

## BIRD ID QUIZ

Can you identify this bird? Check your answer on page 8.



Joe Brooks photo

## YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB FIRST OUTING SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Are you age 9 or older? Do you love birds and want to be part of a club for young people interested in birds? If so, Detroit Audubon's Young Birders Club may be right for you.

Come find out at the club's first outing at 9 AM on Saturday, December 6 when past President and current board member Leonard Weber will lead a morning field trip starting at the Kensington Metropark nature center. For details and to RSVP email: [YoungBirders@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:YoungBirders@detroitaudubon.org) with the names of the young people coming, and your address, phone number and email address.

Our 2014 Young Birder's scholarship winner Bridget Stempien and her mother Mary are organizing the group. Other possible activities are educational programs, stewardship projects to help improve bird habitat, and fundraising projects to help bird conservation. Occasional programs may focus on plants and animals other than birds from time to time. As their birding skills improve, Young Birders may eventually want to help even younger birders learn about birds as well.

Younger sisters and brothers (and parents) are always welcome to tag along.

We invite all young birders to be part of this exciting new Detroit Audubon venture!



# Flyway

Year-End 2014  
Volume 2014, Issue 3

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



Protecting birds and their environment  
for over 75 years.  
Since 1939

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Nearly 70 people gathered in the late afternoon on September 13 for what promised to be a wonderful evening at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle for our long-anticipated 75th Anniversary celebration. And it certainly did not disappoint. We enjoyed cocktails, socialized, and met people both familiar and new to Detroit Audubon in the elegant Fountain Room overlooking the Detroit River and the city skyline.

After a scrumptious dinner, we enjoyed a special program of awards, engaging speeches and presentations. First, Rob Duchene, leader of Detroit Audubon's Safe Passage Great Lakes Project, presented the Fred Charbonneau Award for Bird Conservation. Dotte Charbonneau accepted the inaugural award on behalf of her late husband, Fred Charbonneau, who passed away this past May. A 32-year board member, Fred was a tireless crusader for preserving bird habitat, and he also founded the Safe Passage Great Lakes campaign. Fred's memory will live on as Detroit Audubon honors others who carry bird conservation causes onward.

Next on the program, President Jim Bull recounted Detroit Audubon's eventful 75-year history in an entertaining slideshow that took us back to the initial founding of the organization up through our many projects, causes, and accomplishments. Jim also shared congratulatory letters from Senator Carl Levin, U.S. Representative John Dingell, and other notables. Bill Heck, who in February 2015 will become the Regional Director—Mississippi Flyway North and Detroit Audubon's liaison to the National Audubon Society, then presented Jim with a certificate from NAS honoring Detroit Audubon for "75 years of dedicated service and contributions to the advancement of bird and habitat conservation through citizen science, education, land stewardship, and advocacy."

Our 2014 scholarship winner, 13-year-old Bridget Stempien, aided by her younger sister Brooke, followed with a really wonderful presentation (given using just a few notes) that showcased her trip in July to Camp Colorado. Bridget took us all on a tour of the incredible birds found in the varied habitats there. She is going to be a wonderful ambassador for Detroit Audubon. We are proud of her, and thrilled that she wants to stay involved with our chapter.

After some remarks by Michigan Important Bird Area (IBA) Coordinator Caleb Putnam,



The presenters (L-R): Caleb Putnam, Chris Canfield, Brooke Stempien, Jim Bull, Bill Heck and Bridget Stempien.

it was time for our keynote speaker. Chris Canfield, Vice-President, Gulf Coast/Mississippi Flyway for National Audubon, focused his presentation on the recently issued Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report (see separate summary on page 6). Acknowledging the important roles local chapters have in gathering data, preserving habitat, and "getting others looking at the wild world not with indifference or even with fear but with *love*," Chris walked us through the sobering findings of the study, recalled past successes of the Audubon movement,

and, importantly, pointed the way for chapters to make a difference going forward in the face of the challenges that will confront birds as climate change takes its toll on the environment. "We are faced with a challenge our forebears would not have turned away from, and I know we will not either," he said. "They had in many ways less to work with, less history to bolster them, and less compelling reasons to try. But they did and they succeeded. We must too." Inspiring and challenging words with which to begin our second 75 years.

Detroit Audubon thanks all our wonderful speakers and presenters. Thanks also to everyone who helped make the 75th Anniversary celebration such a success, and thanks to all for coming!



Dotte Charbonneau accepts the inaugural Fred Charbonneau Award for Bird Conservation on behalf of her late husband from Safe Passage Great Lakes project leader Rob Duchene.

