

**WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL
ELECTRONIC EDITION OF
THE FLYWAY!**

Detroit Audubon hopes that you enjoy the new colorful format, which allows us to publish more news and, especially, more photos. As previously announced, the *Flyway* will be published three times per year electronically, while the spring issue will continue to be printed and mailed each year.

We would like to say a special thank-you to Tana Moore, our new editor and layout designer for creating the new masthead and format for the new e-newsletter. We love it and are looking forward to keeping you up to date on our activities and volunteer opportunities while also providing fun and timely information about our favorite topic—birds!

We are especially excited about the new format because it will allow us to include more content provided by you, the membership. Do you have photos of birds at your backyard feeder or at local birding hotspots? Do you have an interesting story to share with other DAS members? If so, we invite you to submit bird photos and articles for the *Flyway*. Simply email your submissions to



flyway_submissions@detroitaudubon.org. We look forward to hearing from you!
—the DAS Board of Directors



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! FALL SYMPOSIUM OCTOBER 26, 2013
"BIRDERS – YOUNG AT HEART"**

We are pleased to announce that Oakland Audubon Society will again be joining with Detroit Audubon Society this fall. We plan to host a Symposium, scheduled for October 26.

This will be a "family friendly" event that will appeal to young birders (a presentation with live raptors is planned, among other things) and will also include separate presentations geared toward the adult members of our audience.

The site is the Southfield Parks & Recreation Building, located at 26000 Evergreen Road, in Southfield. Check the website for more details regarding start time, speakers and presentations, lunch options, and costs.

We're very excited to be putting together a program that will appeal to all birders.

Hope to see you there. Don't forget to mark your calendars, and check the DAS [website](#) for updates.

THINK SPRING! THINK NATURE! GET-AWAY UP NORTH – MAY 24–27, 2013

The Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center will be open at least one more season, so we will be going back this year to continue our Memorial Day Weekend tradition. Join us!

Read more about this wonderful event on [page 5](#) and take a look at more of Jim Bull's photos from the [2011 and 2012 gatherings](#).



Jim Bull photos

BIRD ID QUIZ



Can you identify this bird? Check your answer on [page 11](#)

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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 Detroit Audubon Society is credited.

Original articles, photos and artwork are welcome.
Email: flyway_submissions@detroitaudubon.org

Deadline for next issue: August 1st, 2013

Advertising rates: Please contact the DAS office.

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DAS MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote awareness and protection of the environment through education, research and advocacy.

We support local activities to foster the preservation of birds and the clean air, water, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and other natural resources they depend upon.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BIRDING BY EAR...

by Kathy Hofer

As I write this, I'm happy to report that Spring has finally arrived. I'm sure that we've all been tired of "below normal temperature" days, and can't wait until we can be outside in shorts again.

Thankfully, Spring is now here, and the birds are singing loud and clear.

I've always loved the sound of birds in our yard every morning. However, I am embarrassed to admit that, just a couple of years ago, I could not have distinguished a Northern Cardinal's song from that of a Tufted Titmouse, not to mention American Goldfinches, House Finches, woodpeckers and Nuthatches. I did recognize "Chick-a-dee-dee-dee." That was the extent of my ability to identify a bird by its song.

When my husband suggested that I should pay more attention and said that I could learn, I was skeptical. I can't carry a tune, and my hearing is not perfect. It was a bit humiliating on field trips when the young birders (who can hear everything) and the expert guides (who know it all from experience) were identifying birds, while I was still fumbling with my binoculars. So, I gave *listening* a try.

Surprisingly, I did learn! It will still take years to catch up, but I've had a lot of fun in the process and am amazed at my newfound ability to identify birds through their sweet, distinctive calls. It's been a joy! I love to see the birds and have discovered that, if you can *hear* them, it becomes much easier to find (and see) them.

I really thought that birding by ear would be an impossible task, but it wasn't. If I can do it, anyone can. That sounds like a cliché, but in this case it's true. Just go outside and listen while you look. Very early this morning, for the first time in our suburban neighborhood, I was able to pick out the song of a White-Throated Sparrow amongst the dawn symphony. It's not a species that we see very often in our yard; but now that I know the song, I know that he visited our neighborhood just today.

