



## BIRD ID QUIZ

Can you identify this bird in Larry Ludwicki's photo? Check your answer on page 12.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Conservation Symposium	1
President's Message	2
Chimney Swift Watch	3
Peregrine Falcons	4
Osprey Resurgence	5
Birdathon 2013	6
Feathered Tales	7
Birds in the Summer	8
Scientists Oppose SB-78	9
2013 Point Pelee Campout	9
Coalition Against Tar Sands	10
New Petition for Wolves	10
2013 Field Trip Schedule	11



# Flyway

a publication of the Detroit Audubon Society • [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org)

Fall 2013  
Volume 2013, Issue 3

## BIRDING TRICKS AND TREATS OCTOBER 26TH

**2013 Conservation Symposium • Saturday, October 26, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Southfield Civic Center**

Just before Halloween, the **Detroit and Oakland Audubon Societies** present **Birding Tricks and Treats**, our Conservation Symposium for all ages.

**Treats:** Accomplished, enthusiastic young birder **Brendan Leddy** will describe his growth as a birder and the Oakland Audubon Society's Young Birders Club. Detroit Audubon Society Scholarship winner **Daydeon Baron-Galbavi** will tell us about the Audubon teen birders summer camp on Hog Island, Maine.

**Flying Wild:** Mike Mansour, a Naturalist with the Hawk Woods Nature Center in Auburn Hills, will present Flying Wild—an acclaimed, interactive, youth-centric learning experience about bird migration.

**It's a Zoo!** Robert S. Webster, Curator of Birds at the Toledo Zoo, will discuss how zoo breeding programs and behavioral research help support bird conservation efforts. The Toledo Zoo is a recognized leader in this area.



**See live owls fly around the room!** Francie Krawcke, Leslie Science & Nature Center's Raptor Program Director, will explain how owls fly and hunt silently, while real live owls will demonstrate their skills for you.

**Skeletons:** Janet Hinshaw of the Zoology Museum at the University of Michigan, will show museum specimens and explain how they are prepared, preserved, and catalogued—and how they benefit avian research.

**Fancy costumes:** Birds don't dress up for Halloween, but they sure do for the breeding

season! Dr. Eldon Greij, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Hope College, will explain birds' colorful mating strategies.

**Cost:** Adults \$20.00; Children age 6-16 \$5.00; Children age 5 and under free. Lunch is available for an additional charge of \$7.50 per person.

Cosponsored by the Detroit and Oakland Audubon Societies. Further details about the 2013 Conservation Symposium program, including registration information, are available on the [Detroit Audubon Website](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).

We'll see you at the Symposium!

Owl photos courtesy of Leslie Science and Nature Center



## CHIMNEY SWIFT MONITORING PROJECT

Detroit Audubon is again soliciting information on Chimney Swift roosting sites in August and September. Do you know of any roosting sites used by flocks of Chimney Swifts? Perhaps you have seen them circling near a chimney shortly before dark. Please let us know the location and, if possible, estimate the number of birds entering the chimney. We need people to count the birds at these roosting locations on two weekends: **August 17-18** and **September 14-15**. Please send the information with your name and contact info to Emily Simon at [ejsimon333@gmail.com](mailto:ejsimon333@gmail.com). Thank you!



Chimney Swift.  
George L. Armistead photo

## CHIMNEY SWIFT WATCH AUGUST 30TH - JOIN US!

See article on on page 3.



# Flyway

A publication of the Detroit Audubon Society  
24433 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield, MI, 48033

Telephone: (248) 354-5804  
[www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org)

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

*Flyway* is published four times a year (one print issue, three digital issues) for 6,000+ local members of the National Audubon Society in Southeastern Michigan.

The opinions expressed by the authors and editors do not necessarily reflect the policy of the DAS.

Articles that appear in the *Flyway* may be reproduced freely as long as Detroit Audubon Society is credited.

Original articles, photos and artwork are welcome.  
Email to

[flyway\\_submissions@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:flyway_submissions@detroitaudubon.org)

Deadline for Winter 2013 Issue: Nov. 1st, 2013.

**Advertising rates:** Please contact the DAS office.

**Flyway Editor, Webmaster:** Tana Moore

**Flyway Editorial Advisor:** Emily Simon

**Office Manager:** Bev Stevenson



## NEED AN ID?

The [Audubon Online Guide to North American Birds](#) features over 800 species of birds in 22 Orders and 74 families. The guide covers all of North America's regular breeding birds—as well as nonbreeding species that visit North America, north of Mexico.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Hofer

I believe that my articles in the past two issues of the *Flyway* reflected my enthusiasm over the knowledge I've gained as a birder, and described a few of the wonderful experiences I've enjoyed by virtue of membership in the Detroit Audubon Society. In this issue, I will share some concerns.

Let's start with our Mission Statement:

**Our mission is to promote awareness and protection of the environment through education, research and advocacy. We support local activities to foster the preservation of birds and the clean air, water, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and other natural resources they depend upon.**

In order to accomplish our mission, Detroit Audubon Society must have adequate funding, volunteers, and leadership.

**FUNDING:** When I joined the Board of Directors, I was shocked at the size of the annual budget—around \$60,000. For an organization that boasts over 6,000 members, that is a very small number. Our planned spending is limited by our projected income. A substantial portion (about a third) of our income consists of donations. Unfortunately, **in 2012, LESS THAN 7% of our membership donated through our various fundraising vehicles** (Spring and Fall Appeals, Birdathon, Flyway, the Detroit Audubon Society website, etc.).

If you weren't able to help with the Spring Appeal, please consider making a generous donation now, [HERE](#).

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed for a variety of tasks, large and small. A list of volunteer opportunities on the Detroit Audubon Society website describes some of our volunteer projects and tasks. **Currently, only about 1% of our membership volunteers on behalf of Detroit Audubon Society.** If you are willing to devote a few hours on a project that appeals to you, I urge you to contact us at [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net), or me personally at [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org). I would like to compile a list of potential volunteers so that, when specific needs or opportunities arise, we can send out a "blind copy" e-mail to those people, describing the current need. No pressure; giving us your name and e-mail would not commit you to anything. If a project comes along for which you'd be willing to volunteer, then you would simply reply. We would love it if you would consider helping us out.

**LEADERSHIP:** Detroit Audubon is managed by a working Board of Directors, all volunteers. The Detroit Audubon Society By-Laws describe a Board consisting of 36 elected members. Our current Board membership stands at 13. Several of those members have served tirelessly on the Board and on various Board Committees literally for decades. Six of the 13 have served as president for two or more terms. Although four of the current Board members have been appointed within the past three years, we would welcome additional capable and conscientious individuals with fresh ideas and energy.

