



# Flyway

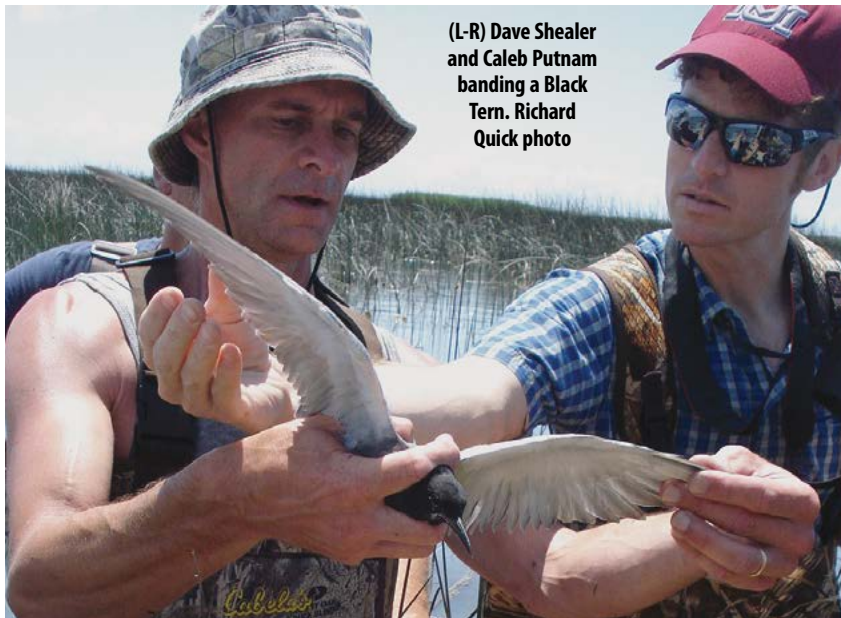
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Spring 2014  
Volume 2014, Issue 1

## FIRST-YEAR REPORT ON BLACK TERN PROJECT

by Richard Quick and Caleb Putnam

Detroit Audubon has been a major supporter of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program in Michigan. Since its beginning seven years ago, 102 IBAs have been identified. Michigan IBA coordinator Caleb Putnam has gathered data about the trigger species, including their approximate population level and the boundaries of the areas they inhabit. After a rigorous review process of the Michigan IBA technical committee, those species that deserve and need monitoring were confirmed, the IBAs established and, after further deliberation, accepted. The St. Clair Flats and Harsen's Island IBA is one of the most significant Important Bird Areas in Michigan, representing the world's largest freshwater delta and Michigan's largest remaining marsh tern colony. Black Terns and Forster's Terns nest on floating mats of dead vegetation and other debris in protected areas of larger emergent marshes, particularly those dominated by bulrush, cattail, and pond lily. Marsh tern populations have experienced drastic range-wide declines in recent decades, including in Michigan.



(L-R) Dave Shealer and Caleb Putnam banding a Black Tern. Richard Quick photo

In late 2012, a team was established to begin monitoring the Black Tern colony in the St. Clair mudflats, including MIDNR, FWS and Detroit Audubon, Detroit Zoo personnel and volunteers. The team explored the Harsen's Island SGA and began to look for likely breeding areas to be monitored. In a second meeting in April, the team went out on the mudflats to make specific plans for the sites.

*continued on page 6*

## DETROIT AUDUBON CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Detroit Audubon Society. A 75th Anniversary Dinner will be held on September 13, 2014, at the Detroit Yacht Club's Fountain Room on Belle Isle.

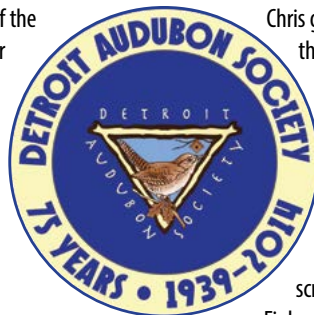
The event will begin with a reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program from 6:10 to 10:00 p.m.

Our featured speaker will be Chris Canfield, Vice President, Gulf Coast/Mississippi Flyway, for the National Audubon Society.

Space is limited, so mark September 13th on your calendar now and look for your invitation later this spring.

### About Chris Canfield:

Chris Canfield became the National Audubon Society's vice president for Gulf of Mexico conservation and restoration in September 2010.



Chris grew up in Louisiana and Alabama. Prior to accepting the national position, he was executive director of Audubon North Carolina, a National Audubon Society program he led for more than a decade.

Before coming to Audubon, Chris worked as a development and communications director at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as a U.S. Air Force officer in the Pentagon, and as a screenwriter in Hollywood, where he met his wife Kate Finlayson, an actress-turned-environmental educator. The pair are birders, and Chris is a trained bird bander.

Chris did his undergraduate work at Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama and graduate work at the University of Oxford in England, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

We are looking forward to celebrating this important milestone. Hope to see you there!



"Like" the Detroit Audubon Facebook page 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.



### LOOK IT UP!

National Audubon's 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 non-breeding species that regularly or occasionally visit North America, north of Mexico.

Just go to:

<http://birds.audubon.org/birdid>



The Detroit Audubon FLYWAY is made possible by the voluntary work of our members. We welcome your original articles, artwork and photos! Please email to the FLYWAY editor.

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Original articles, photos and artwork are welcome. Email to [flyway\\_submissions@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:flyway_submissions@detroitaudubon.org)

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## THE PRESIDENT'S BULLY PULPIT

by James N. (Jim) Bull

Nineteen-thirty-nine. What a year! It was the year of the New York's World's Fair. Color photography, air conditioning, Viewmaster, seedless watermelon, fluorescent lamps and nylon stockings were introduced. Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* was a best seller. "God Bless America" by Kate Smith, "Over the Rainbow" by Judy Garland, and "When the Saints Go Marching In" by Louis Armstrong were on the radio. Famed African-American singer Marion Anderson performed for 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial. *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz* were silver screen hits. The first transatlantic airline passenger service began and the National Baseball Hall of Fame opened in Cooperstown, NY. On a more sobering note, Nazi Germany attacked Poland, thus beginning World War II. Taking their first breaths were John Cleese, Marvin Gaye, Harry Reid, Judy Collins, Gordon Bok and Tina Turner. The Hewlett Packard Company began that year also.

In Detroit, Lily Tomlin was born. There were strikes at GM, Chrysler, and Briggs Manufacturing. Also in Detroit 75 years ago, Evelyn Kelly (Mrs. George A. Kelly), and Miss Grace Sharitt (later Mrs. Alymer Nelson) founded a new organization with the following "objects:"

*To provide for members, both indoors and afield, the opportunity to become acquainted with birds and other forms of wildlife, to understand their life histories and to appreciate their economic and aesthetic values;*

*To encourage and assist in the establishment and preservation of natural sanctuaries for birds and other wildlife forms, to encourage all other land management, farm and conservation programs that seek to preserve a balanced wildlife population;*

*To promote better understanding among members and the public generally of the balance of nature and of the tragic waste that almost invariably follows when the principle of balance is ignored;*

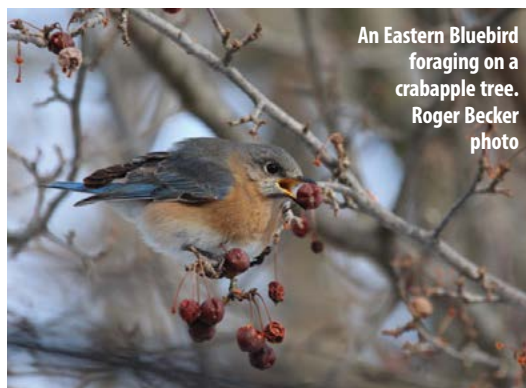
*To establish and encourage the establishment of nature centers where all phases of wildlife study, land management and conservation may be offered to members and the general public.*

*To encourage members and others in the use of the arts, science and literature, to record the intellectual values and beauty to be found in nature;*

*To encourage the conservation of all natural resources and to cooperate with other organizations having similar purposes;*

*To establish or encourage and assist in the establishment of groups, associations and institutions dedicated to nature study and nature recreation and to give particular support to such groups dealing with youth.*

"What organization was that?" you may ask. Why, it is the Detroit Audubon Society! This year we celebrate 75 years of dedication and hard work by many volunteers to fulfill the mission of those two visionary women.



