



BIRD ID QUIZ

Can you name this handsome bird? See page 8 for the answer. Photo by Sharon Korte.



Black-throated Green Warbler.
Roger Becker photo

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A DAY OF FUN AND LEARNING AT THE 2013 SYMPOSIUM!

Photos by Roger Becker

Nearly 60 people gathered bright and early on October 26 for what promised to be a great day at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Center for "Birding Tricks and Treats," our Annual Conservation Symposium, cosponsored with the Oakland Audubon Society. And it certainly did not disappoint! A top-notch lineup of interesting and educational speakers entertained us with live birds (and dead ones), engaging talks, and fascinating slideshows. We enjoyed cider and doughnuts and greeted friends, all the while keeping tabs on the latest bids for the numerous items in the silent auction throughout the day.

First off were two very, very impressive young birders: 12-year old **Brendan Leddy** (at right) from the Oakland Audubon Society Young Birders Club and **Daydeon Baron-Galbavi**, winner of Detroit Audubon's scholarship to Hog Island, Maine. Brendan is a middle-school student in Clarkston, whose goal is to attend Cornell University to study (what else?) birds.



Daydeon Baron-Galbavi with DAS president Kathy Hofer and board member Leonard Weber

Brendan's presentation, called "Top 10 Tips for Young Birders" featured stories and many photos of some of the 216 species on his life list, including a Varied Thrush that visited his backyard as well as a Townsend's Solitaire he saw on a birding field trip. (See page 4 for his list of tips.)

Daydeon, the Detroit Audubon scholarship winner, attends school in Monroe and wants to become an environmental scientist. He told

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WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT DETROIT AUDUBON

- Designate Detroit Audubon as the Community Rewards recipient for your Kroger card. Kroger will donate up to \$300 per household per quarter. (Please note: you must redesignate Detroit Audubon as your rewards recipient each April.)
- Shop at the Detroit Audubon bookstore. Members receive a 10% discount!
- Join one of our committees: Fundraising, Finance, Education, Communications, or Safe Passage Great Lakes.
- Volunteer to staff our table at conferences, help plan or host events, or assist in the office.
- Like Detroit Audubon on your Facebook page.
- Introduce a friend to birds and nature at a Detroit Audubon field trip or other event.
- Make a (tax deductible) donation to our Fall Appeal.

For more information about these opportunities to help make a difference with Detroit Audubon, please see the website at www.detroitaudubon.org.



Black-capped Chickadee.
Roger Becker photo

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Flyway Editor, Webmaster: Tana Moore

Flyway Editorial Advisor: Emily Simon

Office Manager: Bev Stevenson



DETROIT AUDUBON 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kathy Hofer

Before this year's Fall Conservation Symposium, co-hosted with Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) on October 26th, I hadn't had any experience on a committee putting something like it all together... and WOW, it was an eye-opener! Thanks to our volunteers (too many to name!) from Detroit Audubon and Oakland Audubon, who gave so much of their time; to our speakers, and to the contributors to our Silent Auction, we succeeded in putting on the excellent Program described elsewhere in this issue.

As a Planning Committee member, I drafted my unsuspecting husband Curt Hofer (as well as other Detroit Audubon Board members and Oakland Audubon volunteers) to serve on the Committee. I especially want to thank Curt, along with Don Burlett, President of Oakland Audubon Society, for serving as event co-chairs. Together, they planned and executed a most wonderful and educational program.

It was quite the experience, beginning with...

The planning: Foremost, we had to decide where and when to hold the Symposium, secure the space, and decide on a theme ("Birding Tricks and Treats"). We arranged for speakers appropriate to the theme, figured a budget, and enlisted volunteers to gather items for the Silent Auction. We determined the best ways to advertise the event so that all interested could enjoy it.

The little details: Then, we had to figure out who would design and print the flyers. Who will distribute? Did we arrange for appropriate room sizes? Will the tables be properly configured? Do we have a plan for decorating the tables in a pleasing way? Who's going to bring the coffee, cider and doughnuts? Who will arrange for the delicious sandwiches, fruit, cookies and beverages for lunch? Who will put up signs in the parking lot and the lobby to help folks know where to go? Who will make certain that we have podium, microphone and projector set up properly? Who will prepare the Silent Auction tables? Who will assist with setup of display tables and vendor tables? Who will handle the Registration Table, and the sale of raffle tickets? Who will emcee the event? Who will help with clean-up?

Finally: Our volunteers from Detroit Audubon and Oakland Audubon made it happen! With much-appreciated support from all contributors of items to the Silent Auction, from Wild Birds Unlimited, our most excellent speakers, and all of you who joined us, we enjoyed a memorable day. My thanks to all of you.

Please consider volunteering next year, when Detroit Audubon Society will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary. With your help, we can make it an even more special occasion!

OFFICE HELP WANTED

We'd love your help.... Do you have a couple of hours a week or during a month to answer a telephone and do a few office tasks? Detroit Audubon is looking for volunteers to answer the telephone in the office on Mondays and Fridays each week and two Thursday afternoons each month. Volunteers will handle field trip registrations, answer questions, and help arrange carpools if necessary. Please let us know if you have anywhere from two to four hours per week or month to help out. Detroit Audubon Society office is located in Southfield, on Nine Mile Road west of Telegraph.

To volunteer, or for more information, please call Kathy at (248) 348-3837 or send your contact info, availability, and preferred hours to Kathy at daspres@detroitaudubon.org and she will contact you to arrange a schedule with you.



