



# *Flyway*

Fall Migration Issue 2005

## MICHIGAN BOARD OF STATE CANVASSERS CERTIFIES VOTE TO RESTORE DOVE SHOOTING BAN



On June 2nd the Board of State Canvassers officially approved and certified the more than 275,000 petition signatures presented by the Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban to place the referendum on the November 2006 ballot. Once a petition to repeal a law has been certified, the state constitution provides that the law in question is not in force until the voters have spoken. So, the shooting of Mourning Doves has been stopped for the next two seasons leading up to the election

"Mourning Doves are backyard songbirds and symbols of peace that have been protected for 100 years in Michigan," said Julie Baker, Campaign Director for the committee. "These tiny birds are not hunted for food or management, but simply for target practice. It's just plain wrong and we're confident that Michigan voters will restore the dove shooting ban."

The committee submitted 73% more signatures than the 159,000 required by law for certification, illustrating the overwhelming support for the referendum campaign by the voters of Michigan. Committee members include the Michigan Audubon Society, the Detroit Audubon Society, the Michigan Humane Society, and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). "Gentle and inoffensive Mourning Doves are once again safe in Michigan, at least for the next two years," said Michael Markarian, executive vice president of the HSUS.

The battle is not over, but is simply entering a new phase. We will need volunteers and donations to counter the multi-million dollar campaign that will be put on by the other side. To volunteer or donate, contact the Detroit Audubon office or visit the committee to restore the dove shooting ban website at <http://www.stopshootingdoves.org>

# Flyway

A publication of the Detroit Audubon Society,  
1320 North Campbell Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067

Telephone: (248) 545-2929.

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

**Website – [detroitaudubon.org](http://detroitaudubon.org)**

Flyway is published five times a year and is mailed to over 6,500 local members of the National Audubon Society in Southeastern Michigan.

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

Articles that appear in the Flyway may be reproduced freely as long as credit is given to Detroit Audubon Society.

Submission of original articles and artwork is welcomed. Deadline for the Nov/Dec '05 Issue is September 30, 2005.

Advertising rates are available by contacting the DAS office.

Flyway Editor: Sue Beattie

Flyway Layout/Design: Don Tinson II

## DETROIT AUDUBON BOARD ENDORSES REDROCK WILDERNESS ACT

At its March 2005 meeting, the Detroit Audubon board voted to support America's Redrock Wilderness Act, which would add over 9 million acres of federal land in Southern Utah's spectacular canyon country to the National Wilderness Preservation System under the Wilderness Act of 1964. Bob Brister, Outreach Coordinator of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), presented two multimedia programs on the Redrock Wilderness and efforts to protect it at our Sept. membership meetings in Downriver and in Southfield. They need national support for their efforts to designate these lands that belong to all citizens of the U.S. For more information visit the SUWA website at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org)

## ARCTIC ADVENTURER AND AUTHOR TO SPEAK ABOUT ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



*Spring Camping on the Arctic Tundra  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Alaska*

Northern adventurer and accomplished author, Jon Waterman, will offer an evening of photographs and words from his new book, *Where Mountains are Nameless: Passion and Politics in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, on Thursday Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 1123 Second St., Wyandotte. (See Downriver Membership Program Schedule, opposite page, for directions)

Jonathan Waterman blends historical narrative with vivid tales of his journeys into the Arctic, creating tension between past and present, science and politics, reflection and investigation. Since 1983, he has taken eighteen trips into the far North, trekking and paddling thousands of miles encountering howling wolves, Inupiat hunters and the oil-ravaged Prince William Sound. This presentation will explore how oil exploration has choked Alaska's pristine wilderness and traces the lives of Olaus and Mardie Murie, legendary conservationists who were passionately devoted to the protection of America's Arctic.

The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will occur just weeks before Congress votes on the Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill, which will likely include a provision that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development.

The program is sponsored by Detroit Audubon Society and the Alaska Coalition (of which Detroit Audubon is a member).

## **DAS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**

### **- DOWNRIVER -**

Detroit Audubon's Downriver monthly program is held from 7-9 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month (Sept through May) at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 1123 Second St., Wyandotte 48192. Go east on Goddard Rd., turn right on First Street. Turn right on Goodell. The church will be on your left. The church is on Goodell between First and Second Street. Enter from the alley door and go down to the basement community room (stairs or elevator).

#### **Detroit River: A Geographical, Historical and Ecological Tour**

**Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005**

**Speaker: Bob Burns, Detroit Riverkeeper, Friends of the Detroit River**

Take a slide-illustrated tour of this 32-mile long strait that connects Lake St. Clair with Lake Erie, rich in history and providing drinking water, jobs and recreation to more than three million people from two countries. We'll start at the mouth of Lake St. Clair, go down past the city of Detroit, through Detroit's industrial corridor and south through the many islands that make up the lower river and which provide a diverse contrast between man-made structures and natural settings, combining historical and present day depictions with several aerial photographs that give a perspective of the river that few have ever seen.