An Eastern Bluebird foraging on a crabapple tree.  
Roger Becker photo

Since 1939 Detroit Audubon has introduced thousands of people to the wonders of birds and the natural world, and helped them understand ecology through field trips, an Annual Conservation Conference, Spring Campouts, a Junior Audubon Club, school and general public programs, and the Detroit Zoo's Detroit Audubon Nature Cabin (which was supervised by my father, Wilbur T. Bull). Before the advent of TV nature documentaries, Detroit Audubon also opened people's eyes to nature around the world through its Audubon Wildlife films at Rackham Auditorium. We promote citizen-science with our Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Oakland County, and the newer Rockwood Count in the Downriver area.

On the conservation/policy front, Detroit Audubon has helped preserve thousands of acres of habitat, including creating our St. Clair Woods Nature Sanctuary. We also helped save Point Rosa Marsh at Lake St. Clair

Metropark from development. In more recent years we were in the forefront of the fight to save Humbug Marsh and create the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Along with Michigan and Pontiac Audubon Societies, Detroit Audubon helped create the first Kirtland's Warbler Management Area in the Huron National Forest. We went to bat to keep Common Tern habitat on Belle Isle and, with the Sierra Club, fought the Detroit Incinerator for almost two decades. Along with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Michigan Federated Garden Clubs, Detroit Audubon was a key leader on the citizen-initiated "bottle bill," making Michigan one of the first states to establish a deposit on soft drink and beer containers. You may not know that we also spearheaded the campaign for certification of "dolphin-safe" tuna. A recent signature program is Safe Passage, which elicits pledges from high-rise building owners to shut off their lights at night during spring and fall to protect migratory birds. Another recent involvement is our partnership with National Audubon, Michigan Audubon, and the Kalamazoo Nature Center in Michigan's Important Bird Area (IBA) program, including a project to monitor and help the declining Black Tern population on Harsen's Island.

During this anniversary year I ask you to do two things: First, celebrate all we have done over these 75 years on September 13th at a gala banquet at the Detroit Yacht Club (see article on page 1). Second, dream with us about what more we can do and be during our next 75 years!

Although we have accomplished incredible things, we have only scratched the surface of our potential. With over 6,000 members we are one of the largest chapters of National Audubon, but we engage only a tiny fraction of that number in our programs and activities. We have a part-time office manager and a board with several vacancies. Our operating budget is about \$65,000/year. Seattle Audubon, which has about 1,000 fewer members, has a full-time staff of 12, several hundred volunteers, a nature center with a nature gift shop right in the middle of the city, and a \$2 million budget. That may not be our model, but it is vivid evidence that with our size membership much more is possible!

*continued next page*

## CAMP COLORADO SCHOLARSHIP A Wonderful Opportunity for a Young Birder—July 14-20, 2014

Again this year, Detroit Audubon Society is offering a scholarship opportunity to a young birder in Southeastern Michigan. This year's scholarship will be fully-paid tuition to attend Camp Colorado, based out of Estes Park, Colorado (bordering majestic Rocky Mountain National Park) from July 14-20, 2014, presented by the American Birding Association.

### The Program

Our scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to take his or her birding skills to the next level, meet other young people with similar interests, explore careers in birding and ornithology, and learn about the bird life and natural history of northern Colorado. White-tailed Ptarmigan, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, McCown's and Chestnut-collared longspurs, and Brown-Capped Rosy Finch, to name just a few species, will be target birds that campers will look for in the diverse ecosystems to be explored on fabulous field trips led by ABA staff and guest instructors. Terrific educational workshops will enhance the experience.

### Participants

The camp is open to young birders aged 13 to 18 (and is limited to 20 participants).

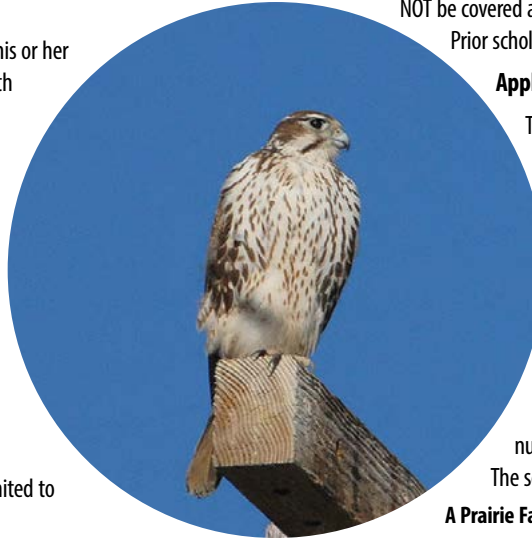
### The Scholarship

Detroit Audubon Society will cover the tuition costs, which include lodging, meals, field trips, classes, and transportation to and from Camp from Denver International Airport, for the selected individual. The cost of airfare to Denver (DEN) and back to Detroit (DTW) will NOT be covered and so will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient. Prior scholarship recipients will not be eligible for consideration.

### Applications

The [application form](#) is available for printout on the Detroit Audubon website, [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org). Detroit Audubon will be accepting applications through April 15, 2014. Applications should be submitted electronically to [scholarship@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:scholarship@detroitaudubon.org). The form requests a short written statement describing the applicant's current bird-related activities and skills, and a statement of his or her reasons for wanting to attend this program. In addition, the application form requests a statement of permission and support from the applicant's parent or guardian. A small number of finalists will be contacted for personal interviews. The scholarship winner will be selected by May 2, 2014.

**A Prairie Falcon, one of the local species. USFWS photo**



### PRESIDENT'S BULLY PULPIT continued

What are your dreams for Detroit Audubon Society? Think big. A good friend once said that if some people aren't telling you that you're crazy, your dreams are too small. What do you think the Detroit Audubon Society should look like in two years, five years, and 10 years? Email me at [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org) to let me know your dreams for this Society.

Let me tell you a couple of dreams of mine.

- 1. FILL ALL BOARD VACANCIES.** If you have time and interest, we could use your talents on our board of directors. Skill sets under-represented include financial management, law, and non-profit governance. We especially need board members who are connected to major donors and major funding sources in the Detroit Metropolitan area.
- 2. RE-ENERGIZED COMMITTEES** filled with mostly non-board members. Semi-autonomous committees are where the major work of an organization should be done. Here are some of the committees that could use your active involvement:

**FINANCE-** Have expertise in accounting, business, etc.? We could use your skills here.

**CONSERVATION-** This committee hasn't met for years. We could use a group of dedicated people who study environmental issues, recommend policy positions, and help lead the membership in taking action.

**EDUCATION-** This committee needs more members to more effectively reach school age children with nature education programs.

