



www.detroitaudubon.org

# Flyway

## Fall 2012

Volume 2012, Issue 4

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## DETROIT YOUTH ENERGY SQUAD

by Leonard Weber

The latest news from the Detroit Audubon Society...

Detroit Audubon is excited to announce that we, in partnership with WARM Training Center in Detroit, are embarking upon a 2012-2013 project titled "Detroit Youth Energy Squad." The project, which was recently awarded a National Audubon Society innovation grant, will develop conservation understanding and skills among urban high school students.

- The students, about 60 in number, will be from four high schools, three in Detroit and one in Highland Park. About one quarter of the group will be students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and cognitive disabilities.
- A major component of the program is to provide the students with an understanding of energy conservation and the skills to do residential energy audits and install several different energy retrofits. This component is the basis for the name "Detroit Youth Energy Squad" (D-YES). WARM Training Center is taking the lead in assisting the students in developing these skills.
- The project will connect energy conservation with the conservation of species and habitats. Students will have both classroom and outdoor experiences designed to develop a greater understanding of local species and their habitat needs. Detroit Audubon will have primary responsibility for this component and will be looking to hire a part-time nature educator to design these educational experiences.
- The students will also have the opportunity to assist in Detroit Audubon's Black Tern project. By constructing nesting platforms, they will be making a practical contribution to the effort to increase the terns' breeding success in St. Clair Flats.

As stated in our mission statement, "The mission of Detroit Audubon is to promote awareness of the environment through education and participation." In recent years, we have been seeking opportunities to promote this awareness more actively

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## STILL TIME TO REGISTER! DAS Annual Conservation Symposium Saturday, September 29, 2012

Join us at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, for "**Migration Secrets—Not Just for Birds,**" an entertaining, educational, and delicious event featuring

- continental breakfast
- free give-aways
- a bird walk on the grounds
- talks by three great speakers
- a lovely buffet lunch on the Terrace
- something-for-everyone silent auction, and
- cool bird and nature stuff

We will begin with a continental breakfast followed by a bird walk led by **Rosann Kovalcik** (owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, Grosse Pointe) and **Bill Rapai** (President of Grosse Pointe Audubon and author of *The Kirtland's Warbler: The Story of a Bird's Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It*). No one knows more about the property's bird secrets than these two.

We have an excellent lineup of speakers: **Chris Wood** of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will instruct us on how to get the most from eBird and how we can be most helpful as citizen scientists. Professor **Jim Leslie** (Adrian College) will share his knowledge of migrating Milkweed Beetles, tell the amazing story of the Green Darner, and explore some lesser known flying travelers. **Bill Rapai** will speak about the mysteries of the Kirtland's Warbler migration and what is being done to answer the final questions about the bird's biology and needs.

Please plan to arrive by 7:15 a.m. for the bird walk, or 9:15 a.m. for the symposium. Cost is \$20 for the bird walk/breakfast; \$35 for the symposium/lunch; \$50 for the entire day.

**Registration deadline is September 20.** Download the registration form available on the DAS website, [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org), or call DAS at (248) 354-5804 to reserve your place.

# Flyway

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For the Latest News and Views from  
Detroit Audubon

be sure to frequently visit our website:  
[www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org)

## DAS 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.

## MORE PUBLICITY FOR PROJECT SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES

CBS 62 Chief Meteorologist Jim Madaus talked to Rob Duchene of the Detroit Audubon Society Safe Passage Committee about the problem of bird-building collisions of migratory birds for a story that aired on *First Forecast Mornings*. You can watch the entire television interview at the DAS website, [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).

Since 2006, DAS and other groups have promoted Project Safe Passage Great Lakes, which asks businesses, organizations, and government agencies to help save the lives of migratory birds and reduce unnecessary electricity consumption throughout the state by turning off their lights above the fifth floor from 11 p.m. to dawn during migration season.

Earlier this year, Governor Snyder issued a proclamation designating March 15 to May 31 and August 15 to October 31 as Safe Passage Great Lakes Days in Michigan for 2012.

For more information on this important project and on how you can help safeguard against birds colliding with your windows, please visit the DAS website (click on the Project Safe Passage quick link).