# Flyway

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

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Flyway Editorial Advisor: [Emily Simon](#)



## DETROIT AUDUBON 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.**

## PRESIDENT'S BULLY PULPIT

By Jim Bull

Since the last *Flyway*, Detroit Audubon celebrated its 75th anniversary at the Detroit Yacht Club. Thank you to Richard Quick and Rochelle Breitenbach for chairing this event, and for all the people who did so much work to make it a memorable evening. It was a beautiful night to overlook the river as we sipped wine and listened to music by member and cellist Priscilla Hawkins and violinist Anitra Mercer. Priscilla and Anitra started off the program with Prelude in G by J.S. Bach as a concert piece, then played an eclectic repertoire as we dined.

The late Fred Charbonneau, past president, board member and tireless activist, was given the first award named in his honor, which was accepted by his wife, Dotte.

I presented a slide show highlighting the history of Detroit Audubon, most of which you have read about in past articles.

We also had a short report from Caleb Putnam, Michigan's Important Bird Area (IBA) Coordinator, whose work Detroit Audubon helps support.

Our keynote speaker was Chris Canfield, National Audubon Vice-President for the Gulf-Mississippi Flyway (of which we are a part). His was a sobering message centered on the recently released Audubon study reporting that 314 bird species are at risk from climate change. Although this is grim news, he emphasized how Audubon, with its many chapters, is well-equipped to respond to the challenge to protect those species and to help motivate citizens to reverse the worst effects of climate change. He had great things to say about us, and we will be working closely with him in the coming months and years.

The hands-down highlight was Bridget Stempien, winner of Detroit Audubon's 2014 Young Birder's scholarship. Bridget wowed the audience with slides of her experience at the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado. Her exuberance for each species of bird she saw, including a House Wren (Detroit Audubon's logo bird) she got to hold while it was banded, kept the audience in rapt attention. Her enthusiasm was contagious. We have posted Bridget's amazing video of a hummingbird at a feeder on Facebook. She slowed it down so you see each wingbeat. Thanks to Bridget and her younger sister Brooke (who handled audio-visual logistics) who helped us pick the raffle winners.

But the best news is that this isn't just about one bird camp experience for a scholarship winner: Bridget and her mother are helping us organize a Detroit Audubon Young Birders Club, which has been a Detroit Audubon goal for several years. They are bringing it to fruition. Their first field trip will be on Saturday, December 6, and will be led by past Detroit Audubon President, Leonard Weber. If you are a young birder, or have a daughter or son who might be interested in this first Young Birders field trip or in the group, email [Youngbirders@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:Youngbirders@detroitaudubon.org) to RSVP and for more details.

What an exciting time this for Detroit Audubon. We've celebrated our past accomplishments, but more important, we have glimpsed the future, via this 13-year-old dynamo. Bridget and the youth she is pulling together for our Young Birders Club are the future of Detroit Audubon. Maybe we can find a spot on the board for a youth representative or two so we can hear fresh perspectives. In our constitution, the board originally did include the President of what was then called "Junior Audubon."

After a program and discussion with Ryan Colliton, Stewardship Coordinator for the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, we are exploring how we can partner with parks to help them manage the natural areas that provide habitat for so many of the birds we enjoy. Some ideas we are considering are offering special Detroit Audubon member stewardship days in some of the parks to help the parks get rid of invasive species, helping monitor birds and other wildlife, and helping get the word out about their conservation efforts through the *Flyway*, field trips and programs. We'll keep you posted as things develop.

I am excited to begin this new chapter in Detroit Audubon's conservation journey. How about you? You can be part of it, you know—just fill out a survey (available online), or just drop me an email at [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org).

## HELP WANTED . . .

### JOIN OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM!

**WEBSITE:** As of January 2015, Detroit Audubon will need someone with website updating/programming experience who would be willing to volunteer about five hours a month keeping our website up to date.

**FLYWAY DESIGN/PRODUCTION:** Detroit Audubon needs a volunteer graphic artist with desktop publishing experience to create the quarterly *Flyway* newsletter—one print issue, and three online issues annually.

**If you are interested in joining our communications team** or would like further information about either of the above opportunities, please send an email to [publicity@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:publicity@detroitaudubon.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

**GOOD WITH NUMBERS?** We need you! Detroit Audubon is reconstituting its Finance Committee. The committee meets three or four times per year to put together a budget for the board's approval and to track the budget. If you are interested and able to help us out, please email President Jim Bull at [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org) or call 313-928-2950.