**PROGRAM-** At present we do not have a program committee or a regular membership program other than our Annual Conservation Conference. When I staff our booth at an event people often ask, "When are your meetings?" I'd love to be able to hand them a brochure about all our programs for the next year. Can you help make that happen?

**FUND RAISING-** If you've got expertise in this area, we could use your help!

**MARKETING AND PUBLICITY-** Our newsletter and Facebook page are improving; our website is being renovated. Maybe you have other ideas of how to better connect with our membership and with the general public.

Ecologists have long known the importance of the limiting factor—that factor essential for existence that is in the shortest supply. Even a little more of that factor can make a huge difference and growth can just take off. Are you a potential major donor who could help us kick off a major gifts campaign with a sizable donation? It just might be enough to give us a huge growth spurt.

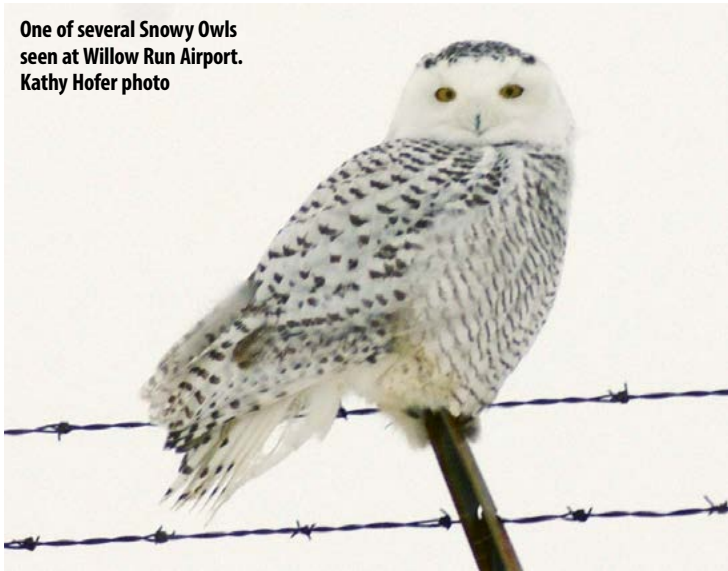
We just lost a giant of the environmental, peace, and social justice movements—Pete Seeger. I was privileged to spend a little time with him on three different occasions. He was the sparkplug that launched the Sloop *Clearwater*, which still sails the Hudson River, helping people imagine a river that is clean, fishable, and swimmable throughout all its reaches. The *Clearwater* helped win passage of the Clean Water Act. In addition to writing and performing his own songs, Pete often adapted songs written by others. One such song by David Mallett, "Garden Song," is pertinent to our situation:

*Inch by inch, row by row, Gonna make this garden grow  
Gonna mulch it deep and low, Gonna make it fertile ground  
Inch by Inch, row by row, Please bless these seeds I sow  
Please keep them safe below until the rains come tumblin' down.*

Join us in sowing some seeds in this garden known as Detroit Audubon Society. What can you contribute to make this organization more fertile ground? Please let me know what you can do, and bring your friends along too. This will be an exciting adventure. Don't sit on the sidelines—be part of it! And think how proud we all will be when the harvest comes.

## RETURN OF THE SNOWY OWLS

One of several Snowy Owls seen at Willow Run Airport. Kathy Hofer photo



**Question:** What is better than seeing a Snowy Owl in southeast Michigan?

**Answer:** Seeing three or even four of them at once in southeast Michigan, as birders have done this winter at such locations as Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti and Pointe Mouillee State Game Area in Monroe County.

When the owls began appearing in our region in late November 2013, it wasn't long before it became apparent that it was going to be another invasion year. The last major irruption was just the year before last, during the supermild winter of 2011-2012. That year several thousand Snowy Owls were seen all across the continent. Scientists hypothesized that populations of lemmings, their food source in the Arctic, spiked, causing a spectacular breeding season for the birds that forced many immature birds to have to roam southward in search of food.

This winter, record numbers of birds have been seen—mainly in the northeastern quadrant of North America, including the Great Lakes, New England, and eastern Canada. One source listed on e-bird, a blogger from Newfoundland, Canada, speculated that a population of Snowy Owls in Northern Quebec is responsible for producing this year's glut of wandering birds.

Many of these ghostly avian visitors have settled in at local airports, where they find the flat, grassy, treeless habitat similar to that of their native tundra. Numerous sightings have been reported from airports around the state, including Willow Run, Metro Airport, and the Gerald R. Ford Airport in Grand Rapids, as well as at airports in Ann Arbor, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Jackson, and Muskegon.

Their presence has presented a challenge for airport personnel charged with maintaining flight safety. Snowy Owls fly low to the ground and can pose a threat to aircraft as they land and take off. Airports such as JFK Airport in New York City came under fire for their policy of shooting the birds so as to prevent them from flying into plane engines. The public outcry against this practice caused the airport to change its policies and begin

### THE FLYWAY HAS GONE GREEN!

As announced previously, the Spring issue of the *Flyway* is printed and mailed each year. The other three issues are posted online only. To receive email notifications of electronic issues of the *Flyway*, please provide us with your email address by emailing the DAS office at [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net) or calling (248) 354-5804.

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

capturing and relocating the owls instead, as is routinely done at Boston's Logan Airport and many others.

Unique and impressive birds, Snowy Owls have a four- to five-foot wingspan, stand from 20 to 28 inches tall, and weigh from three to six pounds. Young male owls are dark barred and become whiter as they age, with some males becoming almost completely white adults. The females show darker markings throughout their lives. They are skillful daytime predators who will supplement their diets with small mammals, birds—including waterfowl—and even fish.

If you have been lucky enough to see a Snowy Owl this year (or in the past), please submit your sightings to eBird. Your data will help researchers analyze the dynamics of these poorly understood movements.

This year's amazing influx has enjoyed wide media coverage. For informative articles, see the Audubon Magazine website, [www.audubonmagazine.org](http://www.audubonmagazine.org), as well as ebird's wonderful in-depth story and sightings maps at [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org).

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: LOON LAKE IS ON AGAIN FOR 2014

We feel a bit like Chicken Little, the little hen that kept saying that the sky is falling, proclaiming that each of the last three years would likely be our last Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away at Loon Lake. But each time we were wrong. And we're wrong again. The Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center is to be sold, but it will stay open until a buyer appears. So please join us Memorial Day Weekend, Friday May 23-Monday May 26 as we add another year to our 30+ year tradition. Loon Lake is just north of Hale, MI, about a 3-hour drive from Detroit. On a high bluff above picturesque Loon Lake, the retreat center offers the best of Michigan's beautiful north woods. Late April to mid-May is THE best season of the year to see migrants in brilliant colors and full song. However, by coming north to "bird camp," we can see migration all over again.

Here your lullaby will be the eerie song of the Common Loon echoing around the lake, the hoots of Barred Owls, and frogs calling. Trillium, Yellow Ladyslippers, and Columbine greet you all along the trails. Red-headed Woodpeckers and Pileated Woodpeckers, Pine Warblers, Bald Eagle, and Phoebe nest nearby. You might spy a beaver swimming by, eagles diving for fish, or a mother loon carrying her brood on her back. On the marsh boardwalk we are likely to see Sora, Virginia Rail, and Swamp Sparrows.