## THANK YOU, ROB DUCHENE!

Rob Duchene has long been listed as “photo editor” of the Flyway. It is a title that did not come close to describing his important leadership role in the production of the newsletter for nearly two decades. Earlier this year, Rob announced his resignation as “photo editor,” and this issue is the first in the post-Duchene era. He will continue to assist with proofreading and give support to the Flyway Committee.

Thank you, Rob, for a job well done. Thank you for your long, dedicated, and professional service. Thank you for your key role in bringing the new editorial staff on board. And thank you for your willingness to continue working on Detroit Audubon’s Safe Passage Great Lakes project—and to serve as that project’s television spokesperson!



President's Message, continued from Page 1

among new and diverse constituencies, especially among young people and Detroit residents.

As Detroit Audubon members have long understood, citizens are only committed to conservation of the natural environment when they sense that there is something worth conserving. Youth need occasions and opportunities to learn about nature and to connect with nature in their own neighborhoods. The Detroit Youth Energy Squad project will help cultivate a new group of conservation leaders and environmentally aware citizens.

For more information on D-YES, email [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net) or [daspres@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:daspres@detroitaudubon.org) or call (248) 354-5804

## Flyway Going Green!

As announced last issue, **beginning next year, only one issue of the Flyway (the Spring issue) will be printed and mailed annually (in March).** If you've not already provided your e-mail address to DAS, please do so! You don't want to miss notification and the e-mail link to subsequent quarterly issues that will be available only on the DAS website!

Please send an email to the DAS office at [detas@bignet.net](mailto:detas@bignet.net) or call the office at (248) 354-5804 to provide us with your email address. Rest assured that DAS will not share or sell your email address to any other person or organization.

## A HEARTFELT FAREWELL TO GEORGIA REID

by Rosemarie Attilio

It is with much sadness that we mourn the loss of long-time board member and Audubon supporter, Georgia Reid, who passed away on May 6, 2012.

For many years Georgia was a tireless volunteer and board member of the Detroit Audubon Society and many other nature organizations. She led many field trips to places such as Rondeau Provincial Park in Canada and Belle Isle as well as co-chaired many of DAS Memorial Day weekend campouts. She staffed the booths at home and garden shows and assisted in numerous Audubon conferences. Georgia taught many beginning birders how to enjoy bird-watching. A tireless birder, she out-walked and out-birded most of us for many years.

Georgia came to the Detroit area from Massachusetts in 1971 to begin her long and distinguished career teaching at Wayne State University. When she arrived in Detroit, she decided to take a few community education classes to meet people. She took a birding class and was forever changed—and forever hooked! Birding became her life's passion. She was a regular fixture at Magee Marsh, Holiday Beach, Point Pelee, Seven Ponds Nature Center, and many other birding hotspots.

She had a wonderful sense of humor and wit. Once while birding in a downpour, she passed some people playing golf. She said, "Look how silly those people are, chasing a golf ball in the rain!" I was shocked. I looked at her, soaking wet, and I said, "Don't you think we are as silly as they are? We spent the day, in a soaking rain, chasing a Fox Sparrow!" She howled with laughter.

She often would tell humorous tales of past birding adventures, such as the time a group waited for hours for a rare Barn Owl to come out of a barn at dusk. They waited and waited in a field,

and out of boredom, people began discussing their hiking boots and shoes. While everyone was looking at their footwear, the owl silently left the barn, and only a few in the group got a split-second view of the ghostly bird before it disappeared.

In 2006 Georgia was featured in a book called *Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*. The book's author, Arthur Dudley Edmondson, wrote a wonderful chapter on Georgia and her work for the Audubon Society and her passion for birding.

Georgia always said that when she retired she would buy a Volkswagon camper and travel around and bird. She was able to achieve that dream in 2001, when she retired after 45 years of teaching at Wayne State University.

The Detroit Audubon Society and our birding community have lost a great supporter and friend. Thank you, Georgia, for all you gave to our community.



Georgia Reid. Photo by Rosemarie Attilio.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION: CLASS OF 2015 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 an empty space occurs).

All members of the Detroit Audubon Society are eligible to vote. **Please submit your vote by December 31, 2012.** Thank you. To view the entire list of current Board members, please go to the DAS website.

