



Flyway

Winter 2006

Mourning Dove Update

Due to the signature gathering efforts of bird lovers, environmentalists and humane activists, the issue of dove hunting will be on the ballot on November 7. Many ballot initiatives are worded in ways that confuse some voters as to which way they should vote. Proposal 3 is clear in its intent - it is asking whether the hunting of Mourning Doves should be allowed in Michigan. If you are opposed to the shooting of Mourning Doves, then a "No" vote on Proposal 3 is the way to express your view. In either case, the only way to get your position counted is to be sure you vote on November 7.

Annual Conference Focus on Lights Out Program

By Richard Quick

Recently, as I was walking past the Opera House in Detroit, I came across the dead body of a warbler on the sidewalk. A week later, coming into our home in Detroit, we found another dead warbler next to our glass doorwall.

These are examples of the fate of untold numbers of birds every year. The bird in my yard no doubt ran into the glass door. The bird downtown probably hit a window in a building as well. Every year, millions of migrating birds die the same way. The lights of tall buildings are known to attract and confuse migrating birds resulting in this avian carnage.

To help mitigate this loss, DAS is developing a program we are calling Safe Passage. This program is to enlist the cooperation of the owners and managers of tall buildings in the Detroit area to reduce the lighting both inside and outside. The Safe Passage Program will be featured at our 2007 Annual Conference to be held at the Detroit Zoo again this year on March 31, 2007. Speakers who have been researching this problem for years will present their findings and the details of the DAS Safe Passage Program will be introduced. Look for complete details in the next Flyway and mark your calendar now. See you then.

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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

Flyway is published four 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 Spring '07 Issue is January 1, 2007.

Advertising rates are available by contacting the DAS office.

Flyway Editor: Sue Beattie

Flyway Layout/Design: Don Tinson II

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.

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

Welcome New Members

Sarah Adams - Phyllis Bacot - Karen Bailey - Connie Bank
- Eugene Barbu - Mary Battley - Gerald Becker - Ray Borowski - Virginia Bosak - E I Brenner - Richard Burman - Diana Burns - Arthur Bush - George Cadenas - Janet Calle - Martha Claus - Alicia Clyburn - Edward Coe - Patricia Cox - Lucille Davies - Jo Ann Delor - Cheryl Farmer - Jonathon Fenton - Karen Fetter - Marsha Fotiu - Robert Galecki - Anne Golob - K Grigg - Joyce Griswold - Jo Ann Harrington - Mary Hart - Jaye Haugh - Thomas Hershberger - Melvin and Marlene Hopp - Denise Kallan - Raymond Kanaby - C. Kaptor - Lawrence Keech - Geneva Kent - Diana Kern - Mary Kirby - Tina Kowitz - Francie Krawcke - Tracye Lee - C. Douglas Lees - Agnes Leggett - Barbara Leonard - Cheryl Lipan - Robert Locke - Dolores Lukaszek - Christine Mack - Mary Mack - Jeff Mackert - Shirley Maguire - Alice Maloney - Richard Marsh - Sharon Martin - Lisa McArthur - Danielle Mihalko - Tina Mikols - Judith Milosic - Nancy Minhinnick - Carol Mitchell - Dan Moore - Bob and Pauline Navoy - Joanne Novak - Helene Oben - Marylou O'Malley - Len Ores - Marlene Ostrander - Tekla Otte - Alicia Peacock - Jonette Peete - David Peterson - Caryn Pfeiffer - Meredith Potbury - David Prewett - Maureen Prisbe - Denise Randall - Sue Rawlings - Denise Ritter - James Roble - Andrew Rodney - Julia Rosin - Irene Roszcwski - Dorothy Salisbury - Mark Santamaria - B Schrock - Viola Schuster - Tom Sheehan - Audrey Simon - Pavlina Snider - Ben Snyder III - Kristin Soucy - Scott Southers - Arlene St. Clair - Judith Stewart - Robert Stordeur - Joan Tisdale - Mary Urbach - Marilyn Van Pouck - Thomas Veresh - L. Graham Ward - Carol Watson - W. Watson - Diane Weber - Julia Weeks - Blanche Wicke - J. Willing - Paul Wirebaugh - Mark Yergin
- Mary Zaums - George Zissis

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 BOARD ELECTION

The following candidates are recommended by the Nominating Committee for three year terms ending Dec. 1, 2009.