Also, I urge you to take advantage of the field trips offered by DAS. I have learned so much regarding birding by ear, as well as other ID tips, just from birding with our awesome guides. Other birders who come out with us to enjoy a day in the field are always eager to share knowledge as well. The camaraderie is something that you need to experience; there's no better feeling than knowing that you're among friends and doing what you love to do. Please come out and join us.

CHANGE IN FLYWAY STAFF

With this issue we say goodbye to editor Emily Simon and to layout editor Michelle Rubarth, who have published the *Flyway* since November 2011. The Board of Directors of DAS takes this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and their thoughtful, committed service to DAS and all of its members.

Replacing Emily and Michelle is Tana Moore, who will edit and design the *Flyway* for both online and print editions. Tana was the editor of a monthly magazine in print and digital formats, and she composes a neighborhood newsletter for a Farmington Hills subdivision. She lives in Southfield.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT DETROIT AUDUBON

Designate DAS as the Community Rewards recipient for your Kroger card. Kroger will donate up to \$300 per household per quarter.

Make a (tax deductible) donation in the Spring Fundraising Appeal.

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

Volunteer to help with field or office work. See below and the DAS website for more ways you can donate your time and talents.

Help spread the word about DAS by liking us on Facebook.

Introduce a friend to birds and nature at a Detroit Audubon field trip or other event.

For more information about these opportunities to help make a difference with Detroit Audubon, please see the [DAS website](#).

HELP WANTED!

Detroit Audubon seeks volunteers to help publicize its activities:

Photographer(s) to take pictures for the website and the *Flyway* at DAS events, projects, and field trips throughout the year.

Writer(s) to submit articles on DAS initiatives, birds, and birding.

Person with email marketing experience to help design and establish an email marketing program for DAS.

If you have skills in any of these areas, a passion for birds and the environment, and a few hours a month to help out, please contact publicity@detroitaudubon.org.

SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES DAYS

It has become traditional in Michigan for the Governor to proclaim Safe Passage Great Lakes Days during the spring and fall bird-migration seasons each year, supporting the need to prevent deaths of night-migrating birds.

Governor Snyder has continued this tradition, and his [Proclamation for 2013](#) can be viewed on the Detroit Audubon website.

With the policy of turning off lights, and the Governor's Proclamation, the State of Michigan is an outstanding leader in the Safe Passage effort, and we can be very proud of Detroit Audubon's role in fostering this leadership.



Palm Warbler.
Roger Becker photo



Detroit Audubon Society presents Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget officials with a Certificate of Recognition. From left: Keith Paasch, Building Operations Director, Tina Richardson, Facilities and Business Services Administration Director; Rosemarie Fielding, Doris Applebaum, and Rob Duchene, Safe Passage Great Lakes, Detroit Audubon Society. Linda Norlock photo

SAFE PASSAGE CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

At the State of Michigan's official Earth Day event in Lansing on April 18, Detroit Audubon's Safe Passage Great Lakes Committee presented a Certificate of Recognition to the State. This action was in recognition of the State's policy that lights must be turned off by 6 p.m. in all State buildings.

While the primary impetus for this policy may be to save money, it also prevents many night-migrating birds from being killed by crashing into these buildings. Turning off the lights also reduces the amount of pollution from coal-fired power plants needed to provide electricity for the lights, which leaves our environment a little cleaner. The State thus supports what we like to call a win-win-win idea.

Committee members Rob Duchene, Rosemarie Fielding, and Doris Applebaum traveled to Lansing to present the Certificate.



HOW HOMEOWNERS CAN HELP WITH SAFE PASSAGE

The Safe Passage Great Lakes team recommends that homeowners also take steps to safeguard against bird/window collisions. See this [article](#) in the April 23, 2013 issue of *BirdWatching Magazine* for a comprehensive list of available products and tips for making your windows bird friendly.



DAS ON FACEBOOK

The Detroit Audubon Society has a Facebook page! "Like" the [Detroit Audubon Society Page](#) to get reminders of field trips as well as notifications of volunteer opportunities, upcoming programs, and workshops. Help spread the word about ways to support Detroit Audubon and its efforts to protect birds and the environment.

