



# Flyway

**Summer 2006**

## **LOONS CALLING ACROSS THE LAKE, KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS, EAGLES, CAMPFIRE, CANOEING, AND OTHER FUN**



### ***IT'S ALL AT THE SECOND JOINT***

### ***DETROIT AUDUBON — MICHIGAN AUDUBON***

### ***SPRING CAMPOUT MAY 26-29, 2006 (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND)***

Everybody is welcome to join Detroit Audubon and Michigan Audubon members and friends on the beautiful shores of Loon Lake on Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29 for birds, music, learning and lots of fun. As always we'll go to the Kirtland's Warbler Area, Tawas Point, Tuttle Marsh and, around camp, enjoying a second look at Spring Migration. Other birding highlights in the past have been Piping Plover, Whimbrels, Western Meadowlarks, nesting Merlins, Pileated Woodpeckers, Black-throated Blue Warblers and more. There will be special afternoon programs for children and an adventure challenge course you can try, if you dare.

Friday Night we will have a program on the Common Loon. On Saturday Huron National Forest Wildlife Biologist, Paul Thompson, will talk about Wolves and Massasauga Rattlesnakes. Early Sunday evening we'll share poetry and songs to celebrate the earth in an outdoor ceremony. That will be followed by a short slide fest by campers who want to share up to five nature slides.

At 8:00 p.m. Sunday evening we will have our traditional campfire with Some-Mores, songs and stories. Bring your instrument and your voice. We'll provide song sheets. Traditional music and camping just seem to go together. Bring your own instrument and songbooks if you'd like to jam or just sing-a-long.

In addition to birding, you can opt to go on an early evening canoe sojourn around the lake, or a longer float down the Au Sable or Rifle River, take a dip or swim if it's warm enough (or for you polar bears, even if it's not).

Come this year and we know you'll make it an annual tradition. The Loon Lake Campout gets in your bones, the way the eerie call of the Loon itself goes to the primal core of our beings, delighting us and connecting us with the continuity and wonder of the natural world.

*(For more details and the Registration Form, see Page 11)*

# Flyway

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Flyway Editor: Sue Beattie

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To find  
out about  
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giving, e-mail  
John Makris at  
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## The Detroit Audubon Society Mission Statement

The mission of Detroit Audubon is to promote awareness of the environment through education and participation. We feel that the environment is best served by a knowledgeable citizenry and that bird watching is the vehicle for developing an inclusive understanding of natural history.

The Society supports activities to foster the preservation of habitat, clean air and water, and conservation of land and other natural resources.

While our organization endorses the goals of the National Audubon Society, the efforts of Detroit Audubon Society, in furthering the above goals, will be conducted locally.

Adopted October 13, 1999

## AWARDS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

President Rochelle Breitenbach presented the Conservation Organization of the Year Award to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology which sponsored the Ivory-billed search. The Cornell Lab was recognized for its 91 years of bird research, citizen involvement, the Great Back Yard Bird Count and conservation efforts. Dr. Martjan Lammertink, who gave the Ivory-billed Woodpecker talk and is Senior Research Advisor at the Lab, accepted.



Dr. Lammertink & DAS President Breitenbach - Photo by Rosemarie Attilio

Breitenbach presented Dr. Larry Nooden, professor emeritus of Botany at U of M, with the Conservationist of the Year Award for his watchdog efforts with the Clinton Huron Ecological Coalition, ensuring that natural areas in our metroparks are protected, organizing botanical surveys of natural areas and for organizing the SE Michigan Environmental issue list serve.

Conference and Award Chair, Jim Bull, introduced Rep. Sander Levin and thanked him for his leadership in supporting add-on funding for cowbird trapping in the Kirtland's Warbler nesting area. Bull had just been in Washington earlier in the week for a National Audubon workshop on advocacy for the Endangered Species Act and had met with Levin and his staff. Levin received the Conservation Leadership Award. Levin told the audience that both the zoo and Detroit Audubon are tremendous organizations that must be kept strong. He said he had his first train ride at the zoo and that his wife insisted he let us know that they buy all their bird seed from Audubon. Until we brought it to his attention he had not heard of the Kirtland's Warbler, but is now one of its staunchest defenders. He told us that the Endangered Species Act was under siege right now and that we must fight to keep it strong. The US Senate will decide the fate of the act in the coming few weeks. He suggested contacting relatives and friends in other states and asking them to contact their senators since our senators are already on board.

## DAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE - IT WAS A ZOO!

Over 250 people packed the Ford Education Center at the Detroit Zoo for our Annual Conference April 1st. At least 78 of them came on the early morning bird hike around the zoo grounds led by board member and zoo staff member, Beth Johnson. We saw a large number of

circling Turkey Vultures, a pair of Wood Ducks, a Black-crowned Night Heron and a resident pair of Trumpeter Swans in addition to more usual avian fare.

The morning walk was capped off with guided visits to the butterfly garden, free flight aviary and the Penguinarium.



Detroit Zoo Resident - Photo by Jan Palland

of Colorado and the zoo donated a behind the scenes feeding and tour of the Penguinarium for four people. While the adults gathered in the auditorium, zoo staff led children in making crafts and a behind the scenes tour of the reptile house.

Scott Carter, Deputy Director of the zoo, greeted us and told us about the elephants, Winky and Wanda and accepted a certificate of appreciation from Detroit Audubon. We then heard

from the Curator of Reptiles and two keepers about the Detroit zoo's programs to help Michigan's endangered wildlife in the field. Dr. Martjan Lamertink kept everybody spellbound as he recounted

the search that rediscovered the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and point-by-point effectively refuted recent doubts raised by David Allan Sibley and others. When the moderator signaled him that it was time to wrap-up, the crowd revolted. The Ivory-billed deserved and got more time.

Julie Beutel led us in singing a native American chant, "I hear the voice of my Grandmother calling me," as well as the more familiar, "We have the whole world in our hands," and "This Land Is Your Land." She also sang Cat Stevens, "Where do the Children



Julie Beutel -  
Photo by Jan Palland

Play?" Children and young at heart were invited to come on stage to play instruments.

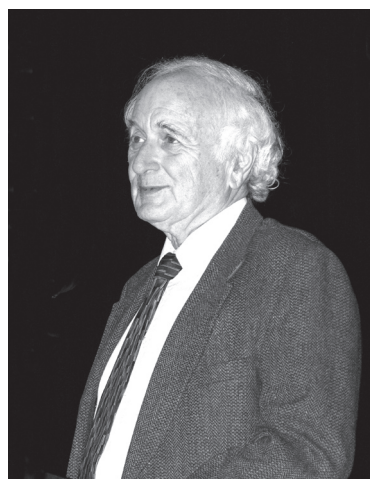
Speaking of instruments, Prof. Avian Guano (aka Denny Olson) had quite a set of pipes doing wonderful renditions of Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush calls.



Dr. "Avian Guano" - Photo by Rosemarie Attilio

He got several members on stage to take the part of different birds, including an old "coot" and a "Wood Pewee," for a game of similes. Guano had everybody singing, "Let's all sing like the birdies sing," as he bid us adieu. For those who stayed to enjoy an afternoon at the zoo at a reduced price, there was an aviary feeding of fish and mice for the herons and docent-led tours.

Thanks to the Detroit Zoo, Ford Motor Company and DTE for making it all possible.



Rep. Sander Levin - Photo by Jan Palland

In the exhibit room we had a silent auction featuring original framed bird photos, fine art prints, an original painting by board member Rose Attilio and bird feeders. One of our board members, Andy Howell, donated a 3 day, 2 night stay at his family's time-share condo in the Rocky Mountains





## DAS FIELD TRIPS

### **Belle Isle - Detroit**

April 29, 2006 (Saturday) 8:00 am

Leader: Neil Gilbert

Last April birders turned up a series of interesting birds on Belle Isle - Yellow-headed Blackbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Saw-whet Owl, White Pelican. These would be unlikely to repeat but it still is an excellent migration venue where anything could turn up.

**Take Jefferson to the bridge. Cross over and drive to the east end of the island. Park in the parking lot of the Nature Center.**

### **Cape May**

May 5-May 8, 2006 (Friday through Monday)

Leaders: Dawn Swartz and local leader from Cape May.