#### **Birding Around the Calendar**

**Thursday, Oct. 20, 2005**

**Speaker: Neil Gilbert, ABA Young Birder of the Year**

What to do and what can be seen birding-wise every month of the year and some of the sites to visit for good birding. Neil Gilbert, a 12 year old named Young Birder of the Year by the American Birding Association, will share tips and techniques and good locales for successful birding every month of the year. His bird slides are simply stunning.

#### **Great Lakes State or Great Waste State? Solid Waste Policy in Michigan from Recycling to Out-of-State Trash**

**Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005**

**Speaker: Dr. Brad van Guilder, Community Organizer with the Ecology Center and a primary organizer for the Don't Trash Michigan campaign**

Michigan's Solid Waste Policy over the last 15 years has transformed our beautiful Great Lakes State into the favored dumping ground for Ontario and states as far away as Maine. Construction and demolition waste is now arriving in Michigan from New Jersey by the trainload. Progress to reform Michigan's Solid Waste Policy began with new legislation implemented in November 2004.

In April 2005 the state finally ended the use of public bonds for the expansion of private landfills. How did Michigan become the Great Waste State and how can we continue the momentum for positive change?

### **-ROYAL OAK-**

Detroit Audubon Monthly Membership Programs at the Royal Oak office. Programs are the second Thursday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and this year will be held at the Detroit Audubon office: 1320 North Campbell Road, Royal Oak. The office is on Campbell road at the first traffic light south of Twelve Mile. All information is also on our website [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org). There are always refreshments. Everyone is welcome! Membership is not required, though we appreciate a phone call at (248) 545-2929 if you are planning to attend so we have enough food and learning materials for everyone. Thanks!

#### **The Best of African, Asian and Malagasy Birding**

**September 8, 7 p.m.**

**Speaker: David Shackelford of Rockjumper Birding Tours**

An avid naturalist as well as an accomplished bird artist and photographer, Mr. Shackelford has recorded over 3,500 species during the course of his tours. The presentation is 45 minutes long, is computer based and includes photographs, maps and video clips. The presentation also includes Egyptian culture, gorilla trekking in Uganda, Madagascar lemurs and more.

#### **Waterfowl Identification**

**October 13, 7-9 p.m.**

Learn the skills you need to identify the winter migrants and wintering waterfowl. Friendly, knowledgeable trip leaders will provide great opportunities for you to get out there right away and practice what you learn. See Field Trip Schedule for the list of winter birding trips.

#### **Save Money \$\$! and Help the Environment: A Useful Approach to Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

**November 10, 7-9 p.m.**

This winter don't let your home energy bills ruin your birding mood. Extremely knowledgeable and well trained staff from the WARM Training Center will bring lots of suggestions for things you can do to your house right now to save energy and cut your heating costs. Remember, the less energy we use the less resources we waste in the production of that energy. These folks are trained in alternate energy production also. They can help you can take the steps toward making your home solar or other alternate energy powered. You may save enough money for that Costa Rica birding trip!

## BANDED KIRTLANDS CAPTURED

By Paul Thompson

Wildlife Biologist - Huron Shores Ranger Station  
Huron-Manistee National Forest

Many of you are familiar with the work being done with Kirtland's Warblers by examining their winter habitat requirements in the Bahamas, specifically on Eleuthera. As a part of that study, Dave Ewert of The Nature Conservancy and a group of volunteers are searching the Michigan breeding grounds for birds that were banded in the Bahamas to document such things as duration of migration, survivorship during migration and to aid in the capture of some of these birds to confirm their identity. A small group of banders, Dr. Carol Bocetti, Mike Petrucha and myself are attempting to capture banded birds in Michigan to further the research that will help to identify their preferred winter habitat based on isotopic signatures from their diet. Simply stated, the birds are what they eat and the bugs they eat in the Bahamas leaves a signature on the feathers they grow. On Wednesday, June 8, 2005, Dr. Bocetti and I captured a Kirtland's in Ogemaw County that was previously banded in 1996 as an adult. That would make him at least 10 years old, the oldest Kirtland's warbler ever documented!

Four days later we were back in Ogemaw County trying to capture another banded Kirtland's. On Sunday, June 12, 2005, Mike Petrucha and I captured another male Kirtland's, this one banded as an adult in 1995, a bird at least 11 years old and the current oldest Kirtland's ever documented. Both of these birds were observed with females and defending a territory. They both appeared to be in great shape. Assuming a round trip migration of approximately 3,000 miles, these birds would have logged 30,000 and 33,000 frequent flier miles during migration. A couple of truly remarkable birds.