For the Latest News and Views from
Detroit Audubon

be sure to frequently visit our website:

www.detroitaudubon.org

LAKE ST. CLAIR IBA BLACK TERN PROJECT GETS STARTED

by Richard Quick

A meeting to map out the scope and strategy for the Black Tern Project (BTP) in the St. Clair Flats near Harsen's Island was held at the Harsen's Island DNR office March 25th. Michigan IBA coordinator Caleb Putnam, DAS Board member Richard Quick, consultant Dave Shealer and DNR personnel Terry McFadden and John Darling were present to decide how to begin the study of the use of artificial platforms for Black Tern nesting in the mud flats of Lake St. Clair.

A general decline in Black Tern populations across the Midwest has raised concern for the future of the birds. The nesting terns in Lake St. Clair need to be studied over the next few years to judge their success and to find if artificial nesting sites are beneficial in this area. Dave Shealer has had some success in Wisconsin with the platforms and we hope they will be of help here as well.

The cold, windy and wet weather caused us to abandon a firsthand look out on the lake, but maps and charts helped to look at what could be promising sites for the platforms. We did take a tour of the SGA dikes and the ducks in the impoundments. Dave Shealer brought several platforms he has used with Black Tern nesting in Wisconsin. They are about 2' square plywood pieces with Styrofoam between and a square of AstroTurf in the center. They are held in place by long PVC plastic pipes pushed through a bracket on the platform and into the mud substrate, which allows the platform to float up and down with the water and turn with the wind.

This first year, the group decided to select sites away from existing tern nests to see if the terns will choose to nest on the platforms. Data will be kept on both natural sites and the platforms for nesting activity and fledging success. This first-year data will be used to decide how to proceed with the project next year.

The BTP should last at least three years depending on platform success. We are in need of a few able-bodied volunteers to help with data collection and platform placement and retrieval. If you are interested, please call Richard Quick at 313-407-0716. Donations can be made to help defray the costs that could approach \$5000/ year. Thanks for your interest and support.



At left and above: flying Black Tern; an adult with juvenile; and nesting adult with chick.
© J.S. Jourdan photos

Below (L-R): Attending the meeting were John Darling, Terry McFadden, Dave Shealer, Caleb Putnam (the Michigan Important Bird Area Coordinator for the National Audubon Society) and Richard Quick.



THE FLYWAY HAS GONE GREEN!

As announced previously, only one issue of the *Flyway* will be printed and mailed annually (in March).

For the other three online issues, we need all members' email addresses.

If you, or members you know, have missed an issue of the *Flyway*, please contact the DAS office at detas@bignet.net or (248) 354-5804 to provide us with the correct email address.

Rest assured that DAS will not share or sell your email address to any other person or organization.



CONGRATULATIONS, DAYDEON!

As reported in the last issue of *Flyway*, Detroit Audubon Society offered a scholarship to a southeastern Michigan teen to attend National Audubon Society's week-long Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program at Hog Island, Maine in mid-June. We are very pleased to announce that 14-year-old Daydeon Baron-Galbavi of Monroe, Michigan, has been awarded this scholarship.

Daydeon is a personable and accomplished young man. Board Members involved in the selection process were impressed by his sketch "Robins and Apple Blossoms" (shown below, with permission) that Daydeon included with his application. We hope that Daydeon will have an opportunity to sketch many more birds on his visit to Hog Island.

We look forward to hearing about his experience during the DAS Annual Symposium on October 19. Please check the website for updates.



WOLF PETITION VICTORY AND SUBSEQUENT SETBACK

Detroit Audubon endorsed the statewide "Keep Wolves Protected in Michigan" campaign in January; board member Jim Bull served on the campaign steering committee; and DAS offered its members the opportunity to sign and circulate petitions to force a statewide referendum on the hunting of Gray Wolves. 161,000 signatures were needed but 250,000 were collected. That should be more than enough signatures to get the issue on the ballot.