If you have an interest in shaping the future of Detroit Audubon and are willing to devote your time and talents toward that effort, please contact us at one of the e-mail addresses shown above. We will contact you and arrange a meeting. The DAS Board elections are held in the fall of the year.

In recent years, the Detroit Audubon Society has accomplished much good work, with limited resources. The list of achievements in furtherance of our Mission is impressive. Nevertheless, we could be doing even more, if additional resources were available.

Please help us in any way you are able.

Thank you.



## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT DETROIT AUDUBON

- **Designate Detroit Audubon as the Community Rewards recipient for your Kroger card. Kroger will donate up to \$300 per household per quarter.**
- **Shop at the Detroit Audubon bookstore. Members receive a 10% discount!**
- **Volunteer to help with field conservation projects, staff our table at conferences, help plan or host events, or assist in the office.**
- **Like Detroit Audubon on your Facebook page.**
- **Introduce a friend to birds and nature at a Detroit Audubon field trip or other event.**
- **Make a (tax deductible) donation.**

For more information about these opportunities to help make a difference with Detroit Audubon, please see the website at [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).



Eastern Phoebe.  
Roger Becker photo



## THE FLYWAY HAS GONE GREEN!

As announced previously, only one issue of the *Flyway* will be printed and mailed annually (in March).

For the other three online issues, we need all members' email addresses.

If you, or a member you know, missed an issue of the *Flyway*, please contact the DAS office at [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net) or (248) 354-5804 to provide us with the correct email address.

Rest assured that DAS will not share or sell your email address to any other person or organization.

## CHIMNEY SWIFT WATCH AUGUST 30TH IN ANN ARBOR

Join us on Friday, August 30th at 7:30 PM in Ann Arbor to observe what we expect will be hundreds of Chimney Swifts. The swifts circle, and then drop into, the historic Burns Park Elementary School chimney to roost for the night. The school, whose chimney has hosted flocks of swifts for decades, is one of the sites to be monitored by Detroit Audubon to learn more about the migration patterns of these unique birds. Chimney Swifts spend the winter in South America, and, like many other neotropical migrants, their numbers are declining.

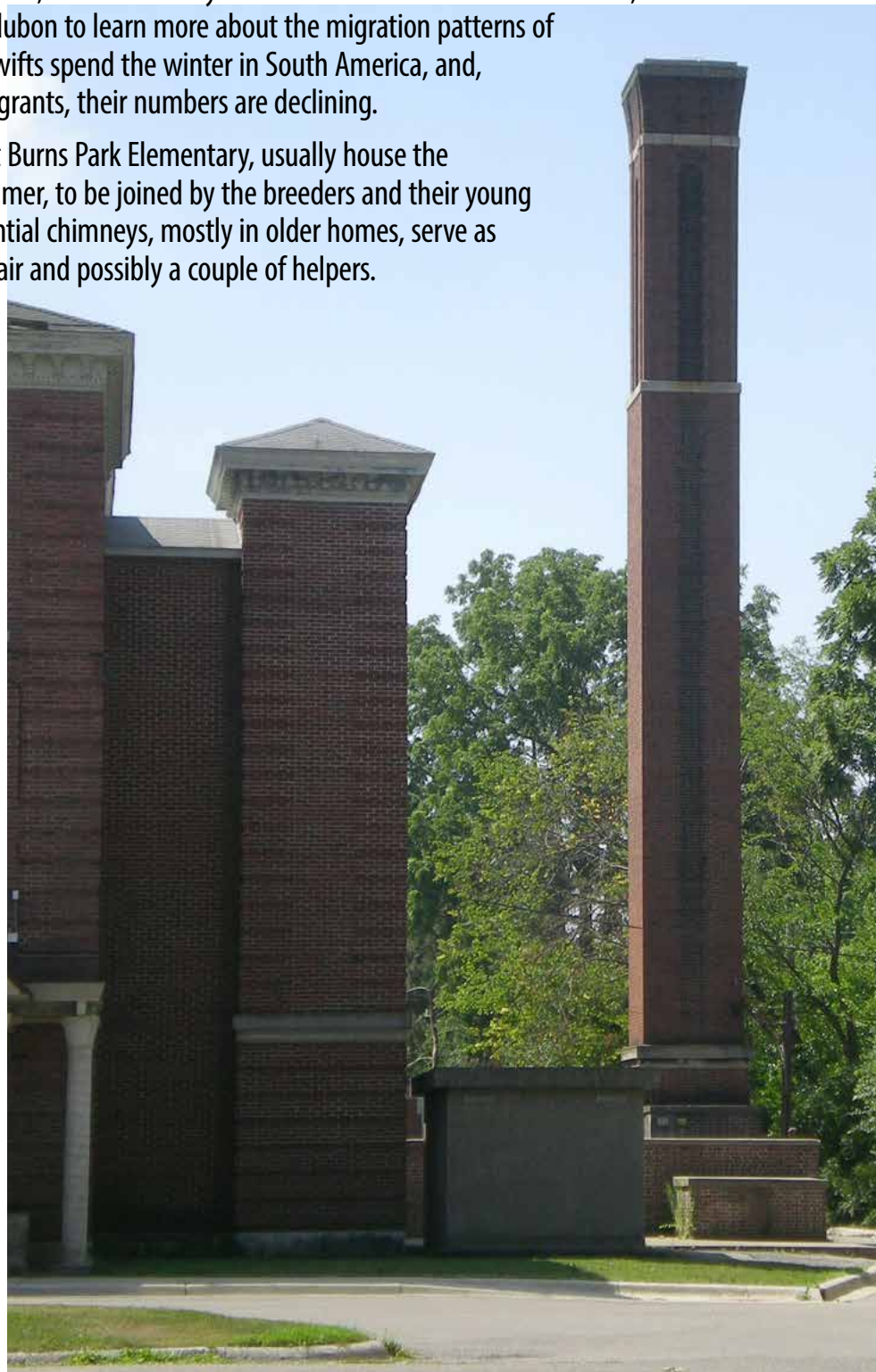
Large chimneys, like the one at Burns Park Elementary, usually house the nonbreeding birds in early summer, to be joined by the breeders and their young in late summer. Smaller residential chimneys, mostly in older homes, serve as breeding sites for one mated pair and possibly a couple of helpers.

In late summer, after the breeding season and before they head south, Chimney Swifts congregate in large flocks—sometimes hundreds of individuals—and roost together at night in their selected chimneys. In past years, the Burns chimney has hosted flocks numbering more than 1,000 individuals.