## The following members are seeking election for the class of 2015:

**Andrew Howell:** current Board member and a serving member of the DAS Board of Directors since 1997. As a teacher, coach, and volunteer for environmental causes, Andrew Howell is committed to the mission of DAS.

**Scott Roberts:** current interim Board member, appointed December 2010, and current chair of the DAS Education Committee. Scott is an attorney who has specialized in the environmental area and is involved with the Detroit Youth Energy Squad, a new DAS initiative announced in this issue.

**Kathy Hofer:** current interim Board member, appointed December 2011, and current chair of the Flyway Committee. Kathy is also an attorney who has specialized in environmental law, and she has been a regular volunteer supporting DAS since 2010.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CLASS OF 2015 ELECTION FORM

(Please place an "X" next to the name(s) of the candidate(s) of your choice.)

### Class of 2015 Candidates:

Andrew Howell       Scott Roberts       Kathy Hofer

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

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

## DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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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, 24433 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48033

Thank You for your support!

## **DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY FALL 2012 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

Fall in the Detroit area brings wonderful opportunities for viewing migrating songbirds, water birds, and raptors. All trips are free, and everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders.

Please call the DAS office at (248) 354-5804 by the Thursday before each trip so that we can know how many to expect and be able to notify you of any changes. Leave your name, number coming, and phone number.

Please tear this page out to keep for future reference. Look for the remainder of the schedule in the Winter *FLYWAY*. The field trip schedule is also published on the DAS website, [www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org).

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

**September 9, 2012 (Sunday) 8 a.m.**

**Leader: Joanna Pease**

Hopefully fall migrants aplenty with summer temperatures still a reasonable expectation.

**Directions:** Take I-94 east and exit on Metropolitan Parkway. Drive east into the park and park on the west side of the main parking lot near the nature center. Meet at the center. Metropark entrance fee or sticker required.

### **Lake Erie Metropark – Hawkfest (no bird hike)**

**September 15 and 16, 2012 (Saturday and Sunday)**

**All day: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

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

### **Lake Erie Metropark and Humbug Marsh**

**October 13, 2012 (Saturday) 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Leader: Jim Bull**

We will begin at the trailhead in the Marshlands Museum parking lot at Lake Erie Metropark. We will traverse woodlands, boardwalks and observation platforms looking for warblers, other songbirds, and migrating water birds. We will also go down to the boat launch to observe the hawk migration for awhile. In some years the number of hawks can be spectacular! Afterwards, we will head to Humbug Marsh, the gem of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which Detroit Audubon fought to save from development. This is a good time for fall migration of land birds. Migrant raptors should still be going over as well.

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

### **Sandhill Crane Migration Stopover at Haehnle Sanctuary**

**October 21, 2012 (Sunday) 2:30 for hike or 4:30 p.m. to observe from overlook only.**

**Leader: Jim Bull**

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

**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 3, 2012 (Saturday) 8 a.m.**

**Leader: Jim Bull**

The focus will be on water birds and early winter arrivals. This is historically a trip that turns up great birds.

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

### **Belle Isle, Detroit**

**November 11, 2012 (Sunday) at 9 a.m.**

**Leaders: Steve Santner & Fred Charbonneau**

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

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

### **Owl Prowl – Oakwoods Metropark**

**November 16, 2012 (Friday) 7 p.m.**

**Leaders: Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull**

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

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



## Ontario and Niagara River Trip

November 30 to December 2, 2012 (Friday - Sunday)

Leaders: Karl Overman & Alan Wormington

Exciting birding and renowned scenery make the Niagara region—with its masses of gulls and waterfowl—the place to be in the late fall. Alan Wormington is simply the best possible guide to that area, and trips Alan has led with DAS members in recent years have turned up such notable birds as Great Cormorant, Northern 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. You won't regret going on this trip!!

**Trip Information:** Departure will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 30, returning Sunday, December 2, at approximately 9 p.m. Location of departure will be in Farmington Hills. Contact Karl Overman at (248) 473-0484 for directions. Cost: \$350 each double-room rate; single-room rate \$450. Includes all transportation and 2 nights lodging. Meals are not included. \$75 deposit to reserve a spot.