Eastern Phoebe.  
Roger Becker photo



Common Loon family. Sharon Miller photo

You might want to try your skill at problem-solving and working in groups on the camp's challenge course (\$5 extra charge), enjoy the sunset overlooking the lake, or visit the Roberts Nature Center. We'll have a campfire, sing songs and feast on s'mores. We'll have a guest speaker one night, an owl prowling, and field trips. (We could use field trip leaders.) Enjoy hearty, delicious meals in the knotty-pine dining room, and meet some of the nicest people in the world.

Download the registration form at [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org) under PROGRAMS AND EVENTS/[Weekend Nature Getaway](#).

The whole weekend is family-friendly! Once you come, you'll want to make this an annual tradition too. Sign up and bring your friends and family!

## SPEND A DAY BIRDING FOR DETROIT AUDUBON! BIRDATHON 2014

You are invited to spend a day birding in support of Detroit Audubon! The 2014 Detroit Audubon Society Birdathon will be held from May 3 to May 26.

Enjoy a day in the field at the peak time of the spring migration, while raising money in support of Detroit Audubon Society's efforts to protect wild birds and their habitats, to promote nature experiences, and to provide educational scholarships for young birders.

As in previous years, individuals of all skill levels are invited to organize teams or to volunteer to participate on a team.

Each team is asked to select any date between May 3 and May 26 for their birding day and to choose any location(s) in southeast Michigan.

In advance of the birding date, all team members seek pledges from sponsors. Sponsors can pledge a set amount or per-species seen by the team. During Birdathon 2013, one team recorded 114 species. For those who like competition, that is the number to try to beat!

Team leaders are asked to register their teams by May 1.

To indicate a desire to participate or to register a team, please contact [dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org) or the Detroit Audubon office at 248-354-5804 or [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net).

### FEATHERED TALES

by *Bev Stevenson*

On November 30th, 2013, Janice Dryer was on her way to an MSU football game with her son when a Snowy Owl flew right down in front of their vehicle and landed on the edge of a field next to them on the Howell-Mason Rd. He just sat there, so they had a long look.

On December 23rd, 2013, Pat and Ray Coleman saw a Ring-necked Pheasant in a field near Michigan and Junction in Detroit. They saw it every day from then until January 9th, 2014.

On the afternoon of January 18th, Gary Barnes was surprised to spot a Bald Eagle soaring overhead at Woodward and 12 Mile Rd.

In early February 2014, Suzie Robinson of Holly, longtime Detroit Audubon Society board member, was thrilled to see a Pileated Woodpecker on a tree next to her backyard deck!



Canada Warbler.  
Ryan Hagerty,  
USFWS photo

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

**DEDICATE** a day of your May birding to Detroit Audubon by participating in the 2014 Birdathon (see article at left for info).

**SHOP** at the Detroit Audubon bookstore. Members receive a 10% discount!

**JOIN** one of our committees: Fundraising, Finance, Communications, Education, or Safe Passage Great Lakes.

**VOLUNTEER** to 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.

**DESIGNATE** Detroit Audubon as the Community Rewards recipient for your Kroger card. Kroger will donate up to \$300 per household per quarter. *(Please note: you must redesignate Detroit Audubon as your rewards recipient each year in April.)*

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

### SPRING CAMPOUT AT POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK, MAY 2-5

Calling all Detroit Audubon birders who love tent camping, and enjoy waking up to the spring migrants' morning chorus at Point Pelee National Park in Leamington, Ontario!

We have scheduled three nights, May 2-5, at the Group Campground in the park.

This campground, which is for tents ONLY, has flush toilets, tables, warm-water showers, a covered shelter, and a group campfire pit (wood provided).

The cost is \$18 per person, per night, two nights minimum.

Please make out your check to Michael Fitzpatrick, and mail to: 56 Hubbard St., Mount Clemens, MI 48043.

Please include names of all campers, nights desired, and your phone number. A confirmation will be returned.

Space is limited to 20 campers per night, so reserve your spot early!

### HELP SUPPORT THE DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY IN 2014

I'm enclosing or charging my tax deductible contribution of:  \$1000  \$500  \$100  \$50  \$20  OTHER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

To Charge, indicate:  VISA  MasterCard Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as Shown on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is  'in memory of'  'in honor of': \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form (your check payable to Detroit Audubon Society) to: Detroit Audubon Society, 24433 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield MI 48033-3935  
Thank you for your support!

## FIRST-YEAR REPORT ON BLACK TERN PROJECT *continued from page 1*

In addition to monitoring the reproduction of the colonies, a second goal was to study whether the use of artificial platforms might encourage nesting and breeding success. On May 3rd, 22 of the platforms were deployed in two distinct areas. (See the complete report for maps of monitored sites and platforms.) Volunteer Randall Kling began observations of the colonies, noting arrival of adults, nest construction, location (GPS), egg laying and incubation, and hatching. In addition to the Black Terns, Forster's Terns were also being observed.

By the end of June, the first chicks were beginning to hatch. Four of us in two boats set out to band as many tern chicks and adults as possible. We approached by boat, then waded to the nests already observed. The mudflats are one to four feet deep, with a foot of soft muck below; and wading through the bulrushes can be difficult. The fledged chicks tend to stay near their nests and cannot swim very well, and so are easily scooped up by hand. The chicks were taken back to the boats to be banded and returned as near as possible to where they were captured. When the active nests are approached, the adults protest by swooping and squawking loudly. The youngest chick banded was only a few hours old (still wet). That nest had another chick just beginning to pip, or peck the shell to hatch. Most of the chicks were 2-3 days old. Over 25 chicks were banded the first day and several



Black Tern nest with chick and eggs. Richard Quick photo



Black Tern chick. Richard Quick photo

more the next. Monitoring continued to the end of July.

Only one nest was observed on one of the platforms, but it contained no eggs. During the summer, some nests that were observed early disappeared later, probably due to wave action during storms and high winds. Predator activity was noted, but does not appear to be a significant factor affecting the St. Clair terns. On August 1st, the platforms were removed.

In summary, marsh terns nest at St. Clair Flats in larger numbers than previously recognized. The site supports as many as 400 pairs of Black Terns. The colonies are located in at least six distinct units, with breeding success apparently high (though more data are needed to confirm this perception). Marsh terns strongly prefer to nest on natural substrates, especially floating dead bulrush mats, often near artificial platforms with their raised PVC pipe perches. This site appears to be very important to the maintenance of marsh tern populations in Michigan, and merits additional work to fully grasp the breeding biology and conservation status of this species. We recommend continuing work on the flats for several more years, until a fuller grasp of the breeding success of these two species is in hand.

With the results of the first season in, planning for the next season will begin soon. Detroit Audubon is budgeting \$4000 - \$5000 at this time, the same as last year. Please read the full report by Caleb Putnam at [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).

## WIND TURBINE THREAT HALTED AT CAMP PERRY

Thanks to recent actions by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO), construction of a wind turbine at Camp Perry, an Ohio National Guard base located on Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline virtually next door to Magee Marsh, has been halted indefinitely.



Northern Shoveler. Kathy Hofer photo

This shoreline is considered to be one of the most important stopover habitats for migratory birds, including the critically endangered Kirtland's Warbler and Piping Plover, in the

Western Hemisphere. The area is also home to one of the largest concentrations of breeding Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states.

ABC circulated an online petition, and, with BSBO, threatened a lawsuit against the camp alleging violations of the Endangered Species Act and other federal laws. Conservation groups along with the Ohio DNR had expressed concerns about the project and cited numerous flaws in the camp's environmental impact assessment, which they felt was misleading.