- Rosemarie Attilio -

Rosemarie has been a member of the DAS since 1990 and NAS since 1980. She has a BFA from Michigan State University, was a scientific illustrator for the MSU natural history museum and has illustrated many publications including Birds of Southeast Michigan and Dearborn by Julie Craves. She currently works as a graphic designer for a printing firm. She has served as nature director for the Michigan Metro Girl Scouts, is an Oakland County advanced Master Gardener, volunteers as a gardener at the Detroit Zoo and has participated in frog and toad surveys with Friends of the Rouge. She has enjoyed attending many wonderful DAS field trips and looks forward to being of service to "our fine birding group." She says, "It is important to me to be able to give service back to an organization which has greatly enriched my life and opened my eyes to environmental awareness and action."

- Rosemarie Fielding -

Rosemarie has been a member of the Board of Directors of Detroit Audubon for 15 years and has held the positions of Vice President and Secretary. She is the chair of the Education Committee, which coordinates the distribution of Audubon Adventures and awards the yearly Teacher Scholarships, as well as assists with educational programs throughout the year at various shows and festivals. Her vision for the future direction of DAS includes the development of more community involvement throughout the Detroit Metro area with concentration on family and novice birding activities.

- Andrew Howell -

Andrew has been on the DAS board for the past nine years. He is a teacher and coach in the Farmington Public Schools. He has worked at the DAS Home and Flower Show booth for many years and the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Art Shows. His primary interests in DAS are education, wetlands and fund-raising and he has served on the education and fund-raising committees. He would like to set up programs which motivate youth to be interested in the environment and current environmental issues.

- Eugene (Gene) V. Perrin M.D. -

Gene is a semi-retired, adjunct professor of laboratory medicine with associate appointments in pediatrics, OBGYN, community medicine, and anthropology. He has a lifelong interest in ecology and animal communities, (urban as well as isolated), prevention of soil, air and water damage by development and unwise usage. He wants DAS to help people develop a continuing interest in our fellow creatures and our feathered friends, and to see them as part of their responsibility. His work in identification of and prevention of congenital malformations has focused some of these interests. He and his family enjoy "bird walks" at home as well as in exotic places from Hamtramck to the Aleutians.

2006 DAS Board Election Ballot

Individual members get one vote - use only the first box. Maximum 4 votes.

Family members get two votes - use both boxes. Maximum 8 votes.

Member(s) must write their names across the outside flap of the envelope for verification purposes only.

Your ballot will remain secret.

Rosemarie Attilio

Andrew Howell

Rosemarie Fielding

Eugene (Gene) V. Perrin M.D.

Send ballots to: DAS Election Committee, 1320 N. Campbell Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48067

Ballot must be received by Nov. 30, 2006 to be counted.

SAFE PASSAGE UPDATE -

Project Safe Passage Great Lakes is off to a good start. Our goal for the project is to persuade the operators of tall buildings to turn off the lights between 11:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. during the spring and fall migration periods. To this end, we have approached individual building managers, city and county elected officials, corporate officers and associations. In the brief period since we started, a number of successes have encouraged us.

- **Governor Granholm has issued a proclamation designating the periods of March 15 through May 31 and August 15 through October 31 as Safe Passage Great Lakes Days.**
- **Ford Motor Company has informed us that their lighting policy at World Headquarters is in compliance with Safe Passage goals.**
- **DTE Energy Company has informed us that their employees have been asked to close their blinds at Corporate Headquarters in Detroit.**
- **BOMA, an association of building operators and managers, has communicated their support of Project Safe Passage Great Lakes.**

We have been contacted by Audubon chapter leaders of Oklahoma City who are hoping to initiate a lights out program. Safe Passage Great Lakes is not a one year event. It is a long term effort to change the way the operators of tall buildings and communication towers conduct their lighting practices to provide safe passage for migrating birds, to conserve energy in the face of global climate change and to benefit their customers and stockholders.

If you live or work where you can monitor compliance or can contact your building management or draw your own blinds at night, please contact the DAS office by phone (248) 545-2929, by mail (1320 North Campbell Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067), or by e-mail (detas@bignet.net) and leave your contact information. - We'll be in touch.

GIFTS TO DAS

Thanks to Richard and Joy Marks of Detroit for their recent gift of two binoculars, a spotting scope and tripod. These can be used on our field trips for those needing them and to focus on hard to see birds for others to find. We would like to have more sets of binoculars and scopes to use with groups of students and others that do not have them.

The DAS is always grateful for gifts to the Society. We need a couple of laptops and video projectors. Artwork and other items we could use for fundraising are always appreciated. Call the office at 248 545-2929 to arrange delivery or pickup.

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

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

BOOKSTORE BITS

By Bev Stevenson

We have many field guides for birds in different areas, but are you aware that we also carry books on insects, wild flowers, reptiles, and trees? We also have shirts, bookmarks, notepaper, feeders, and coloring books.

Christmas is coming – get something unusual.