## Detroit Christmas Bird Count

December 16, 2012 (Sunday)

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

## Rockwood Christmas Bird Count

December 22, 2012 (Saturday)

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

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

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*In every walk with nature one receives  
far more than one seeks.*

--John Muir

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## KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

### SUCCESS STORY

*Book review by Emily Simon*

Anyone interested in birds, conservation, and Michigan history will enjoy *The Kirtland's Warbler: The Story of a Bird's Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It*, by Bill Rapai. The book provides a detailed history of the people and the efforts involved in saving the Kirtland's Warbler. Birders will also appreciate the story of those who first located Kirtland's Warbler nests and the accounts of the banding activities taking place in the bird's wintering grounds.

Mr. Rapai begins by recounting the Kirtland's Warbler's discovery and the pioneering work to understand its specialized breeding cycle in the Jack Pine forests of northern Lower Michigan, the role of wildfire in generating habitat, and the devastating effects of nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird. When the 1971 census recorded only 201 singing males, it had become clear that intervention was desperately needed. A committed group of representatives from government, university, and nonprofit organizations immediately mobilized to revive the species. The recovery plan focused on cowbird trapping, habitat management (including prescribed burns), and education. The author credits this group with establishing the cooperation necessary for the various interests that worked together over the next decades to succeed in saving the bird.

In a compelling chapter discussing wildfire and the life cycle of the Jack Pine, Mr. Rapai narrates the harrowing events of the 1980 fire at Mack Lake. Set by the Forest Service, the fire burned out of control, killing a biologist and destroying the entire town. Paradoxically, the fire is now considered to be a major factor in the Kirtland's Warbler's recovery because previous burns were not creating large enough tracts of new trees to support higher numbers of breeding birds.

Perhaps one of the biggest lessons in the book is its focus on the need to raise public awareness of why conservation efforts are important. The public relations nightmare following the Mack Lake fire forced those working to save the Kirtland's Warbler to hold town hall meetings and launch educational programs. Residents now largely support the conservation efforts.

The book concludes with a very thoughtful discussion on the Kirtland's Warbler's future. Although the 2011 census counted 1,805 singing males, well above the number needed to remove the bird from the Endangered Species List, removal will also reduce funding for continued conservation, and climate change and invasive species are looming challenges. Nevertheless, this inspiring book proves that it is possible for groups with competing interests to work together to preserve wildlife, and that involving the public plays a crucial role in their success.

*Bill Rapai will be a featured speaker at the DAS Conservation Symposium on September 29, 2012. See page 1 for details.*

## THE FASCINATING “UGH” BIRD

by Leonard Weber

I am increasingly fascinated by a bird that frequently gets an “ugh” reaction from others I am with. The Brown-headed Cowbird is very common and not very striking in appearance or melodious in song. “Ugh” could be an expression of disappointment in seeing an unexciting bird. More commonly, however, the “ugh” reaction seems to me to be an expression of dislike, sometimes bordering on disgust. The Brown-headed Cowbird is not a well-liked bird.

The cowbird’s method of breeding is key to the dislike of the species. The Brown-headed Cowbird is the most common “brood parasite” in North America. Rather than making its own nest, the female lays eggs in the nests of other bird species. While some birds remove cowbird eggs or make new nests, many others hatch the eggs and feed the young cowbirds. Cowbird eggs hatch faster than those of most “host” species, and cowbird nestlings commonly do better than their nest mates in getting food from the adults.

The host birds are often smaller than the Brown-headed Cowbird, resulting in the phenomenon of adult birds feeding cowbird fledglings nearly twice their own size. I have observed Chipping Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and American Redstarts stuffing insects down the throats of big young cowbirds. Whenever I see a young faintly streaked cowbird perched on a branch waiting to be fed, I watch to see what adult bird will show up to feed it. One thing I know is that it will not be an adult cowbird.

The Brown-headed Cowbird is an amazing bird. An individual female lays 30 or 40 eggs in the two- to three-month breeding season, one each in 30 or 40 nests. This requires locating all these nests at the right time, before the hosts have completed the process of laying their own eggs. Cowbirds are reported to lay their eggs in the nests of 200 different species. The female cowbird that can be seen perched on a spring morning in a high-visibility location, perhaps a dead tree, is observing where other birds are building nests. Another fascinating aspect of cowbird life is that young cowbirds somehow know to join with other cowbirds at the end of the breeding season, even though they were raised entirely by other species.

