. First, I have a major event to run in 2022 and I wouldn't be able to run that and handle the activities I do for OAS. Second, I have been President for 13 years and a little break from the action at this level will be good for me. I am not completely disappearing because I will need a little birding as a break from my other activity — you will still see me lead some field trips and help with some aspects of the show.

In my stead, Sue Wright will be taking over as President for the next year. Sue, as you may remember, was my predecessor. I'm certain she will do a great job in the position. Of course, the job is a lot easier with the great Board we currently have. Please continue providing your support and enthusiasm to Sue and the Board as they move forward this fall.

As I reflect on my time as President, I have to say that we have accomplished a lot in terms of streamlining the operation and offering activities and information for our group. With the ability to pay your dues online, electronic newsletters that are outstanding, a wonderful website full of resources including a map of Oakland County birding sites, a Facebook page keeping us all up-to-date and interested, regular postings of volunteer opportunities, a very nice selection of field trips and outstanding programs, I don't know what else we could offer. As always, if you have ideas, please let the Board know!

My last accomplishment was to get OAS affiliated with National Audubon Society, which I believe will be beneficial for the organization and members. This was envisioned several years ago and we finally reached that goal this summer. More on that later in the newsletter.

Beyond the accomplishments of the organization and all that stuff, the best part of these 13 years has been the friendships that I have established with our members and those in the birding community. I have tried to be an ambassador for birding and appreciation of nature. Hopefully, I have helped some of you improve your skills and understand a bit more about the world around us. I treasure these friendships and hope they last for a long time.

So, this isn't a goodbye but a "until we meet again." For the near future, I'll see you all occasionally but in a different role. Thank you for your support and for sticking with us over this long haul. Best wishes,

Don Burlett

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

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Summer babies! Northern Cardinal after a bath, the most adorable baby wren, and another wren, also adorable...but hungry. Photos by Sue Wright.

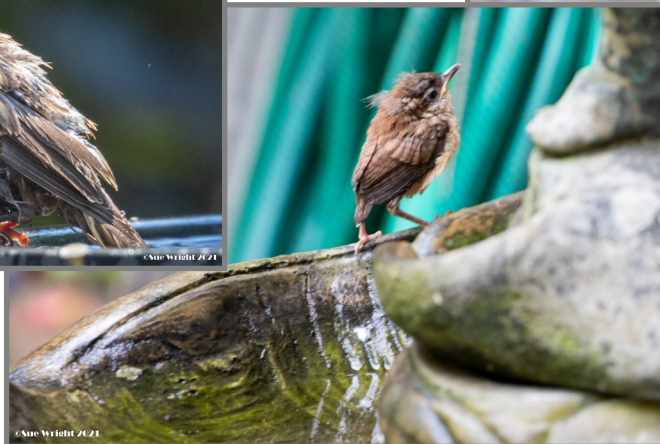
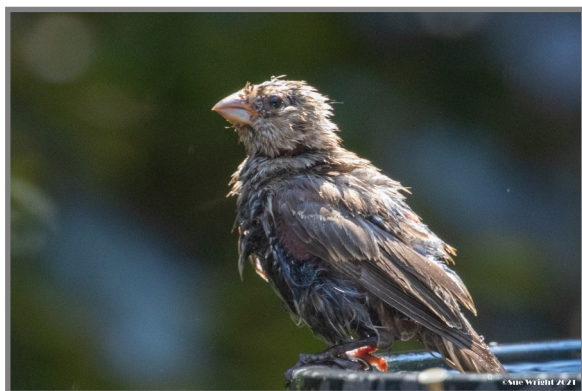


Photo Credits: Cover Page Banner, G. Cummins. Program Photos, Kat Carter, Peter Brannon, and Jordan Rutter and Gabrielle Foley

OAS Joins National Audubon Society as an Affiliated Chapter

Dear OAS Friends,

I am pleased to announce that Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) is now an officially affiliated chapter of National Audubon Society (National Audubon). OAS is now the second affiliated chapter in Michigan, along with Detroit Audubon. Michigan is one of five states in the Great Lakes Region of National Audubon, along with Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. There are more than 50 affiliated chapters in the Great Lakes Region.

This affiliation facilitates interaction with Audubon Great Lakes, National Audubon's regional office, and provides OAS greater access to information and support for our local efforts in birding and conservation.

This process took two years. As OAS President, I regularly attended monthly "Chapter Leaders Calls." These calls provided access to updates on legislation and National Audubon's national and regional advocacy efforts. This resource was valuable to OAS even as a non-affiliated group. I also attended two regional gatherings where leaders from various Audubon chapters met to learn and exchange ideas. The OAS Board also met with the director of Audubon Great Lakes a while back, which was also very useful. All of this was evidence that affiliation with National Audubon was worth pursuing.

The process was long because of how busy everything was at National Audubon due to the pandemic, but also because of changes in their leadership and processes. In addition, although National Audubon is ready to incorporate new chapters, they are not used to working with organizations that have been around for over 60 years like OAS. With persistence we worked through the process.

One challenging aspect was the fact that each affiliated chapter needs to have a defined territory based on zip codes. In Michigan, all zip codes in the state were held by either Detroit Audubon or Michigan Audubon. So, part of the process was to secure zip codes for OAS's territory.

We hope our members begin to see the benefits of this affiliation down the road. The Board and I believe this was the right decision and that we will be stronger for it. I am proud to have started this process and I now leave it to the Board and our leadership to make the best use of this resource and support system.

Don Burlett



Audubon



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Covid-19 Update: OAS continues to adhere to the Michigan Health Department’s guidelines and recommended precautions during all field trips (see page 12).

Schedule changes and updates will be posted on our website and members will also receive email updates. Owllet trip details are listed on pages 11-12.