Cape May is easily one of the top hot spots for birding. It is on the Atlantic Flyway and is a natural funnel as a southern facing peninsula. Birds flying north need to rest and "fuel up" after crossing the Delaware River. The many wooded areas in Cape May provide the perfect stopover and that is just where we will be for these three days. Over 200 species have been seen there in migration.

**Trip costs include lodging, van rentals and cost of a guide from the Cape May Bird Observatory. Cost of the food is additional and transportation to the Phila. airport is each individual's responsibility. Arrive on Friday May 6 to leave by van at 1pm for the motel. Please send \$100 to reserve your spot. Have questions? Contact Dawn Swartz at [fddlr@yahoo.com](mailto:fddlr@yahoo.com).**

### **Woodcock Watch**

May 5, 2006 (Friday) 8:00 p.m.

Leaders: Kevin Arnold (Oakwoods Metropark Naturalist) and Jim Bull

Right at dusk, this sandpiper, with a long beak and huge comical eyes comes to a field near a wetland margin to do its spectacular aerial courtship dance. First you'll hear the male "peenting" on the ground. When he stops you can see him take off, circling higher and higher until he is just a speck. Then, all of sudden, he quickly zigzags back to the earth sounding more like an electronic device than a bird. He will come down to almost the same spot and start peenting again. If we're quiet enough, we may be able to get nearer to its peenting spot while the bird is airborne and get a close-up view of this strange and beautiful bird when it comes back down. This program is especially good for families with children.

**From I-75 exit at West Road, go west, from there go south on Telegraph (M-24), west on Van Horn, then east (Left) on Huron River Drive to the entrance to Oakwoods Metropark. You will need an annual Metroparks sticker or a daily pass. Meet at the nature center.**

### **Humbug March**

May 7, 2006 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Leader: Jim Bull

See this natural gem of the Detroit River in spring. See spring wild flowers and help compile bird migration records for this area.

**Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn left on Jefferson and drive north to Vreeland Road. Park in the Refuge**

**Headquarters parking lot on the east side of Jefferson. Parking lot is across from Toledo Road.**

### **Metropolitan Beach**

May 13, 2006 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Joanna Pease [[centhymeme@aol.com](mailto:centhymeme@aol.com)] and Fred Charbonneau

A justly famous migrant trap.

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

### **Rondeau Provincial Park**

May 20, 2006 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Fred Charbonneau and Georgia Reid

A fine area for breeding birds at a time when there still should be a good selection of migrants. The best place in Ontario to look for Prothonotary Warblers.

From Windsor take 401 east to Exit 101, drive southeast on Kent Road all the way to the park (entrance fee). Follow the main road for about 2.5 miles and turn left at the gate. Meet at the parking lot of the Nature Centre.

### **Spring Campout - Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, Hale, MI**

May 26-29, 2006

Don't miss this weekend with wonderful people, Common Loons, American Eagles, Kirtland's Warblers, Piping Plover, Little Gull, Sora and Virginia Rails, Clay-colored Sparrows, Lincoln Sparrows, nesting Pileated Woodpeckers, great food, music,

educational programs, children's activities, a challenge course and beautiful surroundings. In addition to the camp, there will be trips to the scenic Rifle River recreation area, Tawas Point, (known as a mini Point Pelee), Tuttle Marsh and maybe even a canoe trip down the AuSable River. This year the campout is jointly sponsored by Detroit and Michigan Audubon Societies. Watch the Flyway and the website for more details.

### **"Sunrise Serenade" and Pancake Breakfast**

June 3, 2006 (Saturday) 4:00 a.m.  
Join the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) and the Detroit Audubon Society for this special program at Le Furge Woods in Superior Township. Arrive by 4:00 A.M. Saturday morning June 3 or better yet, bring your tent and sleeping bag, spend the night and enjoy a campfire Friday June 2. We will have an expert on hand to ID each bird as it starts its morning song. The smell of pancakes and sausage will greet you as you return from the field. Everyone is welcome - membership is not required. Bring your friends, your children, (but please no pets). RSVP for breakfast encouraged.

