



www.detroitaudubon.org

Flyway

Spring 2008

MEMORIAL WEEKEND NATURE GET-AWAY

Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, Hale, MI

Friday, May 23 – Monday, May 26, 2008

Leaders: Jim Bull and Rosemarie Attilio

Join Detroit Audubon members for a weekend of birds, learning, and lots of fun at beautiful Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center near Hale, Michigan. Located in Iosco County, Loon Lake (formerly know as Camp Mahn-Go-Tah-See) offers a prime spot to enjoy Northern Michigan's birds and scenic wonders. In the past, birders have been thrilled with sightings of Piping Plover, Whimbrels, Western Meadowlarks, nesting Merlins, Pileated Woodpeckers, Black-throated Blue Warblers and more. Fieldtrips will include trips to the scenic Rifle River Recreation Area, Tawas Point State Park, Tuttle Marsh and Kirtland's Warbler viewing area and maybe even a canoe trip to get an up close view of the local loons.

Expect the weekend to be filled with great food, educational programs and new friends joining together to enjoy Michigan's natural heritage. This weekend is perfect for the whole family to enjoy. The weekend package includes: eight meals (Saturday though Monday), snacks, field trips, evening programs, and three nights' accommodations. A registration form can be found on page 7.

For more information contact:

**Jim Bull 313-928-2950, or
Rosemarie Attilio 313-802-3785, or visit
www.loonlakeretreat.org**

SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES NEEDS YOU!

The Spring migration, starting in mid March, begins the period when building operators will be reminded to turn off their interior lights above the fifth floor between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. from March 15 through May 31. Monitoring observance and measuring results will require the help of volunteers. We need your participation to make this effort successful.

Volunteers are needed to help with one or more (your choice) of the following efforts:

- Conducting nighttime surveys of tall buildings and prepare lists of those observing the Safe Passage guidelines and those who are still lighted above the fifth floor.
- Taking an early morning walk around tall buildings on the mornings after a foggy or stormy night and make a count of dead birds near the site. Your workplace would be an ideal spot if you arrive early enough. A count by species would be a bonus.
- Talk to your Facilities Manager, explain the program, urge participation and ask them to get the Grounds Keepers/Maintenance staff to report the numbers of birds they find dead at any time of day. Forward these counts to DAS.

We hope to get a volunteer team together for the coming Spring migration and we need your help. Please contact the Detroit Audubon Society office detas@bignet.net, (248) 354 4960, or e-mail jfcharbo@juno.com for more information on how you can help.

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Flyway

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The opinions expressed by the authors and editors do not necessarily reflect the policy of the DAS.

Articles that appear in the Flyway may be reproduced freely as long as credit is given to Detroit Audubon Society.

Submission of original articles and artwork is welcomed. Deadline for the Summer '08 Issue is April 1, 2008.

Advertising rates are available by contacting the DAS office.

Flyway Editor: Sue Beattie

Flyway Layout/Design: Don Tinson II

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Year Brings Challenges

Although the New Year has come, The Detroit Audubon Society faces some continuing challenges. The past year saw DAS make some progress toward solutions to its financial situation. By moving the office to donated space in Southfield, we have drastically lowered our costs for rent and phone. While the new office in the Southfield Historical Burgh Park is small and provides little space for a bookstore or meeting area, we have been able to continue with our programs.

Our Safe Passage Great Lakes program is into its second year with the coming spring migration. (See article in this issue). We continue to be part of the Important Bird Area management team and will be developing a support group for the Detroit River IBA. Our Field Trip Program is as active and extensive as ever and the FLYWAY has been published regularly four times a year.

We would like to develop more member and community programming. A regular series of natural history programs should be part of our offerings. Our relationship with Southfield allows us to develop some outdoor programs at the new Carpenter Lake Park, and we wish to make our St. Clair Sanctuary more accessible to our members. We need more volunteers.

Our financial situation continues to be a challenge. We need to use more and better development efforts to get long-term stability in that area. We could improve our financial situation with significant increases in the number of members in Detroit Audubon. We need professionals with experience in helping non-profits with fundraising and membership. If you feel you would be able to help, please contact us.

Also facing Detroit Audubon is the makeup and size of the Board of Directors. We need several additional board members with skills and experience to work as a director. Won't you consider contributing your time and expertise to help DAS to continue to meet new challenges and develop into the leading conservation group in the state? Please send me a note to discuss your questions.