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

Check the “Field Trips” page on our website for current information, and check often!
www.oaklandaudubon.org

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
September 5, 2021 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Jim Koppin jimmykoppin@yahoo.com
September 11, 2021 (Saturday) 12:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Nuthatch Open (\$25 entry fee + registration required)	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
September 18, 2021 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Hawk Migration, Lake Erie Metropark (Owlets Trip)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
September 19, 2021 (Sunday) 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Robert H. Long Nature Park & Heritage Park	Mike Mencotti & Manny Salas mmencotti9@gmail.com
October 16, 2021 (Saturday) 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Watkins Lake State Park	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net
October 24, 2021 (Sunday) 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	An Evening with the Owls, Stage Nature Center (Owlets Trip)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
November 5 – 7, 2021 (Friday to Sunday)	Muskegon	Don Burlett baikalteal13@netzero.net
November 13, 2021 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Winter Birds & Project FeederWatch, Belle Isle (Owlets Trip)	Kathleen Dougherty kad8186@msn.com
November 20, 2021 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Belle Isle State Park	Jeff Stacey jdstacey@ameritech.net

Field Trip Reports

July 31, 2021 - Butterflies at Independence Oaks County Park

Leader: Doris Applebaum

On a lovely day at Independence Oaks County Park, 9 people set out to see what butterflies would show up. As it turned out, it was not a great day for butterflies, with just 10 species seen in the official 2 hours allotted. And because butterflies are often spotted briefly, not all 10 species were seen by all participants.

However, everyone showed interest in other aspects of nature and enjoyed seeing dragonflies, interesting birds, lots of bees, and even an unusually large fly called the tiger bee fly, identified thanks to Kayla Niner, who had the Internet available on her phone.

The 10 butterflies seen were: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Common Ringlet, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch (several seen; always a happy sight), Silver-spotted Skipper, Mulberry Wing (a skipper), and Dun Skipper.

Although most participants saw relatively few butterflies, being outdoors on a summer day always makes it a good day.

ADDENDUM

Because I never get enough of butterflies, after the official walk was over, I decided to visit another area of the park. Anne Honhart joined me, and we were able to add 5 more species to the day's list: Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Viceroy, and Wild Indigo Duskywing.

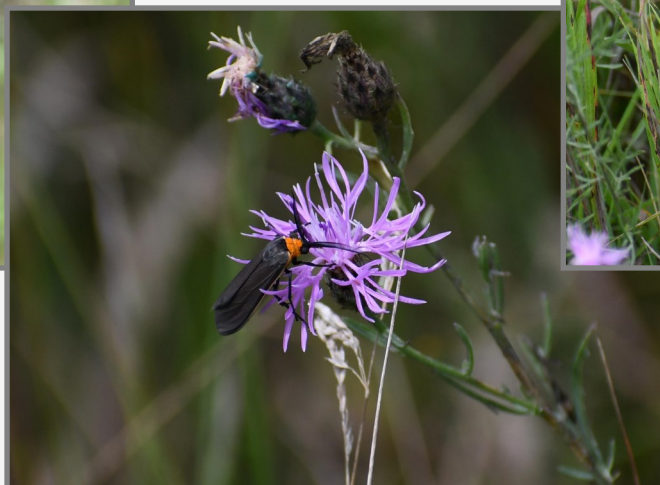


Photo Credits: Kayla Niner

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Field Trip Reports (continued)

August 14, 2021 - Pointe Mouillee State Game Area

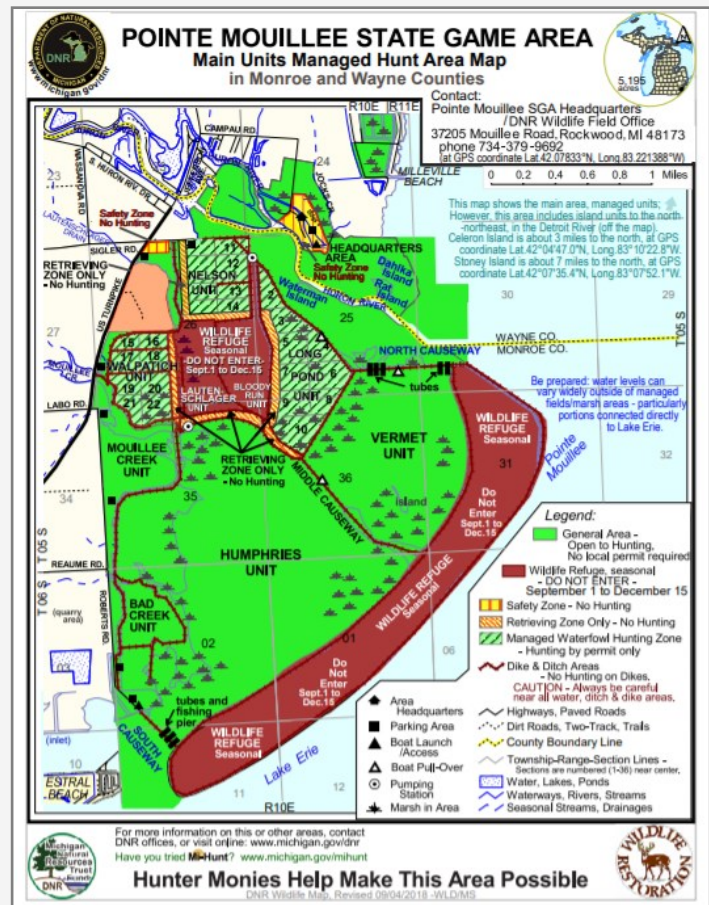
Leader: Jeff Stacey

Our annual Pointe Mouillee driving tour returned after a year's absence. As has been the case in recent years the water levels were very high, so we had to work hard to find shorebirds — we persevere.

The first highlight was a flyover American Bittern just a few hundred yards into the SGA. After that we stopped to admire several families of Common Gallinules and a distant Northern Harrier before doubling back to the outer banana. Our first group of shorebirds was a cooperative group of four Stilt Sandpipers and two Short-billed Dowitchers that were feeding relatively close. After they took off, we followed them up to the cell 3 mudflats. While we were not able to locate them again, we did find many shorebirds including Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, both Yellowlegs, and Semipalmated Plovers. While there, a Peregrine Falcon made several passes, scrambling all of the shorebirds into the air. This proved there were many more birds in the area than we could see through the grasses.

We made a loop of the Vermet unit hoping to find some interesting waders, but it was just the usual suspects (although Black-crowned Night-Herons are always fun to see). The trip total was an even 50 species (including 9 species of shorebirds).

Many thanks to Jim Fowler for setting up this field trip once again, and also for pointing out and identifying the birds for us.



Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports

June 19, 2021 - Lake St. Clair Metropark

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

Oakland Owlets families and friends gathered at Lake St. Clair Metropark to explore marshes and trails. The weather was partly cloudy and muggy with rain predicted, but the rain held off. The group hiked from the Nature Center Parking Lot to the Day Sail area. Yellow Warblers and Red-winged Blackbirds were abundant along the way and called repeatedly. At the Day Sail Parking lot, a pair of Forster's Terns flew into the bay.



A Great Blue Heron and a Green Heron grabbed everyone's attention—we were close enough to see their feeding behaviors. Wetlands at the park provide ideal habitat for herons. The group meandered through the cattail marsh along a boardwalk where water snakes and frogs floated and Marsh Wrens' songs were ever-present. Blanche Wicke, co-leader, spotted the resident Great Horned Owl perching on a tree across the marsh. The park's "owl bucket" is well known and Great Horned Owls have used it as a nest for decades. However, the owls did not nest in the bucket this year.

The Nature Center had recently opened so we also stopped by to view the exhibits and chat with the staff; the center had been closed for 19 months because of the pandemic.

The final stop was to view an active colony of Double-crested Cormorants. The colony nests on a small island across the water from the boat launch parking lot. Spotting scopes provided close views of the Double-crested Cormorants along with the rare Neotropic Cormorant, which has also attempted to nest in the colony this year. For many in the group this rare visitor was a life bird. A total of 37 species and 424 individuals were reported to eBird.

A special thanks to **Blanche Wicke** for assisting with this field trip and **Rashmi Overbeek** for providing photos.



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty, Rashmi Overbeek, and OAS Gallery.

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Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

July 31, 2021 - Drayton Plains Nature Center

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

Oakland Owlets families and friends were blessed with a beautiful day for this field trip. Abundant sunshine, low humidity and mild temperatures were welcome conditions. The Drayton Plains Nature Center is located in Waterford, along the main branch of the Clinton River. Terri Chapdelaine, OAS member and Director of Bird Studies at the Nature Center, and Katie Sexton from the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) provided their expertise for this field trip. Terri helped locate birds on the property, while Katie introduced the group to life in the water. Both experts were very engaging and shared their knowledge enthusiastically. Everyone learned something new!



Terri led the hike to the trails along ponds between the upper and lower branches of the Clinton River. Early in the 20th century, the Nature Center was a fish hatchery and the ponds still support fish rearing to this day. The ponds also provide habitat for a wide array of birds, from shorebirds to waterfowl. Terri's perfect bird calls helped young birders learn some bird calls. Terri has tracked birds at the Drayton Nature Center for nearly 10 years and has compiled a bird list of over 170 species.

At the ponds the group encountered several birds, including Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Kingbird, Mallard, and Canada Goose. Overhead, Purple Martin and Tree and Barn Swallows soared. The checklist submitted to eBird reported 36 species and 148 individuals.



While the group was hiking, Katie collected organisms from the river. The CRWC provided water monitoring equipment so some participants were able to use nets to catch critters from the river. Many of the critters are what scientists call "biological indicators," which means they respond to conditions in the water – certain organisms are highly sensitive to pollution and are only found in clean water, while others can live in polluted waters with sediments and low oxygen levels.

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Oakland Owlets

Field Trip Reports (continued)

Katie also shared identification keys and magnifying glasses so everyone could identify what they were seeing. Some of the organisms collected included bullfrog tadpole, water scorpion, planaria, water boatman, and mayfly larva. Katie distributed materials about the mission and programs at the CRWC.

A special thanks to **Waterford Township Parks & Recreation** for opening the Nature Center building for the young birders to use the restrooms. Thank you to the experts, **Terri Chapdelaine** and **Katie Sexton**, for assisting with the field trip. Lastly, many thanks to the **CRWC** for providing water monitoring equipment.



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty, Katie Sexton, and OAS Photo Gallery.

Oakland Owlets Field Trips

September - December

Hawk Migration – Saturday, September 18, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Lake Erie Metropark – Brownstown



In early September, hawks begin moving south from northern breeding grounds. Lake Erie Metropark is situated along one of the migratory routes of this migration. It is also the official site for the Detroit River Hawk Watch (DRHW) —thousands of hawks can be seen at this site. Counters from the DRHW watch the migration daily. Join us to learn about hawks and hawk migration. Hawk watch experts will help identify birds and explain how hawks use thermals to travel south. Plan to visit the Marshland Museum before departing. Dress for the weather. A Metroparks permit is required for park entry.

An Evening with the Owls – Sunday, October 24, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Stage Nature Center – Troy

Owls are secretive and legendary birds, and are also important ecological predators. Apex predators like owls maintain the health of ecosystems. Because many owls are nocturnal their activities are shrouded in darkness. During this presentation, participants will learn facts about owls and have the opportunity to meet live owls at the Nature Center. Then we will venture outdoors for a twilight trail hike to explore this natural area and animals that are active at night. Space is limited.



Winter Birds & Project FeederWatch – Saturday, November 13, 8:30 am - 11:00 am
Belle Isle Nature Center – Detroit



Belle Isle is a 982-acre island park located in the Detroit River. Due to its unique location, the park is an important birding area and a natural gem in a highly urbanized area. The Belle Isle Nature Center is hosting this month's young birders' club field trip. Project FeederWatch (PFW) will be explored along with the identification of winter birds. We will also search for birds on the island. Plan to drive to various spots and hike a trail. The Nature Center is undergoing renovation, but the group will view the Nature Center's feeding station. A special thank you to Erin Parker for assisting with this event. A Michigan State Parks Passport is required for park entry.

Oakland Owlets Field Trips September - December (cont.)

Count Birds for Science at the 122nd Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 18, 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Orion Oaks, Lake Orion

Young Birders are invited to join and participate in OAS's Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC is one of the oldest Citizen Science activities in the country —this is the 122nd year of this national event. Explore and search for winter birds along trails at Orion Oaks County Park. Plan to hike about 2 miles. An Oakland County Park permit is required for park entry.



Oakland Audubon follows Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines for COVID-19 in effect at the time of the field trip. Guidelines are rapidly changing.

1. **Pre-registration is required and number of participants is limited.**
2. Face masks may be required to enter some facilities.
3. **Stay home if you are sick** or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.
4. Directions and details are sent in advance to those that pre-register.



The Young Birders' Club ~ Oakland Owlets offers field trips for youth 8 – 18 years. Young birders 15 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. These age appropriate programs provide educational experiences and snacks for kids. Young birders must complete a release form.