NEW MEMBERSHIPS CAN BENEFIT DETROIT AUDUBON

Ready to become a member of the Audubon Society? Right now, first-time members can join online, and 100% of their dues will go to Detroit Audubon Society!

Just visit the National Audubon [New Member page](#) and select the Detroit Audubon chapter code **L50** from the drop-down menu.

For just \$20.00, you'll become a member of both the National and Detroit Audubon societies, and receive Audubon Magazine, the FLYWAY, and invitations to all Detroit Audubon birding events. Join today!

The Audubon Online Bird Guide

Identify Birds



NEED AN ID?

The [Audubon Online Guide to North American Birds](#) features over 800 species of birds in 22 Orders and 74 families. The guide covers all of North America's regular breeding birds—as well as nonbreeding species that visit North America, north of Mexico.



A DAY OF FUN AND LEARNING AT THE 2013 SYMPOSIUM! *continued from page 1*

us all about his week participating in the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program this past June. The National Audubon Society's storied Hog Island camp kept him and his fellow students very busy taking birding hikes, helping with bird banding, and studying coastal wildlife. Daydeon got the opportunity to make sketches of both a Golden Eagle and a Screech Owl, and a highlight of his week was the boat tour out to the Atlantic Puffin breeding colony at Eastern Egg Rock. In the evenings, after enjoying great food prepared by chefs (not cooks), he attended lectures and programs. One of his instructors was Scott Weidensaul, nationally known bird naturalist and author of *Living on the Wind* and *Return to Wild America*. **We extend a big thank you to both of these wonderful young men for sharing their experiences with us!**



Next up were two programs running simultaneously: "Flying Wild", led by **Mike Mansour** (left), Staff Naturalist at the Hawk Woods Nature Center in Auburn Hills, and "Conservation of Birds in Captivity and in the Wild", by **Robert S. Webster** (right), Curator of Birds at the Toledo Zoo. Mike led his group through some activities that teach about birds

and migration. Mr. Webster treated his audience to a behind-the-scenes glimpse of his work with the zoo's aviary. He showed us how conservation efforts at the zoo range from making the decisions about which birds to acquire and why, where and how to house them, which birds to breed in captivity and how to care for them, which birds to put on display and when. He also discussed how the zoo works cooperatively with other zoos and conservation organizations.

We then reconvened as a single group for **Francie Krawcke's** "Night Crew,"



Francie Krawcke with a Barn Owl from the Leslie Science and Nature Center.

presentation featuring four species of live owls. Francie brought a Barred Owl, an Eastern Screech Owl, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, and a Barn Owl. She showed us the unique physical characteristics of these beautiful birds that help them survive in the wild. Francie walked around the room as she talked, allowing everyone to get a great view (and some awesome photos) of these beautiful birds. The Barn Owl was a big hit with the crowd, as these birds are now basically extirpated and thus very rare in the wild in Michigan. The Screech Owl, as if on cue, coughed up a pellet for us!

Janet Hinshaw of the U-M Museum of Zoology led off the afternoon presentations with "Tales from the Bone Room." Janet is collections manager of the bird division, and she surveyed the history and workings of the museum's incredible collection. She also brought over two dozen bird skins, including those of a Snowy Owl, a Hooded Merganser, and a Painted Bunting, for up-close viewing. Janet showed us the many ways the museum and its specimens advance our understanding of birds and assist conservation efforts.

Last but by no means least, **Dr. Eldon Greij**, Professor Emeritus at Hope College and founder and editor of *Birder's World Magazine*, rounded out the day's program with an entertaining slideshow demonstrating the strange and beautiful plumages and clever adaptive behaviors birds use to attract mates and maximize the chances of breeding success. He ended with a video featuring the



Dr. Eldon Greij discusses birds' amazing varieties of plumage and courting behavior.

bizarre and complicated mating rituals of some of the nearly 40 species of Birds of Paradise found only in the rain forests of New Guinea. A fantastic way to end a wonderful day!

Thanks to everyone who helped make our day such a success, and thanks to everyone for coming!



Francie Krawcke holds an Eastern Screech Owl at the Symposium.

For the Latest News and Views from Detroit Audubon be sure to frequently visit our website: www.detroitaudubon.org



DETROIT AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

The Detroit Audubon Society has a [Facebook page!](#)

Please "Like" the Detroit Audubon Page (NOT GROUP) to get reminders of field trips as well as notifications of volunteer opportunities, upcoming programs, and workshops.

Help spread the word about ways to support Detroit Audubon and its efforts to protect birds and the environment.

Brendan with OAS
President Don Burlett.
Roger Becker photo



BRENDAN LEDDY'S TOP 10 TIPS FOR YOUNG BIRDERS

10. Read lots of bird books. Don't just look at the pictures, read about where the bird can be found. Include books about birds not typically found in your area. You never know when a rarity may show up that you'll need to identify.

9. Join birding events. My mom pulled me out of school one day to participate in a bird banding program at E.L. Johnson Nature Center. At this event I helped Allen Chartier release a female Red-winged Blackbird that had just been banded.

8. Join a local Audubon club. I highly recommend the Oakland County Audubon Society Young Birders Club. Our leaders, Janet Hug and Lisa MacArthur, organize fun local field trips and events.