**Directions to LeFurge Woods: For directions: Go to Mapquest and use 2252 N. Prospect Rd. Ypsilanti, MI 48198, or go to the SMLC website at [www.landconservancy.com](http://www.landconservancy.com) The entrance to Le Furge Woods is located exactly 1/2 mile north of**

**Geddes - just a couple miles north of Ypsilanti and 2.5 miles south of Ford Road.**

### **Lapeer State Game Area**

June 3, 2006 (Saturday) 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Joanna Pease  
[centhymeme@aol.com]

The trip starts in Rowden Park to find marsh birds and late migrant warblers and then covers the Lapeer State Game Area for breeding birds and migrants. Grassland habitats will also be checked. Species seen in recent years in this area include Least Bittern, "Brewster's Warbler", Hooded Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow.

**Meet at the parking lot of the Lapeer K-Mart which is located on the east side of Lapeer Road (M-24) approximately one mile north of I-69. The trip will last until mid-afternoon so pack a lunch.**

### **Port Huron State Game Area**

June 10, 2006 (Saturday) 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Mike Mencotti

An exceptional diversity of breeding birds, especially warblers, may be found in this area: Hooded, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, etc. Insect repellent is advisable, no, mandatory. Six or seven hours. Take I-94 to the last exit in Port Huron (on left) before crossing into Canada. proceed north on M-25 to M-136; drive west on M-136 five or six miles to Wildcat Road.

Park near the baseball diamond at the park at the northeast corner of Wildcat and M-136.

### **Ojibway Prairie**

August 5, 2006 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Leaders: Jim Bull and Paul Pratt (or another naturalist from Ojibway Nature Centre)

While there may be some birds, the main feature of this trip will be flowers of the Tall Grass Prairie in bloom. This area, right in the heart of Windsor is "a unique example of tallgrass prairie and prairie/savannah environment in Ontario (and the lower Great Lakes region). This site supports a plant community like no other in the province. More rare plants thrive here per hectare than at any other site in Ontario. The prairie should be at its finest at this time of year and we will have an expert guide from the staff of Ojibway Nature Centre. This area would be seriously impacted by a current proposal to construct a second bridge between Canada and the U.S.

Charge per participant is \$8. Please send name, address and check for \$8 per participant to Detroit Audubon Society's office (1320 N. Campbell Road Royal Oak 48067) by July 15. We are planning an optional lunch stop at a Windsor restaurant. A French restaurant is the leading candidate. If you are interested in a lunch stop let us know when you register so we can make a reservation for you.

## **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.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT UNDER SEIGE

By Jim Bull

Leaders from Audubon chapters around the country gathered around a table on the sixth floor of a building on Connecticut Avenue in downtown Washington D.C. for an entire weekend to learn about the Endangered Species Act and about effective lobbying. Audubon D.C. director, Beth Loyless, and grassroots organizers Mike Daulton, Connie Mahan, Sara Bushey and Sean Saville were effective trainers and invaluable resources.

The upshot: The Endangered Species Act is in trouble. The Pombo bill passed the House by a vote of 229-193. Incredibly it was entitled the "Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005." It should be called the Extinction Act, because that will be the result for many species. What is so bad about it?

- It eliminates critical habitat protection.
- Recovery plans are only advisory and would allow industry to make final revisions to their plans.
- Federal agencies which have projects that could harm and endanger species no longer would have to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Science takes a back seat in the process and the Secretary of Interior

determines what the "best" science is - could be self-serving industry studies.

- Allows developers to proceed with a project any time the Secretary of Interior fails to act to protect a species within 180 days.
- Exempts the pesticide industry entirely from compliance with the act.
- Mandates huge payments to industry and landowners with no limit for following the law.

The Crapo bill being considered by the Senate is just as bad. Sen. Inhofe may offer a substitute but the goal of gutting the endangered species act is the same. The key is that we must not let any endangered species bill pass the Senate, for if it does even a "good" bill will come out of the House-Senate Conference smelling and looking a lot like the Pombo bill, or as Senator Lincoln Chaffee has said, "It will be Pomboized."

Thankfully both of Michigan's senators, Levin and Stabenow, have committed to supporting a filibuster, if necessary, to ensure that no endangered species bill leaves the Senate. A call to thank them would be a wonderful gesture and calling friends and relatives in other states to urge them to get similar commitments from their senators would be helpful.

