



Magnolia Warbler.
Curt Hofer photo



Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away: Friday May 23-Monday May 26 Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, Hale, Michigan

Join us for a fun-filled holiday weekend, where you can:

- Experience spring migration all over again on birding field trips to Lumberman's Monument and other AuSable River overlooks, the Rifle River State Recreation Area, the Kirtland's Warbler breeding area, and Tawas Point
- Look for owls on the evening Owl Prowl
- Enjoy family-friendly educational programs, nature walks, and campfires with singalongs
- Explore the natural surrounding on hikes or by canoe, kayak or paddleboat
- Visit the nature center or take a turn on the camp's challenge course



Birds commonly seen over the weekend around the camp include Barred Owls, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, nesting Common Loons, Bald Eagles, Phoebes, Sora, Virginia Rail, and Swamp Sparrows.

See the website for additional information on registration and fees. We hope to see you there!

Ways YOU can support Detroit Audubon

Dedicate a day of your May birding to Detroit Audubon by participating in the 2014 Birdathon or by sponsoring a team (see page 5 for information).

Shop at the Detroit Audubon bookstore. Members receive a 10% discount!

Support our upcoming Spring Fundraising Appeal by making a donation.

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.

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 year in April.]

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

Congratulations to scholarship winner Bridget!



Bridget Stempien, age 13, has been selected as recipient of the Detroit Audubon Society scholarship to attend the 2014 Camp Colorado youth birding event sponsored by the American Birding Association. Bridget is an advanced placement student at Frost Middle School in Livonia.

Though still a novice birder, Bridget has been a nature lover and bird lover since the third grade, when she began taking nature photos, often at Maybury State Park. She has been compiling an album of her pictures since then, and has also collected quite a few books on birds and birding. Bridget attended the Detroit Audubon Fall Symposium, and enjoyed our field trip to Eliza Howell Park in Detroit last year.

She's now a bubbly and enthusiastic young teen, eager to gain new experiences at Camp Colorado.

"It would be thrilling to be selected ... to be the recipient of this scholarship because I am ... looking for an opportunity to take [my] birding to the next level," Bridget stated in her scholarship application. "It would be an amazing opportunity for me, since I could meet some other kids with my interests."

Before embarking on the journey to Camp Colorado, she plans to bird whenever possible around home, taking advantage of Detroit Audubon field trips to bolster her skills.

Detroit Audubon is thrilled to offer this opportunity to Bridget and we look forward to hearing about her experiences at Camp Colorado when she returns. Good luck!



Bird ID Quiz



Do you recognize this bird? Check your answer on page 8. Karl Overman photo



Save the Date Detroit Audubon Celebrates 75 Years

2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Detroit Audubon Society. A 75th Anniversary Dinner will be held on **September 13, 2014**, at the Detroit Yacht Club's Fountain Room on Belle Isle.

The event will begin with a reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program from 6:10 to 10:00 p.m.

Our featured speaker will be **Chris Canfield**, Vice President, Gulf Coast/Mississippi Flyway, for the National Audubon Society.

Space is limited, so mark September 13th on your calendar now and look for your invitation later this spring.

We are looking forward to celebrating this important milestone. Hope to see you there!

Flyway

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Original articles, photos and artwork are welcome.
Email to flyway@detroitaudubon.org.

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Advertising rates: Please contact the [DAS office](#).

Flyway Editorial Advisor: [Emily Simon](#)

Flyway Production/Website: [Tana Moore](#)



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.



On April 23rd Detroit Audubon lost one of its stalwarts— board member and past president Fred Charbonneau. If you ever doubted the “power of one,” you had to look no further than this gentle, unassuming man.

When Point Rosa Marsh at Metro Beach Metropark (now Lake St. Clair Metropark) was threatened by a proposed marina, Fred jumped into the fray. Yes, he got others involved but he was the sparkplug that saved that marsh. He also helped form CHEC (Clinton-Huron Environmental Council), a watchdog over Metropark decisions.

An avid and seasoned birder, Fred put his skills to raise funds for his beloved Detroit Audubon Society, and the Birdathon was born. It has become one of the most enjoyable weekends all year.

After hearing of a Toronto program to keep migrating birds from crashing into lighted tall buildings at night, Fred decided that Detroit should have a similar program and became the mastermind behind our Safe Passage-Great Lakes program.

Fred was always welcoming and helpful to newcomers on field trips. One of my students decided to go on our Belle Isle field trip, although she knew no one and was apprehensive. Fred made sure she saw everything in the scope, and even convinced her to ask for binoculars for Christmas. A new urban birder was born!



Barbara Carter.

Other “power of one” examples came to mind. Take Barbara Carter, a member of the Detroit and Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands (D-CATS and MI-CATS). Detroit Audubon is a member of the D-CATS too. Last summer she was one of four people who locked themselves to heavy equipment used by Enbridge to install a new tar sands oil pipeline. Barbara was convicted of a felony—resisting arrest and assaulting an officer (although even the officer said she was very polite)—and misdemeanor trespass. She faced up to three years in prison. She was sentenced to time served and restitution of \$46,000. She didn’t stop the pipeline, but she did help raise awareness and risked her own freedom to do so. You may or may not agree with her actions, but you do have to admire her courage and her passion. She is making a difference.