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!

DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Belle Isle, Detroit

November 18, 2006 (Saturday) at 9:00 a.m.

Leaders: Steve Santner & Fred Charbonneau

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

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.

Niagara River Trip

December 1-3, 2006 (Friday thru Sunday)

Leader: Alan Wormington

The Niagara region is the place to be in early winter in the Great Lakes region with masses of waterfowl and gulls that leads to exciting birding and renowned scenery. Alan Wormington is simply the best possible guide to that area and trips Alan has lead with DAS members in recent years have turned up such notable birds as Great Cormorant, Gannet, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, California Gull, Kittiwake, Little Gull, Mew Gull, Snowy Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Meet at the Detroit Audubon Office at 320 N. Campbell, Royal Oak at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 2nd. Returning Sunday December 4th at approximately 9 p.m. Transportation and 2 nights lodging will be provided. You are on your own on food. Cost: \$325; \$75 deposit. Single room supplement \$400.

Detroit Christmas Bird Count

December 17, 2006 (Sunday)

Be a part of this nationwide birding phenomenon once and you are likely to be hooked for a lifetime. Call Tim Nowicki at (734) 525 8630 or the DAS office (248) 545 2929 for details

Rockwood Christmas Bird Count -

Grosse Ile Hike

December 23, 2006 (Saturday)

Detroit Audubon Society and the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy co-sponsor this annual count. The 15 mile diameter circle for the Rockwood Count includes Grosse Ile, Lake Erie Metropark, Trenton, Rockwood, South Rockwood, Newport, and Oakwoods Metropark.

Call Jim Bull if you live in the count area and want to participate in a bird feeder watch that day from the

comfort of your home. To sign up to do more serious outside counting that day contact count compiler Tom Carpenter at tcarp1980@yahoo.com or phone 734-728-8733 so he can assign you to an area and count team. There are many inland areas that desperately need coverage. A chili lunch and chili dinner will be provided. There is a \$5 fee if you want your name listed in the official report.

Heritage Park, Farmington Hills

January 1, 2007 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Mike Mencotti

What better way is there for a birder to start the New Year than by birding? This suburban park is good for wintering land birds and has excellent feeders at the Nature Center. Heritage Park is on the west side of Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile Roads.

Lake Erie Metro Park, Wayne Co.

January 20, 2007 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Mike Mencotti

This park may well be the last single location for winter birding in Michigan. It is great for waterfowl, Bald Eagles and lingering land birds. There is always a chance for wintering owls as well.

Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn right on Jefferson and drive south to the park entrance on your left. Entrance fee required.

Humbug Marsh

February 3, 2007 (Saturday) 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Leader: Jim Bull

See this natural gem of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in winter. There should be good numbers of waterfowl in the area plus a good assortment of wintering land birds for Michigan.

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 accessed from Toledo Road.

Belle Isle

February 17, 2007 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Steve Santner

The Detroit River is one of the key wintering areas for waterfowl in North America and Belle Isle is a very convenient location to take this in without having to go too far from your vehicle.

Meet at the Nature Center parking lot on Belle Isle.

DETROIT AUDUBON MONTHLY ARMCHAIR NATURE EXPEDITIONS

Enjoy and learn about wildlife in these evening programs at St. Elizabeth Church, 1123 Second St. Wyandotte, MI 48192. The church is on Goodell between First and Second Streets. Saturday programs are in the church's beautiful sanctuary (enter from Goodell). The Thursday programs are held in their basement social hall (access from alley door). All programs are FREE but donations are strongly encouraged to help defray the cost of bringing you these extraordinary programs.

- SATURDAY PROGRAMS -

**Nov. 11, 2006, 7:30 p.m., Wildlife Film
ROMANCE OF THE WEST:
WILDLIFE OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION
with filmmaker, Allen J. King**



This month is the 200-year anniversary of the return of the Lewis and Clark expedition that carried that group all the way to the Pacific mouth of the Columbia River and then back to St. Louis. Allen King has chronicled their legendary voyage for us. Also, follow expedition member John Coulter's exploration of what is now

Yellowstone National Park. Hear excerpts from Lewis's and Clark's carefully kept notes about all the wildlife they saw, some not known to science before their expedition. See the antics of prairie dogs and Clark's Nutcrackers; the majesty of bison, elk and pronghorn antelope; the grace of Trumpeter Swans; the cunning of coyotes; and the agility of bighorn sheep and mountain goats; not to mention great scenery, geysers, mud pots and hot springs. Filmmaker Allen King, who used to present films on the National Audubon Society Wildlife Screen Tours, will present this film in authentic costume.