Pombo and those who want to gut the Endangered Species Act say they just want to update this 30 year old law and

make it more effective. More effective for whom? Not for wildlife. While there may be reforms that could improve the act, now is not the time and these bills certainly are going in the wrong direction. The Endangered Species Act is a success story. The gray wolf and Bald Eagle have recovered. The Kirtland's Warbler is close to delisting. Only a very few species, which were essentially in the ICU, have gone extinct. The best way to make the act more effective is to adequately fund it. Instead, these reformers are in the forefront of making substantial cuts to recovery funding. We need to be vigilant if we want to ensure the survival of rare species and ecosystems.

### 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. 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.

## DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## DETROIT AUDUBON 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).

#### **Butterflies In Southern Michigan, Their Habits, Habitats and Their 'Farming' Practices**

Thursday May 18, 2006

Dr. Mike Kielb, Professor of Biology, Eastern Michigan University

Butterflies are wonderful indicators of healthy ecosystems. Their larvae need specific plants and adults often have different requirements. If everything is not in place (plant wise) then their numbers decrease and they ultimately disappear. When everything is healthy, they thrive. How do butterflies help their ecosystems through 'farming' the plants that they need? That's where the story begins

## KIRTLAND'S WARBLER FUNDING MAY BE RESTORED IN 2007

Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Alpena) and Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, at the behest of Detroit Audubon, Michigan Audubon and National Audubon Societies, put in requests for add-on funding (earmark) for cowbird trapping in the Kirtland's Warbler nesting area. Outgoing Michigan Audubon president, Peggy Ridgway, made the key contact that won Stupak's support.

Detroit Audubon Board Member, Jim Bull, was invited by the Audubon office in Washington, D.C. to a workshop on Endangered Species Act Advocacy March 24-27. Monday, March 27, was devoted to meeting with congressional representatives and senators. Bull met with staff from the offices of Representatives Kilpatrick, Dingell, Knollenberg, Levin and Stupak. All but Stupak represent areas within Detroit Audubon's territory. He met with Stupak's aide because Stupak represents most of the area in which the Kirtland's Warbler nests and because he sponsored the earmark. Conyers's office was contacted by phone later and indicated their support as well.

Senators Levin and Stabenow agreed to sponsor an identical earmark on the senate side, as a result of Bull's visits. With earmarks in both the House and Senate bills, the funding is more likely to stay in the final version that comes out of the conference committee. Jamie Eukens, Stupak's legislative aide for environmental issues and Alice Walker, in Senator Levin's office, urged us to work with them and with other agencies and organizations to come up with a long-term funding strategy. Congressional and senatorial aides in the other offices concurred. There will be a meeting in Traverse City to get that discussion started in the near future. We'll keep you posted. Meanwhile, it won't hurt to let your representatives know that you think this earmark is critically important. You can refer to the Detroit Free Press editorial in the issue, Monday, March 20, 2006, which was written at the suggestion of Detroit Audubon.

Staff in the Audubon Washington D.C. office were indispensable in getting things rolling on this issue. Because they know how to get things done on Capitol Hill, they steered us through the process and put the weight of its 500,000 members behind us. They actually wrote the funding requests which Stupak, Kilpatrick and Senator Levin submitted.

Meanwhile, for this summer a cowbird trapping program has been cobbled together with much reduced funding by borrowing some staff from other agencies, using qualified volunteers and a \$1500 commitment from Michigan Audubon to hire this summer's Grayling Kirtland's Warbler tour guide, thus freeing US Fish and Wildlife Service staff to do trapping. It is a one-time, less than optimal solution, but it will ensure that trapping continues while we ensure funding for 2007 and beyond.

### *DAS LOSS*

*Mildred Cruickshank, at age 92, passed away on February 23, 2006 at the Provincial House in Adrian, Michigan. She was born in Manitoba, Canada and devoted her life to teaching and mentoring. Her father was born in Scotland and Mildred taught there as an exchange teacher in 1949. She then settled in Ferndale, Michigan where she taught until her retirement in 1979. She was a life member of the Audubon Society and helped with the mailing from her retirement until 2000 when she broke her hip, couldn't drive and moved to Adrian. She is remembered for her cheerful disposition*



# ONTARIO BIRDING

by Neil Gilbert

Eastern Ontario is without a doubt one of the best winter birding spots in the Midwest. Many birders are deterred by the fact that it can be quite cold at Niagara Falls – and cold it is! However, I was too busy watching the birds to be cold even once. Once again Detroit Audubon's trip to Niagara Falls produced some great birds over the weekend of December 2-4, 2005.