### **RARE BIRD ALERT**

The DAS's Rare Bird Alert is a recorded phone message listing unusual species seen in our area. The alert gives precise instructions on where to find listed species.

Phone (248) 477-1360 anytime.

Highlights of recent sightings are also periodically published on the Detroit Free Press 'Outdoors' page.

To report rare birds,  
call Karl Overman, (248) 473-0484

## HAWKFEST 2005

Detroit Audubon Society will lead an early morning bird hike and will have an exhibit/bookstore booth at Hawkfest. The Southeast Michigan Raptor Research organization will have professional and volunteer hawk counters down by the boat ramp. Bring your children and enjoy the many games, crafts, displays, talks, demonstrations and live hawks and owls at the Marshlands Museum. Children can even climb up into a real eagle's nest to see the world from an eagle's point of view.

We need volunteers to help us staff our exhibit and merchandise area. This is one of our busiest sales times of the whole year. If you would like to help out either or both days contact Jim Bull at [jbull51264@aol.com](mailto:jbull51264@aol.com) (preferred) or call him at 313-928-2950. You may also call the DAS office to volunteer at 248-545-2929.

### Explore the World - Discover Yourself!

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - 7 Night Cruise &  
SAN JORGE ECO LODGE - Ecuador 4 Nights

January 25 - February 5, 2006 - \$2,999

Unique Wildlife, Waterfalls, Hiking, Andes Mountains

CARIBBEAN HUMPBACK WHALES - SILVER BANKS,  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Now booking Feb & March dates for 2006

727-785-5563 [www.ajourneyofdiscovery.com](http://www.ajourneyofdiscovery.com)

### Please E-mail Us!

If you would like to receive notices about membership meetings, field trips, and other time sensitive material, please send your e-mail address to [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net). Simply type the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Please include at least your name in the message area of your e-mail. We will only send out a few e-mails a month and you can ask to be removed at any time. E-mail will help save postage and paper costs -- and will allow us to give you speedy notification of events.



# A SPECIAL INVITATION TO MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETY'S LABOR DAY CAMPOUT AT CEDAR CAMPUS IN CEDARVILLE, MI



The Michigan Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to members of the Detroit Audubon Society to join us at Cedar Campus in Cedarville, MI for our annual Labor Day Campout. With 500 wooded acres, Cedar Campus, located on the sparkling shores of Lake Huron and the Straits of Mackinaw, provides an environment of quiet woods, beaches washed by gentle waves and cool breezes. Once again Ranger Steve Mueller and Melanie Good will co-host four days and three nights of outstanding nature adventures. Campers will arrive at Cedar Campus on Friday, September 2 and leave on Monday, September 5.

Daily activities may include birding, wildflower hikes, visits to local nature preserves with interesting geological features, a field trip to Drummond Island, a fern foray and a variety of other adventures. Evenings are filled with presentations and are followed by scrumptious snacks, star gazing and/or time in the sauna.

Price includes seven meals (breakfast on Saturday to breakfast on Monday), evening snacks, selected lodging for three nights, field trips, evening programs and activities such as swimming, sailing, kayaking and canoeing. Daily rates are also available. Several plans are available with lodging in beach cabins, rustic cabins and dorm rooms. RV and tent camping are also permitted. Prices per adult range from \$125 to \$170 depending on the plan chosen. Early registration is encouraged as lodging spaces fill up quickly. Special rates for children ages 12 and under are also available.

For more information about prices, plans and/or to register please contact Jeanette Henderson, MAS Program Coordinator, at 517-886-9144 or [programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org).

Additional information is also available on the web at  
[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org) and [www.cedarcampus.org](http://www.cedarcampus.org).

## DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 (circle one: '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, 1320 N. Campbell Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067  
Thank You for your support!

## AUTHOR'S CORNER

### EVERY WAKING SQUIRREL MINUTE

By Dan Gertiser

My brother passed on some wisdom to me last summer when he looked at the squirrel baffles around my feeder and the squirrel in the feeder enjoying my largess. He asked me how often I worked at keeping the squirrels out of my feeder. I told him that I would think about keeping them out for maybe twenty or thirty seconds, but mainly I'd just ignored them. He then asked me how much time the squirrel would think about how to get in the feeder. He then shared his wisdom with me. He said the squirrel is always thinking how to get in my feeder "every waking squirrel minute." An uneducated animal of low intelligence will beat me every time when I try to stop him from getting what he wants.

I now have a frequent buyers card at Backyard Birds just from buying baffles. Baffles on the pole, a cone the top of the feeder, extra tall feeders, in fact, I even trimmed the trees around the feeder to stop the leapers. Does all this work? Well yes, but still, we look outside and are amazed at the size and appetites of our squirrels - Widetrack, Chunky, Fat Albert and Greedy. I know we can't win.