Happy New Year everyone!

Richard Quick, President
daspres@detroitaudubon.org

For the Latest News and Views from Detroit Audubon

be sure to frequently visit our website:
detroitaudubon.org

DAS Board of Directors

President: Richard Quick

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Rosemarie Attilio

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Richard Quick

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Joan Seymour

Jack Smiley

Dawn Swartz

DAS FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE Spring 2008

Owl Prowl, Stony Creek Metropark

March 1, 2008 (Saturday) 7:30 p.m.

Leaders: Doug Spiller and Jim Bull

Great Horned Owls will have been nesting since early February and Barred Owls will just be beginning to nest. Since they are defending their territories, playing an owl tape or imitating their call will likely bring a response from them, perhaps even bringing them into view. Screech Owls should also be responsive to imitations of their calls by our leaders.

From I-75 exit on M-59 East, then go north on M-53. Exit at 26 Mile Road to the park entrance. We will meet either at the nature center or at the golf course parking lot. Watch the Flyway and our website for more details or call our office at 248.354.4960. If we have a big group, we will split up into two smaller groups.

Woodcock Watch

April 11, 2008 (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 Wester 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, Blue Herons, Great Horned Owls – West Bloomfield Nature Preserve

April 18, 2008 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.

Leaders: Sally Petrella 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.

Crane Creek, Ohio

April 19, 2008 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Mike Mencotti

Think spring thoughts and venture to this famous birding locale. The trip will be timed for when the auto trail is open at Ottawa Refuge.

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

April 26, 2008 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Karl Overman

Pelee in the spring. It does not get better for a birder. Of course in late April, this will 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.

Meet in the Visitor Center parking area. Remember to bring photo ID for entry into Canada.

St. Clair Woods – Wildflowers and More

May 3, 2008 (Saturday) 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Richard Quick

Join us for a tour of Detroit Audubon's own St. Clair Woods Sanctuary where there is a scenic stream and a carpet of wildflowers under a mixture of deciduous and coniferous woods. Yellow Trout lilies, hepatica, red trillium, white trillium and the locally rare painted trillium. Salamanders are sometimes found and we'll even look at birds though the focus will be on wildflowers.

Take I-94 east, exiting on M-21. Go west. Turn south (left on Wadhams Road), then right on Griswold. Look for sanctuary sign and drive into the small parking lot.

Humbug Marsh

May 3, 2008 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Leader: 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 10, 2008 (Saturday) 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.

Southfield Park Hop

May 12, 2008 (Monday) 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 on this venture.

Meet at the playground area in the NE part of the Southfield Municipal Complex on Evergreen Road just east of the Lodge Expressway (M-10).

Memorial Weekend Nature Get-Away

May 23-26, 2008

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. Last year 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 Tuttle Marsh. Watch the Flyway and the website for more details.

Lapeer State Game Area

May 31, 2008 (Saturday) 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Joanna Pease

The trip starts in Rowden Park to find marsh birds and late migrant warblers and then covers the Lapeer State Game Area for breeding birds and migrants. Grassland habitats will also be checked. Species seen in recent years in this area include Least Bittern, "Brewster's Warbler", Hooded Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Meet at the parking lot of the Lapeer K-Mart which is located on the east side of Lapeer Road (M-24) approximately one mile north of I-69. The trip will last until mid-afternoon so pack a lunch.

SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES HONOR ROLL

The following buildings have agreed to implement Project Safe Passage Great Lakes by turning out their lights between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and dawn during the fall and spring migration periods. The governments and organizations listed below have endorsed Safe Passage and urged their members and constituents to participate also. It should be noted that certain lights may not be turned off due to circumstances beyond the control of the operators, such as code requirements or tenant rights.

- Brewery Park**
- Detroit Opera Company**
- Ford Motor Company**
- State of Michigan Government Buildings**
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners**
- City of Southfield**
- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)**
- Buhl Building**
- DTE Energy**
- Coleman A. Young Municipal Building**
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan**
- City of Mt. Clemens**
- Chrysler World Headquarters and Technology Center**

PLEASE E-MAIL US!