The bad news is that a state referendum on the hunting of wolves will probably not make any difference. Public Act 21 was signed into law on May 8th. The Act gives unelected members of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) power to designate "game species" for our state, and Gray Wolves will be designated as a game species.

The public will not be able to intervene as in the past because the actions of the NRC are not subject to referendum.

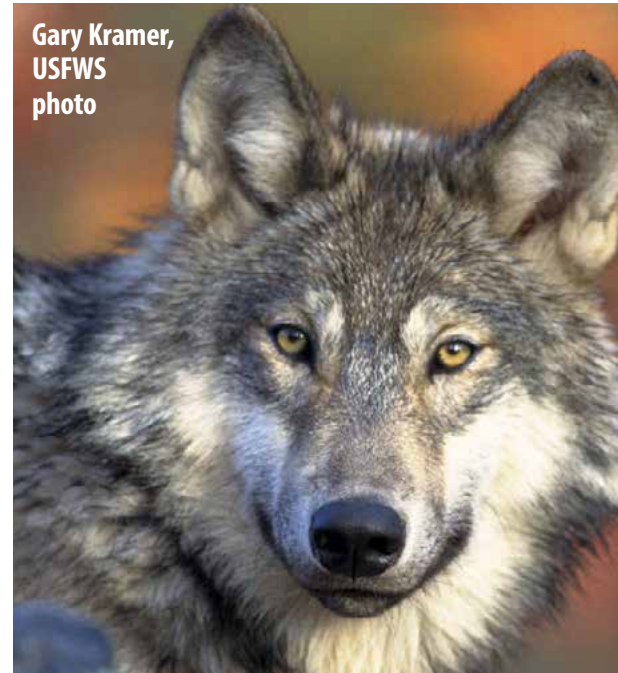
However, the act does provide that NRC will not be able to designate as a game species any species added to the state game list by a public act that has previously been rejected by a referendum. Therefore Mourning Doves, which were protected by referendum in 2006, are not in danger of becoming a game species with this bill's passage.

In addition, the act does not include an appropriation, which means that it can be subject to a public challenge in the future.

STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR OUR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND NATURE GET-A-WAY

There's still time to register for Detroit Audubon's Annual Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away. You can still get in on the fun. Take a second look at Spring Migration, trek through a fen with insectivorous plants, or a boardwalk with Sora and Virginia Rails all around. Our spectacular Michigan Jackpine songster rarity—the Kirtland's Warbler—is only one hour away. See Common Loons fussing over their babies and hear their eerie plaintive calls across the lake. See eagles catching fish for their nestlings, thrill to the hoots of Barred Owls, see Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers feeding their young. Watch an Eastern Phoebe nesting under the eaves; enjoy orchids and other wildflowers. Delight in the antics of newborn fox kits. Canoe and kayak on the lake or on the nearby Au Sable River. Dare to test your team-building skills on the outdoor challenge course. Climb a roll-a-way dune, then enjoy singing and s'mores around a campfire. A guest speaker will discuss Northern Michigan rivers, then play with his river model to show what happens when stream flow is altered. Eat great food, enjoy good company and so much more. We'd love to add you to our Memorial Day Nature Get-Away.

Warning: this weekend can be addictive. Go to our [website](http://www.detroitaudubon.org) for the registration form and more details. Questions? Call Get-Away coordinator Jim Bull at 313-928-2950.



CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AT RANDOLPH SCHOOL

On April 22, the students at Randolph Elementary School in Livonia enjoyed a wide variety of Earth Day presentations, offered by a wide variety of volunteers.

Principal Tammy Spangler-Timm put together the program to educate her students on the planet we share with all creatures.

Richard Quick, past DAS President and current Treasurer, gave awesome presentations (in full birder's uniform!) to two groups of fourth-graders. In just half an hour, Richard imparted so much bird lore to the eager youngsters. Some comments:

"Seeing the birds was cool—especially the 'Karate Kid' Crane."
—Adele

"The bird calls were awesome!"
—Kendra

Would your group benefit from a DAS activity? With a little lead time, we can often arrange a speaker or field trip to fit your large or small group, adults or students. Contact the DAS office at detas@bignet.net or 248-354-5804 to schedule your event.