Jim Murray had a dream that the Rouge River could be clean, and a wonderful amenity in all the communities it flows through. Most people thought he was crazy when he shared that dream, but he was dead serious through that big grin. He founded the Friends of the Rouge, and because of him that river is much cleaner and enjoyed by many today.

Folksinger Pete Seeger had the crazy idea of building the sloop *Clearwater* which, through riverside festivals, environmental education programs, and advocacy, helped clean up the Hudson and helped inspire the Federal Clean Water Act.

That power knows no lower age limit. In Freeport, Maine, one fifth-grade girl was

The President’s Bully Pulpit: THE POWER OF ONE

by James N. (Jim) Bull, Ph.D.

concerned about the hole in the ozone layer. She got her teacher, mother, and friends to help do research. As a result she and her friends decided to ask city council to ban Styrofoam. A fast food chain sent an executive to a city council meeting with an hour-long presentation. After about 20 minutes, the girl and her friends left and picked up all the Styrofoam they found around town. When it was her turn to speak, they dumped the 10 bags of Styrofoam on the front table. “This is why we want to ban Styrofoam!” she exclaimed. She explained that although the executive had argued that Styrofoam takes up little space in a landfill, “Our town incinerates garbage and that puts the CFCs into the air where they do the most damage.” The council passed the ban unanimously.

Yes, one person can make a huge difference. For my dissertation, I gave Detroit middle school students a questionnaire asking them how much of a difference they could make on various societal problems. One girl wrote, “By myself I don’t think I could make a difference, but working with others I think I can.” Such wisdom at a young age! It is true, as Margaret Mead once wrote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Those small groups need leaders and visionaries to motivate them and push them to greater heights; to step up and be bold. As an old song says, “It only takes a spark to get a fire going.”

How can you make a difference? Detroit Audubon needs followers, the kindling, but it also needs fire starters. Is Detroit Audubon a place where you can help start a fire? We’re ready when you are.

Safe Passage Great Lakes Needs YOU

The volunteer corps that makes up Safe Passage Great Lakes is working hard to reduce the carnage to birdlife caused by needless night lighting, mirror-like windows on buildings, wind turbines and all the other deadly obstacles to birds.

Safe Passage members have literature with solutions to some of these problems, and we are looking to distribute it to places where nature-friendly citizens congregate—namely, nature centers!

The Metro Detroit area has a wealth of these centers. Some are in Metroparks, some in county or city parks.

We at Safe Passage want to get our literature to these oases of nature, and we could use your help. If you have a favorite nature center, let us know and we will get the literature to you. If you think you’d like to make it your own personal crusade to visit the nature centers of Southeast Michigan, well, bless your heart— we’re right behind you with lots of literature.

So, if you’re up for a fun, easy, family-friendly way to help birds, call Rob Duchene at 248-549-6328.



Fred Charbonneau.
Rosemarie Attilio photo

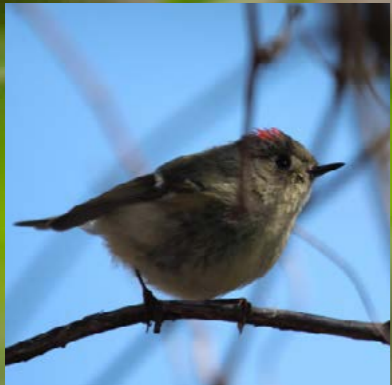


Celebrating Spring – Birder's Style!

After the winter we've just survived (which still at times seems to be hanging on), you can bet that birders everywhere are eagerly taking to the field to welcome the spring arrivals. Detroit Audubon thanks Roger Becker and Curt Hofer for submitting photos showcasing the highlight of the birding year: spring migration! All photos Roger's except as noted.

Center: Chestnut-sided Warbler, by Curt Hofer.

Counterclockwise from top left: Tree Swallows, Great Crested Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, Prothonotary Warbler by Curt Hofer, and Orchard Oriole.



The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition—highly recommended

Book review by Curt Hofer

The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition is an excellent bird identification guide. It is extensively researched, well-organized, clearly presented, and taxonomically up-to-date. It is also a comprehensive guide that covers nearly all of the birds that might be seen in North America and its boundary waters. However, where it excels is in describing all of the details that make a bird identifiable in the field and, in particular, are necessary to distinguish it from very similar species.

Unlike other common identification guides, the bird accounts are laid out in columns, generally half a page wide. This allows similar species to be presented side by side for easy comparison. It also lends itself to sidebars in which identification cues such as head shapes (scaups) or tail patterns (gnatcatchers) are sketched side by side and the differences noted.