## CHECK OUT THE AUDUBON ONLINE BIRD GUIDE

**This 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.**

Click [here](#) to use the Guide.

Black-capped Chickadee.  
Roger Becker photo



## STUDY FINDS CATS A HUGE THREAT TO WILDLIFE

A study released last year in *Nature Communications*, conducted by biologists from the Smithsonian Institution, has stated that up to 3.7 billion birds are killed by cats that either live in the wild or are house pets. The study was part of a three-year Fish and Wildlife Service-funded effort. The study estimates that from 6.9 billion to as many as 20.7 billion mammals are killed by cats annually in the contiguous 48 states.

“Our findings suggest,” writes Peter Marra of the Smithsonian’s Conservation Biology Institute, “that free-ranging cats cause substantially greater wildlife mortality than previously thought and are likely the single greatest source of anthropogenic mortality for U.S. birds and mammals.”

The study is critical of the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) policy advocated by Alley Cat Allies and other defenders of free-roaming cats. TNR is criticized on the grounds that it leaves so many predators in the wild.

Marra and his colleagues extrapolated findings from 21 studies in the U.S. and Europe to come up with an estimate of 30 million to 80 million “unowned” cats and 84 million “owned” cats in the U.S., their kill rates and other factors leading to bird predation.

Overall, the safety of both cats and the wildlife found in the local environment are promoted by keeping cats indoors.

## FULL FUNDING SECURED FOR EDUCATIONAL BIRDING SITE ON THE DETROIT RIVERWALK

In celebration of its 75th Anniversary, Detroit Audubon, along with the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, Detroit Parks and Recreation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced full funding of \$12,000 to create an educational birding site along the Detroit RiverWalk at Gabriel Richard Park.

The site will offer wildlife spotting scopes, an interpretive panel depicting bird migration by season, and more. Educational events and other programming will also be held four times each year to promote the exceptional urban birding experiences available right in our backyard. This new feature will help reconnect people with the Detroit River to inspire a stewardship ethic and help develop the next generation of conservationists.

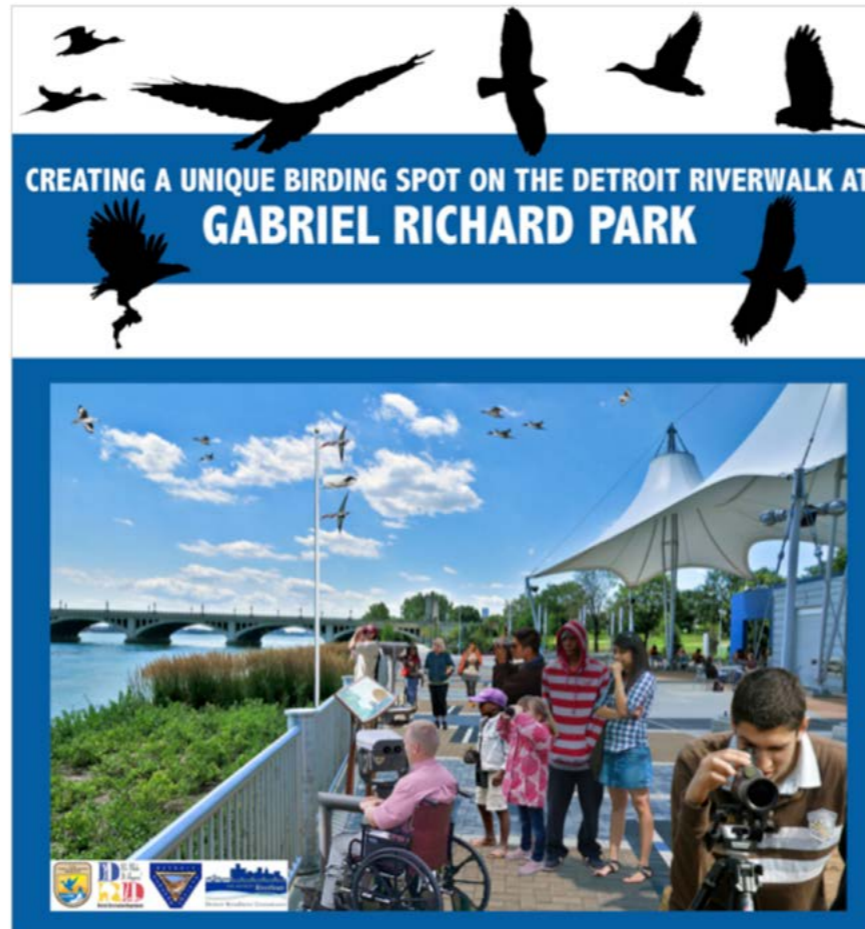
The Detroit River region is located at the intersection of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways, which make it a strategic hub of bird migration and an excellent location for birding. Over 300 species of birds live in or regularly migrate through the area, including 30 species of waterfowl, 17 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds, and 160 species of songbirds.