If you would like to receive notices about membership meetings, field trips, and other time sensitive material, please send your e-mail address to detas@bignet.net. Simply type the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Please include at least your name in the message area of your e-mail. We will only send out a few e-mails a month and you can ask to be removed at any time. E-mail will help save postage and paper costs -- and will allow us to give you speedy notification of events.

DAS WISH LIST

The DAS office could use a working electric typewriter. Since space is limited, a relatively small model would be best. If you have one you no longer use, please consider donating it to Detroit Audubon.

Call the DAS office for details at:
248-354-4960

ASK AUDUBON

"Would there be a possibility that there is lead paint in birdfeeders and bird baths, manufactured in China. If so, how do birds and animals react to lead?" - Rosemary M., Raliegh, NC

Considering the recent publicity about high levels of lead in toys imported from China, you are wise to be concerned. A 2006 study from the University of Cincinnati determined that India, China and Malaysia produce consumer paints with dangerously high lead levels; these paints are used in a variety of products intended for export. The United States banned leaded paint in 1978 as it was linked to developmental problems in children. Lead paint affects birds and other wildlife as well. Burger and Gochfeld's 2000 study, published in the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, confirmed that even low-levels of lead affected growth, locomotion, balance, food begging, feeding, thermoregulation, depth perception, and individual recognition in birds. Young birds affected by lead may not recognize their siblings or parents due to impaired cognitive ability and tend to wander from their nests. Higher levels of lead can lead to death.

Paint issues aside, the wood China uses to construct bird houses as well as other products is a source of concern. China does not harvest its own forests for the majority of the products manufactured in that country. Russia, Malaysia and Indonesia are the three largest suppliers of timber to China. These countries have limited forest management, and much of the wood China uses is actually obtained illegally from threatened forests. The forests in Indonesia, in particular, are home to many species of birds which are threatened by the rampant deforestation. To ensure that wood products you buy are from reputable sources, look for Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC) wood. The concerned consumer should ask questions about the source of any wood product, such as furniture or paper, to make sure your purchase doesn't encourage the deforestation of threatened areas.

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DETROIT AUDUBON
SOCIETY



To find out about
workplace giving,
e-mail John
Makris at detas@bignet.net

a member of Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

BOOKSTORE BITS

By Bev Stevenson

To see most of what we carry, please attend the Home and Garden Show at Ford Field, March 7-9, 2008.

OUR OLDEST DAS MEMBERS

Write to Us With Your Story

By Richard Quick

I recently examined the list of members of the Detroit Audubon Society that are also members of the National Audubon Society. Although the data only goes back to 1972, it can still give us a feeling for the membership of Detroit Audubon. Most Audubon memberships are for more than one person and many are for families of three or more. As of the end of 2007, there were 4,839 memberships in Detroit Audubon. That corresponds to over 7,000 people that are members of Detroit Audubon.

There are 46 memberships that started in or before 1972, 35 years ago! My wife and I are proud to be one of them. Those members are listed below and if you are one of them, we would be interested to know how many of you have been members for longer than 35 years. We want to know when you joined and why. Send us your story and we will put selected examples in the *FLYWAY*. We will give more data about the DAS membership in upcoming issues of the *FLYWAY*.

Ms. Doris L. Adler
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Anthony
Ms. Doris J. Applebaum
Mr. W. Wilfred Brooks
Mr. William H. Browning
Mr. & Mrs. Vern Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C.
Comstock
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Dekold
Ms. Beverly Baker Dinsmore
Mr. Richard B. Endress
Dr. Jean Fair
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Mr. Louis Paull
Delphine P. Pomeroy
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Quick
Mr. David E. Shook
Mr. Robert J. Smith
Jon C. Soutar
Ms. Sylvia Stanik
Dr. William Lay Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis F. Vail
Dr. Ellis J. Vanslyck
Mr. Robert VanWallegghem
Mrs. Robert Walter
Mr. Milton J. Williams
Ms. Dorothy M. Winnard
Ms. Laura E. Woolley

Don't neglect to renew your membership!

If you have questions about your renewal, call our Office Manager, Beverly. She can help you.