Young Birders' Club programs are open to all birders. To register for Oakland Owlets field trips contact – Kathleen Dougherty, Coordinator at kad8186@msn.com

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

Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS Photo Gallery

WILDLIFE HABITAT AT WORK

By Kathleen Dougherty

The concept of providing wildlife habitat on business properties may not seem like an important business practice, but the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is changing this mindset. The WHC, established in 1988, promotes and certifies habitat conservation and management on corporate lands through partnerships, and education. The WHC supports conservation management in Southeast Michigan. Businesses including Waste Management, Inc. (WM), Stellantis (formerly Fiat Chrysler Automobiles), DTE, General Motors, and the International Transmission Company (ITC), all have habitat conservation and management projects in the region.



Building on the vision that every act of conservation matters, the WHC encourages corporate projects, from small pollinator gardens to larger, extensive plans like wetland restoration. Through each effort, WHC offers expertise, guidelines, model case studies, and funding. Business conservation projects are managed and implemented by employee volunteer teams. Drawing from each business's work force has benefits beyond creating wildlife habitat. Employees gain new knowledge, develop comradery with co-workers, and increase their self-confidence. Studies have demonstrated that employee involvement is key to the success of the habitat development. Employee teams volunteer to work with experts to develop plans, manage, and implement habitat improvements at their worksites. This level of employee involvement empowers employees beyond their job descriptions. Projects like pollinator gardens or wildlife surveys not only offer opportunities for community outreach, they also improve business community relationships.

Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) has conducted wildlife surveys at WM sites for several years as part of the company's wildlife conservation program. Since

2020, Doris Applebaum and Kathleen Dougherty have assisted in butterfly surveys at two local landfills owned and operated by WM. Pollinator surveys like these help WM maintain their certification through the WHC. In July, Doris, Kathleen, and Kathleen Klein from WM surveyed wildlife habitat locations set aside within each landfill. On one survey, Mia Jan-kowiak, Communication Specialist at WM, and Patricia Billette from the WHC also accompanied the survey team. Each survey informs WM of their conservation management work and provides metrics for the WHC's certification program. Although there is a tremendous amount of heavy truck traffic at each site, this activity does not impair pollinators from utilizing the available habitat.

This summer, the team documented 15 species of butterflies. Some species were common and abundant. The following species were seen:

- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
- Spicebush Swallowtail
- Cabbage White
- Clouded Sulphur
- Orange Sulphur
- Eastern Tailed-Blue
- Summer Azure
- Great Spangled Fritillary
- Pearl Crescent
- Viceroy
- Red-spotted Purple
- Common Ringlet
- Common Wood-Nymph
- Monarch
- Wild Indigo Duskywing



WILDLIFE HABITAT AT WORK

(continued)

When visiting WM properties, OAS also surveys and provides bird checklists. These checklists are also reported on eBird. The Eagle Valley Landfill is within the OAS Christmas Bird Count (CBC) circle, so volunteers are allowed to access the site during CBC as well. Unique species are seen at Eagle Valley every year.

The wildlife habitat conservation areas designated at the landfill sites host many species of birds. Wild Turkeys forage in unmowed fields at Eagle Valley and American Kestrels also inhabit the landfills. There is evidence from numbers and behaviors that Kestrels are nesting in at least one location.



The contributions made to wildlife habitat by businesses like WM are remarkable. Setting aside landholdings for wildlife habitat has multiple benefits. Habitat not only benefits wildlife, but also local communities and employees. Habitat projects provide ecosystem services to nearby communities including ground water recharge, carbon sequestration, and natural pest control. At the workplace, employee engagement increases, and employees take pride in wildlife habitat projects on their sites. Simple steps of creating and managing wildlife habitat align with the mission of OAS. OAS is committed to helping businesses like WM monitor wildlife conservation projects.

WM also maintains and monitors nesting boxes for cavity nesting birds like the Eastern Bluebird. This summer, Greg Petrosky, OAS Conservation/Environment Officer, collaborated with WM and Orion Township Parks & Recreation to upgrade nest boxes at the Orion Center and on the Polly Ann Trail. Greg replaced all the poles and added predator guards to each Eastern Bluebird nest box. These boxes are part of the WM nest monitoring in the community. Also,

WM conducts educational outreach on various environmental topics.



OAS is grateful to **Kathleen Klein** who oversees the WHC program at WM. Helping wildlife at corporate landholdings is an innovative concept supported by OAS.

To learn more about the Wildlife Habitat Council visit their website:



<https://www.wildlifehc.org/certification/>

Photo Credits: Patricia Billette, Greg Petrosky, and Kathleen Dougherty

OAS VOLUNTEERISM - A MID-YEAR UPDATE

By Greg Petrosky

“Volunteerism” is the act or practice of doing volunteer work in community service. Typically, it requires a person to invest their own personal time and labor in a particular event they are interested in.

By now, everyone probably knows by heart the beginning of my monthly “Volunteer Opportunity” emails: *“As Conservation/Environment Officer on the OAS Board of Directors, one of my responsibilities is to provide our membership volunteer opportunities that help protect and sustain our fine feathered friends. This encompasses keeping our rivers and lakes pristine, fields and forests void of invasive plants and man-made items, and environment enticing to local bird populations and those that visit during the breeding season.”*

So why volunteer? First, there is the thrill of meeting and working side by side with other like-minded people to bring back our native vegetation, remove invasive plants, monitor the health of our waters, and clean up garbage from lakes, rivers, and lands. There is also the satisfaction of seeing what a group of people can accomplish. Most importantly, there is the personal satisfaction of knowing you have done something to improve our environment!

Since the beginning of the year, OAS has advertised a total of 19 volunteer opportunities. Many members stepped up and contributed their time and expertise.

Dalia Shaman, Sue Julian, Greg Petrosky, and Endi Piovesana (pictured left to right below) braved the cold and joined CRWC’s Stonefly Search (1).

(1) CRWC’s Stonefly Search



Photo Credit: Kathleen Dougherty

Don Burlett and I volunteered for NOHLC’s Buckthorn Burn at the Suzanne Knorr Preserve in Clarkston.

Kim Bauman, Patrice Cole, Bill Kamman, Michele Petrosky, Carla Vaughan and myself enjoyed getting our hands dirty at NOHLC’s Seed Ball Making event.