For species that are fully described, both breeding and non-breeding plumages are shown along with their period of occurrence (e.g. “Sept. – Feb.”). The species accounts show all of the important immature plumages, which are also labeled with life cycle and time of occurrence information. This information is imperative, for example, when trying to identify immature gulls. All fully described species are shown in flight in two views—one showing the tops of the wings and one showing the underside. Flight characteristics, such as soaring profile and extent and form of wing motion during active flying, are diagrammed or described. Many accounts feature “posture” information during singing, calling, or mating displays.

A significant improvement in the Second Edition is expanded text describing how common the species is, its likely or preferred habitat, and just about anything Sibley can think of that might help to identify the bird that he couldn't work into the account otherwise. For example, here is the information for the Elegant Trogan; note how all the information is useful for working toward identification: “Rare and local along canyon streams. Nests in tree cavities, usually in sycamores. Solitary. Forages in trees for insects and berries, perching quietly with rump bulging and tail straight down while watching for prey.”

Another major improvement is the expanded range map content, which now includes summer, winter, and year-round ranges, plus migration and rare ranges. The extent of breeding and winter ranges has been reevaluated and updated. In short, just about any feature or habit associated with a species that can contribute to its accurate identification in the field is in this guide.

Other improvements to this edition, according to the flyleaf, are larger illustrations, 600 new paintings, and increased species content, especially for pelagic birds. Another improvement, and one that I particularly like, is the expanded use of family pages on which all members of a group, such as owls or flycatchers, are pictured together.

Unfortunately, there are some issues with this guide. Some have carried over from the first edition and some are new. The most serious new issue, and the one that has garnered the most negative press, is the choice of gray font color for the notation text in the species accounts. In combination with the very small font size used, this makes it difficult to read the text. Bright light helps mitigate this issue but, since the page stock is relatively glossy, bright light leads to glare and you are right back in the soup. Another complaint I have seen is that the images are oversaturated so that the colors are not true. While I agree that there are some issues with the colors, I don't find this to be a major concern. The first edition also had color issues. Color pattern is much more important than color, and I find the renderings faithful in this regard.

I have an additional complaint that carries over from the first edition. I can't understand why the prime area inside the back cover shows a map of North America rather than a quick reference index to the species accounts. North America has looked pretty much the same for centuries. However, every time a new bird identification book comes out the official taxonomic order has been reshuffled and I can't even begin to guess where the loons and geese have been tucked away this time. I would like to just flip open the back cover and quickly find the area of the book that contains the birds I am currently concerned with.

One final point to take note of is that this guide is mighty hefty, measuring almost 6½" x 10" and weighing in at nearly three pounds, which is about half a pound heavier than your average Brown Booby. So it is not particularly suited to being carried around in the field all day.

These concerns having been noted, there is no other guide that comes close to providing the amount of information for field identification of birds that this book does, and I highly recommend you add it to your library. If you are serious about making your own

accurate identification of birds in the field, then I have two suggestions for you: Spend a lot of time with this book and spend a lot of time in the field. This Second Edition of The Sibley Guide to Birds is a nice improvement over the already excellent First Edition. It has a clean, fresh look to it and contains significant new and improved material. If you think you want one right away, try and get your hands on a copy and make sure the gray-font issue is not a dealbreaker. If you already have the First Edition or if you are a patient person, then you may wish to wait to see whether anticipated changes to the type font are made in subsequent printings of this new edition.



www.sibleyguides.com

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



This 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 non-breeding species that regularly or occasionally visit North America, north of Mexico.

Click [Here](#) to use the Guide.

THE FLYWAY HAS GONE GREEN!

As announced previously, only the Spring issue of the Flyway will be printed and mailed annually. For the other three digital issues, we need all members' email addresses.

If you, or a member you know, missed an issue of the Flyway, please contact the DAS office at detas@bignet.net or (248) 354-5804 with the correct email address. Rest assured that Detroit Audubon will not share your email address with any other person or organization.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Yes, the Detroit Audubon Society has a Facebook page! [Like us](#) to get reminders of field trips as well as notifications of volunteer opportunities, upcoming programs, and workshops.

Share with your friends, and help spread the word about ways to support Detroit Audubon and its efforts to protect birds and the environment.

Become an eBirder and support bird conservation

by Curt Hofer

If you are not doing so already, you should consider reporting your bird observations to eBird. A secure database of bird observations, eBird was jointly developed by the National Audubon Society and the renowned Cornell University Ornithology Lab.

The cumulative records in the database are used by researchers and wildlife management experts to help identify bird population trends, migratory timing and stopover points to ascertain conservation needs and opportunities. By entering your observations, you are assisting in bird conservation.

The eBird developers realized that there must be a benefit to those submitting their observations. Therefore, the data entered by each observer is maintained in a personal account so that the submitter can review his past submissions (“checklists”) at any time. Also, all personal cumulative records (life lists) can be sorted by time period, and by region (country, state, county, or even by a favorite birding location such as your home or a local park). So, get started today!