In September, I looked outside to the owl nest box that we had put up and saw an

Eastern Screech Owl sticking her head out. Boy was that welcome news. The only other activity this box ever got was a couple of Starlings and some squirrels last winter. Then one day my wife looked out and saw one of our squirrels trying to go into the nest box. We yelled, went outside, made fools of ourselves and chased off the squirrel. Remember my brother's axiom: "Every Waking Squirrel Minute." Once the squirrels decided they wanted that nest box, I wasn't sure who would get ownership. Well, one night my wife called me, distraught because when she looked out into the backyard, the face staring back at her was not our owl but Widetrack, the fat, contented squirrel.

It was now time to take matters into our own hands. It was time for us to evict the unwanted interloper. After I got home from work and remember this is October so it was quite dark out, we got the ladder, flashlights, gloves and power screwdriver to take the house down until we could squirrel-proof the owl box. Hitting the box with a long pole, I roused Widetrack so it was safe to proceed and climbed the ladder up to the nest box to take it down. But first, Erin, my wife, wanted me to see if our owl was killed and was still in the nest box. Opening the side door, I didn't see our friend, but I did see what I thought was a dead squirrel. For once common

sense came to my rescue and I did not just reach in a grab the dead squirrel, but checked to make sure he was really dead. Well, that squirrel had slept through me chasing Widetrack out of the box, all the noise of the ladder being raised, our conversations and me opening up the side panel. However, she objected loudly and persistently to my poking her. "CHE CHE CHE CHE" greeted my attempts to move her or persuade her to leave. Every time I banged on the side of the box, "CHE CHE CHE CHE" went the squirrel. Erin meanwhile was imploring me to get down and leave the squirrel alone, which I did. The next Saturday, however, we sealed the box up tight so we could take it down safely. After a trip to Home Depot for some sheet metal to wrap around the tree, we remounted the owl box. Now this sheet metal is bright silver and surrounds the trees at least two feet on each side of the nest box. It is ugly. We would comment on how ugly it was and wonder whether it would keep our buddies out. We were ecstatic when we found that our work has paid off and a sleepy owl was looking back at us from the box.

P.S. Since I first wrote this, the squirrels have moved back into their nest box and evicted our owl again. We are now back to square one in our battles to put up a squirrel proof nest box.

### A COMMON TERN-AROUND

By Jim Bull

During the winter Detroit Audubon members, Jim Bull and Bruce Szczechowski, cut and stacked brush as well as reworking the surface on protection piers of Wayne County's bridge to Grosse Ile to make more area available for nesting of the state threatened Common Tern. It worked. Last year there were 60 nests on the pier and this year there are over 170. As of June 3rd, Bruce and Jim have banded 8 tern chicks. We hope that at least 150 terns fledge from this site. All chicks will be banded with US Fish and Wildlife Service number bands and color bands telling what year they hatched and what site they were from.



- photo by Jim Bull

After banding, we usually observe the terns for an hour or more, taking field notes on their behavior. One day we saw one tern make 5 trips across the river to the area around the DTE Trenton Channel plant, catch a fish and bring it back and feed each of his or her three young - five trips, five fish and five feedings

in 6 minutes. Some parents, probably first-time parents, will bring back fish too big for their young to swallow. Not this tern. The fish brought back were just the right size and gobbled down by the young almost before the parent had fully landed.

The toll bridge on the north of the island is undergoing repair and the north crib is 2/3rds covered with a plastic tarp. While there were 250 nests there last year, only about 40 have squeezed in on the remaining third. The bridge owner, however, did a nice job of resurfacing the south crib with smaller gravel and adding plastic tubes for young to hide from predators and get out of the sun. There are more nests on that crib, but we have not been able to get an exact count.

# PURSUING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH THE DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

*John H. Hartig, Refuge Manager*

*Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge*

Did you know that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is guided by Aldo Leopold's teachings that land is a community of life and that love and respect for the land is an extension of ethics? The Service seeks to reflect that land ethic in stewardship of our natural resources as well as instill it in others to ensure long-term sustainability. We have a unique opportunity to build North America's only International Wildlife Refuge right at the doorstep of the automobile capitals of the U.S. and Canada and to help teach sustainability to a very large and diverse urban population.

Sustaining diverse and abundant wildlife and preserving open spaces for quality of life are priorities in the Detroit-Windsor Metropolitan Areas where the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge resides. The Detroit River/Western Lake Erie area is the intersection of two major North American flyways. Birds come to rest, nest and feed along the shoreline of the many islands and marshes. Over 30 species of waterfowl, 17 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds and 160 species of songbirds are found along or migrate through the Detroit River corridor. In addition, 117 species of fish are found in or migrate through the Detroit River. This biodiversity and the diversity of habitats to support this biota have given the region international acclaim. The Detroit River has been recognized for its biodiversity in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network and the Biodiversity Investment Area Program of Environment Canada and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. And now the area is home to North America's only International Wildlife Refuge.