Gabriel Richard Park is situated between two well-known staging areas for waterfowl—Detroit River/Western Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. Large numbers of migrating waterfowl flock to the area to feed on aquatic vegetation and invertebrates. Gabriel Richard Park provides a wonderful opportunity for viewing birds that nest as far away as the Arctic, along with beautiful Belle Isle, the Detroit skyline, and the historic MacArthur Bridge.

The site at Gabriel Richard Park will honor the memory of Georgia Reid, a resident of Detroit and avid birder. What began with a beginning birding class in the 1970s turned into a lifelong passion for Georgia. For over 30 years she was a Detroit Audubon board member and a tireless volunteer for several other conservation organizations. She had a distinguished 45-year teaching career at Wayne State University and was featured in the book *The Black and Brown Faces in America’s Wild Places* by Arthur Dudley Edmondson. Always a teacher, Georgia quietly shared her knowledge, her sense of humor and wit, and especially her spotting scope.

This project garnered immense support from the local community and bird enthusiasts across the region. In May 2014, the Detroit landmark restaurant, The Rattlesnake Club, generously hosted a fundraising dinner, which featured a special presentation “Return of the Detroit River: Reconnecting People and Wildlife” by John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Other major funders of this project included the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society, Mary Plyant-Wright, and Leonard Weber.

A ribbon cutting to officially open the Birding Site at Gabriel Richard Park is being planned for spring 2015. We hope to see you there.



## WRITERS, ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Do you like to write, take photos, paint or draw? Put your talent to work for Detroit Audubon.

We welcome your articles and images. For the next issue of the *Flyway*, send your original work to [flyway@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:flyway@detroitaudubon.org).

## SHOP AMAZONSMILE AND BENEFIT DETROIT AUDUBON!

When doing your holiday shopping this year, remember that Detroit Audubon is now part of the AmazonSmile program!

AmazonSmile is a simple, free, automatic way for you to support Detroit Audubon every time you shop.

Such a simple way to give! Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and designate Detroit Audubon as the charitable organization to receive 0.5% of the price of your qualifying purchases.



## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Yes, Detroit Audubon has a Facebook page! [Like us](#) to get reminders of field trips as well as notifications of volunteer opportunities, upcoming programs, and workshops.

Share with your friends, and help spread the word about ways to support Detroit Audubon and its efforts to protect birds and the environment.

## HAEHNLE SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP

by **Rebecca Minardi**

Seven Sandhill Cranes in two groups circled high overhead, swooping back and forth above the water at Haehnle Sanctuary. The crowd of birders I was with called out to the birds, reminding them that the area would be a great place to land and roost, “and would they please come down a little closer?” But we all know how birds are. The seven flew away, ignoring the strange crowd below.

Luckily, our field trip leader, Jim Bull, knew of another spot that could host the elegant birds. We drove a few miles to Clear Lake, also part of the Waterloo State Recreation Area. As we rounded the curve in the early dusk, I gasped. There, a few hundred yards away, were two Sandhill Cranes. Behind them were scores more, their red caps blazing in the setting sun. We watched wave after wave of cranes sweep in, calling in their haunting, beautiful way.

I kept thinking of the drawing Jim had showed us of a crane’s windpipe, long and coiled within, that allowed the cranes to produce the astounding rattles that can be heard for miles. As the cranes dropped to the shallow waters, their wings glowed bright gray against the golden and umber leaves of autumn. It was utterly exhilarating. I left with a renewed feeling of reverence for nature’s unceasing capacity to startle, and I vowed to continue to bear witness to her offerings.



Sandhill Cranes landing.  
Jan Palland photo

## LAKE ERIE METROPARK FIELD TRIP

by **Jim Bull** • Photos by **Sharon Korte**



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Ryan Colliton, the Stewardship Coordinator for the Huron Clinton Metroparks, was right when he spoke at our October 9th program in Southfield: the Phragmites has been dealt a major blow. At the first overlook where this invasive species had stood taller than people’s heads, right up to the boardwalk and all around the observation tower, now the area is all open. It was still not the open water that had once been there, but cleared out enough that we could see five Great Egrets and two Great Blue Herons feeding in the distance! I’m looking forward to their continued restoration work, when there will be enough water for ducks, rails and other marsh birds I remember seeing here years ago.