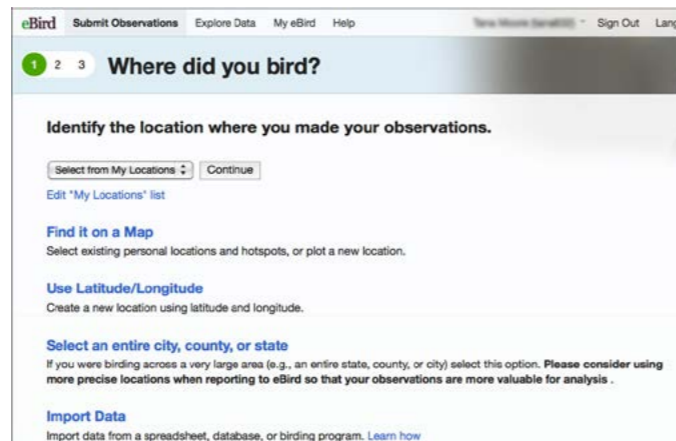
To begin, you need to create your personal account. Go to www.ebird.org. On the Home Page, below the page banner and a row of tabs, click on the link: *Sign In or Register as a New User*. You will be taken to the login page. Click on the *Create an Account* box at the bottom of the right-hand column. Fill in the required information—your name and your email address—and choose and enter an eBird user name and account password. That’s it! You now have your own eBird account!

There are many excellent tools in eBird that you can use to determine when and where birds are being seen. These will be discussed in future issues of the *Flyway*. But the focus of this article is on getting started with logging your birding observations. So, let’s get to it!

You will have to do a little extra recordkeeping when you go birding. eBird will ask for the following information with each checklist: The location, the time you started, the amount of time you spent birding, and how many observers were in your birding party. Make notes so that you have this information available. You will be asked to report which species you saw and how many of each. Recording the number of each species seen may be new for you. However, don’t be overly concerned about reporting the precise quantities. eBird asks only that you report your “best conservative estimate” for your count for each species. What is important is whether you saw a single bird, a pair of birds, a small group of birds, a large group of birds, a very large group of birds, or a huge group of birds. So, count when you can, and estimate when you must. Note that it doesn’t matter whether you identify a bird by sight or sound. If you see two cardinals at your feeders and hear another calling from a nearby tree, then you should report three cardinals.

Let’s assume you are ready to log your first eBird checklist. Go to the eBird home page. Sign in with your user name and password by clicking on *Sign In or Register as a New User*. (If you check the “stay signed in” box on the login page, then anytime you go to

eBird from the same computer you are automatically logged in.) Next, click on *Submit Observations*, which is one of the tab choices directly below the page banner. The screen shown below will appear:

The screenshot shows the eBird website interface for creating a new location. The page title is "Where did you bird?". Below the title, there is a navigation bar with "1", "2", and "3" indicating steps. The main heading is "Identify the location where you made your observations." There are four options: "Select from My Locations" (with a dropdown arrow and a "Continue" button), "Find it on a Map" (with a sub-heading "Select existing personal locations and hotspots, or plot a new location."), "Use Latitude/Longitude" (with a sub-heading "Create a new location using latitude and longitude."), and "Select an entire city, county, or state" (with a sub-heading "If you were birding across a very large area (e.g., an entire state, county, or city) select this option. Please consider using more precise locations when reporting to eBird so that your observations are more valuable for analysis."). There is also an "Import Data" option with a sub-heading "Import data from a spreadsheet, database, or birding program. Learn how".

For your first checklist you will choose *Find it on a Map*. You will then indicate the county and state you birded in. When you click *Continue*, a map of the area you specified will appear. You have two options for choosing a birding location. You can click on existing “Hot Spots”, indicated by balloon-shaped markers. These are generally parks or other publicly accessible locations that are frequent birding stops (e.g., Kensington Metropark or Pointe Mouillee SGA). If you were not at one of the hot spots, you can find your birding location on the map and click at that location. You will be asked to name the location. Enter a name, (e.g., “My Backyard) and click

Continue. You have just created a “Personal Location”. For future checklists you may find it convenient to use *Select from My Locations*, a dropdown list of all the locations you have visited previously, including Hot Spots.

The next step is to enter “Date and Effort” information. Enter the date of your observation. Next, choose the Observation Type. There are descriptions for each type of observation to help you choose. Depending on your choice, there are varying degrees of information required. Once you have provided the effort information, click *Continue*. Any errors or omissions require correction before you see the bird checklist.

Recording the birds you saw is generally straightforward. Simply scroll down the checklist and, for each species you observed, fill in how many of each. The checklists are set up to show the birds typically seen in the area you are reporting for the time of year you are reporting. For example, a Yellow Warbler will show up as a choice during the summer months, but not during the winter months. This approach helps speed up the data entry process and it also serves as a “reality check” if you are attempting to report a bird that is outside its normal range or season and you do not find it listed. (If you are lucky enough to see an unusual species, you can include it by using the *Add Species* feature. You will be asked to provide additional information to document each species so added.)