**January 13, 2007, 7:30 p.m., Wildlife Film
AN OSPREY HOMECOMING
with Emmy-winning filmmaker Christi Vedejs**



photo by Jim Kortge

A stunning tribute to the love and determination of people committed to restoring the Osprey to southern Michigan following their project to restore this magnificent bird to Kensington Metropark near Brighton, MI. An Osprey Homecoming is a beautiful story told with spectacular footage, a magnificent soundtrack and a true reverence for creation. This film won the Emmy for best documentary film in 2006. Ms. Vedejs will present the film in person on a wide-screen.

- THURSDAY PROGRAMS -

**February 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Program
PEREGRINE FALCONS: SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN
SOAP OPERA.
with Speaker Kariann Anderson, Michigan Department of
Natural Resources Peregrine Falcon Coordinator**



This program will allow you to visit (via a power point slide show) seven Peregrine Falcon nest sites currently active in southeast Michigan. Kariann has kept track of the soap opera of who is mating with whom, chronicled by Judy Yerkey, now retired Peregrine coordinator. It can be quite a sordid story. Kariann earned her Master's

Degree in Wildlife Management from Northern Michigan University. Currently she is a full time Lecturer for the Department of Science Education at Wayne State University. She has been studying peregrines for two nesting seasons.

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. 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.

2005 DAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

By Tim Nowicki

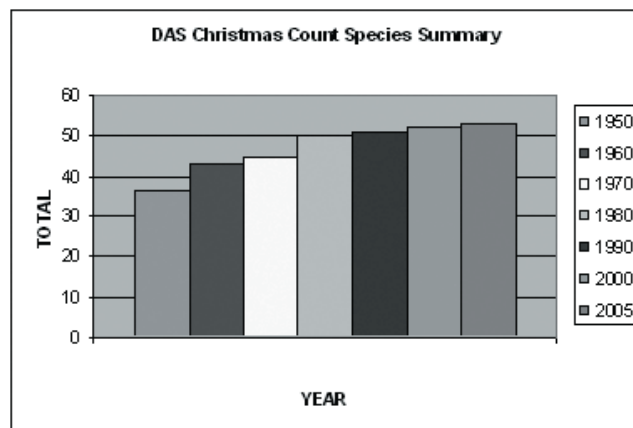
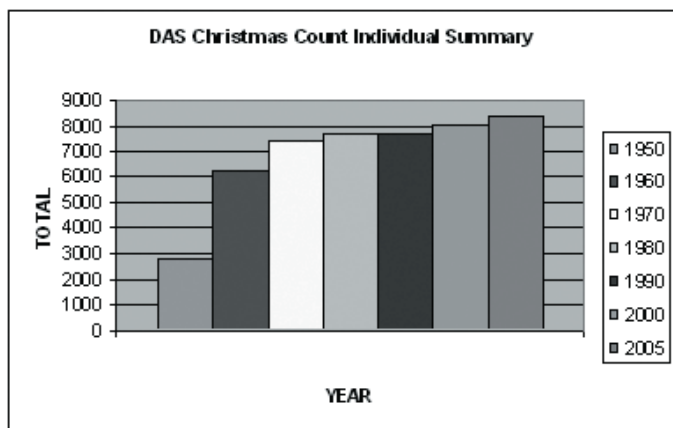
For the past 61 years Detroit Audubon Society volunteers have surveyed birds in NW Oakland County during the Christmas season. This past year on December 18, 2005, thirty-five birders, some new to the count and many veterans, spent at least eight hours in the field identifying and counting the birds in their assigned area. These volunteers dedicate this one day during the year to bird for the purpose of determining population trends and not just for the sake of their own recreation. Our many thanks to those who participated. Dave Llewellan will be moving and unable to lead Section 1 as he has for the past seven years, but he was able to introduce a very capable replacement before to left the area. We wish Dave success wherever he moves and thank him for his help on the count.

There are other section leaders that have dedicated their time to helping with the Christmas Count over many years. From the records I have, Richard Jensen has been on the count since 1976! Chris Hull has been involved since 1981. Dan Frohardt-Lane and Richard Crossland started in 1983, Ken Mikols in 1985 and Robert Stewart joined the group in 1987. Not only have these leaders counted birds for the count, they helped new-comers experience the event and they helped train new leaders that are needed periodically. Having people like these on your team sure makes a coordinator's job a lot easier.

Prior to the 2005 count, the temperatures were consistently very, very cold. Open water was at a premium and species of waterfowl were average to minimal. There was also a significant amount of snow on the ground for a long period of time. The day of the count was cold, but a good weather day to count birds. Following are some observations I've made after entering this year's data.

During the 61 year history of the count, 128 species of birds have been seen and 510,082 individual birds have been counted.