At several stops we had more Yellow-rumped Warblers than you could possibly count. There were also a few Palm and Nashville Warblers along the wooded trail. When we turned the bend on the boardwalk to start the back side of the loop, we were greeted by a female Kingfisher cackling and carrying on at the first observation spur. Here we also watched some Mallards and a Great Blue Heron, but the highlight came in low above our heads: an Osprey with a large fish writhing in its talons. It flew across the narrow canal, landed in a leafless tree nearby, and began to consume its catch. At first the fish was still flopping around as it was being eaten, but since the osprey started on the head, the flopping stopped after a just a few minutes. We pulled ourselves away, realizing we might be there an hour or more before this bird finished its meal. This was heart-pounding exciting!

Down by the boat dock where the hawk watchers are posted every day September through November, we watched a big kettle of Turkey Vultures swirl around and up and up until they were mere specks, and a few Red-tailed Hawks. Not a bad start to a pleasant October day.

Go to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) and click on **Explore Data** to see checklists from Lake Erie Metropark and other birding hot spots.

It was October 11th, a sunny day, the temperature just comfortable with a hint of October coolness. Trees were still colorful, although many leaves had begun to fall and many were past their prime color time. It was an amazing morning—not so much for the number of species, but for numbers of birds and some quite memorable sightings. Sharon Korte was the first one to show up. While we waited for others, we commented about how we had never seen the parking lot so hopping with birds. Every tree seemed to be full of them. There must have been at least 50 Yellow-rumped Warblers in the parking lot alone! Two White-tail does walked right near us through the parking lot. Soon other birders showed up and we started our walk. A couple more (delayed by construction) later caught up with us along the trail.



Osprey with fish.

## MORE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT DETROIT AUDUBON

- Support our upcoming fall appeal with your tax-deductible donation.
- Start your Christmas shopping early at the Detroit Audubon bookstore. Members receive a 10% discount!
- Like Detroit Audubon on your Facebook page.
- Sign up to help with the Christmas Bird Count. You can attend the public hike, volunteer for a count territory or, if you live within one of the count areas, count the birds that appear at your feeder. (See the [field trip schedule](#) online for more info.)
- Introduce a friend to birds and nature at a Detroit Audubon field trip or other event.
- Use AmazonSmile when you shop at Amazon.com and designate Detroit Audubon as the charitable organization to receive .5% of the price of qualifying purchasing.

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).

## THE FLYWAY HAS GONE GREEN!

**Only one issue of the *Flyway* is 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, has 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 MONITORING RESULTS 2014

We had a wonderful response from birders who volunteered to be part of the project this year. In all, 13 volunteers provided reports on swifts at known chimney roosts during the second weekend in August and/or the second weekend in September. In addition to building our data, we identified 10 new chimneys, including four more in downtown Detroit. We also learned of two man-made roosts, neither of which are yet being used.

Here are the count results:

Chimney City/Location/Counters	Aug. 15-17 Count	Sept. 12-14 Count	Later count
Rochester Hills: Oakland Steiner School Joy Barron	440	0	150
Farmington: Winery Chimney Leonard Weber, Bob MacMillan, Michelle Romans	1200-1500	1500-1600	thousands*
Midtown Detroit: Garfield Building Cathy Carroll, Leanna Simon, Matt Tasek	250-300	50	
Southgate: Board of Education Bldg Wayne County maintenance yard Emily Simon	0	0 125	525
Grosse Pointe: Maire Elementary Bill Rapai	216		
Ann Arbor: Burns Park Elementary Slauson Middle School 415 W. Washington St. Mack School U-M IM building Sherrie Smith, Emily Simon	0 900	0 940 150	1380
Milan: Milan city complex John and Ann Farmer	183	0	
Temperance: Abundant Life Ministry church Karen Potts	13	0	
Howell: Downtown building Kristy Reske		235	

\* In early October, we were contacted by the owners of the Farmington Winery chimney, who reported many thousands of birds using the chimney on September 30. We will be paying lots of attention to this chimney next year!

Thank you to all who counted and submitted reports.

The Winery Chimney in Farmington, which the owners have dubbed "Swift Sanctuary." Built in 1898, the massive 151-foot structure is estimated at 10 feet in diameter. It's located near the intersection of Grand River and Orchard Lake Roads.