Finally, eBird asks, “Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?” Check YES or NO accordingly. Note that this question does not ask if you were able to identify *all* the birds you saw, only that you are reporting all the birds that you saw and identified. Finally, click on *Submit*. After a brief pause eBird presents a summary of your checklist. This is a good opportunity to double-check the accuracy of your work. You can easily edit any of your checklists at any time.

Now, just for fun, click on *My eBird* at the top of the page. The *My eBird* page is all about you! You can manage your observations and see your current bird lists and birding statistics. Congratulations on becoming an eBirder and supporting bird conservation efforts!

Still time to support Detroit Audubon’s Birdathon 2014

The 2014 Detroit Audubon Society Birdathon is running from **May 3 to May 26**. There is still time to form a team, or to support a team with your pledge!

Birders enjoy a day in the field at the peak time of the spring migration while raising money in support of Detroit Audubon Society’s efforts to connect people with birds and to provide educational scholarships for young birders.

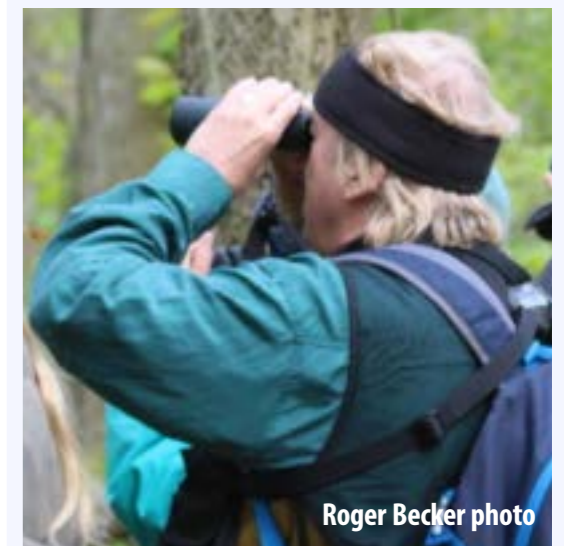
As in previous years, individuals of all skill levels are invited to organize teams or to volunteer to participate on a team. People are always needed to sponsor teams.

Each team is asked to select any date between May 3 and May 26 for their birding day and to choose any location(s) in southeast Michigan.

In advance of the birding date, all team members seek pledges from sponsors. Sponsors can pledge a set amount or per-species seen by the team.

During Birdathon 2013, one team recorded 114 species. For those who like competition, that is the number to try to beat!

To indicate a desire to participate, register a team, or sponsor a team, please contact dasfieldw@detroitaudubon.org or the Detroit Audubon office at 248-354-5804 or at detas@bignet.net.



Roger Becker photo



Fred, celebrating his last birthday.

Fred Charbonneau (1936-2014) by Rob Duchene

The Detroit Audubon community has lost a leader and an inspiration.

Fred Charbonneau died April 23rd at home in Warren after a long illness.

An alumnus of west-side Detroit Catholic schools, Fred worked for years as the Manager of Administrative Systems at Oakland Community College. He married Dotte in 1956 and they had three children. While the children were young, their father became active in the 1960s Civil Rights Fair Housing movement. Fred displayed his characteristic fearlessness by facing a hostile crowd, complete with Klansmen in robes, outside the Warren home of a mixed-race couple. Fred walked through this mob to enter the home of that besieged family and show his support.

In the 1970s, while driving to work, Fred noticed a large bird on the roadside and asked a friend at work what it might be. On learning that he had seen a Red-tailed Hawk, Fred began his fascination with birds that would last the rest of his life.

continued

Not all field trips yield long checklists

by Jim Bull

The main focus of Detroit Audubon is introducing people to the wonders of nature through enjoying, learning about and protecting our feathered friends, but we don't stop there. Birds are part of intricate webs of life in a plethora of ecosystems. While we start with birds, we embrace all of nature. On bird hikes we will stop to admire the spring wildflowers, gasp when a herd of deer cross our path, or train our eyes downward to see a hognose snake swallowing a toad on the trail. Sometimes our field trips are focused on creatures other than birds. Our evening Frog Symphony field



trip at West Bloomfield Nature Preserve April 11th is a case in point. That trip, co-sponsored by Friends of the Rouge and the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department, attracted about 60 participants. We heard both Spring Peepers and a whole vernal woodland pond full of Wood Frogs clucking! Wood Ducks usually nest in trees in that same swampy area, and are probably there, but they didn't show themselves to us this time. We looked under a lot of logs in the woods, but no salamanders this year—it was probably just too cold for them to stay near the surface. Bats flying over the marsh added to the ambience.

We also watched a Canada Goose on her nest, and several mallards. It was a warm, beautiful night.