WANTED

VOLUNTEER MARSH MONITORING PROGRAM REGIONAL COORDINATORS

The Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) is a long-term, bi-national program of Bird Studies Canada that relies on the skills and dedication of hundreds of volunteer Citizen Scientists across the Great Lakes basin to annually monitor marsh bird and amphibian populations in local wetlands. For over a decade, the MMP has worked with local stakeholders within Great Lakes environmental "hot spots", called Areas of Concern (AOCs), including the Detroit River AOC, to provide monitoring data in support of efforts to track wildlife and habitat recovery. To improve its capacity to inform the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan, the MMP is seeking to engage enthusiastic and motivated individuals to become volunteer regional coordinators for the MMP. MMP regional coordinators will help to recruit new volunteer participants by promoting the program locally, and help existing volunteers by providing training and survey support prior to and during the MMP monitoring season.

For more information about this rewarding opportunity, please view the online brochure with application form at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/download/MMPvolcoordbrochure.pdf> and a position description at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/download/MMPvolcooordescription2007.pdf>. We ask that those interested please submit their application form ASAP, either by fax to 519-586-3532 or by email to rarcher@bsc-eoc.org. Also note that coordinator tasks are flexible to accommodate individuals' strengths and time commitments, and that bursaries will be available to help reimburse coordinator-related costs. Coordinator orientation and training will be provided. For more information about the Marsh Monitoring Program or to become a volunteer, please visit www.birdscanada.org/mmpmain.html. For any questions, please contact Ryan Archer, MMP Assistant Coordinator, at rarcher@bsc-eoc.org, or toll-free at 1-888-448-2473 ext. 235.

A HANDFUL OF BEES

by Virginia Ryan

Richard and I were not newcomers to the surprises that beekeeping can bring and the lessons bees can teach us. So, when we found a swarm on an apple tree one May morning, we acted quickly. Richard put an empty beehive at the end of two long, well established rows of hives in the field near our house. Then we both put on white coveralls, along with a straw hat and a protective veil. Next, we put on yellow goat skin gloves with long cuffs that reached to our elbows. Now we were ready to work.

These bees had come from one of the hives in our yard. The swarm was getting ready to fly away to find a new home. Our goal was to capture them and put them in a new hive so they would stay in our bee yard. But how does someone capture 25,000 or more honeybees?

When we first saw them they were in a cluster about as large as a football. Richard puffed smoke on the swarm and then sprayed them gently with a thin solution of water and honey. Then he carefully looked through the cluster to see if he could find the queen, nudging them gently with his forefinger. He would identify her by her pointed abdomen, longer than that of the worker bees. When he found her, he set her carefully on his glove and held his arm next to the cluster. Soon the glove was so covered with layers of bees that when he held up his arm, the glove and part of the cuff were completely hidden by a trembling, vibrating mass.

Did Richard get stung? No, not even one sting. These bees were especially gentle because they had filled their stomachs with honey just before they left the old hive. That was their way of preparing for what they sensed would be a long flight.

When Richard's glove held about half of the bees from the swarm, he walked slowly to the empty hive that we had prepared. Gently, he lowered his arm into the hive and very carefully shook the bees into it. Would they stay? If the queen stayed, they would stay. If she flew, they would follow her. We had to wait and see. We were in luck! The queen settled into her new home and soon began to lay eggs. Within a few days all of the bees from the swarm joined her in the new hive.

Why did this swarm leave its old hive? Very likely the hive was too crowded. When a colony is overcrowded, the queen prepares to take part of the colony in search of a new home. Days ahead of time she increases her egg-laying activity, laying as many as 1800 eggs a day. From one of these eggs, the workers raise a new queen, for no colony can survive without its mother queen. When the swarm leaves, the new queen and the workers who stayed, go on with their tasks of gathering nectar, raising brood and making honey.

Richard was happy that he could capture the bees and keep them from flying away. We will think of this swarm the next time we spread sweet honey on warm biscuits!

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Editor's Note: 'A Handfull of Bees' is one of a continuing series of member contributions to our *Flyway*. Feel free to contribute your own story or observations to the *Flyway*. Send them to:

Sue Beattie - *Flyway* Editor
c/o Detroit Audubon Society
26080 Berg Rd
Southfield, MI 48033

WINDOW ALERT INFORMATION

By Joe Bartell

Project Safe Passage Great Lakes has targeted tall buildings to turn off decorative lights and empty offices during bird migrations. The list of cooperating buildings is growing, but there is another aspect to reducing the number of bird/glass collisions and this one is aimed at our homes.