Jenifer Benke, Linda Seley, and Casey Seley have enjoyed monitoring newly installed bluebird nest boxes at the West Bloomfield Municipal Building’s Nature Trails (2).

(2) Eastern Bluebird hatchlings



Photo Credit: Jenifer Benke

OAS members also helped at the NOHLC’s Spring Native Plant Sale. Volunteers included Mike Dougherty, Kathleen Dougherty, Chuck Julian, Sue Julian, Amy Kessler, Michele Petrosky, Carla Vaughan, Blanche Wicke, Laura Zigmanth, and me.

I know that many of our members are out there contributing time and energy to events that make a difference in our world!

Thank you all for your effort and keep up the good work!!

OAS at NOHLC Native Plant Sale

By Kathleen Dougherty

Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) set up an educational table at the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) Native Plant Sale in Clarkston, which took place on June 12, 2021 from 10 am – 2 pm. Volunteers Kathleen Dougherty and Greg Petrosky offered information about birds and native plants to shoppers.

Incorporating native plants into residential landscapes is an initiative supported by both National and Michigan Audubon, because birds depend on native plants and insects to successfully reproduce and survive. OAS highlighted two brochures developed by Michigan Audubon —these resources provide Michigan specific information for creating bird friendly habitats. Both resources can be downloaded from the Michigan Audubon website (access by clicking the links below).



“**Michigan Native Plants**” —includes plant details and growing conditions for several species
[MI-Native-Plants-for-Bird-Friendly-Landscapes Website.pdf \(michiganaudubon.org\)](#)

“**Michigan Garden Design**” —features several landscaping designs for various habitats from shade to sun
[Michigan-Native-Garden-Design-for-the-Birds.pdf \(michiganaudubon.org\)](#)

The NOHLC hosts two native plant sales annually. Plants sold at these events are endemic to Michigan and Oakland County. Selling local genotypes is essential because these plants are adapted to growing in local habitats and have established relationships within these ecosystems. Using native plants in landscaping has multiple benefits. Native plants require less maintenance, grow without extensive irrigation, and need no chemical fertilizers. Additionally, native plants support local wildlife including pollinators and birds. Landscaping with alien or ornamental plants is a widely accepted practice; however, these landscapes are food deserts to native birds.

A total of 25 volunteers helped at the NOHLC Native Plant Sale. The OAS table was attended by Kathleen and Greg along with OAS members **Blanche Wicke** and **Jean Gramlich**. The NOHLC sold 74 native plants and generated \$7,274.93 for stewardship on conservancy preserves. Plants not sold were planted on conservancy properties. Thanks to OAS members for supporting this plant sale.

NOHLC will host a late summer sale on Saturday, September 11 from 10 am – 2 pm. Fall is a good time to plant for blooms in 2022! Get details at: [NOHLC - North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy](#).



Photo Credits: Kathleen Dougherty and OAS Gallery

BACK FROM THE “PRESUMED” DEAD

By Doris Applebaum

In a remote part of South Kalimantan Province in the Indonesian part of Borneo, two men were gathering forest products. They were not ornithologists, but they were familiar with the common birds of the area. When they saw a bird they didn't recognize, they caught it, photographed it, and released it. Then they showed the photos to some local birding groups, whose members thought it looked like a species long believed to be extinct.

They were right. When ornithologists looked at the photos, they realized that the bird was a Black-browed Babbler, and the photos proved that this bird was not extinct even though no one had seen one alive for the past 172 years!



Black-browed Babbler (*Malacocincla perspicillata*). Photo Source: American Bird Conservancy <https://abcbirds.org/article/rediscover-black-browed-babbler/>

One reason no one thought this bird could possibly still be around is that the only place where it had ever been seen was an area that has been ravaged by massive deforestation. So the good news of its return is tempered by the knowledge that its continued existence is severely endangered by habitat loss.

One of the birders pointed out that the last time this species had been seen, Darwin's *Origin of Species* had not yet been published, and billions of Passenger Pigeons were still flying.

We will never see another live Passenger Pigeon, but there are a lot of remote places that have not been searched for many years. The rediscovery of a bird not seen for 172 years at least provides hope that some other long-lost birds may still be out there waiting to excite the world just as the Black-browed Babbler has done.

Source: The April-June 2021 issue of *BirdLife* magazine published by BirdLife International.

NOTES:

More good news. In an email from the American Bird Conservancy on June 17, there was a report of another rediscovery: Ulrich's Tyrannulet has been seen in Venezuela for only the third sighting since its original discovery over 120 years ago.

And even more good news. A species of Galapagos tortoise that had not been seen since 1906 has been rediscovered. A female Fernandina tortoise (*Chelonoidis phantasticus*) was found on Fernandina Island in 2019 and, after a blood sample was sent to geneticists at Yale University, it has now been confirmed that the tortoise is an individual of the long-lost species.

While it is well known that several species of Galapagos tortoises were decimated in the 19th century by crews of whalers and pirate ships, some even completely wiped out, it was believed that the Fernandina tortoise was not a victim of human exploitation but rather became extinct due to eruptions of an active volcano on the island.

Although spending time on an island with an active volcano is challenging, the Galapagos Conservancy hopes to send searchers back to Fernandina Island starting later this year in the hope of finding a male that could be taken into captivity (as the female has been). A careful captive-breeding effort would then be undertaken.

And there is hope. On the same expedition that found the female, there were signs (tracks and scat) of at least two other tortoises. The Galapagos Conservancy is raising funds to enable the search to continue. If you would like to help, go to Galapagos.org/fernandinatortoise.

Source: *Galapagos Post*, Spring-Summer 2021 issue, published by the Galapagos Conservancy.

“SCARYBIRD” - THE SEAGOING SCARECROW

by Doris Applebaum

Many seabirds like to eat fish, but when the fish they go after are what human fishers are also targeting, it can be deadly to the birds. Too often, they end up as bycatch, meaning that they get caught in nets or fishing lines or get snagged by hooks, and die.

The humans are not trying to kill the birds. In fact, when these unintentional incidents occur, it's a problem for the fishers, because it often damages their equipment, and they lose bait and fish and lose time removing the birds.