Over five million people in the US portion of the Detroit River watershed and over one million people in the Canadian portion will be able to enjoy wildlife-dependent public uses in close proximity to their homes. Partnerships will be essential to build and sustain the Refuge. In fact, this region is becoming well known for its public-private partnerships for

sustainability, conservation and close-to-home recreation. One of the primary goals of Detroit Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Detroit River and others should be to create a first-class conservation and outdoor recreational experience (what educators are calling a "connective experience") for the over six million people that call this region home that inspires and develops the next generation of conservation stewards and sustainability entrepreneurs.

Clearly, there is a change happening in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario. Maybe you noticed it walking along a riverfront greenway or watching hawks swoop over this Great Lakes coast. Or maybe you haven't noticed yet what great things are going on. But they're here – the birds, the fish, the boats, the trails, the waterways. Our "wild side" is all here and waiting to be rediscovered.

This change started a while ago – when people, organizations, companies and communities realized that we had to do something to protect the things that make this region so special. We've come a long way since then – our environment is cleaner, our citizens are calling for conservation and restoration, businesses are establishing sustainable manufacturing processes, wildlife are returning and quality of life is on the rise.

*"Clearly, there is a change happening in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario. Maybe you noticed it walking along a riverfront greenway or watching hawks swoop over this Great Lakes coast. Or maybe you haven't noticed yet what great things are going on."*

It's no secret that this region has suffered from pollution over the years. For many people, that's the image of the Motor City that takes precedence over visions of glistening water, wildlife and

boats sailing into the sunset. But that image is no longer reality. In many cases, our businesses are the ones who are leading the charge to recapture the grandeur that is endemic to this region through sustainable practices. The people that have worked so hard to help this region rise from environmental carelessness are now seeing the fruits of their labors.

Detroit, Windsor and their suburbs offer world-class water, wildlife, heritage and recreational opportunities that are right in our backyard. And the region is becoming an international model for preserving and enhancing quality of life through sustainable practices, which helps businesses achieve competitive advantage because they can offer employees opportunities available in few other places.

So look around. Visit the refuge or one of our local waterfront parks or trails. Go bird watching, fishing, biking, sailing, or hunting without driving for hours for the privilege of enjoying nature. Tell your friends. Tell your family. Tell everyone. It's here waiting for you to discover.

For more information visit:

<http://midwest.fws.gov/DetroitRiver/>

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Each year at its Annual Conference, Detroit Audubon gives out several awards. We encourage nominations from our membership for all but one award. That award is the President's Award, the recipient of which can only be nominated by the President. However, names nominated for other awards may give our president ideas about who to nominate for that award. Please send in nominations by Oct. 1, 2005. Include the person's name, address, phone, email, present position and a paragraph describing why the person is deserving of the award. Any other materials, articles about or by the person, resume etc. should also be attached. We prefer that the recipient be able to accept the award in person. Send to Annual Conference/ Awards Committee Chair, Jim Bull, 4136 Abbott, Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4020 or jbull51264@aol.com. Email submissions are preferred. Here are the award categories:

**Conservationist of the Year** — This is Detroit Audubon's most visible way of recognizing individual achievement in the cause of conservation.

**Conservation Organization of the Year** — Given to the organization (not an individual) that has done outstanding work on behalf of the cause of conservation.

**Conservation Corporation of the Year** — Given to a business or corporation which is setting an example for environmentally friendly business practices or for a particular environmentally conscious business practice. Please be specific about the environmentally friendly business practice.

**Conservation Leadership Award** — Given to an elected official or non-elected government official who has exhibited outstanding leadership on one or more critical environmental issues.

Canada's Most Southern Town




Kingsville-on-the-Lake, Ontario  
[www.pigeonbaycottages.com](http://www.pigeonbaycottages.com)

Minutes to Point Pelee National Park  
From Couples to Groups of 28  
Three Historic, Fully Equipped,  
Lakeside Cottages  
For Rent Year Round  
Daily & Weekly  
519-733-9886

[info@pigeonbaycottages.com](mailto:info@pigeonbaycottages.com)  
"not just a lake...it's a Great Lake"

NATURE & CONSERVATION BOOKS ••••• BIRD FEEDERS •••

Shop for all your  
Nature Gifts at  
the DAS  
Book & Gift Shop



Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 8 am to 4 pm  
10% discount to Audubon members on cash purchases

1320 N. Campbell Road • Royal Oak • (248) 545-2929

One block south of 12 Mile Road, west of I-75. Free parking in rear

••• FIELD GUIDES ••••• BOOKS AND GAMES FOR CHILDREN •••

BIRD SONG RECORDS ••••• BIRD SONG TAPES ••••• SWEAT SHIRTS & T-SHIRTS ••••• BIRD HOUSES •••••



# WPBO 22nd Annual Fund Raising Raffle

The Board of Directors of Whitefish Point Bird Observatory is pleased to announce its 22nd Annual Fund Raising Raffle.