Sometimes, while the focus is on birds, instead of trying to see as many species as possible, we immerse ourselves in enjoying and learning about one species of bird in particular, as we did on our Woodcock Watch on April 4th. We gathered just before dusk at Oakwoods Metropark to see the ground-strutting and aerial acrobatics of the male American Woodcock, or "timber doodle," as it is often affectionately known. These are goofy-looking birds, with big eyes set further back on their heads than most birds—enabling them to see predators that may try to sneak up behind them while they probe the mud for worms and grubs. Unlike the American Robin, which is present in some numbers year-round, the Woodcock is truly a harbinger of spring—the ground must be thawed if they are going to be able to feed. About 25 people braved the weather to see this vernal show. Despite the cold and wind, and although the field has grown up a lot in the past year, we saw seven or eight Woodcocks calling and dancing on Sky Come Down Trail at Oakwoods Metropark. We saw at least four do their aerial displays. Usually the aerial part of their "dance" happens so fast you hardly see anything but a blur. Because the little birds had to fight the wind, they often stalled in one place, giving us a better view. Some of us waded into a wet field to see one quite close, coming down and on the ground. The rest of the group stayed on the trail, not having proper footwear to venture into the water. They got to see a Woodcock come down right on the trail! They probably had the best view of all. Many in the group had never been on a Detroit Audubon field trip. About half were children; most had never attended any nature program before. Several people actually came late but found us on the trail (by our loud talking, I guess). When we got back to the warmth of the nature center, one little girl came over and hugged my legs for a long time. She loved her first experience on a nature outing. I asked if she'd come back on some of our other field trips. Her eyes brightened even more. She nodded, jumping up and down in excitement as she looked up at her mother, who smiled and nodded too. What a memorable night!



Join us on our field trips, and bring friends and family—especially children whose eyes might be opened to whole new worlds. On some of the best field trips, we do not tally a large number of species, but we do create indelible memories that will last a lifetime!

Fred Charbonneau continued

He took a position on the Detroit Audubon Society Board of Directors in 1981 and served for 32 years in various capacities, including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1994, the Michigan DNR had decided to take out a remnant of Lake St. Clair coastline at what is now Lake St. Clair Metropark to construct a boat launch and a parking lot. Fred and his allies, the Friends of Point Rosa Marsh, rose up in opposition and succeeded in stopping that project. Fred later recalled that as one of his proudest achievements.

In 2006, Fred was a leader in the successful effort to block a proposed hunting season on Mourning Doves. About that time, Fred and Detroit Audubon began Safe Passage Great Lakes (SPGL), an effort to reduce the needless bird mortality caused by nighttime collisions with buildings. General Motors, Chrysler, Ford and the State of Michigan have signed on, and that work will continue.

However, Fred faced a different kind of challenge at that time. Due to cancer surgery, he permanently lost his voice. Characteristically, he answered that setback by joining a team that went into elementary schools to encourage students to forego the use of tobacco. And so, while Fred's voice changed, it was never diminished.

He remained active in SPGL, hosting meetings at his home just weeks before he finally succumbed to the disease.

A warrior for peace and the environment has been lost, but Fred would be the first to insist that the challenges of creating a sustainable relationship with nature are as important as ever and cannot be ignored. Nothing would please this gentle man more than a renewed and invigorated campaign to make a safe home for all of nature's creatures.



DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2014 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Detroit Audubon Society field trips offer fantastic year-round birding opportunities. We visit renowned regional hotspots during migration seasons. Other trips focus on the many interesting resident species. All trips are free (although some parks have entrance fees). Everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders. **NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Please contact the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 354-5804 or email the trip leader by 5:00 PM on Friday before each trip so we'll know how many to expect and can notify you of any changes. Leave your name, address, number coming, phone number, and email address. If you can carpool or give rides, let us know. For park maps, see <http://www.Metroparks.com/ParkMaps>**

Eliza Howell Park

June 7, 2014 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Leonard Weber dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org

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

Directions: Eliza Howell Park is on Fenkell (Five Mile Road) in Detroit, about one block east of Telegraph Rd. Enter the park and drive about ½ mile around the loop. Park near the nature trail.

Breeding Birds at Kensington Metropark (NEW)

June 8, 2014 (Sunday) 8 a.m.

Leaders: Curt and Kathy Hofer curthofer@earthlink.net

This is the first Detroit Audubon field trip to the 4500-acre Kensington Metropark in many years. The park is known for the Great Blue Heron Rookery on Wildwing Lake, roaming Sandhill Cranes, and nesting Ospreys. Other likely species are Acadian Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Hooded Warbler, and all of our local Swallows. Also seen occasionally are Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Henslow's Sparrows. Trails can be soggy, so wear appropriate footwear.

Directions: Take I-96 west toward Lansing to Exit 151, Kensington Road. Proceed across Kensington Road into the Metropark on Highridge Drive. Follow Highridge Drive to the Nature Center, about 1/2 mile past the tollbooth. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Metropark pass or entry fee required.

Oak Openings Metropark, Toledo (NEW)

June 21, 2014 (Saturday) 8 a.m.