If you are concerned over the steadily growing death toll of birds crashing into our homes, there is something you can do to reduce the carnage. You can purchase a decal developed by Window Alert. It has a component that reflects ultraviolet sunlight, a light that is invisible to humans, but glows like a spotlight for birds. The decal is easily applied to home or office windows. The cost of a package of four decals is \$5.00 at the DAS Office or they can be mailed to you at a minimal additional postage cost. The sale of the decals will help fund Safe Passage Great Lakes.

If every home in the United States experienced just one window bird kill every year, this equates to about 200 million bird fatalities annually. So, be bird friendly and help support project Safe Passage Great Lakes by ordering several packages of Window Alert decals for your home, for your family, friends and for our birds!

Memorial Weekend Nature Get-away At Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, Hale, MI Friday, May 23 - Monday, May 26, 2008

Registration Deadline: May 16, 2008 (No refunds will be given after this date)

Rates: Children < 4 years = Free, K - 8th grade = Child, 9th grade and Up = Adult

_____ **Plan A (Lodging, Meals, Snacks, & Programs)**

_____ Seaholm Lodge (Dorm style bunk beds for men & women)

_____ Mini Lodge (Priority given to families with young children)

_____ Rustic Cabin (Unheated w/ bunk beds, minimum of two people needed to reserve a cabin)

_____ Child(ren) X \$85 + _____ Adult(s) X \$155 = \$ _____

_____ **Plan B Day Rate Entire Weekend (Meals, Snacks, Programs & Day Use Fee)**

_____ Child(ren) X \$50 + _____ Adult(s) X \$100 = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Detroit Audubon Society

_____ Vegetarian / Dietary Restrictions: (please explain) _____

_____ I will assist with field trips / activities

_____ DAS Member

Declaration: (Each participant must sign; if under 18, legal guardian must sign)

I/We agree that I/we have read the preceding information and agree not to hold DAS liable for injury, accident, loss or theft, or any other problems on the 2008 Memorial Weekend Nature Getaway.

Signature(s): _____

Adult Name(s) & Gender: _____

Name(s), Age(s) & Grade Level(s) of Children under 18: _____

Telephone: _____ eMail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Any questions can be directed to Jim Bull at 313-928-2950 or to Rose Attilio at rattilio@aol.com or 313-802-3785

Mail this completed form and check(s) to:

DAS Memorial Weekend Nature Get-away, 26080 Berg Rd., Southfield, MI 48033

POINT PELEE SPRING MIGRATION CAMPOUT

This announcement is for all birder/campers who have been dreaming about escaping winter's doldrums. Spring migration is coming and so is the annual campout at Pt. Pelee National Park in Leamington, Ontario. Pt. Pelee is the premier bird observation site in North America. Mike has reserved a 3 night weekend for tenters, May 2-5, 2008, at the Little Raccoon Group Campsite within the park. This is an excellent time for many early migrants - especially vagrant warblers like Yellow-throated and Worm-eating. The cost is \$16 per night, per person, with a minimum reservation of 2 nights.

If you wish to camp, please send a check made out to:

Michael Fitzpatrick
56 Hubbard St.
Mt Clemens, MI 48043.

Please include the names of campers, nights desired (2 night minimum) and a phone number. Confirmation and pertinent information will be sent back to you via return mail. Don't delay. There are only 20 spots per night.

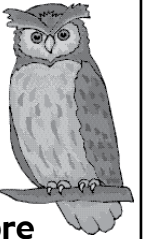
WARBLER AND VIREO ID WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:00 AM
Belle Isle Nature Zoo
Presented by Karl Overman

Adray Camera

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FEATHERED TALES

By Bev Stevenson



Linda Ruonavaara looked out her window to see what her bird feeder might have lured to her back yard and was pleasantly surprised to see a Fox Sparrow at her feeder along with the other sparrows. She watched him every day during the week of

November 22. Linda lives in Royal Oak.

Maggie Tyson now has two Red-breasted Nuthatches coming to her sunflower feeder. She lives on Eastways in Bloomfield Township.

Bob Flowers, who lives in Northville Township, spotted a Common Red Poll on the S.W. corner of Ridge Road and **Six** Mile on December 23, 2007.



Detroit Audubon Society
26080 Berg Rd
Southfield, MI 48033