7. Bird with adults too. This is a great opportunity to learn more from those who have years of experience.

6. Keep birding. Keep birding no matter how many breaks the adults take. And always dress warmer than your field trip host. In the bitter cold weather, you'll outlast them every time.

GOING BATTY IN SOUTHFIELD

by Jim Bull

It was only September 28, so Halloween was still over a month away; yet the Southfield Pavilion went absolutely batty all day at the 12th annual Great Lakes Bat Festival. Coming through the door, you might have been welcomed by a 5-foot light brown fruit bat walking around—Stellaluna, the title character in an award-winning children's book by Janell Cannon.

In the center of the pavilion were two stages, running continuous programs about bats and other creatures of the night, including several live owls. Here also were outstanding hands-on exhibits where you could experience what it might be like to have bat ears or to use echolocation to find your way around. There was a presentation on vampire bats. (No, they do NOT suck their victims dry of blood—their bite is hardly felt, so many people don't even notice they've been bled.) A woman who had survived actually having rabies was a hit too. Janell Cannon read her book *Stellaluna* and gave a slide presentation about her involvement in work with bats around the world. Eastern Michigan University professor Al Kurta focused his talk on bats of the Great Lakes Region, including current information about White-nose Syndrome and other problems faced by Great Lakes area bats.



All around the periphery were exhibitors such as the U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Cranbrook Institute of Science (home of the Bat Zone), the Environmental Interpretive Center at U-M Dearborn, Seven Ponds Nature Center, University of Maryland, Ball State University, Detroit Audubon Society, and many more. Outside people could make their own bat houses to help bats in their own backyards.

However, the most exciting action was in the very center of the center area, where live bats were presented. Most impressive were the large fruit bats from South America—at least 18 inches long.

Bats have been misunderstood, feared, and reviled, but thankfully that is changing through the efforts of the Organization for Bat Conservation, sponsor of the festival. Its purpose is to dispel myths about bats and to help people appreciate the important role bats play in ecosystems all over the world. The organization also operates the Bat Zone at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

You know that there is a growing interest in, and appreciation for bats when over 2,250 people come to an event like this. They were of all ages—including many preschool bat aficionados. Emily Simon, Doris Applebaum and I met many folks from out of state. How did we know that? Well, we were also collecting signatures on an official petition to keep wolves protected in Michigan. Detroit Audubon staffs a table at several events like this throughout the year, and volunteers are always needed to help sell books and spread the word about Detroit Audubon. It's easy and fun and a great way to participate. Detroit Audubon was proud to be part of the Great Lakes Bat Festival for the first time this year, and we hope to make this an annual tradition. You should too!



5. Make friends with other birders. It's fun to visit your "birding friends" to share your discoveries and to celebrate theirs.

4. Some fun competition doesn't hurt. Every year the Oakland Audubon society hosts the Nuthatch Open. Teams compete to find the most species in a given day. There's an adult and a youth division and it's lots of fun.

3. Go birding when you travel. We always find time to take a hike or two when we are on vacation. It's loads of fun to find new species that you wouldn't see at home.

2. Bird all year long. Winter can be one of the best times to go birding. Birds are easier to find with no leaves on the trees and it may surprise you that some species actually migrate *TO* our state of Michigan in the cold winter months.

1. Bird your backyard and you may discover a lost migrant. You don't have to drive far, go out in all kinds of weather, or walk miles on the local trails. A Varied Thrush found its way to my house in January. It stayed for weeks and weeks. I made lots of new birding friends, thanks to this visitor!

That's the wonderful thing about being a birdwatcher. It's something you can do no matter where you are and no matter what time of year. You can bird with a group of people and you can bird alone too. Go for a walk or just look out the window. I hope you find something new today.



KEEPING OUR BIRDS SAFE / PART 2

Avian experts tell us that anywhere from 100 million to 1 billion birds die each year in collisions with manmade structures. Tall illuminated buildings certainly play a large part in this slaughter, but the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) reports that a single house may kill up to 12 birds a year without the owner ever being aware.

In the last issue of the *FLYWAY*, the Detroit Audubon Safe Passage Great Lakes Committee reported some simple ways to prevent your home becoming a hazard to birds. This issue will present some more sophisticated and more reliable ways to keep your home bird-safe.

A simple treatment is to add vinyl decals to the surface of a window. Using static cling, decals can provide an image that birds see and avoid. However, a common mistake is applying just one decal. Multiple decals create a pattern that is far more effective. To use decals, keep the 2 x 4 Rule in mind: elements arranged in columns should be 4 inches apart while elements placed in rows should be 2 inches apart. Decals can be placed on the inside or outside of the window unless the decal is reflective, in which case the decal should be applied to the outside. (By the way, the familiar single hawk silhouette does not frighten birds away. For that matter, plastic owls do little more than insult the intelligence of your backyard bird.)

More elegant than simple decals are WindowAlert decals (windowalert.com) which have a coating that reflects UV light that is visible to birds but not us. This fairly inexpensive remedy is often available at bird supply stores. A bit more sophisticated is UV Liquid, an easy-to-apply liquid that is daubed on a window and leaves a clear (to us) but effective warning to our feathered friends.

A variation of the decal treatment can be a more creative outlet. Tempera paint, designed to be long lasting and rainproof, can be applied to the window surface with a brush or sponge. Children often really enjoy this technique.

Another way to make your house more bird safe is using screens and netting.

