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Flyway

Spring 2011

Volume 2011, Issue 2

THINK SPRING! THINK NATURE! GET-AWAY UP NORTH!

By Jim Bull

It has been bitter cold until recently (I'm writing this in late January) and the Tundra Swans and Canvasbacks are lining up by the thousands beyond the wide band of ice at Lake Erie Metropark, in what is their southern home, at least for a while. American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, visitors from the north woods, are active at the feeding station at Oakwoods Metropark. But it is not too soon to think about the warblers coming back north from their tropical homes, along with hundreds of other species. While the treasure-trove is usually mid-May, going north at the end of May can bring you a second look at spring migrants, as well as wildflowers and other of nature's spring denizens. Loon Lake, just a few miles north of Hale, MI is a perfect place to enjoy spring all over again.

Join us on the *Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away* from Friday, May 27th – Monday, May 30th. It all happens at Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center,

which sits on a high bluff above picturesque Loon Lake. It is set in the beautiful Michigan north woods—the only state nature preserve on private land!!! Here your lullaby will be the eerie plaintive song of the Common Loon echoing around the lake — the music of the North Country, the hoots of Barred Owls and the songs of frogs calling to potential mates as they also warn off male competitors. Trillium, Yellow-Lady Slippers, and Columbine greet you all along the trails and even around the cabins. Sometimes we see Red-headed Woodpeckers coming in and out of a cavity in a dead tree as the pair busily tries to satisfy the appetites of hungry offspring. Occasionally we even see nesting Pileated Woodpeckers. On an early morning or evening canoe trip on the lake (no additional charge for canoes, kayaks or paddle boats), you might spy a beaver swimming by, eagles diving for fish, or a mother loon carrying her brood on her back. You might want to try your skill at problem-solving and working in groups on the camp's challenge course (\$5 extra charge), sit on a bench overlooking the lake to enjoy the sunset or visit the Robert's Nature Center to learn about this fascinating place and its inhabitants. One night we'll have a campfire, sing songs about Michigan's natural heritage, and then feast on s'mores. We'll have a guest speaker the other night on a natural history topic, and there will be an owl prowl, for those who give a hoot! (We usually hear and see Barred Owls incensed that intruders have invaded their territory – or so they think).

We also have field trips to some of the best birding and scenic places in northern Michigan including Tawas Point State Park, which has been rightfully

described as a miniature Point Pelee (it also has a lighthouse you can climb); the Kirtland's Warbler breeding area where we can see and hear the endangered Jack Pine songster that has come back from the brink of extinction and draws birders from around the globe; Largo Spring, Lumberman's Monument and other Au Sable River overlooks; the Rifle River State Recreation Area with its high scenic road overlooking several lakes, with its observation tower where we have watched Bald Eagles feeding their young in a nest just across a narrow embayment and where you can visit a rare Michigan fen with its insectivorous plants, orchids and cranberries.

You'll also enjoy hearty, delicious meals in the knotty-pine dining room and meet some of the nicest people in the world. We may even add a square dance this year if we find a way to squeeze it in and find a local caller. We could use field trip leaders for birding around camp or in some of these nearby venues, wildflower walks, pond or stream studies, nature discovery walks and climbing the rollways (man-made dunes on the Au Sable River that were used in the lumbering era to roll cut logs down to the river below, where they would flow downstream to a mill, but which now are fun to run down and then try to climb back up). We hope to have some special children's program, but all our trips and programs will make you feel like a kid at heart.

Come once and we know you'll make this an annual tradition. *It just doesn't get any better!!*

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Flyway

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Flyway Lead Editor: Sue Beattie
Flyway Photo Editor: Rob Duchene
Flyway Layout/Design: Don Tinson II
DAS Webmaster: Chris Fielding

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be sure to frequently visit our website:
www.detroitaudubon.org

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: Reflections on the Christmas Bird Count

Leonard Weber

On December 19, 2010, I took part in the annual Detroit Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in northern Oakland County. I am not always able to participate in this count or in the Rockwood CBC, but it is always a great day when I can.

The Detroit Audubon Society has been sponsoring the Christmas Bird Count since 1941. Detroit Audubon, in our mission statement, describes bird watching as “the vehicle for developing an inclusive understanding of natural history.” The consistent reporting of winter birds found by DAS volunteers in the same circle of Southeast Michigan year after year has resulted in a wealth of information contributing to that understanding.