"We are absolutely elated that the Air National Guard has halted this project, at least temporarily and possibly for good," said Kimberly Kaufman, Executive Director of BSBO, as quoted on ABC's website. "We certainly owe thanks to the thousands who voiced their opposition to the project via the petition." The petition will remain open to allow those who still want to sign on to do so. Visit the ABC website at <http://www.abcbirds.org> to sign and to learn more.

Detroit Audubon thanks all those who signed the online petition from our January email alert. If you would like to receive email action alerts on issues such as this, please email Bev Stevenson at [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net).

## HOW YOU COULD HELP MIGRATORY BIRDS

At our Safe Passage Great Lakes project, we are reaching out to managers of high-rise buildings (five stories or higher) and asking them to turn off their lights during the spring and fall migrations.

Anyone who might be willing to survey tall buildings between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. in the Dearborn, Birmingham, downriver or Southfield areas once each migratory season would be providing invaluable data for our effort.

For further information, call Rob at 248-549-6328.



Gray Wolf. Gary Kramer, USFWS photo

## WOLF HUNTING PETITIONS: KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SIGNING

Wolf hunting is again legal in Michigan. A new petition drive to protect Michigan wolves is being launched. However, a competing petition campaign, conducted by Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management, aims to solidify the Michigan NRC's right to name game animals in perpetuity. It will assure continued wolf hunts in Michigan. Be sure you know which petition you are signing. Read more at [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).

## DETROIT AUDUBON FUNDRAISING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013

Gifts to Detroit Audubon by members, friends and other fundraising activities totaled \$20,509 for the year. Sources include direct appeals to the membership, contributions from FLYWAY, website and general donations, Birdathon and workplace giving through Earthshare and the Combined Federal Campaign.

We have received 391 individual gifts, listed below by name and category.

Thanks to all who have given, and we hope you will be one of our donors this year.

### Up to \$25

William Ahrens  
Kathleen Aldrich  
Alec and Judy Allen  
Mary Anderson  
Wanda Antoszn  
Susan Awbrey  
Mary Bandyke  
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Catherine Barlow  
Margaret Beck  
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Florence Winowski  
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Rudy Ziehl

### Up to \$50

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James Hewins  
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Mary Joscelyn  
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Thomas Notebaert  
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Mathew Rybinski  
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Cynthia Taylor  
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Edgar Trowbridge Jr.  
Beth Venier  
Stewart Warren  
Frederick Welsh  
Katherine White  
Diane Winfrey  
Beverly Wolf  
Laura Woolley

### Up to \$100

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Roger Becker  
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Phillip Walton  
Jonathan Walton Jr.  
Francine Zick

### Up to \$200

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Jim Bull  
Patricia Dobosenski  
Henry Ford Hospital  
Joachim Janecke  
Kroger Rewards  
Frances Lewis  
Alice MacDermott  
Richard and Joy Marks  
Janet Myers  
Mark Pappas  
Martin Zaporski

### Up to \$500

Ruth Glancy  
Curt and Kathy Hofer  
Richard Quick  
Marcia Schwartz  
Emily Simon

### Up to \$1500

Cheryl Schwartz  
Leonard Weber

# THE 2013 DETROIT AND ROCKWOOD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS ARE IN

## Detroit Christmas Bird Count

by **Tim Nowicki**

Detroit Christmas Bird Count results are in and available on the Detroit Audubon website at [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).

December 15, 2013, proved to be a challenging day in the field for 32 volunteers who traversed northwest Oakland County counting birds. A heavy snowfall had occurred the day before and snow fell most of the day on Sunday. Roads were barely passable, visibility was poor, and snow depths made walking challenging. Bird activity was minimal, which resulted in a lower than average individual count—6882 (avg. 8,438). The number of species seen, however, was slightly above average—57 (avg. 54).

Throughout the 69 years of the formal (15-mile diameter circle mandate) Christmas Bird Count, hundreds of Detroit Audubon Society members have participated and helped contribute data from which trends can be determined.

Some participants have volunteered in an impressive number of Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Counts over the years:

Richard Jensen . . . . .	41	Dorothy McLeer . . . . .	23
Timothy Nowicki . . . . .	39	Bill Rapai . . . . .	21
Chris Hull . . . . .	33	Fred Kirm . . . . .	20
Dan Frohardt-Lane . . . . .	31	Chris Klimchalk . . . . .	20
Rich Crossland . . . . .	28	Bill Johnson . . . . .	19
Ken Mikols . . . . .	29	John Fedyk . . . . .	17
Robert Stewart . . . . .	27		

Below are some observations from count data collected over the last 69 years.

- The 18 Tundra Swans seen this year are the second highest count on record; the highest was 1987 (70).
- A single Mute Swan was seen in 1946; 14 were seen in 1971, none in 1972 and since then they have been seen every year.
- A Shoveler has been seen in only three previous years: 1982 (1), 1998 (2) and 1999 (2).
- The first Bald Eagle for the count was seen in 1988, and since then has been seen in five other years. This year's count of four is a record.
- Cooper's Hawks were seen 22 out of 26 years from 1946-1972. They have been seen in every count from 1973-2013.
- Red-tailed Hawks have been seen in every year of the count from a high of 77 to a low of 2.
- A Wilson's Snipe was last seen in 1980 (1). Prior to that, at least one bird was seen 8 out of 10 years from 1970-1980.
- The first Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen on the 1958 count and has been seen on all subsequent counts.
- Eastern Bluebirds from 1950-1995 averaged 19 birds per count, with only one year above 80 (1994). From 1996-2013 their numbers averaged 111, and only five years had counts below 80.
- 2013 is the second lowest count for House Sparrows. The lowest was 2007 (199). House Sparrows are still the most counted species of the count with a total of 92,392. Second is the Starling (68,167), third is the Mallard (50,369), fourth highest is the Tree Sparrow (44,688) and the fifth in line is the Black-capped Chickadee (38,296).

Detroit Audubon thanks longtime coordinator Tim Nowicki as well as the Drayton Plains Nature Center for hosting the wrap-up session at the end of the day.

## Rockwood Christmas Bird Count

by **Tom Carpenter, compiler**

Thanks to the volunteers who participated in the 40th Rockwood Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Given that it rained all day (a first for the count, I believe) the loyal volunteers' dedication is especially appreciated. Their efforts resulted in a count total of 78 species.

Undoubtedly the most interesting bird was a probable Western Sandpiper at Point Mouillee—a first for the count and pretty incredible, considering there were no other shorebirds. Having apparently been there since early December, it's amazing the bird survived the bitter cold and snow that preceded the count. Snowy Owls were also seen in record numbers, as were Bald Eagles and Northern Gadwalls. The last year we had Snowy Owls was 2001, when there were three. Canada Geese and Ruddy Ducks also were more numerous than usual, having the second highest counts. Other unusual species included Trumpeter Swan (8 past counts), Double-crested Cormorant

(6 past counts) and Savannah Sparrow (5 past counts). The two Savannah Sparrows tied with 1976 for a record high.

The number of Bald Eagles was particularly impressive, doubling the previous high. See a graph of their numbers for the 40 years of the count at [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org). Note that the Bald Eagle was not "regular" until 1988; before then, it was only occasionally counted. In the early years, a nest on the Ontario side of the circle constituted the only breeding pair. Numbers of eagles have risen noticeably in the past decade.