On Friday our original plan was to drive to Ajax, on the east side of Toronto, to look for a reported Pacific Loon. However, a heavy snow storm near London held us up so we opted to head to Hamilton. We didn't find very much, but we did see a nice selection of ducks to start our list.

We birded the Niagara River on Saturday starting at Niagara-on-the-Lake at the east end of the river. As we were sorting through the usual scoters and gulls, Alan Wormington, our leader, spotted a female Harlequin Duck diving in the surf very close to shore. We didn't find anything else extraordinary at Niagara-on-the-Lake, but a Dunlin flying far out over the lake was a surprising find.

The Niagara River is justly famous for its huge numbers and diversity of gulls. We found a large concentration of them at the Sir Adam Beck Power Plant. In a swirling flock of the regular species of gulls, we discovered several Iceland Gulls, two Thayer's Gulls and several Lesser Black-backed Gulls. We found even larger flocks of gulls just above the Falls. The area of the river just above the Falls was very bird-rich - several species of waterfowl swam about in the protected areas of water among the rocks and even more gulls were spread about. Our best find here was a pair of Purple Sandpipers resting on a large rock. They simply sat on the rocks oblivious to all the action around them.

Our last stop of the day was at Fort Erie, just across the river from Buffalo. Here we discovered mind-boggling numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls with several Little Gulls mixed in. For every Little Gull we saw, we had to scan through several thousand Bonaparte's Gulls. Also very interesting was the sight of several dozen Bonaparte's Gulls diving like terns for fish very close to us. Even though their plunges in the water were far from graceful, they came up with a minnow about a fourth of the time.

On Sunday morning we left Niagara Falls and headed to the Toronto area. I was impressed by the humongous flocks of ducks we encountered at Lake Ontario, Stoney Creek. There were too many to count. This flock included a few thousand White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks as

well as lesser numbers of several other duck species. A new experience for me was to see all three species of scoters together in the same flock. White-winged Scoters were by far the most common species of scoter with Surf Scoter a distant second. I saw only about ten Black Scoters. Two excited birders that we ran into led us to a Barrow's Goldeneye they had found nearby. We followed and sure enough there was a beautiful drake Barrow's Goldeneye fairly close to shore in a large flock of Common Goldeneye. Its white patch was crescent shaped, unlike the surrounding Common Goldeneye which had round white face patches. Also, it had more black on its back. It was our first truly rare bird of the trip.

Next on our agenda was Port Credit Harbor on the west side of Toronto. A Northern Gannet had been sighted there so our hopes were high as we arrived there. To our dismay, there was a police car in the parking lot. The cop opened his window and informed us that we could not enter the area. When we asked the reason, his succinct reply was "There's a guy with a gun walking around. Don't go back there." As we were headed to another nearby vantage point, the cop sped past us with the sirens screaming. When we reached our destination moments later, we saw four cops talking to a birder with a Zeiss scope. Apparently, someone had mistaken his scope for a gun and had called the police. When they realized their mistake, they laughed and drove away. We were free to look for the gannet.

However, the gannet was not around. It was a pleasant spot to be though. There were several species of waterfowl very close to shore in the harbor, including a delightful Red-necked Grebe which I stalked until I got within 15 feet of it. After we had patiently waited for about an hour, someone yelled, "There it is!" Sure enough, the gannet was there. It flew toward us and circled once almost right above our heads before flying away. It was a stunning immature bird and I was struck by the grace with which it flew and its enormous size. It was undoubtedly the highlight of our trip.

But even without the gannet, it was an enjoyable trip. I personally tallied seventy-six species but missed a few birds so the trip total was around eighty species. Don't be put off by the cold temperatures next year. It isn't that bad! I'm looking forward to next year and I hope you are too.



Long-tailed Duck - Artist Steve D'Amato



# MORE SHOTS from the DAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE at the ZOO

Photos Courtesy of Rosemarie Attilio & Jan Palland



## BOOKSTORE BITS

By Bev Stevenson

The renewed interest in woodpeckers, thanks to the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, might spark an interest in *The Grail Bird* by Tim Gallagher. He was one of the first to see this iconic bird. It sells for \$15.95 including tax. The *Ivory-billed Woodpecker* by James T. Tanner tells the whole story from its extinction to its rediscovery. This book is \$14.75 including tax.