“Bird Screen” is a black fiberglass screen that is fastened over a window providing birds a safe bounce zone in case of mishap (birdscreen.com). Another variant is the use of netting made of light polypropylene secured over the window. Products known as PollyNet or Ultra Net can be purchased by way of absolutebirdcontrol.com.

Another technology to consider is CollidEscape, an anti-reflective film that is applied to a window exterior. Patterns that can be custom-printed have thousands of perforations that make the window highly transparent - except to birds. Collidescape.org can provide more details. 10% of the purchase price goes to researching reduction of bird-window collisions. Another variation on patterned films is “Window Dressing” which declares itself “Glass Art for Windows” (windowdressingetc.com).

Another way to provide safe windows is translucent tape, visible to birds but still clear. ABC makes one (abcbirdtape.org) and a firm called Feather Friendly makes a tape providing 98% clear viewing (featherfriendly.org). Often these tapes are available at bird stores such as Wild Birds.

Yet another technique is the use of nylon cords or monofilament lines that hang over a window’s exterior. The product displayed at birdsavers.org called Acopian BirdSavers has been endorsed by Dr. Daniel Klem, a leading researcher of bird collisions and effective ways to prevent them. Acopina BirdSavers uses nylon cords secured by Velcro to the tops of windows. A second string theory is provided by Bird Crash Preventer, which uses a preassembled curtain of monofilament lines. This product is available at stores.santarosational.com/Storefront.bok.

If you are considering new construction or window replacement, a very sophisticated bird safe technology is the Ornilux Bird Protection Glass. Tested by the ABC at its Pennsylvania flight tunnel, this glass is laminated with a UV-reflective patterned coating that is visible to avian but not human eyes.

So there is a wide variety of aids to help you prevent fatal bird collisions with your home. Next issue, your DAS Safe Passage Great Lakes Committee will share the do’s and don’ts of bird-friendly lighting. Meanwhile, the Committee is VERY welcoming to volunteers who wish to make an impact by reducing bird-building impacts! Contact Rob at 248-549-6328 or robduchene@gmail.com

—Compiled from the ABC’s Bird Watching magazine

SAFE PASSAGE MEMBERS VISIT GENERAL MOTORS WILDLIFE HABITATS

by Doris Applebaum, Safe Passage Committee member

That title is not a misprint. While most people think of General Motors as simply a manufacturing company, it is much less widely known that many GM properties contain excellent wildlife habitat.

Locations like the GM Tech Center in Warren and its Drayton warehouse in Waterford are huge areas, but not all the land is covered with buildings. Fields, woods, and water features comprise a significant percentage of the space, and GM has made a concerted effort to make these areas welcoming for wildlife.

On Oct. 3, members of Detroit Audubon Society’s Safe Passage Committee were invited to tour these two facilities, led by Susan Kelsey, GM’s global biodiversity program manager, and accompanied by other members of the GM environmental team.

It was obvious to the committee members that GM’s efforts with regard to wildlife habitat have been very successful.

And, GM is not only working to improve wildlife habitat but is also engaging in other forms of environmental commitment. For instance, Wood Duck houses have been erected at the GM Tech Center. These nesting homes are a unique form of recycling, as they are made from scrap Chevrolet Volt battery housings. GM has installed more than 500 of these structures across the U.S. and Canada. Volt housings are also made into bat boxes erected at numerous GM sites. The company’s recycling expertise is also demonstrated through its landfill-free initiative; it has an industry-leading 107 facilities around the world that recycle, reuse,

SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES WANTS YOU!

Safe Passage Great Lakes is a Detroit Audubon Society committee working to reduce obstacles to migrating birds safely arriving at their destinations every year.

Brightly lit buildings at night, poorly designed glass buildings by day, wind turbines, night-blinking communication towers—all these are our focus as they kill millions of birds every year.

Step by step, we are working to ensure the safe arrival of our feathered friends.

We could use your help. Sit down with us to plan strategy; or you could help by making phone calls, contacting media or doing night surveys.

Come join us and help our birds. Any time offered will be well-used.

Contact Rob Duchene at 248-549-6328.

Continued on page 6



OUT ON A LIMB

by Roger Becker

I recently had the opportunity to sit in a tree stand to enjoy the warm fall weather and maybe see some deer. I had my camera with me because the day before I had seen a variety of birds up close, feeding in the treetops.

As I reached up in the dark to grab the stand, I felt something furry. There were two young raccoons on my stand that scampered up the tree. As it got light I could see one on a branch about 15 feet from me.

I didn't see any deer that morning, but did get quite an assortment of closeups of a small raccoon "out on a limb" over the couple of hours we were in the tree together.

FEATHERED TALES

by Bev Stevenson

Corrine Fine of Canton called to say she went to get the paper early on the morning of November 3rd, and there was a little Northern Saw-whet Owl sitting on the stump by her front porch. He was gone within the hour.

EIGHT REASONS TO BUY A MIGRATORY BIRD STAMP

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (aka the "federal duck stamp") is one of the best-kept secrets in all of bird conservation. Purchasing a \$15 stamp is perhaps the single simplest thing you can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds.

1. \$850 million for conservation and counting. Since the first stamp was issued in 1934, over \$850 million has been raised and helped to protect 5.5 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat. Ninety-eight cents of each dollar spent on a stamp goes directly to land acquisition (and immediate related expenses) for national wildlife refuges.