According to Michelle Romans, whom we thank for providing the photo, birders are welcome to stop by and observe the birds at any time. This chimney is the largest roost we are aware of in southeast Michigan.



John C. Farmer of Milan provided the photo above of the chimney roost at the town's City Hall where he counted swifts. John told us that the chimney dates from Henry Ford's time of involvement in Milan. "The primary source of power for the old power house which the chimney served was water from Ford Lake, and the dam immediately across the street from the City Buildings. I don't know if the boiler that heats the buildings still uses the chimney, but if it does, it does so without apparent harm to the birds, which have been a fixture of the town since I moved here in 1968."



This stately chimney is at the Burns Park Elementary School in Ann Arbor. On our 2013 field trip, we estimated 1,000 birds roosting at the Burns Park chimney. To our surprise, birds were apparently not roosting at Burns Park this summer, necessitating a last-minute change of venue for our swift-watching event in late August. We caravanned to a downtown chimney at 415 W. Washington St., where we were able to observe several hundred birds entering the roost. Thanks again to Sherrie Smith of Washtenaw Audubon for tracking the swifts in Ann Arbor and advising us about locations and logistics.

## WOLVES WON—FOR NOW

Proposals 1 and 2 on Michigan's November ballot were put there in part because of Detroit Audubon's efforts, including many hours that volunteers spent in the cold gathering signatures. Proposal 1 asked voters whether they wanted to ratify the state legislature's decision to make the Gray Wolf a game species in Michigan. Fifty-five percent of the voters said "No!" so the Gray Wolf was delisted as a game species, effective immediately. Proposal 2 asked citizens to decide whether to approve a law passed by the legislature that gave the unelected Natural Resources Commission sole authority to designate game species in Michigan, leaving citizens no recourse to reverse any of its decisions. Michigan voters recognized this power grab for what it was and soundly defeated this proposal, 65% to 45%!

Due to these two "NO" votes there will be no wolf hunting season this year. However, the legislature passed a third law when it became clear there were enough signatures to put the second law to a vote. This third law essentially is a repeat of Proposal 2, giving the Natural Resources Commission the authority to name game species. It also includes a provision to issue active military personnel free hunting licenses (currently veterans pay only \$1 for a license), and an appropriation to control Asian Carp.

The legislature enacted this third law essentially to circumvent the effect of "No" votes by the majority on Proposals 1 and 2. And, because the legislators attached an appropriation, the bill is considered to be a budget bill (according to the Michigan Supreme Court) and thus constitutionally immune from repeal efforts.

A legal challenge to the third law is planned. Stay tuned!

**Gray Wolf.**  
USFWS photo



## AUDUBON BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT: A SHORT SUMMARY



Black-crowned Night Heron.  
Bruce Szczechowski photo

The Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report is a comprehensive, first-of-its kind study that predicts how climate change could affect the ranges of 588 North American birds.

Audubon scientists used three decades of citizen-scientist observations from the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the North American Breeding Bird Survey to define the "climatic suitability" for each bird species—the range of temperatures, precipitation, and seasonal changes each species needs to survive. Then, using internationally recognized greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, they mapped where each bird's ideal climatic range may be found in the future as the climate changes. These maps serve as a guide to how each bird's current range could expand, contract, or shift across three future time periods (2020, 2050, and 2080). The results are sobering:

Of the 588 North American bird species Audubon studied, more than half are likely to be in trouble. Models indicate that 314 species may lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080.

Of the 314 species at risk from global warming, 126 of them are classified as climate endangered. These birds are projected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2050.

The other 188 species are classified as climate threatened and expected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2080 if global warming continues at its current pace.

And, because the study did not contemplate habitat realities, sea level rise, interactions with new predators, or missing food sources, these predictions may in fact be quite conservative.

While some species may be able to adapt, others will have nowhere to go. The findings may appear shocking, but the study provides a roadmap for action. By identifying which birds are most at risk and the places they might inhabit in the future, we can prioritize protections for critical habitat. We can keep doing all the things we are doing to protect birds, because one certainty is that the birds most likely to survive what comes in the future are those best prepared for what is here now.

For additional information on the report, see <http://www.audubon.org/climate>.

## WE'VE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST!

Join us on our final out-of-state field trip of the year:

**Birding Ontario and the Niagara River with Karl Overman, December 5 to 7, 2014 (Friday through Sunday)**

The Niagara region is THE place to be in the late fall in the Great Lakes region, with masses of waterfowl and gulls, exciting birding, and awesome scenery. Trips in recent years have turned up Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, King Eider, Purple Sandpiper, California Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Mew Gull, Snowy Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Karl Overman is one of the best birders in Michigan, and he has led this trip numerous times. You won't regret going on this trip!