Leader: Jim Bull daspres@detroitaudubon.org

Famous for its rare oak savannas and prairies, this Toledo area Metropark is a mecca for specialty breeding birds. Often seen here are Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, and Henslow's Sparrow. This is the first Detroit Audubon Society trip here in several years.

Address: 4139 Girdham Rd, Swanton, OH

Directions: From I-75, merge onto I-475 W (Exit 204) toward US-23/Maumee/Ann Arbor, then left onto US-23 S/I-475 S toward Maumee/Dayton. Merge onto Airport Hwy/OH-2 W (Exit 8B) toward Airport/Swanton. Turn left onto Girdham Rd., look for Buehner Nature Center on the left. Meet in parking lot.

Pointe Mouillee** Reservations Required

August 10, 2014 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Jim Fowler dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org

This is one of the premier shore birding areas in the interior of the continent when water levels are favorable. Only four vehicles may caravan into the dikes, so we can only accept 20-25 people. Ride sharing required. Call in by Thursday, August 7th, to have a spot.

Directions: Take I-75 to Exit 26 and drive east on south Huron Rd. to U.S. Turnpike. Turn south and look for Sigler Road. Turn east and drive to the parking lot at the end.

Point Pelee, Ontario

August 23, 2014 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Leonard Weber dasfieldlw@detroitaudubon.org

August may seem early for fall migration, but for warblers, the end of August and the first few days of September are the peak time. Those with time are encouraged to check Hillman Marsh for waterfowl, and we may stop at Ojibway Park in Windsor as well.

Directions: Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rte. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Point Pelee National Park (entrance fee required: about \$8). Meet in Visitor Center parking area. Remember to bring passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.

Chimney Swifts – Burns Park Elementary School, Ann Arbor

August 29, 2014 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.

Leaders: Leonard Weber and Emily Simon

Join us at dusk to observe what we expect will be hundreds of Chimney Swifts circling and dropping into the historic Burns Park Elementary School chimney to roost for the night. This is one of the sites being monitored by Detroit Audubon to learn more about the migration patterns of these unique birds.

Address: 1414 Wells St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Directions: From I-94: From Exit 177, head north on State Street about 1.5 miles and turn right on Granger. Make a left on Olivia St. Turn right onto Wells St. From US-23: Take Exit 37, Washtenaw Ave West. Go west on Washtenaw for about 2 miles (bear right to avoid veering off on E. Stadium). Turn left on Fair Oaks Parkway. Make an immediate right on Norway, turn left on Ferdon Road, then make a right on Wells St.

Lake St. Clair Metropark

September 7, 2014 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: TBA

We hope to see fall migrants aplenty in summerlike temperatures.

Directions: Take I-94 east and exit on Metropolitan Parkway. Drive east into the park and park on the west side of the main parking lot near the Nature Center, where we will meet. Metropark entrance fee or sticker required.

Lake Erie Metropark – Hawkfest (no bird hike)

September 20-21 (Saturday-Sunday) all day: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your children to enjoy the many games, crafts, talks, demonstrations, displays and live hawks and owls at Hawkfest in and around the Marshlands Museum. Be sure to visit the Detroit Audubon display and bookstore as well as other vendors, and get down to the boat launch to view the hawk migration and look at the day's tally.

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

Lake Erie Metropark (Gibraltar, MI)

October 11, 2014 (Saturday) 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Leader: Jim Bull daspres@detroitaudubon.org

This is a good time for fall migration of land birds and raptors as well. We will traverse woodlands, boardwalks and observation platforms looking for warblers, other songbirds and migrating water birds.

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

Sandhill Crane Migration Stopover at Haehnle Sanctuary

October 19, 2014 (Sunday):

3:00 for hike or

5:00 p.m. to observe from hill only.

Leader: Jim Bull daspres@detroitaudubon.org

Join us for a hike through the autumn woods at 3:00. Stay to watch hundreds of Sandhill Cranes fly in to roost in the marsh for the night as they have been doing since the Ice Age. Northern Harrier and a plethora of waterfowl are also possible. Or, just join us on the hillside at 5:00 if you do not want to hike. Dress warmly. A blanket or lawn chair to sit on would come in handy.

Directions: Take I-94 west to Race Road in eastern Jackson County. Go north two miles to Seymour Road at a T-Junction. Go west (left) to the entrance of Haehnle Sanctuary on the north side of the road. Park in the lot and walk east on the trail to the overlook.

Point Edward and Lake Huron Shore, Ontario

November 8, 2014 (Saturday) all day starting at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Jim Bull daspres@detroitaudubon.org

The focus is on water birds and early winter arrivals. This all-day trip historically turns up great birds. We will stop at a restaurant for lunch.

Directions: Take I-94 east to Port Huron and cross the Blue Water Bridge to

Continued

DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2014 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Sarnia. Take ON-402 E to the Front Street exit toward Point Edward/Sarnia Downtown. Keep right at the fork, and merge onto Venetian Boulevard W. Meet at the Ontario Travel Information Centre (1455 Venetian Blvd.) on right.