I recently began – just began – a review of the Detroit count records (they can be found on the National Audubon Society CBC website: <http://birds.audubon.org/historical-results>).

The national data includes records for Detroit CBC from 1941 through 2009 (2010 has not yet been included). In a quick look at the December 27, 1941, report and the December 20, 2009 report, I noted:

- Participants found 92 Ring-necked Pheasants in 1941; in 2009, they recorded only 2.
- In 1941, not one Red-bellied Woodpecker was recorded; in 2009, there were 102.
- In 1941, 1 Red-tailed Hawk was recorded; in 2009, 47.
- Counters in 1941 did not find any Eastern Bluebirds; in 2009, 143 were recorded.
- Black Ducks numbered 82 in the 1941 count; 10 were found in 2009.
- In 1941, 12 individuals participated in the count; in 2009, there were 18 participants.

I find this kind of information fascinating – and educational. More important than comparing two “snapshots” separated by 68 years is, of course, a review of the trends over the intervening years. And, thanks to dedicated volunteers who have gone out on a December day every year, this analysis can be done.

The opening statement of our mission statement is: “The mission of Detroit Audubon is to promote awareness of the environment through education and participation.” The Christmas Bird Count is just one example of living out this mission.

As the new president of Detroit Audubon, I am very conscious of the important work that has been done over many years by Board members and other volunteers and I want to express a very well-deserved thank you. We continue the work today – and we continue to welcome additional volunteers.



DAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the December, 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors, the new officers for the coming year were elected. Board officers are elected by the current Board members. The officers for 2011 are:

President – Leonard Weber **Vice-president** – Rochelle Breitenbach
Treasurer – Richard Quick **Secretary** – Beth O’Neal

Please go to our website, www.detroitaudubon.org, to see all of the current members.

Be sure to send in your ballot for the Class of 2013 Board Members to the DAS Office. The ballot is at the bottom of this page.

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The DAS Board of Directors officer election is held each year. Directors must be members of National Audubon or Detroit Audubon. All members of National Audubon in southeast Michigan are members of Detroit Audubon. Each director serves for three years with each of the three classes of directors having up to eight members for a total of 24 members. Please mark your ballot below and send it into the DAS office by March 31st. Feel free to nominate a person, even yourself, to serve on the Board. We will contact you for further information.

Board of Directors Election – Class of 2013 Candidates

Fred Charbonneau - incumbent

I have been a member of the board since 1982; have served four terms as president, three as vice president and one as secretary. I currently serve as the coordinator of the Safe Passage Great Lakes Committee. I believe that the protection of birds is increasingly urgent as we continue to despoil their habitat and place structural obstacles in the way of their migratory journeys.

Gisela Lendle King - incumbent

I have studied Biology at Oakland County Community College and Oakland University, earning a degree in Medical Technology. I am also trained and certified in jurisdictional wetlands delineation.

During the years that I have served on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Audubon Society I have actively lobbied for better protection of wetlands, more stringent cleanup laws for toxic sites, better criteria for waste disposal sites and more comprehensive recycling efforts throughout southeast Michigan. I have represented the Detroit Audubon Society at the Michigan Environmental Council and I have functioned as the chair of the conservation committee. I represented DAS during the recent efforts to re-write the land use laws of Michigan.

My vision for the Detroit Audubon Society includes continued efforts toward wetlands protection, clean water, habitat protection and, in general, an emphasis on birds and outreaching toward and partnering with other groups with similar goals as ours. My further efforts will be directed toward assuring financial security for DAS.

Richard Quick - incumbent

I first became a member of the DAS Board of Directors in 1970. With the exception of about 3 years, I have continued as a member of DAS. I have served as President three times and am currently treasurer. I am increasingly concerned about the decline of songbirds and hope to see DAS do more to remedy that trend. DAS needs an influx of talent for the Board and I hope we can begin an effort to attract more young people as Directors.

Beth O’Neal – incumbent

I have been on the Board of Directors for 5 years now. In the years that I have been on the DAS Board, I have served as both treasurer and currently as secretary. I have helped out the DAS with their many events; representing the society at Hawk Festivals, Home and Garden Shows and the DAS Annual Program that the society holds every spring to help promote knowledge of birds and conservation. Before joining the Board I assisted in the Peregrine Recovery Project in downtown Detroit and the Osprey re-introduction at Kensington and Stoney Creek Metro Parks. I have also been involved with bird banding at both Metro Parkway and U of M Dearborn.