We'll gather to watch the spectacle of these birds as they prepare for migration right in our own suburban backyard. We hope to see you there!

For directions to the Burns Park Elementary School, see the Field Trip Schedule on page 11. For more information on Chimney Swifts at the Burns Park School, see our story in the Winter 2012-2013 *Flyway*.

Burns Park Elementary School chimney photo by Emily Simon.



For the Latest News and Views from Detroit Audubon  
be sure to visit our website frequently:  
[www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org)

## HELP WANTED!

Detroit Audubon is seeking volunteers to help publicize its events and activities:

- **Photographer(s)** to take pictures for the website and the Flyway at events, projects, and field trips throughout the year.
- **Writer(s)** to submit articles on Detroit Audubon initiatives, birds, birding, and the environment.
- **Email Marketer** - Person with experience using email marketing tools to help design and establish an email marketing program.

If you have a passion for birds and the environment and a desire to help out, please send an email to [publicity@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:publicity@detroitaudubon.org).



## DETROIT AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

The Detroit Audubon Society has a [Facebook page!](#)

Please "Like" the Detroit Audubon Page (NOT GROUP) to get reminders of field trips as well as notifications of volunteer opportunities, upcoming programs, and workshops.

Help spread the word about ways to support Detroit Audubon and its efforts to protect birds and the environment.



## PEREGRINE FALCONS NEST ON AMBASSADOR BRIDGE

*[Editor's note: For several years, a pair of Peregrine Falcons has made its home on the Canadian side of the Ambassador Bridge. A team of dedicated volunteers has monitored and documented the nesting activity of these remarkable parents, and banded their offspring. Detroit Audubon thanks Marilyn Weller of the Windsor Peregrine Falcon Watch for the following story and Larry Ludwicki for the accompanying photos.]*

Voltaire (right) on banding day, May 31. Upset that her nest was being approached, she made several passes at the persons in the lift. However, she was less aggressive than on last year's banding day.

Below: Gwenis, one of this year's chicks, shortly after she completed her very first flight on June 13. She had left the bridge in the early morning and returned in stages, arriving a little after 2 p.m. A very tired bird.



The nest was established by Freddie and Voltaire in 2008. The first offspring hatched in the spring of 2009, with one dying in the nest and the other disappearing while in the care of a local rehab facility. 2010 saw three successful fledglings: Bridget, Lancer and Windsor. All three survived with the assistance of the Windsor Peregrine Falcon Watch Team. In 2011, there were two chicks: Spitfire and Lady Gaga. Both fledged well, but unfortunately Lady Gaga was severely injured and had to be put down. Her body was preserved and is on display at the Ojibway Nature Centre in west Windsor.

2012 saw the busiest nest yet, with four chicks hatching. Viper, Twitter, General Brock and Eddy all survived. We received a report that General Brock was sighted on the Michigan side of Lake St. Clair late last fall.

This spring, Freddie and Voltaire produced another three chicks: Gwenis, Tecumseh and Hercules. All are doing very well, currently honing their flight and hunting skills.

Each year, the chicks are banded to ensure their protection and to help us track them. The public is

invited to see them up close, and the chicks are named at the banding. (Names are suggested by volunteers and other interested people.)

The volunteer Watch Team has been extremely important in the success of our nest. The Team is very active for about three weeks each year, starting just prior to the first fledge flights and continuing until all chicks are successfully flying, getting altitude, and staying out of harm's way. Volunteers take shifts from before dawn until sundown, watching and assisting in keeping the babies safe. Volunteers have blocked the roads when a chick came down, captured vulnerable fledglings in pet carriers, and released them on high rooftops at dusk. These volunteer efforts have definitely supported the successful launching of a good number of healthy Peregrines into the wild.

For more information on the Windsor Peregrines, see the Canadian Peregrine Foundation website at <http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca/>.



Above, Tecumseh resting on a power line during his second flight ever, just before returning to the bridge.

Below, Hercules first flew on June 5 and had to be rescued, and then again on June 6. Early in the morning on June 7, he was placed on the roof of a nearby building where he repeatedly walked back and forth exercising his wings. He did make it back to the bridge on his own, but only to a very low ledge where he spent the night.





## OSPREY RESURGENCE IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

by Jim Bull with Barb Jensen and Julie Oakes

For years Osprey were nearly absent from much of Michigan due to the effects of DDT and other pesticide use. DDT caused the eggshells to be so thin that they cracked when incubated, killing the embryos before they ever had a chance to develop. With DDT banned in the 1960s, by the late 1990s it was time to bring the Osprey back. The Osprey Reintroduction Program for Southeast Michigan ran from 1998-2002 at Kensington Metropark, and from 2003-07 at Stony Creek Metropark. There were two other sites in the Lower Peninsula as well.

Juveniles were “hacked”; i.e: thriving young Ospreys were taken from northern Michigan nests and brought to southern Michigan sites. They were put into an enclosure near a marsh or lake and fed for a time. Then the box was opened, and finally food was tapered off so that the birds had to find their own food. The hypothesis was that these birds would imprint on the area where they first left the “nest,” and would eventually return to that same area to nest. The box was left in place to give the birds a secure, known environment to return to as they explored.

The first successful Southeast Michigan Osprey nest was at Kensington in 2002. A male hacked from the Sault Ste. Marie area in 1999 returned with a mate of unknown origin to raise young within the park. He continued to raise young at Kensington until 2008, when he was presumed dead. He then reappeared in 2013 tending a nest with young on a water tower in Brighton. We have no idea how many young this 14-year-old patriarch has sired.

Nesting Osprey began to increase quickly throughout Southeast Michigan starting in 2004. Stony Creek Metropark has never had a nest inside the park, but for five years there has been one on a cell phone tower on Inwood Road just outside the park near the Nature Area. That nest has produced young for the past four years.

For several years there has been an Osprey nest in the Humphries Unit of Point Mouillee State Game Area. It is visible from the dike. Another nest was originally on a tower in a landfill just outside Point Mouillee SGA. With grants from American Tower Corporation and DTE, that nest was relocated within Point Mouillee. The adults continued to tend the nest, so all turned out well. FOX2's local news show covered the relocation. Barb Jensen of Osprey Watch

Osprey nest at Humphries Unit Point Mouillee. Photo courtesy Joe Robison, DNR Supervisory Biologist for Point Mouillee State Game Area.