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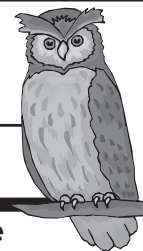
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## Audubon Announces America's Ten Most Endangered Birds

New York, NY, March 31, 2006 –

The gravest threat facing endangered bird species in the U.S. today is proposed Congressional action to weaken the protections of the Endangered Species Act, according to a report released by the National Audubon Society. "America's Top Ten Most Endangered Birds" notes that development pressures, invasive species, and global warming are threatening these bird species with extinction. The Endangered Species Act is the strongest federal safeguard against the extinction of bird species in the U.S.

The birds named in the report are: Ivory-billed Woodpecker, California Condor, Whooping Crane, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Kirtland's Warbler, Piping Plover, Florida Scrub-Jay, Ashy Storm-Petrel, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Kittlitz's Murrelet and ten island birds of Hawaii. Their habitats span the entire East Coast and are dotted across the nation, in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin.

Audubon released the report as the Senate actively considers legislation that, if passed, would undermine the vital protections provided to endangered birds by the Endangered Species Act. In September 2005, the House passed HR 3824, sponsored by Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA). This bill, euphemistically called "The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act," eliminates protection for critical habitat, creates loopholes allowing projects to proceed regardless of impacts on endangered birds and wildlife, provides highly controversial payments to landowners as compensation for complying with the law and includes special exemptions for pesticide manufacturers.

To read the press release in its entirety, go to [http://www.audubon.org/news/press\\_releases/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/index.html).

## FEATHERED TALES

By Bev Stevenson



**Debra K. Hoffmaster** sighted a white phase Gyrfalcon between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m., Saturday, December 10th, 2005, flying east to west across M52, just North of Jasper, Mi. The white plumage gave it away. Had it been brown, she doesn't think she would have been able to identify it. This is, indeed, a rare sighting.

On January 25th, **Craig Van Noord** of Woodhaven saw in his yard a Cooper's Hawk take off with a small rabbit.

March 4th in east Washtenaw County, three Sandhill Cranes were seen by **Donna Eyster**, who also saw Red-winged Blackbirds on Geddes Rd. near Leforge.

On April 1st. (no joke), **Ann Rooney** saw her first Pileated Woodpecker in her yard in Clarkston. She lives near a wetland with a lot of dead trees. She was quite excited to see this huge bird.

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## 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 e-mail 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 & Michigan Audubon Joint Spring Campout May 26-29

**WHEN:** Friday evening May 26 (no dinner provided) through Monday lunch, May 29, 2006.

**WHERE:** Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, formerly Camp Mahn-Go-Tahsee, just north of Hale, Michigan on M-65 and about 25 miles inland from Tawas City in forested Iosco County. Registration 5-9:00 p.m. Friday May 26, Seaholm Lodge. Let us know if you can't make it until later.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Seaholm Lodge at Camp Mahn-Go-Tahsee has separate heated sleeping areas with bunk beds for men and women. There are two heated mini-lodges available with priority given to families with young children. We will have at least two summer cabins available this year. A few more are possible only if we exceed 100 campers. You can also choose to stay in a motel and join us for meals and programs.

**MEALS:** Eight meals included with registration: Saturday and Sunday evening snacks, three meals on Saturday and Sunday, plus breakfast and noon meal on Monday. Vegetarian options available.

**CAMPOUT PROGRAM:** The weekend will start Friday night at 8:00 p.m. or after most folks have arrived with a get-acquainted activity and program in Seaholm Lodge. Evening programs, exciting field trips, night hike, children's programs, canoeing and a variety of nature activities will be offered every day.

**CONFIRMATION:** Your reservation confirmation will include a map of the area, list of things to bring, directions to camp and other pertinent materials.

**PRE-CAMPOUT INQUIRIES:** Jim Bull (313) 928-2950, Rose Attilio (248) 683-6122 or Jeanette Henderson (517) 886-9144. All registration questions should be directed to Jeanette.