- Despite the limited amount of open water, a Common Loon was seen for only the second time – first was 1993 (2).
- Mute Swans first appeared on the count in 1971. By the early 1990's their numbers jumped and now, during the last 10 year's, an average of 173 birds is seen each year.
- This year's Mallard count was third highest on record.
- Since 1998 Ring-necked Ducks have been observed every year, totaling 837 birds. Prior to 1998, they were seen only 10 times for a total of 17 birds.
- It has been 17 years since the last count reported no (0) Sharp-shinned Hawks.
- During the 61 year history of the count, Kestrels have been missing only 2 times, both times have been within the last 5 years. The count average is 12.5 birds. Since 1992, the count each year has been below this average.
- This was a banner year for the Red-bellied Woodpecker (94) – previous high was 81 in 2002.
- It was also a banner year for the Downy Woodpecker (179) – previous high was 160 in 1996.
- Horned Larks averaged 21 for the count years 1945-1986, but during the last 20 years the average is 9. Lapland Longspurs were last seen in 1978 (2). Snow Bunting were seen in only two years since 1984. Redpolls averaged 165 per count for years 1945-1975 and from 1976-2005 the average is 30. The low numbers of all these open field species may be a reflection of the reduction/loss of this habitat due to development.
- However, when I looked at the number of species and the number of individuals seen in approximately ten year increments over the history of the count, there is a gradual increase in both categories: see graphs below.



(continued on Page 8)

(2005 DAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY - Continued)

- Last year was the lowest count for Blue Jays since 1948, but this year it rebounded to 5th highest.
- Last year crow numbers were the lowest since 1973. This year they rebounded to typical numbers of the last 30 years.
- Only 4 previous years 1950 (44), 1960 (47), 1969 (42) and 1997 (39) reported more Brown Creepers. Looks like a ten year cycle!
- This count had the third highest number of robins ever recorded.
- This year was one short of the all time record of 8 Hermit Thrushes in 2002.
- 2005 was the third highest Northern Cardinal count on record: 1970 (496), 2003 (427) and 2005 (425).
- The Rufous-sided Towhee total of 4 this year ties the 1953 total and is two short of the record in 1976 (6).
- White-throated Sparrows counted were the second highest number, high was 1983 (29).
- This year had the most Purple Finch counted since 1982 (38).

2005 DAS Christmas Count Species Totals

Common Loon	1	Tufted Titmouse	18
Great Blue Heron	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	186
Mute Swan	116	Red-breasted Nuthatch	13
Canada Goose	1288	Brown Creeper	32
Mallard	2202	Carolina Wren	3
Am. Black Duck	14	Am. Robin	231
Gadwall	2	Hermit Thrush	7
Ring-necked Duck	21	Eastern Bluebird	99
Redhead	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	41
Canvasback	7	Cedar Waxwing	331
Common Goldeneye	25	Starling	1010
Bufflehead	13	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Hooded Merganser	3	House Sparrow	578
Cooper's Hawk	7	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Accipter spp.	1	Northern Cardinal	425
Red-tailed Hawk	34	Purple Finch	30
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	House Finch	188
Wild Turkey	6	Am. Goldfinch	530
Am. Coot	8	Rufous-sided Towhee	4
Ring-billed Gull	159	Dark-eyed Junco	445
Gull sp.	31	Tree Sparrow	158
Rock Dove	163	White-throated Sparrow	25
Mourning Dove	526	Song Sparrow	15
Screech Owl	11	Great Horned Owl	1
Barred Owl	1	Belted Kingfisher	1
Common Flicker	15	Red-bellied Woodpecker	94
Hairy Woodpecker	23	Downy Woodpecker	179
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Horned Lark	4
Blue Jay	782	Common Crow	432
Black-capped Chickadee	791		

Total Species 57

Total Individuals 11, 504

(continued on Page 9)

(2005 DAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
SUMMARY - Continued)

The Detroit Audubon Society would like to thank the following people for their help in completing the 2005 Christmas Bird Count.


- Barnes, Chuck
- Blomberg, Goran
- Boyd, David
- Boyd, Maureen
- Bromfield, Jed
- Burton, Lee
- Crossland, Richard
- Dugall, Diane
- Fedyk, John
- Frohardt-Lane, Dan
- Henderson, Norma
- Henderson, Richard
- Hull, Chris
- Jensen, Rochard
- Johnson, William
- Kirn, Fred
- Kirn, Nancy
- Klimchalk, Christopher
- Lanyon, Duane
- LeBlond, Dan
- LeBlond, Margaret
- Llweellyn, Dave
- McLeer, Dorothy
- Mikols, Jairus
- Mikols, Ken
- Nowicki, Timothy
- O'Keefe, Mark
- Rapai, William
- Roose, Joseph
- Shaw-Reeves, Roberta
- Stewart, Elizabeth
- Stewart, Robert
- Vollrath, Jean
- Vollrath, Richard
- Waldorf, Ray

Anyone who would like to join our count on December 17th this year is invited. You'll spend a day, good weather or bad, counting birds in NW Oakland County for one of the longest running counts in Michigan. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather.