**Departure:** from Farmington Hills at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5 (contact Karl Overman at (248) 473-0484 for directions)

**Return:** Sunday, Dec. 7 at approximately 9 p.m.

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

**To reserve your place**, call the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 354-5804 and send \$75 deposit by Dec. 1.

And don't forget to keep checking our [website](#) for our list of 2015 field trips!

## GREAT PUBLICITY FOR DETROIT AUDUBON

Detroit Audubon was featured on the WJR radio show "Opportunity Detroit" on October 3. Radio personality Paul W. Smith spoke with Vice President Rochelle Breitenbach and Safe Passage's Rob Duchene about Detroit Audubon's work to establish an educational birding spot on the Detroit River (see story on page 3) and about the Safe Passage Great Lakes project's efforts to protect migrating birds.

## DETROIT AUDUBON 2014-15 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

*Detroit Audubon 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 species that nest in our area. All trips are free (except as otherwise noted), and everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders.*

Please email the trip leader or 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.

Note the Dec. 1 deadline to reserve your spot on the **Ontario-Niagara River** trip led by Karl Overman, described at left.

Also, still to come are the 2014 **Christmas Bird Counts**. Help Detroit Audubon form an accurate picture of current bird populations in our area. You can participate out in the field, or from your kitchen window.

For the current list of Detroit Audubon field trips, check the [website](#).

Golden Eagle soars over Lake Erie Metropark October 26. Jan Palland photo



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION: CLASS OF 2017 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. Any paid-up member of Detroit Audubon is eligible to submit his or her name for election or appointment. All members of Detroit Audubon are eligible to vote. Please submit your ballot by December 31, 2014.**

**The following members are seeking election for the class of 2017:**

**Rochelle Breitenbach:** *Current Detroit Audubon Vice-President and past President.*

**James (Jim) Bull:** *I hold a B.S. in Biology and Earth Science, a Master's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, and Ph.D. in Natural Resources. I have worked as a biologist or naturalist with several private nature centers, the U.S. Forest Service (Kirtland's Warbler naturalist), and the National Park Service. I have also served as Assistant Director of the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center (Antioch University), and Executive Director of the Clinton River Watershed Council. I currently teach environmental science, biology, and nutrition at Wayne County Community College and Macomb Community College. I also served as a board member of several organizations, including the North American Association of Environmental Education, Friends of the Detroit River, and the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance. I am serving my third (nonconsecutive) term as President of Detroit Audubon Society. I have chaired the Memorial Day Weekend Nature Getaway, Fundraising Committee, Annual Conservation Conference and Awards Committee, and Downriver Program Committee. I have also worked as facilitator of the Rockwood Christmas Bird Count and field trip leader. I would like to see Detroit Audubon more effectively engage its 6,000+ members, reconstitute and reinvigorate our committees, and be more effective and influential in environmental advocacy. I would like to work toward hiring a professional program coordinator for Detroit Audubon by the end of 2015. I can feel the momentum building and hope you will help us move Detroit Audubon forward. I think we are getting ready to soar, don't you?*

**Rebecca Minardi:** *I've always loved spending time outside and caring for the environment, but it wasn't until August 30, 2012, that I became a birder. That morning I was running and saw what I learned later was my spark bird, a Barred Owl. I immediately went home and looked through an old bird book I happened to have. Luckily the owl was easy to pick out because of her dark eyes. The joy of spotting something in the wild and then being able to identify and name it was contagious. I was hooked. I joined the Des Moines Audubon, went on birding field trips, acquired birding books, and started my count. I began to follow and chronicle the roost of Chimney Swifts near my apartment. Through my birding, I became more passionate and vocal about conservation. I have my Masters in Public Health but now would like to go back to school to continue my education in environmental work. If elected to the Board, I would bring a fresh and young voice to the table. At 27, I notice many people find it surprising that one of my hobbies is birding. I am a community organizer for a children's advocacy center, so I know a lot about building a network of organizations, getting people on board with a cause, and sowing passion. I would also love to share some of Des Moines Audubon's practices that were very effective with getting attendance. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to work with you in the future.*

**Jack Smiley:** *I have served on the Detroit Audubon Board for over 20 years—two as President—and am Chair of the Sanctuary Committee. I founded the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and have worked to protect over 4,000 acres in southeast Michigan. I have also been active in several other environmental organizations, including Holliday Nature Preserve Association and Friends of the Rouge.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CLASS OF 2017 ELECTION FORM