A conservation organization in Portugal has created a type of kite that they call “Scarybird,” which is easy to use. It is attached to a line and “flies” over the vessel, significantly reducing the number of birds that approach too closely. Most importantly, the fishing community has welcomed this innovation.

In the areas where it is used, it has worked well against Northern Gannets, gulls, and shearwaters. The article from which this information was taken did not mention albatrosses, which are among the most numerous bycatch victims worldwide. If “Scarybird” can also be employed to work well against those species, it will be an outstanding success.

Source: email from BirdLife International on July 29, 2021.

A related article can be found at:
<https://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/news/scarybird-scarecrow-seas-saves-seabirds-and-helps-fishers>

A NEW BOARD GAME FEATURING BIRDS

by Doris Applebaum

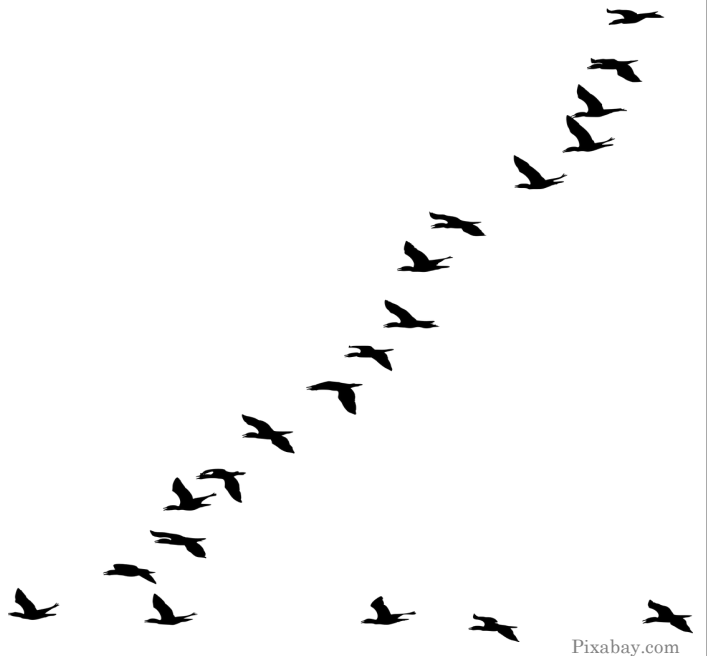
You may be familiar with the game about birds called *Wingspan*, which has proven to be very popular. Now there is another board game about birds; this one is called *Fly-A-Way*, and it teaches players about the dangers of migration.

The birds featured in this game are those that use the East Asian/Australasian Flyway, so they will not be familiar to most North Americans. However, it doesn't matter which flyway a bird uses in its migration; the dangers are similar everywhere.

In this game, players receive cards. Some show a danger of migration, some show a way in which conservationists can help protect migrants, and some are “Bird-tastrophe” cards, which show dangers over huge areas of the flyway. These last cards affect all the players, because the dangers they represent affect all the birds.

This game was created in Singapore so it may not yet be available in our area. You can find out more about it at www.flyaway.sg.

Source: The April-June 2021 issue of *BirdLife* magazine published by BirdLife International.



TORONTO'S 2020 TOLL OF BIRDS VS. BUILDINGS

By Doris Applebaum

As it does every year, in 2020 FLAP Canada (FLAP = Fatal Light Awareness Program) sent out many volunteers to collect birds that had crashed into buildings overnight in the Toronto area. The sad toll for 2020 was 3,779 birds of 98 identified species. The even sadder toll was 3,047 birds —about 80%— that did not survive their encounter with the human-built environment.

FLAP Canada started this effort in 1992 —the first place in North America to do so. There are now many other cities in the U.S. and Canada that have volunteers doing the same kind of collision collections.

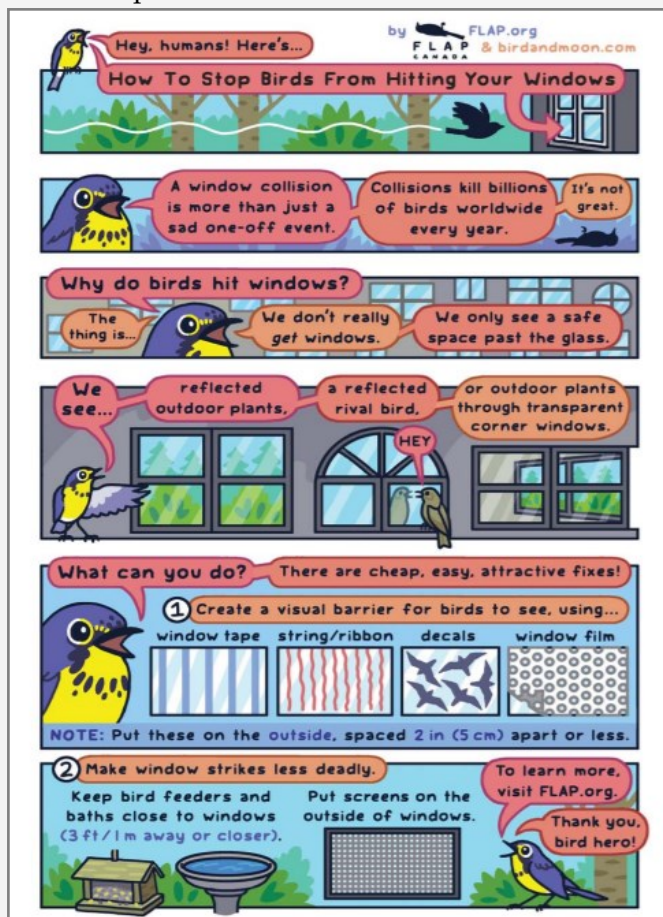
The list of Toronto casualties for 2020 showed that some species are much more likely to have a disastrous encounter with a building. Topping the list last year was the Nashville Warbler: 376 collisions, only 76 survivors. The Golden-crowned Kinglet tallied 319 collisions with only 79 survivors. Also coming to grief were 252 White-throated Sparrows (only 39 survived) and 247 Black-capped Chickadees (only 15 survivors). Four other species had over 100 casualties each. Of course, these are just the birds that were found; no doubt many others were grabbed by scavengers or swept up by maintenance workers.

Overall, the warblers were the biggest losers with 26 species listed. New to the list this year was the first Horned Lark ever found (it did not survive).