Joan Seymour - incumbent

I have been a DAS Board member for 19 years. Major concern is loss of natural habitats. Spearheaded successful regional effort to save wetlands in path of I-696 freeway; led successful community wide effort in city of Southfield to enact strong wetlands and woodlands protection laws; Co-Chair of Organizational Committee for Alliance of Rouge Communities and Southfield City Council Member for 13 years.

Class of 2013 Board Members Ballot

Fred Charbonneau Gisela Lendle-King Beth O’Neal Richard Quick Joan Seymour

I would like to nominate _____ as a DAS Board Director.

Contact me at this telephone number: _____

Mail your completed ballot to: Detroit Audubon Society, 24433 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48033

DAS FIELD TRIPS

Please register for field trips by calling 248-354-5804 and leaving your name, phone number, and email address so we may contact you with any changes in location, time, etc. Registration is not required but strongly encouraged.

Frog Symphony, West Bloomfield Nature Preserve

April 14, 2011 (Thursday) 7:30 p.m.

Leaders: Sally Petrella, Jim Bull and Lauren Zoet, West Bloomfield Naturalist

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 Friends of the Rouge and is especially good for children.

Directions: From Orchard Lake Rd, go to Pontiac Trail. Go west on Pontiac Trail and look for the sign "West Bloomfield Nature Preserve" at Arrowhead Road. Follow signs to the preserve parking lot.

Woodcock Watch, Oakwoods Metropark

April 15, 2011 (Friday) 7:45 p.m.

Leaders: Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull

Right at dusk these sandpipers, with their long beaks and huge comical eyes, come to open areas to do their spectacular aerial courtship display. This program is especially good for families with children.

Directions: From Detroit, go south on I75 and exit at West Road, then go west. 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 a Metropark sticker or a daily pass.

Magee Marsh and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio

April 16, 2011 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Richard Quick

Think spring thoughts and venture to this famous birding locale. Spend the morning on the boardwalk and then go to Ottawa NWF and Metzger's Marsh. Visit the Black Swamp Bird Observatory while you are at Magee.

Directions: Take I-75 to Toledo then go south on I-280 to Highway 2. Follow Hwy 2 east about 18 miles and turn north at the Crane Creek entrance, 13229 W. Route 2. Drive to the west end of the beach parking lot at the beginning of Bird Trail.

Point Pelee National Park, Ontario

April 30, 2011 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Chris Goulart and Richard Quick

Pelee in the spring! It does not get any 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.

Directions: Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rt. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Point Pelee National Park (fee required: about \$12). 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

May 8, 2011 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Joanna Pease

Metropolitan Beach is a famous migrant trap well worth the trip for spring songbirds.

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.

Suburban Park Hop

May 11, 2011 (Wednesday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Karl Overman

This is 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.

Directions: Meet at the Carpenter Lake Park in Southfield. The park is on 10 Mile Road about a quarter mile east of Inkster Road.

Wetzel State Recreation Area, Macomb County

May 14, 2011 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Chris Goulart and Richard Quick

This is our newest trip to an area that provides a nice mixture of habitat. Breeding birds regularly observed include: Sedge and Marsh Wrens; Northern Harriers; American and Least Bitterns; Forster's and Caspian Terns; Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos; Clay-colored, Savannah, Song and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Other regulars include: Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-winged Warbler, and Willow Flycatchers. Waterfowl include: 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. For those who are interested afterwards, we may try to track down other Macomb County rarities such as: Dickcissel, Vesper Sparrow, White-eyed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, Carolina Wren and Peregrine Falcons.

Directions: Take I94 east to Exit 247: M19/New Haven Rd. Take M19 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. Park outside the radio controlled airplane field.

Humbug Marsh

May 22, 2011 (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.

Directions: Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn left on Jefferson and drive north past Vreeland Road and park on Jefferson Avenue at the gate on the right.

Detroit Audubon Memorial Day Weekend

Nature Get-Away

May 27-30, 2011 (Friday thru 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. A few years ago our group even found a new bird for the Michigan list - Couch's Kingbird. There will be great food, music, educational programs and 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 Au Sable River Overlooks. Watch the Flyway and the website for registration information.

