

# DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### 2009-2010

#### **Pte. Mouillee State Game Area**

August 15, 2009 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leaders: Jim Fowler and Karl Overman*

This is one of the premier shore birding areas in the interior of the continent when water levels are favorable.

**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 29, 2009 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Karl Overman*

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.

**Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rt. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Pt. Pelee National Park (entrance fee required.) Meet in the Visitor Center parking area. Remember to bring your passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.**

#### **Metropolitan Beach Metropark**

September 13, 2009 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Joanna Pease ([strixvaria@sbcglobal.net](mailto:strixvaria@sbcglobal.net))*

Hopefully fall migrants aplenty with summer temperatures still a reasonable expectation.

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

#### **Lake Erie Metropark - HAWKFEST**

September 19, 2009 (Saturday) 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

*Leader: Jim Bull*

We will traverse woodlands, boardwalks and observation platforms that overlook marshes looking for warblers, other songbirds and migrating water

birds. Meet at the trail head across from the Marshlands Museum. After the bird hike, wander down to the boat launch to observe the hawk migration for awhile. If you are lucky, you might see a spectacular sight like the 553,371 Broad-winged Hawks counted here on Sept. 17, 1999! Bring your children and enjoy the many games, crafts, talks, demonstrations, displays, and live hawks and owls at Hawkfest in and around the Marshlands Museum. Come into the museum to see Detroit Audubon's display and bookstore.

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

#### **Bird Banding Demonstration - Rouge River Bird Observatory**

September 27, 2009 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leaders: Julie Craves, Supervisor of Avian Research, Rouge River Bird Observatory, and Rosemarie Attilio*

The Rouge River Bird Observatory at U of M Dearborn has been conducting research for many years on migratory bird use of this urban sanctuary, shedding light on the importance of urban green space as migratory stop-over habitat. After a banding demonstration we will take a short hike looking for birds in the U of M Dearborn Natural Area.

**Take I-94 to Michigan Avenue (west); turn right on Evergreen and then a Michigan left into the U of M Dearborn campus. Meet at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the end of the entrance road. Park in the area designated for visitors in the flat lot, or in the parking structure.**

#### **Humbug Marsh "Big Sit"**

October 11, 2009 (Sunday) 6:00 to 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Greg Norwood, Detroit International Wildlife Refuge Biologist*

This is a national program, so folks will be doing this all over the country. What is "it?" Instead of taking a bird hike, we will gather at the birding overlook

at Humbug Marsh with lawn chairs, sit and count the birds we hear and see just from that spot. Join other Detroit Audubon members for this two hour time period, but the "sit" goes on all day, so you are welcome and encouraged to stay until 5:00 p.m. if you like. Bring a lunch and water if you do choose to stay. Greg is very good at pointing out even the uncommon calls and songs of birds we will encounter and a good teacher too.

**Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn left on Jefferson and drive north to Vreeland Road. Angle park on Jefferson and follow the wide wood chipped path to the overlook.**

### **Sandhill Crane Migration Stopover at Haehnle Sanctuary**

October 25, 2009 (Sunday) 2:30 p.m. (for hike)  
4:30 p.m. (observe from hill only)

Join us for a hike through the autumn woods at 2:30 p.m. Stay to watch as many as 3,000 Sandhill Cranes fly in to roost in a marsh for the night as they have been doing since the ice age. Or just join on the hillside at 4:30 p.m. if you do not want to hike. Northern Harrier and a plethora of waterfowl are also possible. Dress warmly as it can be frigid. A blanket or lawn chair to sit on would come in handy.

**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 7, 2009 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Karl Overman*

The focus will be on water birds and early winter arrivals. Historically, a trip that turns up great birds.

**Take I-94 east to Port Huron and take the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia. Meet at the Ontario Tourist Information Center. Remember to bring your passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.**

### **Owl Prowl - Oakwoods Metropark**

November 13, 2008 (Friday) 7:00 p.m.

*Leaders: Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull*

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

children.

**From I-75 exit at West Road, go west, from there go south on Telegraph (M-24), west on Van Horn, then east (left) on Huron River Drive to the entrance to Oakwoods Metropark. You will need an annual Metroparks sticker or a daily pass. Meet at the Nature Center. There is a \$2.00 per person charge.**

### **Belle Isle, Detroit**

November 15, 2009 (Sunday) at 9:00 a.m.

*Leaders: Steve Santner and Fred Charbonneau*

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

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

### **Niagara River Trip**

November 27-29 2009 (Friday thru Sunday)

*Leaders: Alan Wormington and Karl Overman*

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

**Departure will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 27 and returning Sunday November 29 at approximately 9:00 p.m. Location of departure will be in Farmington Hills. Contact Karl Overman at (248) 473-0484 for directions. Transportation and 2 nights lodging will be provided. You are on your own for food. Cost: \$350; \$75 deposit. Single room supplement \$450.**

### **Detroit Christmas Bird Count**

December 20, 2009 (Sunday)

Be a part of this nationwide birding phenomenon once and you are likely to be hooked for a lifetime.