Joe Robison with young Osprey.



of Southeast Michigan reports that most Southeast Michigan nests are on cell phone towers, and that the companies have been real champions of these birds. They post signs telling contractors not to work on those towers during the breeding season. Employees help monitor the nests and are very protective of them. Several employees have even volunteered to climb the towers and hand the chicks down to ornithologists for US Fish and Wildlife Service banding. Each band has a unique number that goes into a national database to allow tracking. This year three young birds were also fitted with satellite transmitters. Ornithologists can follow them, learn where they feed, spot any dangers that could be mitigated, and just learn more about these resurgent birds.

In 2011 Ospreys were seen on a cell phone tower on Jefferson near Vreeland Road, across from Humbug Marsh. Sticks were piled in several locations but no nest was formed. Last year (2012) there was a nest, but it is uncertain whether the pair produced any young. This year at least two chicks appeared. As of the third week of July they looked to be about five weeks old. Because of the location and the age of the chicks they won't be banded. The adult female is banded and may be an immigrant from Ohio! There are now 56 Osprey nests in Michigan's Lower Peninsula; about 40 of those in Southeastern Michigan. Most have been confirmed as active this year.

In the mid-1990s, I first canoed into Humbug Marsh with Blair McGowan of the Friends of the Detroit River. I have watched Osprey catching fish there, and thought how wonderful it would be when they would actually nest and raise their young there. For several years Bald Eagles have used a nest platform on Humbug Island. There was talk of installing Osprey platforms as well, but the Osprey did not wait for that to happen. Last year the Ospreys finally made it to Humbug, finding a tower that suited them just a few yards outside the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge's Humbug Marsh Unit. I'm sure their penthouse has a wonderful view of Humbug and the fishing area they have used in the past. Nice to know that now for them, Humbug is more than a place to visit. It is home.

For more information on Osprey in SE Michigan visit the Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan website at [www.owsem.org](http://www.owsem.org).



## CHANGES AT DETROIT AUDUBON

**W**ith regret, the Detroit Audubon Board of Directors accepted the resignation of board member **Beth O'Neal** this past May. Beth served as Treasurer from 2007 to 2008 and as Secretary since 2009. She helped coordinate numerous Detroit Audubon events, notably the memorable 2006 Annual Conservation Conference, which was held at the Detroit Zoo, where she is on staff. Beth also helped with fundraising.

The board thanks you, Beth, for your years of service and for all your hard work as an officer of Detroit Audubon over the years. We wish you well.

**Chris Fielding** has stepped down from his position as Detroit Audubon's Webmaster. Chris helped launch the current version of the Detroit Audubon website in 2005, after the board first contracted to have a basic template created. With little technical experience, Chris designed the homepage and worked to get the site and all its content formatted and online. He has managed the site ever since, keeping it organized, up to date, and working properly.

Chris has been actively involved with Detroit Audubon for over 20 years, serving on the board, on the Safe Passage and Sanctuary Committees, and managing birdseed sales.

Chris has handed website duties over to *Flyway* editor Tana Moore. The Detroit Audubon Board of Directors sincerely thanks Chris for all his work on the website for the past eight years. The board also thanks Tana for her willingness to take on this additional responsibility.



Forster's Tern. Bruce Szczechowski photo

A rare American White Pelican flyover at Pointe Mouillee. Bruce Szczechowski photo

## BIRDATHON 2013 – THE RESULTS ARE IN!

**T**he 2013 Detroit Audubon Birdathon fundraiser was another success. Teams of birdwatchers chose one day in May (at the height of spring migration season) to see how many different species of birds they could find in Southeast Michigan. Sponsors donate a flat or per-species amount. Birders could focus on a single spot or cover a wide area, as described below. Detroit Audubon welcomes birders with any level of birding experience, and will help anyone interested to connect with a Birdathon team. We hope to bird with you at next year's Birdathon!



Singing Indigo Bunting. Margaret Weber photo

**Eliza Howell Park, Detroit -  
May 11, 2013, 6:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Submitted by Leonard Weber**

This year my Birdathon outing was in one location only—Eliza Howell Park, near Fenkell and Telegraph in Detroit. We were a group of four: three of us locals from the area near the park and Daydeon Baron-Galbavi of Monroe, the Detroit Audubon Hog Island scholarship winner.

We saw 48 species that day, a tie for the most I have ever seen in the park in one day. I observe birds in the park regularly, and perhaps the most exciting part of the day was seeing 11 of these 48 species for the first time there this

*Continued next page*

## TIPS TO MAKE YOUR WINDOWS BIRD-SAFE

**M**ake no mistake—for birds, all buildings with windows are a potential hazard. To give one dramatic example, between 1978 and 2004, collisions into one Chicago high-rise killed 31,705 individual birds representing 141 species. However, it doesn't have to be a tall building to be hazardous. The windows in your house pose a threat—particularly if you feed wild birds.

Your windows may reflect the outdoors so well that the birds can't distinguish reflection from reality. Or, the window is so transparent that birds will attempt to fly into the space they see on the other side of the window, with tragic results.

Even if a bird appears only stunned and flies off, often it is injured and may succumb later to internal injuries or predation.

So, what can the conscientious homeowner do to reduce the risk?

- 1. Move feeders close to windows.** A bird setting off in flight from a feeder 1.5 feet or closer to your window simply will not achieve enough speed to hurt himself.
- 2. Move houseplants away from windows** so birds will not try to reach them for shelter.
- 3. Close curtains and blinds** so that birds see a solid image that cannot be traversed.
- 4. (Lazy Homeowner's Option):** Keep your windows so dirty that no bird would ever see them as transparent!

There are also films, nettings and screens to make your windows bird-safe. In the next *Flyway*, the Safe Passage Great Lakes Committee will review those products. (Join us! Call Rob at 248-549-6328.)



## FEATHERED TALES

by Bev Stevenson

**B**arbara Theaker has had Baltimore Orioles sipping nectar at her hummingbird feeder. (That's only fair—I've had a variety of birds sharing grape jelly at my oriole feeder.) Also, at our cottage in Manistee, I've witnessed a Downy Woodpecker feeding at OUR hummingbird feeder.

## PHOTOS AND STORIES WELCOME!

Do you have photos of birds at your backyard feeder or at local birding hotspots? Do you have an interesting story to share with other DAS members? If so, we invite you to submit bird photos and articles for the Flyway. Simply email your submissions to [flyway\\_submissions@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:flyway_submissions@detroitaudubon.org).

We look forward to hearing from you!



Carolina Wren.  
Roger Becker  
photo

### Birdathon 2013- continued

year. It's always great to see the spring arrivals. Our sightings included Wood Duck, five species of warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Blue-headed Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, and four species of sparrows. The fact that so many birds were found in this urban park is proof that you do not have to travel far from home to see great birds in the Detroit area!

We raised about \$600 for Detroit Audubon, and Daydeon raised additional funds to support his trip to Hog Island.