In an email from FLAP Canada on June 2, there was the good news that the Toronto-Dominion Centre, owned by TD Bank in Toronto's financial district, is going to receive a huge retrofit, resulting in the "largest bird-safe building retrofit in North America." The windows in the building will be treated with "Feather Friendly" dots, and FLAP Canada predicts that this undertaking will save the lives of hundreds of birds every year. What an excellent model for other building owners.

In the U.S. the toll of birds dying from collisions with buildings is similar in many cities. Private owners can only be urged (not required) to take corrective actions, like turning off lights at night so birds won't be confused to the point of crashing into the buildings, and marking up glass windows to prevent birds from thinking they are throughways during the day (birds don't perceive clear glass as a barrier).

On a governmental level, for the past several years there has been a bill introduced into the U.S. Congress directing that federal government buildings provide "bird-friendly" means of reducing collisions. These bills have never gotten very far. Perhaps this time will be different; at least we can hope.



Graphic: Fall 2020 Issue of *Touching Down*.

Source for Toronto statistics: the Spring 2021 issue of *Touching Down*, the newsletter of FLAP Canada.

To learn more visit: <https://flap.org/>

AN UNEXPECTED PROBLEM RESULTING FROM COVID-19

By Doris Applebaum

As if wild animals don't face enough threats, like habitat destruction, invasive species, pesticide poisoning, and overexploitation in a variety of ways, researchers have found that many animals also suffer from COVID-19. Not because they catch the virus, but because of discarded PPE (personal protection equipment).

Many different kinds of animals have encountered trouble from discarded single-use face masks and gloves. Among many examples: an American Robin got trapped in a mask and died, a Magellanic Penguin died from actually eating a mask, a hedgehog was found entangled in a glove, and a small fish was found trapped in the finger of a glove. There have also been reports of domestic cats and dogs dying from eating masks or gloves. What a sad testament to our throw-away society.

The oceans are also being adversely affected. It is estimated that more than one and a half billion face masks may have ended up in them in 2020, adding to the immense amounts of plastic that pollute the oceans every year.

Reusable PPE would certainly reduce the danger to wildlife. However, if you do have single-use items, cutting up one-use gloves and cutting the straps off one-use masks before discarding them would help prevent the danger this material poses for wildlife.

If you find any animal that has run afoul of discarded PPE, you can report your sighting at www.covidlitter.com to help scientists monitor the situation.

A small somewhat positive sidelight: some birds have been found using discarded face masks or gloves in building their nests. One scientist studying the situation early in 2021 said: "Bird nests from 2020 are so easy to recognize."

Source: Rachel Carson Council eNews email on June 21, 2021, reporting on an article in *Science News*.

Further reading: [The effects of COVID-19 litter on animal life in: *Animal Biology* Volume 71 Issue 2 \(2021\) \(brill.com\).](https://www.brill.com)

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



Bird Briefs (articles to look at online)

by Don Burlett

The Black Birders Who Made White Ornithologists Famous

<https://edgeeffects.net/birders/>

This book review discusses the importance of black birders in Africa that helped make the European naturalists famous. An interesting look at the role of black birders many years ago.

The Fine Nose of Storks: Birds are Drawn to Scent of Grass, Leafy Greens

<https://phys.org/news/2021-06-fine-nose-storks-birds-drawn.html>

Most of us are aware that Vultures use their sense of smell to find food. However, it might come as a surprise that storks appear to use smell to find some of their food as well. Interesting new insight.

Song Tutoring Can Help Save the Regent Honeyeater

<https://phys.org/news/2021-06-song-regent-honeyeater.html>

Captive breeding of birds is one of the last resorts for saving a species like the Regent Honeyeater. Many factors play into rearing birds with survival skills. This article outlines how the training on songs is proving to be very helpful also.

Birds of Conservation Concern

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>

This site provides information on birds whose status is of concern. The list Birds of Conservation Concern is maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Then the Birds Began to Die

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/07/the-bird-pandemic/619521/>

First, the pandemic started killing people. Now, the birds are suffering a pandemic of their own. An article about the deaths of birds in the mid-Atlantic states.

How Birding's Pandemic Popularity is Expanding Data Collection for Science

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/science-birding-pandemic-data-wildlife-1.6113333>

The surge in popularity of birding across many populations is increasing the number of birders that provide data for scientists to analyze.



Roseate Spoonbill
(Platalea ajaja)

**Seen on July 16, 2021 in
Washtenaw County.**

Photo Credit: Sue Wright

BIRD ID QUIZ

(Fall 2021)



A) _____



B) _____



C) _____

For the answers and explanation for this issue's quiz see Page 26

No Peeking!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

June 17, 2021

Treasurer Elaine Ferguson has formally notified the church that we would like to resume our room rental there when the church opens again.

The Field Trip Committee will discuss how to handle field trips now that Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted.

Advance orders for our new supplies of OAS winter hats and baseball caps have been coming in, and orders for our new coffee mug have been excellent as well.

Our coffee-mug vendor has donated some mugs to our Young Birders Club, to be used as a thank-you to people who help at YBC events.

Social Media Administrator Dan Gertiser is adding a statement to our Facebook page regarding our support for diversity and inclusion.

A birdathon fund-raiser at Seven Ponds Nature Center was successful, finding 115 species and raising \$2,600. The staff has been working hard removing invasive species and repairing boardwalks. Nature tours scheduled to Washington State and the Rio Grande Valley are sold out.

OAS has helped Waste Management, Inc., with the installation of predator guards on bluebird nest boxes at their properties, and has also helped North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) with their nest-box program. OAS also helped out NOHLC at their native plant sale fund-raiser.

Our affiliation with National Audubon is progressing! Completion of the form to formally affiliate was scheduled to be signed a few days after this Board meeting.

We will purchase an 8-foot-long tablecloth with our name, website address, and logo, to be used when we have a table at various events. This will help us advertise OAS to the public.

We have renewed our Zoom annual rental fee.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary



Have you seen something interesting or have a unique story to tell about a trip, hike, or other experience? Do you want to share a picture you captured on a field trip?

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

We are always looking for input from our members! Contact the Newsletter Editor if you would like to contribute to the OAS Newsletter.



If you are an Amazon user and would like to help benefit OAS, simply [CLICK HERE](#), add us to your favorite charity list, and then shop!