**First Prize** is a beautiful queen-sized quilt entitled, "A Cabin by the Lake" — designed by Marti Mitchell and crafted by Vicki Hallaxs of Village Fabric and Crafts, Paradise, Michigan. Vicki has provided two of our previous quilts.

**Second Prize** is a pair of Nikon 7X35 Action binoculars, donated by Jerry Sadowski, former chairman of WPBO.

**Third Prize** is The Sibley Guide to Birds, by David A. Sibley and donated by Rosann Kovalcik, owner of



Wild Birds Unlimited in Grosse Pte. Woods, MI, (313-881-1410).

Drawing date is September 8, 2005 (MSL #X58686).

Tickets are again **\$2 EACH OR 3/\$5**. Please send a check made payable to **"WPBO/MAS"** to Michael Fitzpatrick, 56 Hubbard, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043 by August 15, 2005. I will send tickets to you along with a return envelope for the stubs so you can enter the raffle.

Please take a chance on a beautiful quilt and help WPBO in the process.

## '05 DAS/MAS SPRING CAMPOUT

By Jim Bull

Over 80 Michigan and Detroit Audubon members gathered for their first joint campout ever. It was held at Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center north of Hale, MI. We began with a human scavenger hunt to get to know each other. The hardest categories to fill seemed to be finding a person who could recognize the Green Frog call or identify a Calypso Orchid. Bird banding experience and being a member of both Detroit and Michigan were also difficult as people could only sign once, even though they might fit several categories.

We cataloged 139 bird species for the weekend. Many of the warblers and other song bird migrants had already passed through. Highlights included Whimbrel and Red Knot at Tawas Point and a very close look at a Virginia Rail at Tuttle Marsh. An American Redstart nest on the foot bridge to the dining hall was quite a hit, until we noticed on Monday morning that it had disappeared.

American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year, 7th grader, Neil Gilbert, led the Tawas Point field trip. Rod Guest led the trip on Sunday. A Bald Eagle roosting near the beach at camp was spectacular, as was keeping tabs on a Hairy Woodpecker and a Common Loon nest.

On Sunday morning a Michigan Audubon Program Coordinator led a canoe field trip around the lake. They were motioned over to shore by the lake's Loon Ranger and invited in to the house where they were able to view the loon nest through her spotting scope. Participants were thrilled to get close up looks of a young gray puff-ball of a chick perched on the mother's back while she incubated a second egg. Jenny Balcerzak reported a Loon row Sunday night. Most of us heard the commotion and unusual frenzied cries of the loons that night. Jenny watched as a third loon, probably a male interloper, came in and fought physically with both the male and female (the chick was still on her back). After wings arched back over and over again, amid wails, the nesting loons drove off the intruder, but retreated to the far side of the lake leaving the remaining egg to get cold.

It was probably left too long without incubation to survive. We hoped the chick did, but couldn't verify it.

We discovered more than birds. We learned about honey bees and the geology of Michigan on Saturday night. Some of us got to see a double rainbow arched from one end to the other reflecting in the lake. Even the indigo ring of the rainbow was radiant. Michigan Audubon's annual slide fest was held on Sunday evening. There were many great slides, but Neil Gilbert's digital slides, shown on Detroit Audubon's new multi-media projector, were the standouts — close ups that showed the detail of every feather. He even had birds from a family vacation to Germany. Neil doesn't have a big lens either — he is just good at sneaking up close to get pictures. Dawn's Early Light, led by board member Dawn Swartz, played music for the Celebrate the Earth Ceremony, the Monday morning Memorial Day Ceremony and the Sunday night Contra dance.

The overwhelming majority of campers urged us to have a joint Spring Campout again next year. It's not too early to put it on your calendar.

## FEATHERED TALES

By Bev Stevenson



**Pat and Ray Coleman** saw a Mourning Dove with a pure white tail in their backyard in Detroit.

**Barb Bullock** of Royal Oak heard the unmistakable 'bubbling' of a House Wren in her yard.

**Randy O'Hara** saw 10 Wood Ducks in a huge oak tree around Cranbrook on May 10th.

**Suzie Robinson** saw the adult phase of a Little Blue Heron as well as 3 Snowy Egrets in the water along a dike as she was on her way to Crane Creek State Park in Ohio.