Port Huron State Game Area

June 5, 2011 (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 mandatory. This trip will last 5 to 7 hours.

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 and park near the baseball diamond in the park on the northeast corner of Wildcat and M-136.

SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES UPDATE

Since its inception in 2006, the Safe Passage Great Lakes (SPGL) team has focused primarily on collisions with tall structures lighted at night during spring and fall migrations. This joint effort with Michigan Audubon chapters statewide now includes programs in Jackson, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids. We hope to see improvement in the lighting of communications towers as the FCC considers options such as flashing white strobe lights and green instead of red lighting. Windmill manufacturers are making structural improvements in their towers and public utilities are considering migratory routes and windmill density in the placement of their wind farms.

SPGL is part of an international effort that is expanding to major cities across North America. The Bird Collision List Serve, sponsored by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), fosters communication and exchange of ideas between participating groups. The city of Toronto's pioneering Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), started in the 1990's, still leads the way with innovative ideas and legislation.

In spite of all these efforts, bird populations continue to decline. While loss of habitat continues to be the number one cause of this decline, years of research by Dr. Daniel Klem Jr., (Acopian Center for Ornithology, Muhlenberg College, Allentown Pennsylvania) have established that clear glass and plastic windows appear to birds to be invisible and pose the second greatest threat to wild birds.

Take a walk around your property on a clear day and look at your windows. You are likely to see a reflection of the sky or the trees and bushes on your property. These reflections represent reality to the birds and they will attempt to fly to even a very small area of apparent sky or vegetation. If a bird collides with your window and flies away apparently unharmed, it is more likely to die than recover from the collision.

You can help prevent these collisions with your windows. Solutions are available for a range of prices, from bird-safe films to simple but effective do it yourself measures. The ABC has produced an excellent leaflet you can see.

Visit www.detroitaudubon.org and look under Safe Passage for a full color version.

You can also download a copy for reproduction and distribution at: www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/pdf/collisions_flyer.pdf

**ANNOUNCING
DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY
BIRDATHON 2011
CALLING DETROIT AREA BIRDERS**

We invite you to join us for the Detroit Audubon Society's annual May Birdathon.

Birdathon teams head to the woods, fields, parks and by-ways of Southeast Michigan during May for a day of birding. In the process, they raise money in support of Detroit Audubon Society's efforts to protect wild birds and their habitats and to promote nature experiences and education.

In the 2010 Birdathon, one team recorded exactly 100 species. This number could well be exceeded in 2011.

Dates and Location

Teams may select one day, any date between May 7 and May 29, for their birding day and agree to confine their birding that day to Southeast Michigan. Team leaders are asked to register their teams by April 29, 2011.

Categories of Participation

Teams will select one of two categories of participation:

Category A - Teams will compete to see as many bird species as possible in one 24-hour period.

Category A teams are limited to no more than four (4) persons each.

Category B - Teams will count bird species at a specific location (e.g., a park, a municipality, a "big sit" location) during one 24-hour period. Category B teams may be of any size.

Team Composition

While teams should have at least one member who is an experienced birder in order to assure the accuracy of the report of species identified, they are encouraged to welcome individuals with little previous birding experience. They may also want to include someone with a camera. Individuals who would like to participate and are not yet part of a team may contact DAS to get linked up.

Sponsors

Team members ask their friends and acquaintances to pledge a donation to the Detroit Audubon Society. Sponsors may contribute a specific amount for each bird species the team tallies or a lump sum for the day. DAS can provide sample pledge forms. Teams are encouraged to set fundraising goals.

For more information and/or to become a BIRDATHON sponsor, please contact either:

Detroit Audubon Office -
detas@bignet.net or call 248-354-5804

Birdathon Coordinator Leonard Weber -
weberlj@udmercy.edu or call 313-671-8127

DETROIT ORIOLES

By Leonard Weber

With its bright colors and loud whistled singing, the Baltimore Oriole is one of the most widely recognized and welcomed birds in eastern North America. The "Baltimore" name was given to the bird because someone thought its colors resemble the black and yellow of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore.

As a baseball fan, I connect "Orioles" with the city of Baltimore, just as I connect "Tigers" with the City of Detroit. As a nature fan, however, I have come to associate Orioles with the city of Detroit, because one excellent place to observe these lovely birds locally is Eliza Howell Park in northwest Detroit.