Many "expected" species were missed this year, including Ring-necked Pheasant and Belted Kingfisher (38 past counts), Cedar Waxwing (37 past counts), Red-breasted Nuthatch (36 past counts); and Winter Wren plus Purple Finch (30 past counts). Winter finches were no-shows; the prior cold weather must have pushed out many species that may have lingered under milder conditions.

Many species were less numerous than usual. We counted record low numbers of Common Goldeneye, American Crow, Northern Cardinal and House Sparrow. White-breasted Nuthatch tied with 1989 for a record low; American Kestrels and Rock Pigeon had the second lowest totals (5 in 2000 and 82 in 1974, respectively); and House Finch numbers were the lowest since 1984 (note that the first House Finches were counted in 1983).

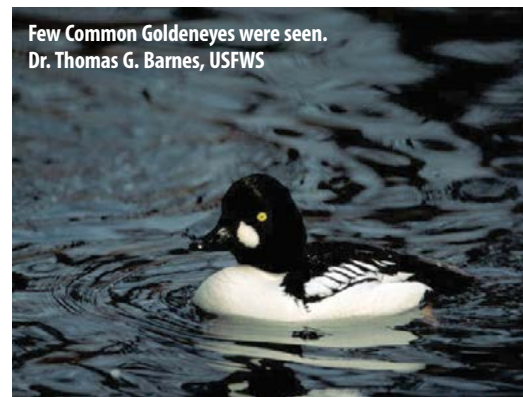
Many of the lows may not represent true declines. They are probably the result of poor weather on the day of the count, plus fewer feeder watchers and participants than in years past. The low number of Goldeneyes was surprising, however, as cold weather usually increases their numbers.

Special thanks to Paul Cypher for providing use of the museum and for compiling the feeder reports. We need more feeder watchers; if you know of anyone who has a feeder inside the circle who might be able to provide a count, please give Paul their contact information. Jim Bull of Detroit Audubon also provided the chili at lunchtime (and for supper, had the weather allowed people to stay for the tally). The 41st count will be on Saturday, December 27, 2014. Please mark your calendars and pass the word on to anyone you know who may be interested in helping. See you next year.

For complete results of the 40th Rockwood Christmas bird count, please go to [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).



Cooper's Hawk.  
Cynthia Sims photo



Few Common Goldeneyes were seen.  
Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, USFWS



## DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2014 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

*Detroit Audubon Society field trips offer fantastic year-round birding opportunities. We visit renowned regional hotspots during migration seasons. Other trips focus on the many interesting resident species. All trips are free (although some parks have entrance fees). Everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders. NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Please contact the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 354-5804 or email the trip leader by 5:00 PM on Friday before each trip so we'll know how many to expect and can notify you of any changes. Leave your name, address, number coming, phone number, and email address. If you can carpool or give rides, let us know. See <http://www.metroparks.com/ParkMaps> for park maps.*

### Woodcock Watch—Oakwoods Metropark

April 4, 2014 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.

Leaders: Park Naturalist and Jim Bull [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*Right at dusk, this sandpiper with a long beak and huge comical eyes does its spectacular aerial courtship display in open areas. This program is great for families with children.*

**Directions:** From I-75, exit at West Road and go west to Telegraph (M-24). Turn left on Telegraph, right (west) on Van Horn (which becomes Huron River Drive), then left on Willow Road to Oakwoods Metropark (32901 Willow Road, New Boston) on the left. Meet at the Nature Center. Annual Metropark sticker or daily pass required.

### Frog Symphony, West Bloomfield Nature Preserve

April 11, 2014 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.

Leaders: Sally Petrella (Friends of the Rouge), a West Bloomfield Naturalist and Jim Bull [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*Join us for an evening of listening to, and searching for, frogs. We often see salamanders, Wood Ducks, herons and owls. Co-sponsored by Detroit Audubon Society and Friends of the Rouge, this program is especially good for children.*

**Directions:** From Telegraph Road, go west on Long Lake Road to where it dead-ends at Orchard Lake. Turn left. At the next traffic light turn right onto Pontiac Trail and look for the sign "West Bloomfield Nature Preserve" at Arrowhead Road. Follow signs to parking lot.

### Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area (Oregon, OH)

April 19, 2014 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Richard Quick [dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org)

*We will get the early spring migrants without the crowds at this famous birding locale.*

**Directions:** Take I-75 to Toledo; go south on I-280 to Highway 2. Follow Hwy 2 east about 18 miles and turn north at the Magee Marsh entrance. Follow signs to the preserve parking lot. Drive to the west end of the beach parking lot at the beginning of Bird Trail.

### Point Pelee, Ontario

April 26, 2014 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Richard Quick [dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org)

*Pelee in the spring! It does not get better for a birder. This year we'll go for the heavy spring migration. There is plenty to see, including shorebirds in Hillman Marsh north of the park.*

**Directions:** Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rte. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Point Pelee National Park (entrance fee required: about \$8). Meet in the Visitor Center parking area. Bring passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.

### Wetzel State Recreation Area, Macomb County

May 3, 2014 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Curt and Kathy Hofer [curthofer@earthlink.net](mailto:curthofer@earthlink.net)

*This trip offers a nice mix of habitat. Breeding birds include: Sedge and Marsh Wrens, Harriers, Forster's and Caspian Terns, Clay-colored, Savannah, Song and Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-winged Warbler, and Willow Flycatchers, Ruddy Ducks, Redheads and Pied-billed Grebes. This 4-hour trip will require walking 3 to 4 miles. Be prepared for wet trails.*

**Directions:** Take I-94 east to Exit 247 (M-19/New Haven Rd.). Take M-19 north to 27 Mile Rd. Go west on 27 Mile past Werderman Rd. Meet in parking lot at the end of 27 Mile Rd.

### Lake St. Clair Metropark (formerly Metro Beach)

May 4, 2014 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Cathy Carroll [dasfieldcc@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldcc@detroitaudubon.org)

*This Metropark is a justly famous migrant trap. A good list of warblers, as well as many other*

*nesting and migrant birds, will be seen.*

**Directions:** Take I-94 east and exit on Metropolitan Parkway. Drive east into the park (entrance fee) and park on west side of the main parking lot. Meet at the Nature Center.

### Suburban Park Hop

May 7, 2014 (Wednesday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Richard Quick [dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org)

*This is a chance to explore close to home, with the prospect of interesting birds in unlikely locations. We will visit parks in Southfield, Farmington Hills and Commerce Township.*

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot of Carpenter Lake Park on 10 Mile Road about a quarter mile east of Inkster Road, Southfield.

### Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

May 18, 2014 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Leader: Jim Bull [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*See this natural gem of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in spring.*

**Directions:** Take Grosse Ile Parkway across the bridge (just north of Van Horn Road and Jefferson). Go right on Meridian Road until it ends. Turn left on Groh Road, then right on East River Road. The entrance is about 1.5 miles down on the right past the airport at 28820 East River Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48183. Meet in the parking lot.

### Detroit Audubon Memorial Weekend Nature Get-Away

May 23-26, 2014 (Friday through Monday)

Coordinator: Jim Bull [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*Don't miss this weekend with wonderful people and fine birds at the Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, and areas nearby like the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area and Tawas Point. See Flyway article, and watch the website and Facebook for registration information.*

### Eliza Howell Park

June 7, 2014 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Leonard Weber [dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org)

*Join us on this trip to see over 30 species of songbirds in Eliza Howell Park at the peak of their breeding season. We will look for nests of orioles, Eastern Bluebirds, Barn Swallows, and others. We can expect to watch birds feeding their young.*

**Directions:** Eliza Howell Park is on Fenkell (Five Mile Road) in Detroit, about one block east of Telegraph Rd. Enter the park and drive about ½ mile around the loop. Park near the nature trail.