Call me at 734-525-8630 to sign up or if you have any questions. - Tim Nowicki

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 •••••

FEATHERED TALES

By Bev Stevenson



At the end of September, **Linda Fredricks** of Whitmore Lake saw an immature Bald Eagle! Her property abuts 25 acres of wetland. This property is located at Lawton Lake at the end of Eight Mile Road and west at Spencer Road. This is an ideal location for Sandhill Cranes, Herons, and many other species of birds.

Can you imagine looking out your window and seeing a Great Blue Heron sitting on the top of your garage? That's just what happened to **Kathleen Manion** at the beginning of October. What made it really strange was that she lives only 2 blocks from the Detroit Audubon office in Royal Oak!

The Audubon Guide to Home Pesticides

By: Joel Bourne, Icons by: Lisa Manning

Before you don work gloves and take up the perennial battle against pests and weeds, consider this: Pesticides used by homeowners can wreak havoc on wildlife, even when they're correctly applied. About a dozen pesticides approved for backyard use have caused documented die-offs of birds. If mishandled, these chemicals can also be toxic to humans, especially children, who might accidentally swallow them. Below is a list of some of the active ingredients found in the most popular off-the-shelf pesticides. Keep in mind that formulations vary even within one product and one brand so be sure to read the labels carefully each time you shop. (Two popular herbicides, 2,4-D and glyphosate, are included, though their toxicity to birds and wildlife is considered low.)

These pesticides are grouped by their intended uses:

- **Insecticides**
- **Rodenticides**
- **Herbicides**

Carbamate and Organophosphate Insecticides

The first organophosphate and carbamate pesticides were developed in the 1940s. They kill insects by inhibiting cholinesterase enzymes that are vital for transmitting nerve impulses; this can lead to respiratory failure and death. A wide variety of species are vulnerable to these substances, but birds are particularly sensitive (more than 100 bird species have been poisoned by these insecticides), and waterfowl, passerines, and raptors have been hit hardest. Birds are exposed through inhalation, absorption through the skin, or by eating treated seeds or berries, vegetation, pesticide granules, or poisoned insects. Poisoned birds often exhibit signs of nervous-system overload, including paralysis, excessive mucus secretion, diarrhea, and respiratory distress. Cholinesterase-inhibiting pesticides have been linked to nervous-system disorders in humans. Young children are particularly vulnerable to exposure to organophosphate and carbamate pesticides. In humans, overexposure can cause rapid heartbeat, dizziness, blurred vision, nausea, abdominal cramps, wheezing, chest tightness, throat spasms, and, in severe cases, death by respiratory failure or cardiac arrest.



ACEPHATE (An organophosphate insecticide used in Orthene and other Products.)

Uses: Acephate is used to kill aphids and other biting and sucking insects as well as leafminers, caterpillars, sawflies, and thrips. Commonly a foliar spray (also available in granules), it's used on ornamentals, especially roses and chrysanthemums.

Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: Acephate is highly toxic to most insects (including beneficial ones such as bees) and is moderately toxic to humans and wildlife. Even so, the EPA labels acephate with its mildest signal word: CAUTION. Residues can last more than two weeks on vegetables.

EPA Rating : CAUTION

Alternatives: For aphids, use ladybugs and lacewings, both of which are readily available by mail order. You can also hose down infected plants with water. Try insecticidal soaps, superior oils, summer oil, or synthetic pyrethrum for aphids, leafminers, sawflies, and thrips. The bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt, is effective on caterpillars but also kills beneficial moths and butterflies, so be careful how you apply it.



BENDIOCARB (A carbamate insecticide used in Ficam and other products.)

Uses: Bendiocarb is used on lawns and gardens to kill a variety of nuisance and disease-carrying insects, including mosquitoes, flies, ants, wasps, fleas, cockroaches, silverfish, and ticks, as well as snails, slugs, and soil insects. Available in granules, sprays, and powders.

Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: Bendiocarb, like most carbamates, is fairly toxic to humans, and it is very toxic to birds and fish. Mallards, wrens, and blackbirds have been killed from home use of this chemical. It lasts for one to four weeks in the soil and is deadly to bees and earthworms, so if you like to see robins in your yard, use something else.