I am as fascinated by the widespread dislike of the cowbird as I am by its breeding behavior. The negative reaction to the cowbird, even among some nature lovers, invites reflection on the behavior traits that we humans find unlikable in birds. Why is the Brown-headed Cowbird disliked as much as it is?

Part of the answer may be that the breeding behavior of cowbirds can present a risk or a threat to the well being of another bird species, especially a species that is more attractive or endangered. The dislike of the cowbird can be seen as a reflection of the desire to protect another species. This is best seen in the case of the Kirtland’s Warbler.

One major obstacle to the recovery of the Kirtland’s Warbler population during the last half century has been widespread cowbird parasitism. Cowbirds were not native to the Kirtland’s Warbler nesting area in Michigan before deforestation, and the warbler had not adapted to life with cowbirds. Cowbirds made it more difficult for the Kirtland’s Warbler to reproduce successfully, and the Kirtland’s Warbler recovery plan has, therefore, included the trapping and killing of Brown-headed Cowbirds.

A dislike of the cowbird because it constitutes a threat to endangered birds like the Kirtland’s Warbler is understandable, but it is perhaps a misplaced dislike. Humans transformed the environment to such an extent that cowbirds moved into the Kirtland’s Warbler nesting area. Trapping cowbirds may be a necessary strategy, but the need for it says more about the effects of habitat change than about the behavior of cowbirds.

I suspect that the dislike of the Brown-headed cowbird often exists even apart from any concern about the survival of other species. There is something about the cowbird’s breeding behavior that seems, at least to some, to be unfair or irresponsible—or at least very unattractive. The species does not build its own nest and feed its own young. It takes advantage of other species, often smaller ones, behaving like a thief or a freeloader.

If a significant part of the dislike of the Brown-headed Cowbird is akin to a moral disapproval of its breeding practices, it indicates how difficult it can be for us not to anthropomorphize, not to project human traits onto nonhuman animals. Since we typically do not think highly of humans who do not raise their own young, it can follow that we do not like or approve of birds that do not raise their own young. But birds are not humans. In watching cowbirds, I have been not only learning more about an atypical breeding behavior but also thinking more about the whole question of what it means to respect nature.

I no longer move on as quickly as I used to when I see the Brown-headed Cowbird. The more I observe its behavior, the more interesting I find the species. And the more I observe the behavior of my companions in reaction to cowbirds, the more I find myself reflecting on the relationship of humans to the rest of the natural world.

### JOIN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Detroit Audubon Society is looking for members to join its Education Committee, which will oversee new initiatives on behalf of the organization. For more information, please email Scott Roberts at [scott@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:scott@detroitaudubon.org).

## **SUPPORT DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY BY USING YOUR KROGER CARD**

The Detroit Audubon Society is now part of the Kroger Community Rewards Program! By shopping and using your registered Kroger Card, Kroger will donate up to \$300 per household per quarter—that's \$1200 per household per year!

To participate, register your Kroger card on the Kroger website ([www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com)) by clicking on the Create an account link at the top right corner of the homepage. From here instructions are thorough and simple. At the Community Rewards page, enter "Detroit Audubon Society" in the Find Your Organization box to designate DAS as your Community Rewards recipient.

If you already have an online Kroger account, just sign in and then click on the My account link at the top right. Click the Community Rewards link, then on Edit Community Rewards Program Information. On the next page, enter "Detroit Audubon Society" in the Find Your Organization box. Select and save to complete the designation.



### **Feathered Tales**

*by Bev Stevenson*

**Jim Fraser** of St. Clair Shores was disappointed to have had a notice prohibiting him from feeding birds posted on his door. The city is banning bird feeding due to a rodent problem. I suggested that he plant sunflowers to attract finches to his yard.

For almost a week in late July, an immature White Ibis was seen at Pointe Mouillee SGA, Monroe County. Earlier in the summer, an immature bird was also reported in St. Clair County. The White Ibis is native to the deep South.

According to a news report on eBird.com, the summer of 2012 had "one of the greatest northward movements of Dickcissels in recent memory." Drought is a factor that contributes to periodic northward irruptions of this beautiful grassland bird.