### Breeding Birds at Kensington Metropark (NEW)

June 8, 2014 (Sunday) 8 a.m.

Leaders: Curt and Kathy Hofer [curthofer@earthlink.net](mailto:curthofer@earthlink.net)

*This is the first Detroit Audubon field trip to the 4500-acre Kensington Metropark in years. The park is known for the Great Blue Heron Rookery, roaming Sandhill Cranes, and nesting Ospreys. Other likely species are Acadian Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Hooded Warbler, and all of our local swallows. Also seen occasionally are Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Henslow's Sparrows. Trails can be soggy, so wear appropriate footwear.*

**Directions:** Take I-96 west toward Lansing to Exit 151 for Kensington Road. Proceed across Kensington Road into the Metropark on Highridge Drive. Follow Highridge Drive to the Nature Center, about 1/2 mile past the tollbooth. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Metroparks require a fee for entry.

### Oak Openings Metropark, Toledo (NEW)

June 21, 2014 (Saturday) 8 a.m.

Leader: Jim Bull [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*Famous for its rare oak savannas and prairies, this Toledo area Metropark is a mecca for specialty breeding birds. Often seen here are Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, and Henslow's Sparrow. This is the first Detroit Audubon Society trip here in several years.*

**Directions:** From I-75, merge onto I-475 W (Exit 204) toward US-23/Maumee/Ann Arbor, then left onto US-23 S/I-475 S toward Maumee/Dayton. Merge onto Airport Hwy/OH-2 W (Exit 8B) toward Airport/Swanton. Turn left onto Girdham Rd., look for Buehner Nature Center on the left at 4139 Girdham Rd, Swanton, OH. Meet in parking lot.

**Pointe Mouillee\*\* Reservations Required****August 10, 2014 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.****Leader: Jim Fowler** [dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org)

*This is one of the premier shore birding areas in the interior of the continent when water levels are favorable. We will caravan into the dikes, with ride sharing required. Only four vehicles can enter, so we can only accept 20-25 people. Call in by Thursday, August 7th, to have a spot.*

**Directions:** Take I-75 to Exit 26 and drive east on south Huron Rd. to U.S. Turnpike. Turn south and look for Sigler Road. Turn east and drive to the parking lot at the end.

**Point Pelee, Ontario****August 23, 2014 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.****Leader: Leonard Weber** [dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org)

*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. Those with time are encouraged to check Hillman Marsh for waterfowl, and we may stop at Ojibway Park in Windsor as well.*

**Directions:** Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rte. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Point Pelee National Park (entrance fee required: about \$8). Meet in 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 29, 2014 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.****Leaders: Leonard Weber** [dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org) 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. Go 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****September 7, 2014 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.****Leader: TBA**

*We hope to see fall migrants aplenty in summerlike temperatures.*

**Directions:** Take I-94 east and exit on Metropolitan Parkway. Drive east into the park to the west side of the main parking lot near the Nature Center, where we will meet. Metropark entrance fee or sticker required.

**Lake Erie Metropark – Hawkfest (no bird hike)****September 20-21 (Saturday-Sunday) all day: 10 am to 4 pm.**

*Bring your children to enjoy the many games, crafts, talks, demonstrations, displays and live hawks and owls at Hawkfest in and around the Marshlands Museum. Be sure to visit the Detroit Audubon display and bookstore as well as other vendors, and get down to the boat launch to view the hawk migration and look at the day's tally.*

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

**Lake Erie Metropark (Gibraltar, MI)****October 11, 2014 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.****Leader: Jim Bull** [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*This is a good time for fall migration of land birds and raptors. We will traverse woodlands, boardwalks and observation platforms looking for warblers, other songbirds and migrating water birds.*

**Directions:** See Sept. 20-21.

**Sandhill Crane Migration Stopover at Haehnle Sanctuary****October 19, 2014 (Sunday): 3:00 for hike or 5:00 p.m. to observe from hill only.****Leader: Jim Bull** [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*Join us for a hike through the autumn woods at 3:00. Stay to watch hundreds of Sandhill Cranes fly in to roost in the marsh for the night as they have done since the Ice Age. Northern Harrier and a plethora of waterfowl are also possible. Or, just join us on the hillside at 5:00 if you do not want to hike. Dress warmly. A blanket or lawn chair to sit on would come in handy.*

**Directions:** Take I-94 west to 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.

**Point Edward and Lake Huron Shore, Ontario****November 8, 2014 (Saturday) All day starting at 8:30 a.m.****Leader: Jim Bull** [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

*The focus is on water birds and early winter arrivals. This all-day trip historically turns up great birds. We will stop at a restaurant for lunch.*

**Directions:** Take I-94 east to Port Huron and cross the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia. Take ON-402 E to the Front Street exit toward Point Edward/Sarnia Downtown. Keep right at the fork, and merge onto Venetian Boulevard W. Meet at the Ontario Travel Information Centre (1455 Venetian Blvd.) on your right.

**Belle Isle, Detroit****November 9, 2014 (Sunday) 9:00 a.m.****Leaders: Steve Santner and Richard Quick** [dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org)

*This Detroit gem (now a State Park) is a fine birding location for viewing migrant and wintering waterfowl.*

**Directions:** Take Jefferson to the Belle Isle Bridge. Cross over and drive around the northeast end of the island and park in the Nature Center parking lot. State Park pass or entry fee required.

**Owl Prowl—Oakwoods Metropark****November 14, 2014 (Friday) 7:00 p.m.****Leaders: Metropark Naturalist and Jim Bull** [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org)

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

**Directions:** From I-75, exit at West Road and go west to Telegraph (M-24). Turn left on Telegraph, right (west) on Van Horn (which becomes Huron River Drive), then left on Willow Road. Oakwoods Metropark (32901 Willow Road) is on the left. Meet at the Nature Center. Annual Metropark sticker or daily pass required.

**Ontario and Niagara River Trip\*\* Reservations Required****December 5 to 7, 2014 (Friday thru Sunday)****Leader: Karl Overman**

*The Niagara region is the place to be in the late fall in the Great Lakes region, with exciting birding and renowned scenery. Trips in recent years have turned up Great Cormorant, Gannet, King Eider, Purple Sandpiper, California Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Kittiwake, Little Gull, Mew Gull, Snowy Owl, Hawk Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.*

**Departure** from Farmington Hills at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5th; return Sunday, Dec. 7th at approximately 9 pm. Contact Karl Overman at (248) 473-0484 for directions.

**Cost per person:** \$380/double room or \$480/single includes all transportation and two nights lodging. Meals not included. \$75 deposit required, due by Dec. 1st.

**Detroit Christmas Bird Count\*\* Reservations Required****December 14, 2014 (Sunday)**

*This is one of the oldest Christmas Bird Counts in North America. Birders spend the entire day covering a 15-mile diameter circle in northern Oakland County to count as many birds as possible. Meet for pizza and count wrap-up at day's end. To participate, contact Tim Nowicki at (734) 525-8630 or [tnowick@gmail.com](mailto:tnowick@gmail.com) or the DAS office at (248) 354-5804.*

**Rockwood Christmas Bird Count\*\* Reservations Required****December 27, 2014 (Saturday)**

*The Detroit Audubon Society co-sponsors this annual count of the 15-mile diameter circle, including Grosse Ile, Lake Erie Metropark, Trenton, Rockwood, South Rockwood, Newport and Oakwoods Metropark. A chili lunch and dinner will be provided.*

**Public hike: 9:00 to 11:00 AM.** Contact Jim Bull at (313) 928-2950 or

[daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org) to register for the morning hike.