EPA Ratings: CAUTION - WARNING

Alternatives: Try pyrethrum for flying insects, boric acid indoors for fleas (it should not be used on pets) and cockroaches, and baits for cockroaches. Trap slugs and snails in pie plates buried to ground level and filled with beer. Another alternative is to use parasitic nematodes for fleas.



CHLORPYRIFOS (Organophosphate used in Dursban, Dragon, Ortho-Klor, and other products.)

Uses: Widely used as a perimeter treatment and sprayed near buildings, chlorpyrifos kills ants, armyworms, ticks, chinch bugs, mites,

roaches, crickets, cutworms, earwigs, fleas, grasshoppers, millipedes, sowbugs, turf weevils, mole crickets, and white grubs.

Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: Chlorpyrifos, which can be absorbed through the skin, is slightly to moderately toxic to humans and may cause eye and skin irritation. Keep children and pets off treated areas until the material is washed into the soil and the grass is dry. It is toxic to fish, shrimp, crabs, birds, and other wildlife and has been implicated in numerous wildlife poisonings, including those of robins, pigeons, and Canada geese.

EPA Rating: CAUTION - WARNING

Alternatives: For termites: diflubenzuron (Siren Termite Bait), hexaflumeron (Sentricom); for spider mites: bifenazate (Floramite); for caterpillars: a Bt biopesticide; for aphids, whiteflies, mealybugs: insecticidal soaps. Also try ladybugs for aphids, insecticidal soaps and superior oil for whiteflies, milky spore disease for Japanese beetle grubs, and *Beauveria bassiana* fungus for chinch bugs. Nematodes can be effective on a variety of grubs, beetles, grasshoppers, and other insects. Imidacloprid (Merit) and halfeozide (Grub-B-Gon) can also be used for grubs.



DIAZINON (Organophosphate used in Bonide Diazinon Soil Granules, Knox-Out, and other products.)

Uses: Homeowners use diazinon to control aphids, bagworms, carpenter ants, lacebugs, scale, whiteflies, fire ants, grubs, cockroaches, fleas, termites, and many other insects around the home, lawn, and garden. It's commonly sold as light- brown granules.

Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: Diazinon can be harmful to humans if swallowed, inhaled, or if it contacts the skin, and is highly toxic to birds, fish, and other wildlife. Diazinon applied to a golf course on Long Island, New York, in the early 1980s killed 700 brant geese, 28 percent of the local wintering population. Similar events led the EPA to ban its use on golf courses and turf farms, but homeowners can still buy it. Nearly half of all reported wildlife poisonings from home or garden pesticide use involve diazinon.

EPA Rating: CAUTION

Alternatives: Try the same alternatives as for chlorpyrifos, above.



DIMETHOATE (Organophosphate used in Cygon and a variety of other products.)

Uses: Dimethoate kills caterpillars, mites, aphids, thrips, plant hoppers, and whiteflies. It is absorbed by ornamentals, fruits, and vegetables for residual protection from these

insects for days to weeks. It's available as a spray, dust, and emul-sifiable concentrate. Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: Dimethoate is toxic to humans if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. It has caused severe eye irritation in workers manufacturing the product. People with respiratory problems should avoid exposure to this chemical. Dimethoate is highly toxic to birds, honeybees, and aquatic insects, and moderately toxic to fish.

EPA Rating: WARNING

Alternatives: Try superior oils or summer oil for mites, aphids, thrips, and, to a lesser extent, whiteflies. Selectively use Bt biopesticides on caterpillars. Rotenone and pyrethrum can be used as general-purpose insecticides.

Rodenticides



BRODIFACOUM (An anticoagulant rodenticide used in d-CON, Talon-G, and other products.)

Uses: Brodifacoum is an increasingly popular active ingredient in pellet baits and bait blocks for rats and mice.

How it works: Brodifacoum is an anticoagulant vitamin K inhibitor normally placed in pellets and bait blocks made from cereal grains. Feeding on the bait hinders blood clotting and causes internal bleeding, which leads to a slow death, normally over a period of several days.

Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: Brodifacoum accumulates in the liver. The pellets, normally placed in the crawl space beneath your house, can last for more than four months and are toxic to wildlife. Most wildlife poisonings occur when raptors such as hawks or owls eat poisoned rodents. Even if the amount of poison ingested isn't enough to kill a bird, it keeps blood from clotting, so normally non-lethal injuries such as bites or scrapes can cause the bird to bleed to death. Brodifacoum use has risen sharply in recent years, as have reported wildlife poisonings from it.