DAS FIELD TRIPS TO MAGEE MARSH AND POINT PELEE: GREAT TIME TO SEE EARLY BIRDS

by Richard Quick

The trip to Magee Marsh on April 20th attracted a group of stalwarts to view the early migrants at this Lake Erie shore stopover for birds heading north. The DAS birders included Cindy and John Dooley, Terry Hoenle, Sharon Korte, Mark Montgomery, Jan Palland and two others whose names I missed. The group gathered at 8am, noting that Pied-billed Grebe, Gadwall, Coot, Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal were seen along the marsh drive coming in. As we went to view the lake, we glimpsed a probable Great Horned Owl; and a Great Blue Heron flew to the west. The lake was not calm but many waterfowl were visible bobbing up and down. Scaup, Ruddy and Bufflehead Ducks were the main sightings, along with Cormorants, Bonaparte's Gulls and Terns.

At the boardwalk, we were told to watch for a Hooded Warbler. We were not overwhelmed by birds, but began to see several varieties of early birds. Flicker, Red-bellied, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers all appeared. A Phoebe, a Brown Creeper and an Ovenbird gave some good views, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers flitted everywhere. Also common were Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds, while Tree and Barn Swallows were working hard to get the few insects over the marsh. A Hermit Thrush made its way along the boardwalk as we found a group concentrating on the aforementioned Hooded Warbler. It could not have been more viewable—in a rather open area—and stayed around for a long time so everyone could see and get pictures. Yellow-rumped Warblers were not abundant that day, but we saw several. We also found White-throated, Chipping and Song Sparrows.

We reached the east end of the boardwalk and walked along the road back to the west entrance in about three hours. We saw a respectable 38 species on this early spring day at Magee Marsh. Most of us planned to return in May for the big show.

As I left, I stopped at the East Beach parking area where I soon saw a group eagerly gesturing towards a Cerulean Warbler down on the ground! Soon a Tennessee Warbler joined it, and then a Palm Warbler. Flying over were a Bald Eagle, Caspian Tern and Purple Martin. These added a good memory of the trip to Magee Marsh.

Driving back to Detroit, I took the auto tour of the dikes at Ottawa NWR and added Trumpeter Swan, Killdeer, Great Egret and Solitary Sandpiper. If you come down to Magee Marsh, take the time to visit the Ottawa NWR.

On Saturday, April 27, a group of birders including Terry Welch, Terry Hoenle, Tom Koontz, Cindy Dooley, the Chisnells, and Donna Schneck with granddaughter Paige made their way to [Point Pelee National Park](#) in Ontario to view the early spring migrants.

While waiting for the tram, we birded the parking lot and began our list with Grackle, Cardinal, Hermit Thrush, Red-winged Blackbird, Goldfinch and Turkey (heard). On the tram ride to the tip, we picked up Yellow-rumped and Palm Warbler, Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Eastern Towhee along the path.

Out on the tip, there was a lot of activity, including: Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Cormorant, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, a Caspian Tern, Black-bellied Plovers, Surf Scoters and Horned Grebe, overhead and in and out of the water. A Flicker, a Northern Harrier and a Cooper's Hawk flew by among Tree and Barn Swallows. All in all, it was a productive visit to the southernmost point in Canada.

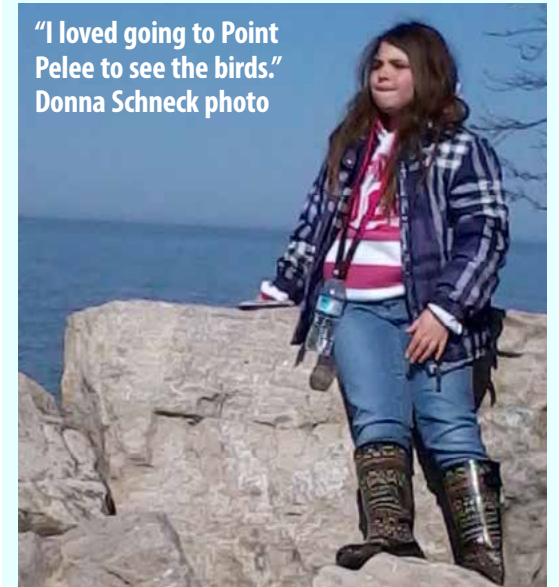
Returning to the Nature Centre area, we took the short trail with nothing to show for our efforts. After some lunch we headed over to Tilden Woods where we added Brown Creeper, White-throated Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. The rebuilt boardwalk in Tilden Woods is very nice—but be careful not to step off the side!