Belle Isle, Detroit

November 9, 2014 (Sunday) 9:00 a.m.

Leaders: Steve Santner and Richard Quick

dasfieldrq@detroitaudubon.org

This Detroit gem (now a State Park) is a fine birding location for viewing migrant and wintering waterfowl.

Directions: Take Jefferson to the Belle Isle Bridge. Cross over and drive around the northeast end of the island and park in the Nature Center parking lot. State Park pass or entry fee required.

Owl Prowl—Oakwoods Metropark

November 14, 2014 (Friday) 7:00 p.m.

Leaders: Metropark Naturalist and Jim Bull daspres@detroitaudubon.org

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

Directions: From I-75, exit at West Road and go west to Telegraph (M-24). Turn left on Telegraph, right (west) on Van Horn (which becomes Huron River Drive), then left on Willow Road. Oakwoods Metropark (32901 Willow Road) is on the left. Meet at the Nature Center. Annual Metropark sticker or daily pass required.

Ontario and Niagara River Trip** Reservations Required

December 5 to 7, 2014 (Friday through Sunday)

Leader: Karl Overman

The Niagara region is the place to be in the late fall in the Great Lakes region, with masses of waterfowl and gulls, exciting birding and renowned scenery. Trips in recent years have turned up Great Cormorant, Gannet, King Eider, Purple Sandpiper, California Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Kittiwake, Little Gull, Mew Gull, Snowy Owl, Hawk Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. You won't regret going on this trip!

Departure from Farmington Hills at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5th; return Sunday, Dec. 7th at approximately 9 pm. Contact Karl Overman at (248) 473-0484 for directions.

Cost per person: \$380/double room or \$480/single includes all transportation and two nights lodging. Meals not included. \$75 deposit required, due by Dec. 1st.

Detroit Christmas Bird Count** Reservations Required

December 14, 2014 (Sunday)

This is one of the oldest Christmas Bird Counts in North America. Birders spend the entire day covering a 15-mile diameter circle in northern Oakland County to count as many birds as possible. Meet for pizza and count wrap-up at day's end.

To participate, contact Tim Nowicki at (734) 525-8630 or tnowick@gmail.com or the DAS office at (248) 354-5804.

Rockwood Christmas Bird Count** Reservations Required

December 27, 2014 (Saturday)

The Detroit Audubon Society co-sponsors this annual count of the 15-mile diameter circle,

including Grosse Ile, Lake Erie Metropark, Trenton, Rockwood, South Rockwood, Newport and Oakwoods Metropark. A chili lunch and dinner will be provided.

Public hike 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Contact Jim Bull at (313) 928-2950 or daspres@detroitaudubon.org to register for the morning hike.



Bonaparte's Gulls.
Roger Becker photo

Feeder Count: If you live in the count area (see above) and have a bird feeder, you can count birds right from the comfort of your own home (the best way to count many songbirds). If you can help with the feeder count, email Jim Bull at daspres@detroitaudubon.org.

All day Rockwood Christmas Bird Count: If you are an experienced birder, many routes need more coverage (some are not covered at all). To participate in the all-day count, contact compiler Tom Carpenter at (734) 728-8733. or tcarpen1980@yahoo.com.

Feathered Tales by Bev Stevenson

In late April, Linda Sheedy of Wixom spotted a leucistic Pileated Woodpecker in her back yard. It was a thrill for her that she was able to get pictures.



Karen Tonso spotted a Palm Warbler on April 26th in Dearborn. A lifelong birder from Oklahoma and Colorado, Karen said this was a "life" bird for her. A clue to its identity: its tail was wagging most of the time.

She said that after a slow start this season, in addition to the Palm Warbler, "It's been a flurry of Black-and-white Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, a host of White-breasted Nuthatches (which had disappeared from our neighborhood until recently) and many Red-bellied Woodpeckers The odd Cormorant, and beavies of vultures and hawks, have come by."



Bird ID Quiz—Spring 2014



The pictured bird is a female Scarlet Tanager. Scarlet Tanagers are common residents of mature deciduous woods in the summer, and are the same size as Bluebirds. Unlike her brilliantly colored mate (below) the female Scarlet Tanager is fairly nondescript when compared to other neotropical migrants. Her overall impression is of a greenish-yellow color. Upon closer inspection the nape, back, and rump appear olive green and the face and undertail areas show more yellow. The wings are a contrasting dark olive color and generally lack wing bars, though subdued wing bars may appear—especially as plumage wears.

Note also the bill structure. It is thick and barrel-shaped. It varies in color from a dull yellow to olive. In flight the underwing shows quite a bit of white, which is characteristic of the male as well.

The bird most likely to be confused with the female Scarlet Tanager is the female Summer Tanager. However, the Summer Tanager lacks the dark wings of the Scarlet Tanager, and is not very common in Michigan.

Photos by Karl Overman