EPA Rating: CAUTION

Alternatives: Traps and exclusion are still the weapons of choice against rodents. For traps, try tying a piece of a cotton ball to the trigger instead of food, or use the old standby: peanut butter. (For those too squeamish to use traps, try products containing warfarin or cholecalciferol.) Mouseproof your house by eliminating food and water sources and sealing cracks, areas around pipes, and other points of entry.

Herbicides



2,4-D (A chlorinated phenoxy herbicide used in Scotts Turf Builder Plus 2, Weed-B-Gon, and other products.)

Uses: The most commonly used pesticide in the home and garden market, 2,4-D is a systemic herbicide used to control many broadleaf weeds in gardens and lawns. It is commonly mixed with water to form a milky liquid spray.

How it works: An herbicide and plant-growth regulator, 2,4-D is readily absorbed by broadleaf plants. It first causes uncontrolled growth in broadleaf plants, then, as more chemical is taken up, it cuts the growth cycle abruptly, resulting in malformed leaves, stems, and roots, and eventual death.

Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: 2,4-D has caused serious skin and eye irritation in agricultural workers, and in commercial use can carry the EPA's highest warning label: "DANGER-POISON." Several studies have linked 2,4-D exposure to cancer, though these results have been hotly contested. It is readily absorbed through the skin or through inhalation but doesn't appear to accumulate in the body. It is slightly to moderately toxic to birds. Some formulations are highly toxic to fish and aquatic plants. It's the third most common herbicide found in urban streams.

EPA Rating: CAUTION

Alternatives: Try soap-based spot sprays, hand weeding, mowing, dethatching, aerating, and maintaining a healthy lawn to crowd out weeds. Use organic fertilizers and plant grass mixtures suited to your climate.



GLYPHOSATE (An aliphatic herbicide used in Roundup and other products.)

Uses: Glyphosate may be America's favorite all-purpose weed killer. It's a nonselective herbicide, which means it kills virtually anything that is green, including annuals, perennials, grasses, sedges, broadleaf weeds, and woody plants.

How it works: When sprayed on foliage, glyphosate is readily absorbed and quickly moves throughout the plant. It disrupts amino-acid synthesis, causing white spots or streaks on leaves and eventual cell and plant death.

Toxicity to Humans and Wildlife: Some formulations of glyphosate are nearly nontoxic to humans, while others (particularly the trimethylsulfonium salt) are more dangerous if ingested. It is usually nontoxic through skin exposure, but some versions

can be extremely irritating to the skin or eyes and acutely toxic through inhalation, so make sure you read the label carefully. It binds tightly to soil particles, so its leaching potential is low. Some formulations are more toxic to aquatic species than others, but in general, risk to fish is low. It's also nontoxic to honeybees and virtually nontoxic to earthworms.

EPA Rating: CAUTION

Alternatives: Try better mowing techniques, mulching and weeding your garden, or spot treatment of plants with soap-based sprays. See the back of this chart for tips on growing a vigorous lawn that will crowd out weed species.

EPA RATING KEY:

CAUTION - (LD50 of 500 to 5,000 mg/kg)

WARNING - (LD50 of 50 to 500 mg/kg)

DANGER-POISON - (LD50 of 0 to 50 mg/kg)

EPA Toxicity Ratings: Most pesticides are designed to kill something and must be used with care. The EPA requires labeling products with the words "WARNING", "CAUTION", or "DANGER-POISON" to alert consumers to their toxicity. These designations are partially based on the acute "lethal dose 50" (LD50) of the active ingredients—the amount in milligrams per kilogram of body weight necessary to kill half a sample population of mice. The lower the LD50, the more toxic the pesticide. Products with "WARNING" or "DANGER" (products that need a "DANGER" label are restricted in use) can also cause severe burning. Labels vary based on formulations, so read the instructions carefully.

Sources: EPA Ecological Incident Information System database; EPA National Pesticide Telecommunications Network; EPA list of Reduced-Risk Pesticides; Rodale Institute; Bio-Integral Resource Center

Waterfowl Identification Workshop

Belle Isle Nature Center

November 11, 2006 -10:00 A.M.

The Detroit River is a prime winter destination for migrating waterfowl, when flocks numbering in the thousands can be seen rafting in the area surrounding Belle Isle.

Tim Nowicki, Park Naturalist for the Oakland County Parks, and daytime Manager of the Lyon Oaks Nature Center, will present a workshop in waterfowl identification. Tim was the leader of the annual Belle Isle November field trip for many years and is the leader of the Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

This workshop will be followed on November 18 at 9:00 A.M. by the annual Belle Isle field trip sponsored by the Detroit and Macomb Audubon chapters. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to sharpen your skills and join us for Tim's interesting and informative program.

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