The Detroit Baltimore Orioles arrive every year at Eliza Howell in mid-May and most move on before the end of August. Though the orioles are present for just one short season, their presence is one of the highlights of the park year.

The Orchard Oriole also occurs annually in Eliza Howell, though in much lower numbers. Smaller and a little less glamorous (not named after a Lord's coat of arms) and not as well known, the Orchard Oriole is also a very attractive songster. The male is chestnut orange and black.

Along the one mile road loop in the park, large trees are scattered and clumped over acres of grassy fields – the trees are mostly cottonwood, wild cherry, and oak. Nearby are the more heavily wooded areas along the Rouge River. This kind of habitat is obviously right for Baltimore Orioles. They can be seen flying into and out of the scattered trees almost any time of the day during the breeding season. Walking or riding or jogging around the loop, one need only be watching overhead to have a very good chance of observing an oriole in transit, especially from late May till late June.

Given their habit of moving frequently from tree to tree, it is difficult to estimate the number of Baltimore Orioles using Eliza Howell as their breeding ground. In May and June of 2010, I made a more concerted effort than usual to locate their nests. I found four, meaning that at least four breeding pairs were present. It is impossible, of course, to know how many nests I did not find. The difficulty in locating them means that I probably failed to locate half of those constructed in the park that year. When the trees were bare of leaves in the fall of 2010, I did locate 3 more Baltimore Oriole nests, though I could not be sure of the year of construction.

Baltimore Orioles hang their nests near the end of a branch in a large deciduous tree. The nest is a tightly woven pouch, about 6 inches in length, dangling on the underside of the branch. The birds enter the

nest from the top. Three of the four nests I found in 2010 in Eliza Howell were in cottonwood trees. Though the nests are well enough hidden that it takes a careful search to find them, it is not difficult, once a nest is found, to observe the orioles without disturbing them.

If one is fortunate enough to find a nest while it is still being built (usually near the end of May), one can observe the fascinating construction process (mostly done by the female). Later, when the eggs have hatched, there are a number of days for watching the adults (both female and male) bring insects to the nestlings.

While observing the feeding process one day, I noticed a female Brown-headed Cowbird stop by in the absence of adult orioles, peer into the nest, and then fly away. I was reminded that cowbirds, which are also common at Eliza Howell, lay their eggs in oriole nests as well as in the nests of other small birds. No doubt a few of the birds being fed in oriole nests are cowbirds. The Baltimore Orioles appear to be thriving in the park, however, and their hatching and feeding a few cowbirds seems to be a very interesting natural phenomenon, not necessarily a threat to the oriole population.

Every year in May, at migration time, the Orchard Orioles also make their appearance. Whenever I see an Orchard Oriole that is still present at the end of May, I begin to wonder if a pair might breed in the park. But, in the last several years of careful observation, this has not happened. That is, it did not happen until 2010. That year I continued to see both male and female Orchard Orioles, at least one of each, throughout the month of June.

By late June, the number of Orchard Orioles had increased and included some immature birds. Though I did not find a nest, the evidence supports the conclusion that Orchard Orioles have now joined Baltimore Orioles among the breeding birds of Eliza Howell Park, at least for one year. They will be high on my list of birds to look for in 2011 and, if they remain after migration season, I will be searching carefully for a nest in order to observe more details of their behavior.

Baltimore Orioles and Orchard Orioles both winter as far away as southern Mexico and Central America and late in the summer they will be gone for another eight or nine months. But come May, they will return right on schedule. Based on past experience, several Baltimore Oriole pairs will nest in Eliza Howell – and continue to please their human admirers.

It is not so easy to predict what will happen with the Orchard Orioles. My hope, to be sure, is that 2010 was the beginning of many years of using Eliza Howell Park as their breeding ground. Then the Orchards will have joined the Baltimores as the Detroit Orioles.

DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

I'm enclosing or charging my tax deductible contribution of: \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$20 OTHER

Name _____ e-mail _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

To Charge, indicate: Visa MasterCard Card Number: _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as Shown on Card _____ Signature _____

This gift is (circle one: 'in memory of' 'in honor of'): _____

Please send acknowledgement to: _____

Mail this completed form (your check payable to Detroit Audubon Society) to:

Detroit Audubon Society, 24433 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48033

Thank You for your support!

Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away

Friday, May 27 - Monday, May 30, 2011

Registration Deadline: May 17, 2011 (No refunds will be given after this date)

Please fill out a separate form for each person coming to the Nature Get-Away. Make copies if multiple people are coming from the same household. You can still write one check for multiple registrations included in the same envelope.

Name: _____ DAS Member? _____

Adult: _____ Child /Grade Level*: _____ / _____ * note that children are defined as those in grades K-5 only.

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Contact information (include for one in each family group)

Email* _____ Phone: _____

*Registration confirmation and orientation packet may be sent by email this year.

Vegetarian/Dietary Restrictions (please circle one V=vegetarian):

Circle one: Vegan Ovo-lacto (eggs and milk OK) V+fish V+chicken V+chicken & fish

Other Dietary Restriction, please explain: _____

The camp tries to accommodate dietary restrictions, but if you have severe restrictions you may have to plan on bringing your own food or food supplements (We'll let you know)

Volunteering (check all that apply):

- Lead a field trip (if new, describe: _____) Keeping fire stoked at campfire
- Help with _____ set-up _____ clean-up/tearing down Handing out song books
- Maintaining bird checklist (must know birds) Putting out fire/cleaning up after campfire
- Setting up campfire/starting fire Other (explain): _____
- Help with snacks at campfire

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

I/We agree not to hold DAS liable for injury, accident, loss or theft, or any other problems on the 2011 Memorial Weekend Nature Get-Away.

Signature: _____

Printed Name (if guardian): _____

Relationship to participant if guardian: _____

Plan A: Lodging at Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center. Adults \$192, Children \$168

Preferred option:

- Seaholm Lodge (dorm style bunk beds in separate areas for men and women)
- Mini-lodge (Eagle's Nest or Loon, Priority given to families with young children)
- Rustic cabin (unheated w/ bunk beds. You may need to share cabins if less than 5 sign-up for a cabin)

Plan B: Day Rate Entire Weekend (Meals, snacks, programs, and day-use fee). Adults \$164, Children \$141

Program Options:

- Kirtland's Warbler field trip (\$10 additional charge required by the U.S. Forest Service)
- Challenge Course (\$5 additional charge)

Fee summary:

Registration Fee (lodging, food, program) _____

Kirtland's Warbler field trip (\$10) _____

Challenge Course (\$5) _____

Total Fee (enclosed) _____

Enclosed find a check for _____ made out to Detroit Audubon Society, write Memorial Day in on memo line, and send along with this form to DAS Memorial Day Weekend, 24433 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 40833

If sending a check for more than one person, enclose all registration forms in one envelope and include a sheet listing registration fees for each participant and grand total for check.

Confirmation letters are sent out in early May.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND NATURE GET-AWAY Friday May 27- Mon May 30

Fees for 2011:

Please note that the definition of "child" has changed. We had to change how we charged participants with children to reflect the current camp billing for children.

With Lodging at the Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center

Adult	\$192
Child (K-5 th grade)	\$168

Day-Use (for those staying in motels, cottages or live nearby)

Adult	\$164
Child	\$141

The Registration Form can be found on Page 7.

Questions about the Nature Get-Away can be directed to Jim Bull 313-928-2950 or jamesbull22@yahoo.com

FEATHERED TALES

By Bev Stevenson



A Snowy Owl was seen by **Shannon Mach** of Grosse Pointe, swooping across their yard on the morning of January 14, 2011. The Snowy Owl is usually found in Canada in the colder regions. The Machs live near Lake St. Clair and Milk River. They have a 23 foot pond with a waterfall in their yard with trees planted especially for catering to the birds. They also had a pair of Peregrine Falcons in their yard all last summer.

Ken Thompson called the office the week of Jan.14 to see if he could get help rescuing a Mallard Duck, he thought was a Brandt Goose, that was tangled in fishing line and stuck in a hole in the ice on Lake St. Clair at Moran and Jefferson. He tried to get to it, but it perished. Unfortunately, I didn't get the message until after the fact.

Janet Hug, a professional photographer, took **Suzie Robinson** and **Irma Hoops** to Bloomfield Hills, off Long Lake Rd. between Telegraph and Lahser, on Feb. 6 to see a Green Tailed Towhee. It had been frequenting a bird feeder for the last week. This is a highly unusual western bird to be seen in this area.