A percentage of your purchases will be donated to OAS and will help support our organization.

If you aren't using Amazon Smile, try it out. We'll appreciate it!

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

The 2022 Membership Drive has begun!

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](#)
- 2) Mail a check along with a membership form (page 27)

Mail renewal forms to:

Oakland Audubon Society
C/O Jenifer Benke
2145 Colony Club Ct.
West Bloomfield, MI 48322

If you would like to check the status of your membership or have questions, contact OAS Membership Officer Jen Benke at: 734-657-7498 or scubadu9900@yahoo.com.

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



**MICHIGAN
CONSERVATION
STEWARDS PROGRAM**

10 WEEK VIRTUAL CLASS
WEDNESDAYS 6-8PM | SEPT. 8-NOV. 10

Learn the foundations of Michigan conservation and how you can apply your knowledge in your community

[CANR.MSU.EDU/CSP](https://www.canr.msu.edu/csp)

OAS is promoting the MSU Extension's *Michigan Conservation Stewards Program*.


This program is designed for those interested in science-based ecosystem management principles and sharing this knowledge with others to help restore and conserve ecosystems throughout Michigan.

Registration is Open!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/conservation_stewards_program/


Your Membership At Work

Thank-You letters were received from the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) and the Howell Nature Center for donations OAS provided. Thank you for helping OAS support local conservation minded organizations.



7150 Dixie Highway
Suite 2
Clarkston, MI 48346
Mailing: PO Box 285
Clarkston, MI 48347
248.765.2808
nohlc.org

Nature Worth Preserving
Right in your backyard.



Thank You!

Friday, May 28, 2021

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

Dear Don,

We're grateful for your and Oakland Audubon's partnership with North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC). Each day, contributions like yours are hard at work preserving land for you and future generations.

By supporting the conservancy's ongoing needs, you make a lasting, positive difference in the headwaters region of the Clinton, Shiawassee, Huron, and Flint rivers. A difference that reaches all the way out to the Great Lakes.

From all of us here at NOHLC, we thank you for safeguarding the nature in your backyard which we like to call "nature worth preserving."

Yours for nature,

Sue Julian
Sue Julian
Executive Director


Alicia Arkwright
Alicia Arkwright
Development Director


DATE: May 25, 2021
GIFT TOTAL: \$100.00
CONSECUTIVE SUPPORT: 5 Years
DESIGNATION: 2021 Donation

GIFT RECEIPT
Gifts to North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. This receipt should be retained for tax purposes. No goods or services have been provided to you in exchange for this contribution.

However, due to the nature of a wetland this purpose was suboptimal. In partnership with MI DEQ, we developed a 5 year remediation plan to remove large amounts of debris and restore the land back to its to natural conditions.

2021 is the last year of our 5 year plan and we're happy to report native wildflowers like the Red Cardinal are flourishing and the trickling creek flows freely. But our work is ongoing.





Howell Nature Center
Heal. Grow. Be Wild!




May 28th, 2021

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

Dear Don and Members of the Oakland Audubon Society,

It is with sincere gratitude that we accept your donation of \$100.00 on May 21st, 2021, in support of our Annual Baby Shower Campaign.

This spring, baby wildlife along with other injured animals have been coming into the clinic at a record pace. Our wildlife technicians and volunteers are working tirelessly to feed and care for an array of animals including baby bunnies, opossums, squirrels, coyote pups, songbirds, owlets, fox kits, sandhill cranes, and many more. We are dealing with another year of higher than usual intakes of injured and orphaned wildlife coming through our doors and expect many more in the next five to ten weeks.

It is only through the generosity of our community that we can sustain our wildlife clinic's resources, including food, shelter, staff, supplies, rehabilitation facilities, as well as critical veterinarian care.

Thank you for your continued support and for sharing in our commitment to help give thousands of animals a second chance to heal and grow in the wild.

Together, we are truly making a difference!

John C. Carlson
John "JC" Carlson
Chief Executive Officer

Laura Butler
Laura Butler
Director of Wildlife & Education

*No goods/services were given for the donation - Tax ID: 4704324628

1005 Triangle Lake Road | Howell, MI 48843
(517) 546-0249 | howellnaturecenter.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Monthly membership meetings normally held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, May, July and August) at the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham are on hold. **OAS meetings and programs continue to be offered online via Zoom. Meetings open at 6:30 PM and talks begin at 7:00 PM.** Specific instructions and links will be posted on the “meetings” page on our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org and on OAS’s Facebook page prior to each meeting. Updates to the schedule will be posted on our website. Please contact a board member if you have questions.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., September 14	7:00 p.m.	Grow a Bird Feeder	Via Zoom
Tues., October 12	7:00 p.m.	Marsh Bird Monitoring in Michigan	Via Zoom
Tues., November 9	7:00 p.m.	Bird Names and Changes Currently Occurring	Via Zoom

Bird Quiz Answers for Fall 2021 Quiz on Page 22

This issue’s photo quiz : a) Orange-crowned Warbler, b) Tennessee Warbler, c) Connecticut Warbler.

Explanation: A not-so-easy set of birds to ID.

- a) The plain grayish head and whitish throat are the first clues, also the lack of wing bars and the two eye-arc (or split eye-ring). The yellow on the body varies, but you might also see a yellow undertail.
- b) Green above and yellow-green on the head, with a pale supercilium. The wing-bars are pale and narrow. White undertail is helpful along with yellow underparts. Small, sharp bill.
- c) Complete eye-ring and yellow undertail start the process, there is a faint hood, typically in brown, and a whitish or buffy throat. No wing bars, drab yellowish underbody parts, no loreal markings.

How did you do identifying these birds? Keep score throughout the year to see how you do!



OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Mobile: (____) _____

Email address: _____

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

Check also if you are a member of:

- ____ National Audubon Society
- ____ Michigan Audubon Society

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

Check if you have the skills to help:

- ____ Become a board member
- ____ Lead a field trip or present a program
- ____ Fill an open position (Position: _____)

Check appropriate line:

- ____ Member renewal
- ____ New member
- ____ Change of address

OAS Membership Fees

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

Our Mission

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

Please make checks payable to:

OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mail to:

OAS MEMBERSHIP

C/O JENIFER BENKE

2145 COLONY CLUB CT.

WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN 48322

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