**Call Tim Nowicki at (734) 525-8630 or the DAS office (248) 990-1316 for details.**

## Rockwood Christmas Bird Count

December 26, 2009 (Saturday) Count: All Day,  
Public Hike: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Detroit Audubon Society sponsors this annual count. The 15 mile diameter circle for the Rockwood Count includes Grosse Ile, Lake Erie Metropark, Trenton, Rockwood, South Rockwood, Newport, and Oakwoods Metropark. To go on the public hike call Jim Bull (313) 928-2950 to make reservations and to find out where to meet. If you live in the count area and want to participate in a bird feeder watch that day from the comfort of your home or to sign up to do more serious outside counting that day contact count compiler Tom Carpenter at [tcarpen1980@yahoo.com](mailto:tcarpen1980@yahoo.com) or (734) 728-8733. There are many inland areas that desperately need coverage. A chili lunch and chili dinner will be provided. There is a \$5 fee if you want your name listed in the official report.

## Belle Isle, Detroit

February 6, 2010 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m.

*Leaders: Steve Santner and Fred Charbonneau*

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.

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

## Owl Prowl - Indian Springs Metropark

March 6, 2010 (Saturday) 7:30 p.m.

*Leaders: Justin Smith, Metropark Naturalist, and 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 and there is a good chance they will come in where we can see them in the beam of light from a lantern. We have changed parks this year because Justin has had such good success in bringing in all three of these owls at Indian Springs.

**From M-59 go north on Ormond Road. Coming from the west you will have to make a "Michigan"**

**left (turn right, then left around the median). Turn right (east) on White Lake Road. The park entrance is about 2 miles from Ormond Road. Meet at the Environmental Discovery Center which is 2.5 miles into the park. You will need an annual Metropark sticker or day pass. Please call the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 990-1316 to make reservations.**

## Woodcock Watch - Oakwoods Metropark

April 9, 2010 (Friday) 7:45 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.

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

## Frog Symphony, West Bloomfield Nature Preserve

April 23, 2010 (Friday) 8:00 p.m.

*Leaders: Sally Petrella, Public Involvement*

*Coordinator for Friends of the Rouge, and Jim Bull*

Join us for an evening of listening to and searching for frogs. This field trip is co-sponsored by Detroit Audubon Society and Friends of the Rouge. This program is especially good for children.

**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.**

## Magee Marsh, Ohio

April 17, 2010 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Karl Overman*

Think spring thoughts and venture to this famous birding locale.

**Take I-75 to Toledo; turn off on I-280 to Highway 2. Follow Hwy 2 east about 18 miles and turn north at the Crane Creek entrance. Drive to west end of beach parking lot at beginning of Bird Trail.**

## **Point Pelee, Ontario**

May 1, 2010 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Karl Overman*

Pelee in the spring, it does not get better for a birder. The first of May will likely be before the main rush of warblers but there will still be plenty to see including shorebirds in the Hillman Marsh area north of the park.

**Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rt. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Pt. Pelee National Park (entrance fee required.) Meet in the Visitor Center parking area. Remember to bring your passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.**

## **Humbug Marsh**

May 2, 2010 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Leaders: Kristy Theil, Refuge Ranger, and Jim Bull*

See this natural gem of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in spring.

**Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn left on Jefferson and drive north to Vreeland Road. Angle park on Jefferson.**

## **Metropolitan Beach**

May 9, 2010 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Joanna Pease*

A justly famous migrant trap.

**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 center.**

## **Suburban Park Hop**

May 12, 2010 (Wednesday) 8:00 a.m.

*Leader: Karl Overman*

A chance to explore close to home with the prospects of interesting birds in unlikely locations. We will visit a series of parks in Southfield, Farmington Hills and Commerce Township on this venture.

**Meet at the parking lot for the Carpenter Lake park in Southfield. Carpenter Lake is on 10 Mile Road about a quarter mile east of Inkster Road.**

## **Detroit Audubon Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away**

May 28-31, 2010 (Friday - Monday)

Don't miss this weekend with wonderful people and fine birds. Besides an array of notable breeding birds in the area, including Kirtland's Warbler, nearby Tawas

Point should be hopping with migrants. Two years ago our group even found a new bird for the Michigan list - Couch's Kingbird! There will be great food, music and educational programs, children's activities including a challenge course, all amid beautiful surroundings. In addition to the camp, there will be trips to the scenic Rifle River area, Tawas Point and Kirtland's Warbler breeding area.

**Watch the *Flyway* and the website for more details.**

## **Port Huron State Game Area**

June 6, 2010 (Sunday) 7:30 a.m.

*Leader: Joanna Pease*

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 if not mandatory. This field trip is six or seven hours long.

**Take I-94 to the last exit in Port Huron (on left) before crossing into Canada. Proceed north on M-25 to M-136. Drive west on M-136 five or six miles to Wildcat Road. Park near the baseball diamond at the park at the northeast corner of Wildcat and M-136.**

## **Sunrise Serenade at LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve**

June 18, 2010 (Friday) 7:00 p.m. gate opens for camping

June 19, 2010 (Saturday) 4:30 a.m. for Sunrise Serenade, breakfast to follow

In the tradition of Aldo Leopold, take some time to listen to the beautiful songs of a summer morning. Birding experts will be on hand to help us document the progression of bird songs, keeping track of when each species first begins to sing. Join friends for a camp-out on Friday night or arrive by 4:30 a.m. on Saturday if you don't wish to camp. By 7:00 a.m. we will provide a hearty breakfast for everyone. Bring friends, family, blankets, chairs and a tent if you'd like to camp. Please, no pets. You will need to bring plates, cups and utensils for breakfast. Attendance is limited and a \$5 donation is suggested to cover the cost of breakfast. Contact the DAS office for reservations, phone (248) 990-1316.

**Location: LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve, 2252 N Prospect Road, Superior Township, MI 48198. Entrance is on Prospect Road half way between Geddes and Vreeland Roads.**