### Grosse Ile to Belle Isle and back – May 18, 2013, 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Team members: Jim Bull, Bruce Szczechowski, and Emily Simon**

We began the day playing Screech Owl tapes (with success!) on Grosse Ile. From there we traveled to Belle Isle (for terns and passerines), the Southgate Anderson High School Nature Study Area, and Pointe Mouillee SGA and environs (for shorebirds, herons, ducks, raptors, and grassland birds) before heading out to Oakwoods and Lower Huron Metroparks for field and woodland birds. We returned to Grosse Ile after dark, trying to coax out a Great Horned Owl.

By the end of our 17-hour day, we had totaled 114 species, which included 11 duck species, 10 shorebird, 13 warbler, and seven sparrow species. Highlight birds included a Northern Mockingbird along Jefferson in Riverview; Ruddy Turnstone, Willet, three White-faced Ibis, and eight flyover American White Pelicans at Pointe Mouillee; Bobolink and Peregrine Falcon at the antenna farm just outside Point Mouillee; and a flock of Sandhill Cranes overhead at Oakwoods Metropark.

Bruce, in addition to being a great birder, is also a wonderful photographer, and he took some [amazing pictures](#) of a number of the day's highlight birds. We raised about \$700.

### Lake St. Clair Metropark and Rouge River Bird Observatory, May 22, 2013

**Submitted by Jared Zaporski**

Our team of four birders chose May 22 for our Birdathon. Our first location was Lake St. Clair Metropark. I enjoy this park because of its habitat diversity. After recording 62 species, we drove to the Rouge River Bird Observatory for the rest of the afternoon. We saw 10 more species, making the day's total 72 species. A lifer for me was a singing Willow Flycatcher, but other favorites include Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Canada Warbler, and great views of Green Heron and Marsh Wren. It was a fun day, and I fully intend to do it again next year; but with a bigger total!

*[Editor's note: This is the third year Jared has done a Birdathon for Detroit Audubon, and we greatly appreciate it. Thank you!]*



Ruddy Turnstone at Pointe Mouillee .  
Bruce Szczechowski photo

## SAVE AMERICA'S POLLINATORS

**T**he American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is requesting people concerned about birds and wildlife to contact their U.S. House Representative and urge them to cosponsor and support H.R. 2692, the Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013, which was introduced by Detroit's own Rep. John Conyers on July 16.

This bill will direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to suspend registration for neonicotinoid insecticides, which are causing serious harm to birds, bees, and aquatic life.

According to ABC's website, passage of the bill would require EPA to suspend the registration of neonicotinoid insecticides pending thorough review and field study of the adverse effects on birds, bats, bees, and other beneficial insects. The bill would also require EPA to coordinate with the Department of the Interior in monitoring the long-term viability of native bees and other pollinators. You can weigh in. ABC's website has a [handy letter that you can personalize and send to your representative online](#).



## BIRDS IN THE SUMMER: SSSHHH—IT'S NESTING SEASON



Immature Canada Goose.  
Roger Becker photo

**A**mong birders, summer is often considered the “slowest” season for watching birds. The migrants have moved on through. The trees are in full leaf, making birds difficult to see. They are quiet, not wanting to broadcast the location of their nests, and are busy incubating, feeding and tending to young. Plumage fades or changes. However, summer is perhaps the most important time for most birds; it is, after all, breeding season. Detroit Audubon thanks the contributors of the many photos we have received over the past few months of nesting and immature birds, all taken from our area. Enjoy!



Osprey nest on Jefferson  
Avenue right across from  
Humbig Marsh. (See  
article on page 5.)  
Patrick VanDeHey photo



Baby Mourning Dove with egg.  
Curt Hofer photo



Immature Pied-bill Grebes.  
Roger Becker photo



Baby Killdeer. Roger Becker photo



Osprey nest at Kensington Metropark. Roger Becker photo



Roger Becker photo



## 2013 POINT PEELE CAMPOUT

by Lee Burton

**T**his year's annual Point Pelee spring migration campout May 16-19 brought the biggest turnout in years. Twenty people enjoyed beautiful weather and the good company of fellow campers during the four-day, three-night event. Combined tallies among the participants exceeded 160 species.

Among the highlights of this year's outing was the sighting of two Kirtland's Warblers. Almost everyone saw one or both of them. A second highlight was the evening at DeLaurier homestead area, watching the Woodcocks put on quite a show. Some of the Woodcocks, and a couple of Nighthawks as well, flew so close overhead that they were almost within reach.

Another evening activity was a stroll on the big boardwalk observing the Black Terns and other birds that kept the group company as the sun disappeared over the cattail marsh. The last evening found many members of the group on the nearby beach watching the sunset while enjoying various libations. Talk to any of the Detroit Audubon members who participated, and see the [album of photos](#) by Roger Becker, and you will know what a special time this was.

## 133 SCIENTISTS SIGN LETTER OPPOSING MICHIGAN'S ANTI-BIODIVERSITY BILL SB-78

by Jim Bull

**O**ne hundred and thirty-three scientists from all of the premier research universities and colleges around the state have signed a letter to Governor Snyder asking him to veto SB-78 should it reach his desk. That bill would prohibit the DNR from taking any management action to preserve or enhance the biodiversity of Michigan's forests and other wild lands.

Included in that number are my former professors from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources like Dr. James Crowfoot, former dean and professor emeritus; Dr. Bobby Low (who specializes in Wildlife Conservation Biology); Dr. Burton V. Barnes, professor emeritus and world renowned expert on Forest Ecology; Dr. Paul Yaffee, Professor of Natural Resource Policy; and Dr. James Diana, world fisheries expert. Signers include Dr. John Vucetich and Dr. Rolf Peterson, who have headed up the 50+ year study of Wolves, Moose, and vegetation of Isle Royale National Park; and Dr. Larry Nooden, botanist and professor emeritus in the U of M Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Science. (Dr. Nooden helped us with surveys of Humbug Marsh flora during our fight to save this Detroit River gem.)

SB 78 sponsor Senator Casperson (R, 38th District) says the legislation is intended to stop the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Living Legacies initiative, which would create a statewide network of Biological Stewardship Areas (BSAs) intended to protect Michigan's rich variety of animals and plants.

Casperson insists that BSAs would limit people's access to public land and curb economic benefits like logging and mining, in spite of legislation drafted by the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) to clarify that such activities can be allowed on BSAs. SB 78 not only prohibits the Living Legacies program, it changes the very definition of conservation with regard to biodiversity, removing key provisions regarding restoration, distribution and the "continued existence" of native species and communities. Furthermore, it eliminates biodiversity as a sanctioned duty of the DNR, and takes away most of the key tools biologists use to manage state lands in a manner that ensures they are well cared for and available to future generations.

