



The latest census showed approximately 35 peregrine falcon nests in Michigan.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF KALAMAZOO

## Metro Detroit’s birders give awards, free food

**Bill Laitner**

Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Open to the public with free refreshments and “heavy hors d’oeuvres,” the annual award ceremony of the nonprofit Detroit Audubon is set for Thursday night — reception at 6 p.m., program at 7 p.m. — at the Belle Isle Nature Center, on the island park’s east end.

The organization awards people or programs that aid the environment in ways that also aid birds because they’re among the first creatures to suffer from pollution, said James Bull of Lincoln Park, president of Detroit Audubon.

To be recognized are the Detroit Zoo, for aiding numerous bird species native to Michigan; Urban Neighborhood Initiatives, a youth program in southwest Detroit that got residents to create bird-friendly areas near their homes; and Green Safe Products of Detroit, for promoting compostable tableware for restaurants.

Also getting awards: State Rep. Stephanie Chang of Detroit, for leadership in opposing corporate polluters while championing wildlife; and Dorcetta Taylor, a University of Michigan professor of environment and sustainability, for her research on urban food and environmental justice.



**Kirtland’s warbler.**

ROGER ERIKSSON/MICHIGAN AUDUBON

Detroit Audubon has more than 5,000 members in the seven counties of southeast Michigan, Bull said.

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