**Don Levell** sent some wonderful detailed photos of a pure white American Robin standing with a regular robin on June 2nd in Sterling Heights, east of Dequindre and 16 Mile Road.

### What killed the Rufous Hummingbird in Niagara Falls? (May/Jul Flyway)

**Carol**, a new member, was quite upset when she read "Unfortunately the hummingbird died and was sent to a museum in Toronto." She demanded to know; "Was it (banding it) worth killing the bird?" I contacted Allen Chartier to find out what had actually happened. Allen was glad to have the chance to answer Carol's question. He banded the hummer December 1st. Eighteen days later a cold front moved in bringing temperatures much too cold for a hummingbird. The cold was what actually caused its death. Allen is one of only a handful of people licensed to band hummingbirds. He has banded over two thousand hummingbirds without incident.

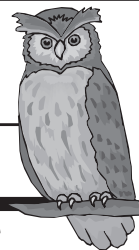
To learn more about banding and hummingbirds, join us at our Downriver monthly meeting. See great up-close photos of hummers from around the world and get answers to all of your questions. Date, time and directions are in the Programs section of this issue.

Thank you Carol for giving us the opportunity to answer your question.

## Adray Camera

For all of your Birding Optics!

- Leica • Nikon • Swarovski • Gitzo
- Bushnell • Minolta • Bogen



### •Birder on staff at Dearborn store

Ask for Jerry Sadowski - Call 1-800-652-3729

Check our website for buyer's guide: [www.adraycamera.com](http://www.adraycamera.com)

# ADRAY Camera

Now with 4  
Michigan  
locations . . .

**Ann Arbor** 3215 Washtenaw • 734-677-3881  
**Canton** 1693N. Canton Center • 734-844-9500  
**Dearborn** 20219 Carlisle • 313-274-9500  
**Troy** 1905 E. Big Beaver • 248-689-9500

## DAS OPEN HOUSE FOLLOWED BY THE GREEN CRUISE JOIN US TO FUEL UP AND CARPOOL SATURDAY - AUGUST 13, 2005

Detroit Audubon Society Open House 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Followed by the Sierra Club Green Cruise 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**Start** at the Detroit Audubon Society office any time between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. The office is on Campbell road at the first traffic light south of Twelve Mile. 1320 North Campbell Road, Royal Oak.

**Receive** a free T-Shirt with the Detroit Audubon Society logo.

**Fuel Up** with refreshments.

**Optional Carpool** to St John's parking lot at Woodward and 11 Mile.

**Be Creative** - Walk, Bicycle, Run, Dog walk, pull your Canoe or Kayak on wheels along the Green Cruise Parade Route.

**Have Fun!** Dress Up to complement your choice of non-motorized transportation.

**Stay** for the rally at 4:00 pm.

## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Anyone interested in doing any kind of volunteering:

habitat preservation, school presentations, bookkeeping, phone calling, letter writing, taking the DAS exhibit to events put on by us and other organizations, educational forums and other situations that arise from time to time, send your email addresses to:

[detaudubon@aol.com](mailto:detaudubon@aol.com)

Many of these volunteer opportunities can be used by students looking for ways to get their community service hours for the MEEP scholarship.

## DETROIT AUDUBON GIVES 2005 CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

On Saturday, April 2nd, during the luncheon at our annual Conservation Conference, Detroit Audubon presented two awards. The Rouge River Bird Observatory was designated our Conservation Organization of the Year in recognition of outstanding research efforts on migratory and breeding birds in urban natural areas, including documenting the importance of even small preserves in maintaining avian biodiversity. The Rouge River Bird Observatory at U of M Dearborn has been collecting data on urban migratory stopovers through banding and surveys for over 15 years. Those data show that there are several species of migratory birds which use the U of M Dearborn natural area for several days and gain weight during their stay, indicating that food available in this small woodlot is important for the birds to be able to continue their journey. Julie Craves, Supervisor of Avian Research at U of M Dearborn, accepted the award. Julie has written articles for the Flyway, offered a bird banding demonstration as one of our fall 2004 field trips and was the featured speaker for the March 2005 Membership meeting. Julie is also a prime mover in the coalition to Save Sibley Prairie.

The Conservationist of the Year Award went to Joe Bartell, a former board member, vice-president and President of Detroit Audubon Society. He has chaired Detroit Audubon's Conservation, Hawk and Owl Protection, Membership and Annual Meeting Committees. When Joe assumed chairmanship of the Membership Committee, we had 2,000 members and by the time he turned over the reins to a new chair, we had grown to 5,000 members. He helped establish the sister chapter relationship between Detroit Audubon and Belize Audubon Society. He is currently a member of Belize Audubon,

Houston Audubon, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Bird Observer's Club of Australia in addition to his continued membership in Detroit Audubon.