Leaving the park, we stopped at the Marsh Boardwalk. Hearing of a Wood Duck in the marsh, we decided to walk out to see it. We were rewarded with good views of a pair swimming among sunning turtles, and a pair of Mallards which had eluded us all day. As a bonus, a very close frog allowed everyone to enjoy it.

We then caravanned over to Hillman Marsh Conservation Area. Hillman always provides good numbers of shorebirds and ducks. Even the short walk out from the parking lot was worth the effort. We were able to find Blue-winged Teal, Shovelers, Widgeon, and Ruddy Ducks as well as Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper and Dowitcher. A lone Mute Swan swam in the distance and a Caspian Tern posed among the shorebirds.

There is a 2-mile boardwalk that takes you into the marsh, with a viewing tower. We did not go there this time; but when you go to Pelee, be sure to add Hillman Marsh to your visit.

"I loved going to Point Pelee to see the birds."
Donna Schneck photo



PAIGE ON POINT PELEE

My name is Paige Allen. My grandma, Donna Schneck, took me to Point Pelee, Ontario, Saturday April 27, 2013 for a Detroit Audubon Society outing. I told my grandma that I loved going to Point Pelee to see the birds. Here's a list of the birds I saw there.

1. Yellow-rumped Warbler
2. Golden Crowned Kinglet
3. Ruby Crowned Kinglet
4. Blue Jay
5. Red-winged Blackbird
6. Towhee
7. Gull with black band
8. Tree Swallow
9. Harrier Hawk
10. Red-bellied Woodpecker
11. Double-crested Cormorant
12. Bufflehead
13. Merganser

I hope that someday Mr. Richard Quick will be able to come to my school and tell my class all about birds. Saturday was fun.

Up to \$49

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Kathleen Aldrich
Catherine Anderson
Mary Anderson
Rosemary Anderson
Diane Bancroft
Mary Bandyke
Coni Barlow
Catherine Barlow
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Andrew Berry
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D. Elaine Borst
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Carol Campbell
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Kay Carlson
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Matt Charbonneau
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DAS FUNDRAISING FOR 4-1-12 TO 3-31-13
Gifts to DAS by members, friends and other fundraising activities totaled over \$28,000 in the year since April of 2012. Sources include direct appeals to the membership, contributions from FLYWAY, website and general donations, birdathon and workplace giving through Earthshare and the Combined Federal Campaign.

We have received 464 gifts from 393 individuals, listed below by name and category. Thanks to all who have given and we hope you will be one of our donors this year.

continued

Thank you!

Nancy Zanke
Jared Zaporski
Dorothy Zaporski
Mark Zaporski
Rudy Ziehl
Suzanne Zimmerley

\$50 to \$99

Connie Adamo
Tom Addison
Joel Ager
Gloria Albrecht
Nancy Bailey
Beth Becker
Kathleen Block
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Shaila Jehle
Denise Jones
Mary Joscelyn
Judith Judge
Madolyn Kaminski
Karla Kerber
Robert Koshkarian
Mary Kramer
Duncan Lawrence
Barbara Levantrosser
Frances Lewis
Valdis Liepa
Diana Little
Daniel Lockwood
Rev. William Logan

Eugenia Lucas
Joan Lutovsky
Alice MacDermott
Ann Malzberg
Linda Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Martin
Patricia Mayer
Gioconda McMillan
Rosemary Medve
David Miles
Paige Miller
Chuck and Peggy Miller-Schloff
Tana Moore
Barbara Moorhouse
Janet Myers
John Nystuen
Debra O'Hara
Vincent J. Patten
Joanna Pease
Phillip L. Pool