Detroit Audubon, in collaboration with National and Michigan Audubon Societies, sent out alerts this spring to encourage our members to contact their State Senators and urge them to defeat this bill. Unfortunately the bill passed the State Senate and now awaits action in the State House of Representatives. Rep. Andrea Lafontaine, who chairs the House Natural Resources committee, had planned to hold a hearing on the bill this summer. That hearing was delayed until the legislature reconvenes after Labor Day.

According to MEC, when this happens the "environmental and conservation communities need to be ready to stand in opposition." During August your State Representative will be back in your district. That would be a great time to meet with him or her informally or in the district office to voice your views on this bill. Ideally, the bill will be defeated in the State House (or in committee). If not, you may be asked to contact Governor Snyder to join these 133 experts in calling for this bill to be vetoed.

For more information, check out the [Michigan Environmental Council website](#).

We should not hesitate to use scientific knowledge to manage and protect Michigan's natural heritage. Isn't that what "Pure Michigan" should be all about?



## MOURNING DOVES

**C**urt and Kathy Hofer returned home very late on May 12 from a four-day vacation, and Kathy went out to the front porch to check for a package. She and a Mourning Dove were equally (and audibly!) startled.

The female dove had built a nest in a tray feeder on their porch, in the few days that they'd been away. Curt captured these photos over the course of the next several weeks. The photo of the baby dove (with an unhatched egg) on May 31 (see page 8), expectant parents (above) on June 6, and the young dove (below) on June 8 — its first day out of the nest. The youngster hung around in shrubby ground cover near the nest, being fed by the adults, until June 11.







## NEW PETITION DRIVE TO PROTECT WOLVES

**A**fter 250,000 signatures were gathered to put wolf protection in Michigan on the November 2014 ballot, the Michigan legislature passed Public Act 21 as an end-run around this citizen initiative. PA 21 gives the unelected Natural Resources Commission (NRC) the authority to designate game species and set up hunting seasons. NRC decisions are final because, by law, commission decisions are not subject to referendum. Our certified petitions put the law making the wolf a game animal on hold until after a vote; but because of this new law, wolves will be hunted anyway.

The NRC has set a wolf hunt in the Upper Peninsula for November 15–December 31, 2013. The commission has just delayed selling the hunting permits because more planning is needed to handle the expected demand. The NRC expects to sell 1,200 permits for the chance to kill 43 Michigan wolves.

Hunting wolves does not solve any perceived problems. A provision of the existing law already allows citizens to kill wolves attacking pets or livestock. Hunting wolves may actually create problems; since trophy hunters target bigger, older wolves

*continued at right*

## DETROIT AUDUBON JOINS COALITION AGAINST TAR SANDS OIL

**D**etroit Audubon has joined D-CATS, the Detroit Coalition Against Tar Sands Oil. D-CATS is a collective of concerned individuals and organizations opposed to tar sands petroleum refinement.

Tar sands oil comes primarily from Alberta, but could be from all over Canada. To extract this heavy, toxic bitumen, vast expanses of the boreal forest are being destroyed, putting Woodland Caribou and other species, including many birds (such as our most colorful warblers) in serious jeopardy.

In terms of global climate change, tar sands are a double whammy. First, the extraction and burning produce more greenhouse gases than other fossil fuels, just when we should be reducing carbon emissions. In addition, cutting vast swaths of the boreal forest will weaken the earth's biggest carbon dioxide sink. As part of the largest intact ecosystem on the planet, the trees in northern Canada use vast quantities of carbon dioxide as they photosynthesize—one of our last defenses against rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

We have already exceeded 350 ppm of atmospheric carbon dioxide (which scientists say is the maximum level at which our present ecosystems can be sustained) so trying to extract every last drop of dirty fossil fuels is foolhardy. At the present 390 ppm, it is still possible to ratchet down from the brink of disaster. As environmentalist Bill McKibben says, "We can't stop global warming; it's here, but we can take action to prevent some of its worst effects." Retired NASA Scientist James Hansen, one of the first to raise the alarm about global warming, says that if we exploit the tar sands, "It is game over for climate change."

Michigan has already suffered the consequences of the rush to tap tar sands oil. In 2010, an Enbridge pipeline leaked tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River. In conventional crude oil spills, the oil floats and thus can be skimmed off. But when heavier, more viscous tar sands oil leaks, much of it sinks to the bottom, where it poisons the base of the food chain. The spill may never be truly cleaned up. Nevertheless, Enbridge is pushing to build another, bigger tar sands oil pipeline in Michigan. Marathon Oil's big expansion in the Delray area of Detroit primarily handles tar sands oil.

Pet coke (petroleum coke) is the residue left after tar sands oil is burned or refined. Pet coke produced at the Marathon refinery and sold to Koch Carbon was stored on the Detroit Riverfront in huge three-story piles that have attracted national attention. The piles—created without environmental assessment, city zoning clearances or permits—are a potential threat to groundwater and create dust that covers homes and businesses in southwest Detroit. D-CATS sponsored marches, rallies, and sit-ins to protest the pet coke piles. Recently Koch Carbon announced that it will move the pet coke out of state to an undisclosed location, at least temporarily.

On the national level, President Obama will decide whether to allow the controversial Keystone XL Pipeline to be built. This pipeline would carry tar sands oil from extraction in Alberta through the agricultural heart of the U.S. to refineries in the Midwest and Gulf Coast and ultimately to market—mostly on ships out of the Gulf of Mexico.

Detroit Audubon has gone on record as opposing use of tar sands oil. We urge our members to become informed and make their voices heard on the crucial issues surrounding tar sands oil production. For more information on tar sands oil, take a look at these videos and articles:

[Impact on Alberta's Boreal Forest:](#)

[The Meaning of 350 ppm:](#)

["From Motown to Coketown?" Metro Times, June 12, 2013](#)

["Controversial Piles of Pet Coke Heading out of Michigan for Now," Detroit Free Press, July 23, 2013](#)

## New Petition Drive continued

(usually the alpha male and female), the pack social structure is disrupted. Without the control exerted by these older, more powerful animals, adolescents are known to stray and get into trouble.

Ecologists like Dr. John Vucetich and Dr. Rolf Peterson, who have been studying wolves on Isle Royale for decades, have shown that predators like the wolf, despite popular beliefs, do not decimate game animal populations. Rather, it is the availability of prey species that exerts a strong influence on predator populations. Generally when more food is available, predator populations expand; when the prey populations decline, so do the predators.