In the late 1960s, while a member of Michigan Audubon Society's Board of Directors, he helped raise \$5,000 to begin the cowbird control program that helped save the Kirtland's Warbler from extinction. The cowbird lays its eggs in the Kirtland's nest and its young survive at the expense of the Kirtland's young. The cowbird, a bird of the open plains, did not get to Michigan until the early 1900s so the Kirtland's had no chance to evolve a defense against this social parasitism. Nicholas Cuthbert at Central Michigan University started the program, which is now carried out by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Joe and Wilbur Bull were Detroit Audubon's liaisons to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Michigan DNR in support of creating the dikes at Point Mouille that saved those Lake Erie wetlands and their important shorebird and waterfowl habitats from being washed away forever. He convinced then Detroit City Councilman, Carl Levin, to introduce an ordinance prohibiting the sale of tiger and leopard coats in Detroit. The ban was eventually overturned but it helped build momentum for the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Bartell also proposed in the early 1970s that Detroit Audubon take the lead in promoting a tuna boycott to protest the concomitant killing of thousands of dolphins in the purse seine nets then used to catch Tuna. The boycott received national attention and eventually lead to the familiar "Dolphin Safe Tuna" labels and the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act with the help of Sen. Carl Levin and Congressman John Conyers.

Joe Bartell also helped launch Detroit Audubon's campaign to send empty beverage containers to Governor William Milliken asking for a 10-cent deposit on pop and beer containers. Joe and Wilbur Bull subsequently represented Detroit Audubon in a coalition between Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the UAW, farmer organizations and Detroit Audubon to raise funds and signatures required

to put the issue on the ballot. It won with over 76% of the vote. Joe also worked to lead Detroit Audubon into a partnership with Defenders of Wildlife and Rep. Robert Green of New York to regulate importation of parrots into the U.S. (many of which died en route, carried in car hubcaps, under car floorboards etc.). The pet trade had pushed parrots and macaws to near extinction. President Clinton finally signed a bill which now regulates the parrot trade and will hopefully save these birds from extinction.

Joe Bartell could have been presented with this award for any one of these accomplishments. Detroit Audubon recognized Joe this year because of his tireless efforts collecting almost 3000 signatures for the "Restore the Mourning Dove Shooting Ban" petition drive. This represented the 5th highest total in the state. He was co-coordinator of the campaign for St. Clair, Macomb and parts of Wayne County. He richly deserves this award, the highest honor Detroit Audubon can bestow on an individual.



### DAS WISH LIST

#### Gently used binoculars and birding field guides

Provide a new birder the opportunity to develop the passion for birding that sustains many of us. In anticipation of the hawk, waterfowl and warbler identification programs and subsequent field trips, we encourage you to donate your gently used binoculars and birding field guides. We can arrange pick up of donated items and provide you an acknowledgement of your tax deductible donation.





## NettieBay Lodge School of Birding

NettieBay Lodge nestled within the large oak trees on beautiful Lake Nettie (northeastern part of Michigan's lower peninsula) offers special intensive short course instruction and birding tours in **"WET & WILD"**

Presque Isle County's woodlands, meadows, lakes and marshes during the month of May. Each session includes guest speaker, guided tours, two nights lodging, 2 continental breakfasts, two brunches, and one dinner.

### **Additional Learning Vacations**

Split Bamboo Rod Making  
School of Stone Masonry  
Twig Furniture Making  
School of Photography  
Women in the Outdoors

For information and  
reservations call:

**(989) 734-4688**

9011 W. 638 Hwy. Hawks, MI  
web site

**www.nettiebay.com**

## **BOOKSTORE BITS**

*By Bev Stevenson*

We have a wonderful Michigan field guide and a 60 minute CD set on reptiles and amphibians. This is put out by Stan Tekiela, naturalist, wildlife photographer and nature columnist. Detailed range maps are just for Michigan and include some interesting 'gee whiz' facts. This set contains 53 species - all Michigan's turtles, snakes, lizards, salamanders, frogs and toads. Some calls will sound like the pond at home, but there are some that may surprise you. It sells for \$15.85 including tax.

### **Visit Our On-Line Bookstore!**

Go to our website at [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org) and click on "Detroit Audubon Nature Store." Over 7,000 items are available and 15-17% of your purchase price goes to support Detroit Audubon programs.

## **DONATION THANK YOUS**

*Thank you for the following people for their  
generous financial contributions*

*Richard H. Lobenthal and Dr. Judith A. Kovach*

*Mr. & Mrs. Robert King III*

*Ms. Pamela Esser*

*Anne Honhart*

*William Dodge and Patricia Hidock*

*Asae Shichi*



*Detroit Audubon Society  
1320 N. Campbell Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067*