<b>COSTS</b> (per person):	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child (K-8)</b>	<b>Child (Pre-K)</b>
<b>Weekend Package (lodging, meals &amp; program)</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$85</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Day Use - Entire Weekend (meals &amp; program)</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Day Use - Saturday or Sunday (meals &amp; program)</b>	<b>\$50/day</b>	<b>\$25/day</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Day Use - Monday (meals &amp; program)</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Free</b>

Rustic summer cabins are \$80 additional per night. You can share a cabin to spread the cost, but that is up to you and not the organizers. This is what we are charged. There is no mark up on this fee.

## Detroit & Michigan Audubon Joint Spring Campout May 26-29, 2006

**Name of Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade Level:** Please give the grade level of all children & youth under 18. List Pre-K children too.

**Accommodation Preference:** SL = Seaholm Lodge ML = Mini-Lodges (Families w/ young children) D = Day Use (Specify Sat, Sun, or Mon)

**Meal Preference:** V = Vegetarian F = Vegetarian w/ fish or poultry O.K. N = No special needs / preferences

**DAS/MAS Membership:** D = DAS M = MAS N = None If you aren't a member, consider joining one or both organizations

<b>Name of Attendee(s)</b>	<b>Grade Level (If under 18)</b>	<b>Gender: M or F</b>	<b>Accomm. Pref: SL, ML, D</b>	<b>Meal Pref: V, F, N</b>	<b>DAS/MAS Member: D,M,N</b>	<b>Amount</b>
						\$
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						\$
						\$
<b>Total Enclosed</b>						\$

Mail this completed form with your check (payable to Michigan Audubon Society) or MasterCard / Visa information completed below to:

Ms. Jeanette Henderson, Program Coordinator, Michigan Audubon Society, 6011 St. Joseph, Suite 403, Lansing, MI 48917

*If you are using MasterCard or Visa.*

**Name as it appears on card:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MasterCard or Visa Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_



## CATS IN AND OUT

How can your outdoor cat become a happy indoor cat? Cats face less risk of injury and disease if they remain inside where they also can't harm birds and other wildlife. Kittens kept indoors from the start are very happy to remain there. Older cats can also be brought indoors if you follow a few steps to make the transition easier. Here are five tips that can help.



**Tip 1:** Begin the process gradually. Substitute play time for outdoors time. Give your cat lots of attention and feed your cat exclusively indoors.

**Tip 2:** Choose the right time of year to begin the transition. In colder climates, winter is better than summer.

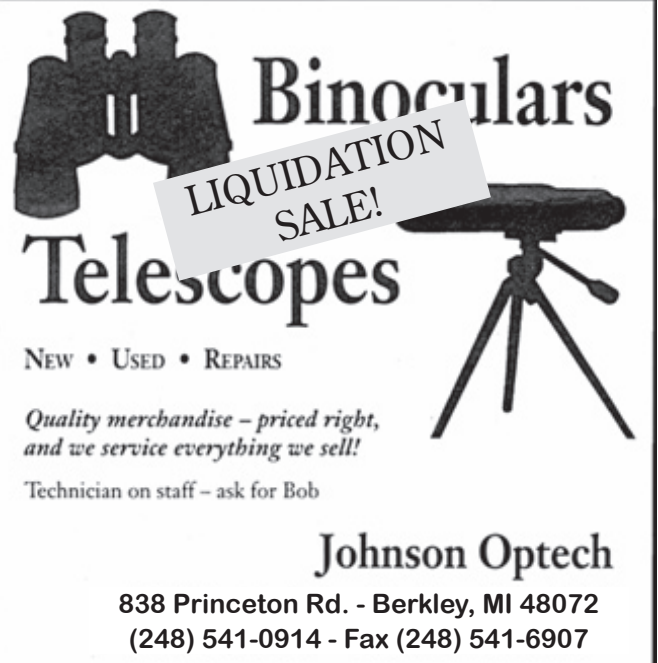
**Tip 3:** Provide new toys, scratching posts, cat condos and grass for grazing. Keep the litter pan clean.

**Tip 4:** Provide a screened porch or outdoor enclosure so your cat can safely enjoy the outdoors.

**Tip 5:** Train your cat to go outside on a harness and leash on a regular basis.

**Remember, indoor cats are safe cats.**

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### 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



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