There is no time to stop this year's hunt, but we can perhaps stop any future hunts. The Committee to Keep Wolves Protected will soon launch a petition drive to place on the ballot a referendum on Public Act 21. We will need your help once again. The good news is that we have a longer time to get these signatures, but we must give this as strong an effort as the first petition drive.

Our office will have petitions if you need them, or you can contact the coalition's Lansing office at 517-993-5201 or <http://Keepwolvesprotected.com>.

Detroit Audubon Board Member Jim Bull was one of the speakers at the press conference to formally launch this new drive at the Capitol building on August 12.





## DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2013 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

**D**etroit Audubon Society field trips offer fantastic year-round birding opportunities. We visit renowned hotspots in Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario during songbird, shorebird and raptor migration seasons. Other trips focus on the many interesting resident species in our area. All trips are free (although some parks have entrance fees), and everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders.

Please call the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 354-5804 by the Thursday before each field trip so that we'll know how many to expect and so we can contact you about any changes. Leave your name, address (helpful in hooking up folks for carpooling), number coming, phone number, and email address. If you are interested in carpooling or giving folks a ride, let us know.

### Point Pelee, Ontario August 24, 2013 (Saturday) 8 a.m.

**Leader:** Richard Quick

August may seem early for fall migration, but for warblers the end of August and the first few days of September are the peak time.

**Address:** 1118 Point Pelee Drive, Leamington, Ontario, Canada

**Directions:** Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow the signs for Highway #3 (aka Huron Church Road). Follow Highway #3 for approximately 35-45 minutes. There are two exits for Leamington. Take the second exit for Erie Street. Turn right onto Erie Street and travel through eight stoplights. At the ninth intersection (Erie St. and Seacliff Dr./County Road 20), turn left. Drive approximately 1/2 mile, and turn right at a large Point Pelee National Park sign. Follow Bevel Line for approximately 10 minutes to arrive at the front gates of the park. Entrance fee required: about \$8/person. Meet in the visitor center parking area. Remember to bring passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.

### Chimney Swifts – Burns Park Elementary School, Ann Arbor August 30, 2013 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.

**Leaders:** Leonard Weber and Emily Simon

Join us at dusk to observe what we expect will be hundreds of Chimney Swifts circling and dropping into the historic Burns Park Elementary School chimney to roost for the night. This is one of the sites being monitored by Detroit Audubon to learn more about the

migration patterns of these unique birds.

**Address:** 1414 Wells St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**Directions:** From I-94: From Exit 177, head north on State Street about 1.5 miles and turn right on Granger. Make a left on Olivia St. Turn right onto Wells St. From US 23: Take Exit 37, Washtenaw Ave West. Head west on Washtenaw for about 2 miles (bear right to avoid veering off on E. Stadium). Turn left on Fair Oaks Parkway. Make an immediate right on Norway, turn left on Ferdon Road, then make a right on Wells St.

### Lake St. Clair Metropark (formerly Metro Beach) September 8, 2013 (Sunday) 8 a.m.



Ruddy Duck.  
Hollingsworth,  
USFWS photo

**Leader:** Joanna Pease

We hope to see fall migrants aplenty, with summer temperatures still a reasonable expectation.

**Address:** 31300 Metropolitan Parkway, Harrison Twp. MI 48045.

**Directions:** Take I-94 east and exit on Metropolitan Parkway. Drive east into the park and park on the west

side of the main parking lot near the nature center. Meet at the center. Metropark entrance fee or sticker required.

### Lake Erie Metropark - Hawkfest (no bird hike) September 21 and 22, 2013 (Saturday and Sunday) all day: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your children and enjoy the many games, crafts, talks, demonstrations, displays, and live hawks and owls in and around the Marshlands Museum. Visit the Detroit Audubon display and bookstore, and the boat launch, where you can view the hawk migration and check the day's tally.

**Address:** 32481 W Jefferson Ave Brownstown Charter Township, MI 48173

**Directions:** Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn right on Jefferson, and drive south to the park entrance on your left. Metropark entrance fee or sticker required.



Red-tailed Hawk.  
Mark Bohn,  
USFWS photo

### Lake Erie Metropark October 12, 2013 (Saturday) 8 a.m. - noon

**Leader:** Jim Bull

This is a good time for fall migration of land and water birds, and raptors if the winds are right. We will traverse woodlands, boardwalks and observation platforms looking for warblers, other songbirds, and migrating water birds. We will also go down to the boat launch to observe the hawk migration. In some years, hawk numbers can be spectacular! We may also visit the Gibraltar Bay unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

**Address:** 32481 W Jefferson Ave Brownstown Charter Twp. MI 48173

**Directions:** Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, and turn right on Jefferson. The entrance to the metropark will be on your left. An annual park sticker or day pass is required to enter the park. Meet at the Marshlands Museum parking lot at the trailhead (toward the far end of the parking lot).

### Sandhill Crane migration at Haehnle Sanctuary October 20, 2013 (Sunday) 2:30 for hike or 4:30 p.m. to observe from hill only

**Leader:** Jim Bull

Join us for a hike through the autumn woods at 2:30. Stay to watch hundreds of Sandhill Cranes fly in to roost in the marsh for the night, as they have been doing since the Ice Age. Or, just join us on the hillside at 4:30 if you do not want to hike. Northern Harrier and a plethora of waterfowl are also possible. Dress warmly, as it can be cold. A blanket or lawn chair to sit on would come in handy.

**Address:** 9066 Seymour Rd, Pleasant Lake, MI 49272

**Directions:** Take I-94 west to Exit 147, Race Road, in eastern Jackson County. Go north two miles to Seymour road at a T-junction. Go west (left) to the entrance of Haehnle Sanctuary on the north side of the road. Park in the lot and walk east on the trail to the overlook.



Semipalmated Plover.  
Tim Bowman, USFWS photo

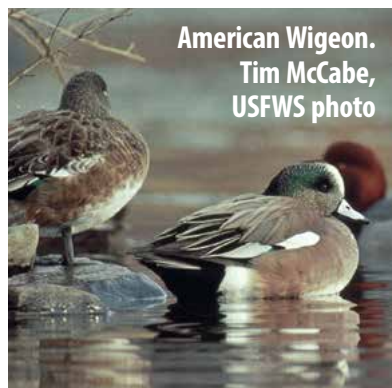
*Continued next page*



## DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2013 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

To confirm schedule and to participate in a trip, check <http://www.detroitaudubon.org> or call the DAS office at (248) 354-5804.