2. A long tradition of wildlife art. The Migratory Bird Stamp is a beautiful collectible and a great artistic tradition. Since 1949, the design of each year's duck stamp has been chosen in an open art contest. The 2014-2015 duck stamp contest was held in September at Maumee Bay State Park, Ohio. See the winning design [here](#).

3. It's a bargain at \$15. A migratory bird stamp is a free pass for an entire year to all refuges that charge for admission.

4. The stamp conserves much more than ducks. Waterfowl hunters have long been the main supporters for the program—the stamps are a requirement for anyone over 16 who wants to hunt. But the funds also benefit scores of other bird species—including shorebirds, herons, raptors, and songbirds—not to mention reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, native plants, and more. One-third of America's threatened species make their home in wetlands.

5. Saves wetlands and grasslands. Since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has used stamp revenues to protect "waterfowl production areas"—to the tune of 3 million acres—within the critical Prairie Pothole Region. The same program also protects declining prairie-nesting birds in the face of increasing loss of grasslands. As a result, refuges are among the best places to find grassland specialties such as Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Clay-colored Sparrows, Sedge Wrens, and others.

6. Building a natural heritage for future generations. Some of the most diverse and wildlife-rich refuges across the Lower 48 have been acquired with stamp funds, including the Shiawassee refuge here in Michigan and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in northern Ohio. See the Cornell Lab's [interactive map](#) here. Your support will help preserve wildlife for the future.

7. Revenue helps mitigate government funding cuts. Conservation funding remains at greater risk than ever. Buying a stamp helps conservation continue in the face of cutbacks.

8. We're all in this together. Whatever your attitudes toward hunting, both hunters and nonhunters alike share a vested interest in wildlife conservation. Many birding organizations—including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, to name a few—support the purchase of the stamp.

Duck stamps are available for purchase at national wildlife refuge offices, sporting goods stores, and at many post offices, as well as online from USPS and Amplex.

(This article was adapted from [Eight Great Reasons to Love the New Migratory Bird Stamp](#), with permission from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.)



GM WILDLIFE HABITATS

Continued from page 5

or convert to energy all waste from daily operations.

Ms. Kelsey informed the committee that GM is dedicated to improving wildlife habitat at its facilities throughout the world—a huge undertaking that has been ongoing for several years, but less well known outside of the company.

GM's Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit is on the Safe Passage Honor Roll for turning off lights at night to make it safer for night-migrating birds. However, as the Safe Passage Committee members can attest, GM also deserves a lot of credit for its efforts to improve wildlife habitat and protect the environment.

The committee members saw only a small part of these efforts, but it's great to know that one of Detroit's signature corporations understands the need to protect wildlife and the environment and is making excellent progress in this regard.

THE FLYWAY HAS GONE GREEN!

As announced previously, only one issue of the *Flyway* is being printed and mailed annually (in March). For the other three online issues, we need all members' email addresses.

If you, or any members you know, have missed an issue of the *Flyway*, please contact the DAS office at detas@bignet.net or (248) 354-5804 to provide us with the correct email address. Rest assured that DAS will not share or sell your email address to any other person or organization.

MAKE IT COUNT! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ROCKWOOD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Volunteer bird counters are needed for the 40th Annual Rockwood Christmas Bird Count, coming up on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Help is needed counting birds at feeders, and counting birds within the Rockwood count circle.

If you have a bird feeder and live in Trenton, Brownstown, Flat Rock, Rockwood, Gibraltar, Newport or Grosse Ile, please consider providing a count of the birds that visit your feeder that day.

It's easy and fun, and you participate without leaving home—anybody can do it!

Contact the naturalists at the Marshland Museum at Lake Erie Metropark at (734) 379-5020, ext. 6836 to register and for more details and instructions.

Birders are also needed to help with the survey of birds within the Rockwood count circle. Birders spend the day out counting all the birds they find in their assigned area. Both new and experienced birders are welcome.

See the field trip schedule on page 9 for more details and contact information about the Rockwood Count (and also the Detroit Christmas Bird Count, held in northern Oakland County).

Christmas Bird Counts are held annually across North America. The data collected provides valuable information that is used to monitor bird populations and to assist conservation efforts.

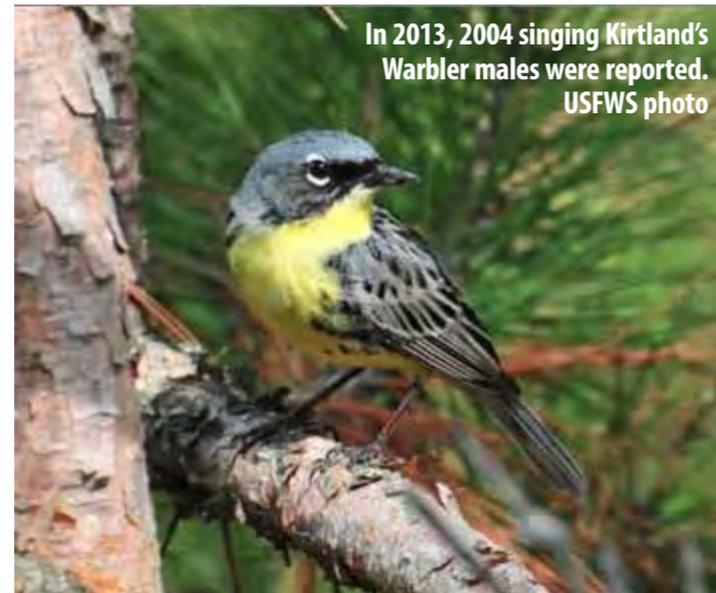
Let us count YOU among our Christmas Bird Count volunteers this year!