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

Rochelle Breitenbach    James N. Bull    Rebecca Minardi    Jack Smiley

**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.)*

**Please mail to Detroit Audubon Society, 24433 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield, MI, 48033-3935 by December 31, 2014.**

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Joe Brooks photo

## BIRD ID QUIZ – FALL 2014

We hope you correctly identified this bird as a Pine Siskin, most commonly seen in southeastern Michigan in the colder months of the year. Look for them at your feeder this winter mingling with American Goldfinches, particularly if you live in an area with conifers or birch trees. Pine Siskins are brown on the back and crown with dark brown to black streaking. The breast and belly are light in color, varying from white to pale gray or light brown, all with brown streaking. The tail is short and noticeably forked. Superficially, Pine Siskins resemble female House and Purple Finches but they are noticeably smaller and thinner. Their bills are much different in shape as well, being thinner, longer and more pointed. Look, especially, for the characteristic yellow streaking on their folded wings and tails. There may also be yellow present on their wing bars and under-tail coverts, but this is not consistent. Last winter very few Pine Siskins were reported in our area, as spruce cone crops in the boreal forests of Canada were excellent. This year the cone crop is not as robust and there are more local reports of Pine Siskins.



Northern Flicker.  
Roger Becker photo

## THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO HELP PROTECT BIRDS

**Create a Bird-Friendly Yard:** Healthy birds will be better equipped to face the challenges of a warming world. Commit to creating safe spaces for birds in your home and community by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand, installing bird baths, and converting lawns and gardens to native plants. School grounds, parks, vacant lots, and common areas can all be “bird-scaped,” too. Learn more [here](#).

**Get Involved with Your Local Important Bird Area:** Protect the places birds need most today and in the future by pitching in with Audubon’s IBA program, which identifies and conserves areas that are vital to birds and biodiversity. You can help with IBA restoration, cleanup, citizen science, and field trips. For more information on Detroit Audubon’s work with the local IBA, click [here](#).

**Put Birds on Your Community’s Agenda:** Begin a conversation with your neighbors, colleagues, and local leaders about why it’s important to you to protect your community’s birds, and share what you’re doing on behalf of birds. Reach more people by writing a letter to your newspaper, speaking at a community event, or visiting a local school.

**Meet with Local Decision Makers:** Share this science with state wildlife agencies, city parks departments, extension services, and other groups that manage our natural resources to illustrate how global warming imperils birds, and ask decision makers how they are planning to address global warming. For more information on how to help decision makers use and integrate Audubon’s science, email [climatescience@audubon.org](mailto:climatescience@audubon.org).

**Support Policies That Lower Emissions:** Urge leaders at the local, state, and national levels to enact policies that lower greenhouse gas emissions and support clean energy. Renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency targets, and other proactive measures reduce emissions and will limit the effects of global warming on birds. Put these policies on your leaders’ agendas, and publicly support efforts to make them stick.

**Source:** Audubon website, <http://climate.audubon.org/>.

## ATTENTION YOUNG BIRDERS!

Detroit Audubon is pleased to announce that, once again, a scholarship will be awarded in 2015 to a young birder in southeastern Michigan, to attend an American Birding Association (ABA) Young Birder Camp in either Colorado (Camp Colorado) or Delaware (Camp Avocet). Details will be announced in the Spring issue of the *Flyway* and on the Detroit Audubon website in mid-January, after camp dates are finalized and registrations are open. Be sure to check the website to learn more about this exciting opportunity as information becomes available.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Detroit Audubon was honored to receive congratulatory letters from Congressmen John Dingell and John Conyers, Senator Carl Levin, and State Representative Rashida Tlaib on the occasion of our 75th Anniversary. Read Rep. Dingell’s letter [here](#), Sen. Levin’s letter [here](#), Rep. Conyers’s [here](#) and Rep. Tlaib’s [here](#).

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank you for THE FRED CHARBONNEAU AWARD that I accepted on Fred’s behalf at the Detroit Audubon Society’s 75th Anniversary dinner in September. Fred would have been pleased and honored to be given this award. His family and I thank you again for remembering Fred in such a wonderful way.

—Dotte Charbonneau

## VOLUNTEER SURVEYS

Detroit Audubon thanks everyone who filled out and returned the volunteer survey that arrived with the spring financial appeal letter. We very much appreciated hearing from all of you. We are still going through the responses and will be in touch regarding your interests, availability, and upcoming opportunities to get involved. Again, thanks very much!