### Belle Isle, Detroit November 10, 2013 (Sunday) 9 a.m.



**Leaders:** Steve Santner and Fred Charbonneau

This gem of the Detroit park system is a fine birding location for viewing migrant and wintering waterfowl.

**Directions:** Take Jefferson Ave. to the Belle Isle Bridge. Cross over and drive to the east end of the island and park in the Belle Isle Nature Center/Zoo parking lot.

### Owl Prowl - Oakwoods Metropark November 15, 2013 (Friday) 7 p.m.

**Leaders:** Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull

We will call for owls and expect to hear them call back, and maybe call them in close where we can see them. This program is especially good for families with children.

**Address:** 32911 E Willow Rd, New Boston, MI 48164.

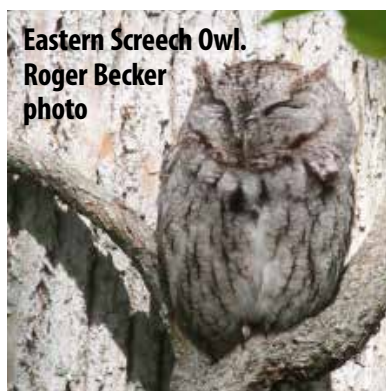
**Directions:** From I-75, exit at West Road and go west. From there go south on Telegraph (M-24), west on Van Horn (which becomes Huron River Drive), then west (left) on East Willow to the park entrance. Metropark entrance fee or sticker required. Meet at the nature center.

### Point Edward and Lake Huron Shore, Ontario November 23, 2013 (Saturday all day) 9 a.m.

**Leader:** Jim Bull

The focus will be on water birds and early winter arrivals. This trip historically turns up great birds. We will consolidate cars before we leave Sarnia, and drive up the Lake Huron shore from Point Edward to Pinery Provincial Park and Grand Bend, stopping at various choice birding spots, and at a restaurant for lunch. Highlights of past trips include Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, all three Scoters (Surf, White-winged, and Black), Red-throated Loon, Long-tailed Duck, Western Sandpiper, Little Gull, Snowy Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Redpolls.

**Address:** 1455 Venetian Blvd, Sarnia, ON N7T 7W7



**Directions:** Take I-94 east to Port Huron and take the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia. Meet at the Ontario tourist information center in Sarnia.

### Detroit Christmas Bird Count December 15, 2013 (Sunday)

**Coordinator:** Tim Nowiki

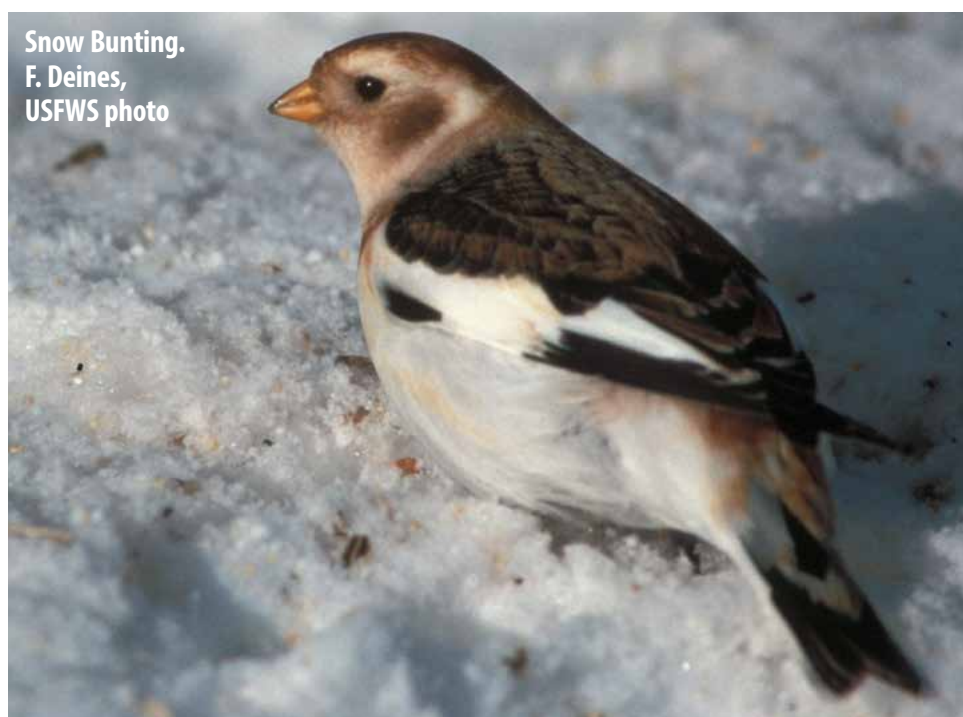
This is one of the oldest Christmas Bird Counts. Birders spend the entire day counting as many birds as possible in a 15-mile circle in northern Oakland County. The count is one of many conducted across North America; the data are used to study bird populations. Meet for pizza and count wrap-up at day's end. To participate, call Tim Nowiki at (734) 525-8630 or the DAS office at (248) 354-5804.

### Rockwood Christmas Bird Count December 21, 2013 (Saturday)

**Coordinator:** Jim Bull

**Public hike: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** Call Jim Bull at (313) 928-2950 to register for the morning hike. A chili lunch is provided. Donation appreciated.

**Christmas Bird Count: All day.** The DAS co-sponsors this annual count of the 15-mile circle that includes Grosse Ile, Lake Erie Metropark, Trenton, Rockwood, South Rockwood, Newport, and Oakwoods Metropark. A chili dinner will be provided. Donation appreciated. If you want to participate in the all-day count, contact count compiler Tom Carpenter at [tcarpen1980@yahoo.com](mailto:tcarpen1980@yahoo.com) or at (734) 728-8733.



## BIRD ID QUIZ

Larry Ludwicki's excellent picture, taken on one of the Detroit Audubon spring field trips, is of a male **Pine Warbler**. Pine Warblers breed in every county in Michigan and, as their name implies, they have a strong preference for pine trees when foraging and nesting.

The male Pine Warbler is characterized by a bright yellow chin, throat, breast and flanks. The breast and flanks show indistinct dark streaks. The back, crown, cheeks, and rump are olive green and are free of streaking. The wings are black and gray with two fairly distinct light gray wing bars. The female is similar to the male but with a "duller" yellow as a base.

In the breeding season male Pine Warblers may be confused with Yellow-throated Vireos. Yellow-throated Vireos have heavier bills, lack streaking on their breast and flanks, and have bluish-gray rumps.

In the fall, Pine Warblers may be confused with Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers. However, both Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers have streaking on their backs that Pine Warblers lack. Also, Pine Warblers are generally brighter yellow with a more distinct demarcation between the yellow and white underparts.