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER NUMBERS STILL HIGH

The results of the 2013 Kirtland's Warbler annual census are in, and there is good news: 2004 singing males, the second highest number since conservation efforts began several decades ago. In 2012, the census recorded an all-time high count of 2063 birds.

Each year, the Kirtland's Warbler survey is conducted in a joint effort between the Michigan DNR, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Michigan Audubon Society, and numerous citizen volunteers. The count takes place during early June, when male birds are actively singing and defending their breeding territories. People count the warblers by listening for their song, which can be heard up to one-quarter of a mile away. Because only the males sing, estimates of breeding population are calculated by doubling the number of singing males found in the nesting areas.

Kirtland's Warblers nest on the ground in stands of jack pine between 4 and 20 years old. Historically, these stands of young jack pine were created by natural wildfires. Modern fire suppression programs altered this natural process, reducing Kirtland's Warbler habitat. The result was that the population of Kirtland's Warblers declined to the point that they were listed as endangered, with fewer than 200 pair estimated back in the mid-1970s. Ninety-eight percent of the entire Kirtland's Warbler population breeds in Michigan.



In 2013, 2004 singing Kirtland's Warbler males were reported. USFWS photo

The U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manage the forests through a combination of clear-cutting, burning, seeding, and replanting to mimic the effects of wildfire and ensure the future of this species. Because large prescribed fires are neither safe nor economical in northern Michigan, approximately 3,000 acres of Jack Pine trees are harvested and replanted annually on state and federal lands.

Numerous government, nonprofit, and volunteer organizations are continuing to work to ensure the long-term sustainability of these birds.



Kirtland's Warbler. Roger Becker photo

WOLF HUNTING PETITION DRIVE CONTINUES

After 250,000 signatures were gathered to put wolf protection in Michigan on the November 2014 ballot, the Michigan legislature passed Public Act 21 as an end-run around this citizen initiative.

PA 21 gives the unelected Natural Resources Commission (NRC) the authority to designate game species and set up hunting seasons. NRC decisions are final because, by law, commission decisions are not subject to referendum.

Our certified petitions put the law making the wolf a game animal on hold until after a vote, but because of this new law, wolves will be hunted anyway.

The NRC has set a wolf hunt in the Upper Peninsula for November 15–December 31, 2013.

There is no way to stop this year's hunt, but we are hoping to stop any future hunts. The Committee to Keep Wolves Protected has launched a petition drive to place on the ballot a referendum on Public Act 21.

This referendum will preserve the impact of our first referendum that was already certified for the ballot—ensuring Michigan voters have the right to cast their vote to protect our wolves and have a say in other wildlife and conservation issues in the future.

The Detroit Audubon office has petitions if you need them, or if you still haven't signed. You may also contact the coalition's Lansing office at <http://Keepwolvesprotected.com> or 517-993-5201.

We have until March 5, 2014 to collect and submit signatures.

OSPREY FLEDGLING MONROE SPARK REACHES CUBA ON HIS FALL MIGRATION

Editor's note: Last issue, the Flyway featured a story about the resurgence of Osprey in Southeast Michigan. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge sent the following update on one of the fledgling birds—our very own Monroe Spark from Monroe County, on his way to wintering grounds in Central or South America.

On July 6th an Osprey named Monroe Spark, born on an Osprey platform in the Strong Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge near Estral Beach, became one of three Osprey chicks from Southeast Michigan to be tagged with a satellite transmitter to better understand their migration patterns and ecology. Our very own Monroe Spark has now reached Cuba on the way from his breeding grounds at the Refuge's Strong Unit to his overwintering grounds in Central or South America.

The Osprey is one of the largest birds of prey in North America, with a nearly six-foot wingspan. These unique North American raptors live on a diet of fish and are well known for their ability to dive for them. As a result, Osprey are often called "fish hawks." Osprey are a common sight soaring over shorelines, patrolling waterways, and standing on their large stick nests with their white heads gleaming. They are considered a "species of special concern" in Michigan. Osprey numbers have rebounded since the banning of certain pesticides like DDT starting in the late-1960s, and wildlife biologists consider them a good indicator of aquatic ecosystem health.

A team of biologists, veterinarians, utility company workers and volunteers helped make this project possible—including volunteers and staff from Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan (OWSEM), Detroit Zoological Society, DTE Energy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. OWSEM championed the project, and secured the funding from DTE Energy and American Tower Corporation for the satellite transmitters; veterinarians from the Detroit Zoo provided health checks for the chicks; the U.S. Department of Agriculture secured the tracking unit to the birds: DTE Energy installed the utility pole and built the nesting platform on the Strong Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge; and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided technical assistance.

The satellite transmitters were attached to male Osprey because they will return to the area where they fledged. Females typically disperse after their initial migration. Fledgling Osprey typically leave in the fall and remain in their wintering habitat for two years, returning north when they reach breeding age.

The transmitters are about the size of a 9-volt battery, with a 7-inch antenna that is secured to an Osprey's body with a harness. Osprey wear these satellite backpacks easily, and the units are designed to drop off in 2–3 years. Osprey have been found to be ideal candidates for tracking with solar-powered transmitters because they stay out in the open—not under canopies—and

winter in sunny regions where the battery can continue to charge.