**Feeder Count:** If you live in the count area (see above) and have a bird feeder, you can count birds right from the comfort of your own home (the best way for many songbirds). If you can help with the feeder count, email Jim Bull at [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org).

**All day Rockwood Christmas Bird Count:** If you are an experienced birder, many routes need more coverage (some are not covered at all). To participate in the all-day count, contact compiler Tom Carpenter at [tcarken1980@yahoo.com](mailto:tcarken1980@yahoo.com) or at (734) 728-8733.

## DETROIT AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION: CLASS OF 2016 CANDIDATES

The Board of Directors of the Detroit Audubon Society is made up of three classes of up to eight directors each.  
A director serves a term of three years, and each year an election is held for one of the three classes.  
Any paid-up member of the Society is eligible to submit his or her name to be elected or to be appointed (if a vacancy occurs).

All members of the Detroit Audubon Society are eligible to vote. Please submit your vote by April 30, 2014.

Thank you. The entire list of current Board members is on page 2 of this issue  
and on the Detroit Audubon Society website, [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).

The following members are seeking election for the class of 2016:

**Richard Quick:** I have been a member of Detroit Audubon since 1968 and have served on the Board of Directors for most years since 1970. I have served as the Vice President and President several times, and I have been Treasurer since 2006. I am co-chair of the Field Trips Committee and the board representative to the IBA/Black Tern Project.

**Joan Seymour:** I have been a DAS Board member for 22 years. A major concern is loss of natural habitats. I spearheaded successful regional effort to save wetlands in the path of the I-696 freeway; I led successful communitywide efforts in the city of Southfield to enact strong wetlands and woodlands protection laws; and I have been a member of the Southfield City Council for 16 years. I have also been active with Detroit Audubon's Safe Passage Great Lakes Committee.

**Gisela Lendle-King:** A lifelong love of birds leads me to the Detroit Audubon Society, and I have been a board member for quite a few years. My interests and goals are to further protect birds by working to protect the habitat needed for the different species to thrive. Northern Oakland County, where I reside, has amazing "wild lands" and large wetlands remaining and is home to a number of bird species that are in decline or are making a recovery such as Sandhill Cranes, owls, and raptors. Eagles have been sighted recently near one of the many lakes of the area. This is remarkable in a site at the edge of the city of Detroit, and therefore accessible to large numbers of people.

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS CLASS OF 2016 ELECTION FORM

Please place an "X" next to the name(s) of as many of the candidate(s) as you choose.

Class of 2016 Candidates:

Richard Quick

Joan Seymour

Gisela Lendle-King

Detroit Audubon is in need of additional individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. Please consider serving in this important capacity.

The board meets 10 times per year. Board members direct and participate in fundraising, publicity, event coordination, bird and land conservation projects, birding activities, and general planning. If you have a passion for birds and the environment, we would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about joining the board.

**Please contact me about becoming a member of the Board of Directors.**

*(Please provide the following information. We will contact you to arrange a follow-up.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List any special skills you bring to the board: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to Detroit Audubon Society, 24433 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield, MI, 48033-3935  
by April 30th, 2014.



DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY  
24433 W. NINE MILE ROAD  
SOUTHFIELD MI 48033-3935

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## **FRED CHARBONNEAU RETIRES FROM BOARD**

After 32 years of service, Fred Charbonneau has decided to end his tenure on the Detroit Audubon Board of Directors. Fred served four terms as President as well as additional terms as Vice-President Secretary and Treasurer.

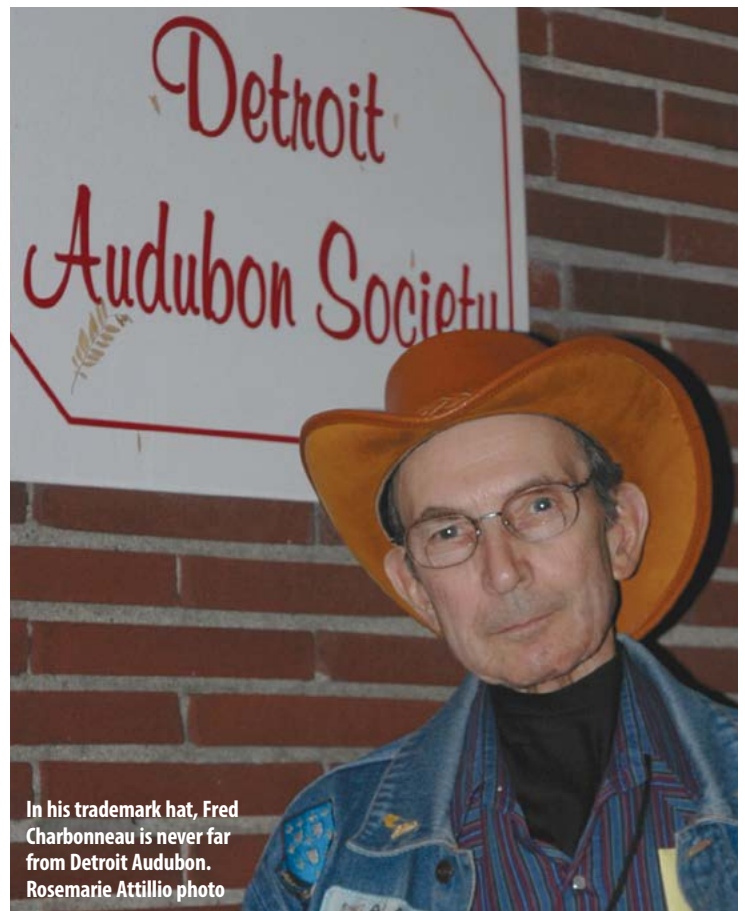
During those years, Fred became very active opposing a DNR initiative to build a boat launch in an undeveloped part of the then-Metro Beach Metropark, with an additional loss of parkland for a large parking lot. He assisted the "Friends of Point Rosa Marsh" to resist this effort to ruin the last remnant of undeveloped land on the U.S. side of Lake St. Clair.

After that struggle ended successfully, Fred began another crusade, the Safe Passage Great Lakes campaign, in 2006. This ambitious program has become one of Detroit Audubon's most successful and active conservation efforts. Under Fred's leadership, the Safe Passage team recruited numerous high-rise building owners in southeast Michigan, including Ford, GM, and Chrysler, to turn out their lights during the spring and fall bird migration seasons, saving the lives of countless migratory birds that pass through our region. Fred plans to remain active in this long-term campaign.

While on the Board, Fred also raised over \$20,000 for Detroit Audubon while participating in annual Birdathons as well as serving for six years as Detroit Audubon Society representative to Whitefish Point.

Fred is an energetic activist, a very good birder and a remarkable leader. But what people who have had the good fortune to work with Fred Charbonneau remember, and hope to emulate, are his humility and gentleness. Talk to friends of Fred, and they are above all impressed with the decency of this man.

The Detroit Audubon Society wishes to thank Fred for a life of accomplishment—and for proving time and time again how local grass-roots efforts can make a huge difference for birds and the environment they depend on. Good luck, Fred!



In his trademark hat, Fred Charbonneau is never far from Detroit Audubon.  
Rosemarie Attilio photo