Monroe Spark was the second of three chicks from southeast Michigan to be tagged this past summer. He was six weeks old when fitted with the satellite transmitter. Nine days after he received his "backpack," Monroe Spark left the nest under his own power and began investigating his local watershed, venturing south to Sterling State Park and north to Lake Erie Metropark.

After a few weeks of investigating areas of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Monroe Spark started heading south on August 24th. Now, nearly two months later, he is in Cuba.

See the OWSEM's website, <http://www.owsem.org/index.html>, for additional interesting information about Osprey in Southeast Michigan. You can also click on the links below to track the migration flights of Monroe Spark and the two other Osprey that were fitted with transmitters. Independence, hatched at Kensington Metropark, has arrived in Venezuela. Leroy, who was born in a cell phone tower nest near Pinckney, has reached Florida.

Monroe Spark's route: http://www.owsem.org/html/monroe_spark.html

Independence: <http://www.owsem.org/html/independence.html>

Leroy: <http://www.owsem.org/html/leroy.html>



Osprey nest at Kensington Metropark. Independence, one of the fledglings from this nest, was fitted with a satellite transmitter and has been tracked to Venezuela. Roger Becker photo



BIRD ID QUIZ

The handsome bird pictured in Sharon Korte's excellent photo, taken on September 29th at Kensington Metropark, is a Winter Wren. The Winter Wren is so named because it is much more likely to be seen in the winter throughout its range in the eastern United States than during the summer. This is true for southeastern Michigan as well, although peak reports in our area occur in April and October during migration.

It is the smallest and darkest of our woodland wrens, more comfortable in old-growth forests than the House Wren and the Carolina Wren. Look for them foraging on ground litter, on fallen logs or low snags, or moving through tangles on low branches, particularly in wet or moist areas. They usually hold their very short tails erect when perching. Other distinguishing features are a beautiful complex brown barring on the underparts and a light supercilium or "eyebrow." By comparison, our most similar wren, the House Wren, is medium grayish-brown above, has a longer tail held erect less frequently, has lighter and plainer underparts, and often lacks a discernible eyebrow. The Carolina Wren is distinctly larger, has unstreaked cinnamon colored underparts, and sports a bright white chin and bold white eyebrow.

DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2013-2014 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Detroit Audubon Society field trips offer fantastic year-round birding opportunities. We visit renowned hotspots in Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario during songbird, shorebird and raptor migration seasons. Other trips focus on the many interesting resident species in our area. All trips are free (although some parks have entrance fees), and everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders.

Please call the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 354-5804 by the Thursday before each field trip so that we'll know how many to expect and so we can contact you about any changes. Leave your name, address (helpful in hooking up folks for carpooling), number coming, phone number, and email address. If you are interested in carpooling or giving folks a ride, let us know.

**Point Edward and Lake Huron Shore, Ontario
November 23, 2013 (Saturday all day) 9 a.m.**



Cedar Waxwing.
Bill Thompson, USFWS

Leader: Jim Bull

The focus will be on water birds and early winter arrivals. This trip historically turns up great birds. We will consolidate cars before we leave and drive up the Lake Huron shore from Point Edward to Pigeon Point, and Grand Bend, stopping at various choice birding spots, and at a restaurant. Highlights of past trips include Snow Bunting, Herring Gull, all three Scoters (Surf, White-winged, and Black), Red-tailed Loon, Long-tailed Duck, Western Sandpiper, Little Gull, Screech Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Redpolls.

Address: 1455 Venetian Blvd, Sarnia, ON N7T 7W7

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.

**Detroit Christmas Bird Count
December 15, 2013 (Sunday)**

Coordinator: Tim Nowiki

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 21, 2013 (Saturday)**

Coordinator: Jim Bull

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 tcarpent1980@yahoo.com or at (734) 728-8733.

**Winter Waterfowl - Belle Isle, Detroit
February 1, 2014 (Saturday) 9 am**

Leaders: Steve Santner and Richard Quick

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.

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

**Owl Prowl - Grosse Ile, MI
March 8, 2014 (Saturday) 7:30 p.m.**



Great Horned Owl.
Roger Becker photo

Leader: Jim Bull

Great Horned Owls will have been nesting since early February, and Barred Owls will just be beginning to nest. Screech Owls will be getting ready to nest. Since they are defending territories, playing an owl tape or imitating their calls will likely bring a response from them. There is a good chance they will come in where we can see them in the beam of light from a lantern. We



Black Scoter.
Dave Menke, USFWS

have changed locations this year because Jim has had such good success in bringing in both Screech and Great Horned owls on Grosse Ile. Please call the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 354-5804 to make reservations. Meet at St. James Episcopal Church for a brief slide program on owls.

Address: 25150 East River Road Grosse Ile Township, MI 48138.

**Woodcock Watch - Oakwoods Metropark
April 4, 2014 (Friday) 7 p.m.**

Leaders: Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull

Right at dusk this sandpiper with a long beak and huge comical eyes comes to open areas to do its spectacular aerial courtship display. This program is especially good for families with children.

Address: 32911 East Willow Road, New Boston, MI.

Directions: From I-75, exit at West Road and go west. 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. You will need an annual Metropark sticker or a daily pass. We will meet at the Oakwoods Nature Center.

**Frog Symphony -
West Bloomfield Nature Preserve
April 11, 2014 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.**

Leaders: Sally Petrella (Friends of the Rouge) and Jim Bull.

Join us for an evening of listening to and searching for frogs. We often see salamanders, wood ducks, herons and owls. This field trip is co-sponsored by Detroit Audubon Society and Friends of the Rouge. This program is especially good for children.



John Bettaso, USFWS

Address: 4655 Arrowhead Road, West Bloomfield, MI.

Directions: From Telegraph Road, go west on Long Lake Road to where it dead-ends at Orchard Lake. Turn left and go to the next traffic light. Turn right on to Pontiac

Trail. Take Pontiac Trail and look for the sign "West Bloomfield Nature Preserve" at Arrowhead Road. Follow signs to the preserve parking lot. This is another good trip for children.

Continued on page 10

DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2013-2014 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE *continued*

Spring Migrants - Magee Marsh, Ohio April 19, 2014 (Saturday) 8 a.m.

Leader: Richard Quick

We will get the early spring migrants without the crowds at this famous birding locale.

Address: 13229 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH.

Directions: Take I-75 to Toledo; go south on I-280 to Highway 2. Follow Hwy 2 east about 18 miles and turn north at the Magee Marsh entrance. Drive to the west end of the beach parking lot at the beginning of Bird Trail boardwalk.

Spring Migrants - Point Pelee, Ontario April 26, 2014 (Saturday) 8 a.m.

Leader: Richard Quick

Pelee in the spring! It does not get better for a birder. This year we are going for the heavy spring migration. There will be plenty to see, including shorebirds in the Hillman Marsh area north of the park.

Address: 1118 Point Pelee Drive, Leamington, Ontario, CA

Directions: Cross the Ambassador Bridge, then follow the signs for Highway #3. Follow Huron Church Rd. (which is also Highway #3) for approximately 35-45 minutes. There are two exits for Leamington. Take the second exit for Erie Street. Turn right onto Erie Street and travel through eight stoplights. At the ninth intersection (Erie St. and Seaclyff Dr. (County Rd. #20) turn left. Drive approximately 1 km (1/2 mile), and you will see a large Point Pelee National Park sign. Turn right onto Bevel Line, and follow this road for approximately 10 minutes to the front gates of the park. Entrance fee: about \$8/person



Spring Birds - Wetzel State Recreation Area, Macomb County, MI May 3, 2014 (Saturday) 8 a.m.

Leader: Richard Quick

This trip takes us to an area that provides a nice mixture of habitat. Breeding birds regularly observed include: Sedge and Marsh Wrens, Harriers, Forster's and Caspian Terns, Clay-colored, Savannah, Song and Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-

winged Warbler, Willow Flycatchers, Ruddy Ducks, Redheads and Pied-billed Grebes.

This trip will require walking 3 to 4 miles on trails over several habitats and will last about 4 hours. Be prepared for wet trails.

Directions: Take I-94 east to Exit 247: M-19/New Haven Rd. Take M-19 north to 27 Mile Road. Go west on 27 Mile past Werderman Rd. Meet in the parking lot at the end of 27 Mile Road.

Spring passerines - Lake St. Clair Metropark (formerly Metro Beach Metropark) May 4, 2014 (Sunday) 8 a.m.

Leader: Cathy Carroll

Lake St. Clair Metropark is a justly famous migrant trap. A good list of warblers as well as many other nesting and migrants will be seen.

Address: 31300 Metropolitan Parkway Harrison Township

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

Spring at Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge May 18 2014 (Sunday) 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Leader: Jim Bull

See signs of Spring at this new public area of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (it was formerly the Grosse Ile Land and Nature Conservancy's Natural Area). This is a spring nature hike, not a birding trip. We'll look at birds that show up, but we'll also look at trees, wildflowers, and other animals.

Directions: Take the County Bridge (free bridge) over to Grosse Ile (just north of Van Horn Road and Jefferson). Turn right on Meridian Road, Left on Groh Road, then Right on East River Road (you can't go any farther). The entrance is about 1.5 miles down on the right past the airport. We'll meet in the parking lot.

Detroit Audubon Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away May 23-26, 2014 (Friday thru Monday)

Don't miss this weekend with wonderful people and fine birds. We are not sure if the Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, where we have held this event for 30 years, will be open this year. If not, we will move to



another venue. As always, in addition to great birds and wildflowers, there will be wonderful food, music, educational programs, and children's activities—all amid beautiful surroundings. We will take off-site field trips to places of interest as well. Watch the *FLYWAY* and the website for further details and registration information.

Breeding birds - Port Huron State Game Area June 1, 2014 (Sunday) 7:30 a.m.

Leader: TBA

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. This trip will last 5 to 7 hours. Bring a lunch.

Address: 5080 Wildcat Rd, Clyde, MI.

Directions: 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. Turn right onto Wildcat Rd. and right into Bill Bearss Memorial Park. Park near the baseball diamond. We will try to caravan from there.

Breeding and nesting birds - Eliza Howell Park June 7, 2014 (Saturday) 9 a.m.

Leader: Leonard Weber

Join us for the second year of this trip to see over 30 species of songbirds that breed in Eliza Howell Park during this peak of the breeding season. We will look for nests of orioles, Bluebirds, Barn Swallows, and others. We can expect to watch birds feeding their young.

Address: 23751 Fenkell, Detroit.

Directions: Eliza Howell Park is located on Fenkell Rd (Five Mile Road) in Detroit about one block east of Telegraph Rd. Enter the park and drive about 1/2 mile around the road loop and park near the nature trail.