Judith Porte
Dorothy Prier
Carol Profit
Sally Querfeld
Jim Renouf
Marlin Ristenbatt
James Rodgers
James Murray Rodgers
Charles Ross
Michael Rucinski
Paulette Sanders
Leon and Debbe Saperstein
S.E. Schafran
Johanna Seidel
Beth Sharlow
Pamela Shaw
Laura Shelden
Brad Simmons
Jack and Dorothy Smiley
Susan Smith
Arnold Soderholm

Dr. and Mrs. Stone
Loretta Stringer
Jennifer Thomas
Janice Titiev
Richard Viinikainen
Phillip Walton
Lawrence M. Weiner
Blanche Wicke
Lynne Wright
John Zanetti
\$100-\$199
Doris Applebaum
Robert Athey
Susan Beattie
Barbara Bommorito
Roger Bradley
Karen Braun
Joanne Cantoni
Marilou Capo
Fred Charbonneau
Pete and Shari Clason
E. Nesta Douglas
Jean Flack
Suzanne Goodrich
Sandra Grosso
Marie Handley
Upper Peninsula Health Plan
Robin R. Hemphill
Jim Hewins
Ray and Rhoda Horner
Nora Iversen
Elizabeth Iverson

David Kane
Rudolph K. Kapichak
Jacqueline Kenyon
Grant Kitchen
David Klionsky
Elaine Ludwig
Patricia Lutosky
Jack Lutz
Peter J. Mercier
Janet Morosco
Emily Nietering
Mark and Marilyn Pappas-Saker
Jane Perrin
Sally Petrella
Karen Pierce
Elisabeth Rees
Lucinda Reinas
Martha Schafer
Marcia D. Schwarz
Lloyd Semple
Gail Sirna
Bonita Stanton
John and Nora Talbot-Iversen
Kathleen Tuason
Jonathan Walton Jr.
Fred Welsh
\$200-\$499
John and Josephine Altstetter
Ruth Glancy
Jo Elyn Nyman
Richard Quick
Ann K. Warren
Cheryl Schwartz
\$500 to \$1500
Mary Pyant-Wright
Leonard Weber
Up to \$3000
Georgia Reid estate



A Bluebird in Eliza Howell Park.
Margaret Weber photo

Spring Birds - Humbug Marsh
May 19, 2013 (Sunday) 2–4 p.m.
Leader: Jim Bull

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

Address: 5437 West Jefferson Avenue, Trenton, MI.

Directions: Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn left on Jefferson and drive north. You will see the sign for the Humbug Unit on your right. Go past that sign until you come to the sign for the Detroit International Refuge Gateway. Turn right, go through the gate, and park in the designated area. Meet in the parking lot.

Detroit Audubon Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away
May 24-27, 2013 (Friday-Monday)

Don't miss this weekend with wonderful people and fine birds at the Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, where we have held this event for the past 30 years. As always, there will be great food, music, educational programs, and children's activities—all amid beautiful surroundings. We will take off-site field trips to places of interest as well. See [the article](#) on the website for 2013 rates, additional information, and registration form.

Breeding Birds - Port Huron State Game Area
June 2, 2013 (Sunday) 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Joanna Pease

An exceptional diversity of breeding birds, especially warblers, may be found in this area, including Hooded Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, and Golden-winged Warbler. Insect repellent is advisable—no, mandatory. This trip will last 5 to 7

DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2013 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

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

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

All events are subject to change. Please check the [field trip schedule](#) on the [Detroit Audubon website](#) for the most current information.

hours. Bring a lunch.

Address: 5080 Wildcat Rd, Clyde, MI.

Directions: Take I-94 to the last exit in Port Huron (on left) before crossing into Canada. Proceed north on M-25 to M-136. Drive west on M-136 five or six miles to Wildcat Road. Turn right into Bill Bearss Memorial Park and park near the baseball diamond. We will try to caravan from there.

Breeding and Nesting Birds - Eliza Howell Park

June 8, 2013 (Saturday) 9 a.m.
Leader: Leonard Weber

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

Address: 23751 Fenkell, Detroit.

Directions: Eliza Howell Park is located on Fenkell Road (Five Mile Road) in Detroit about one block east of

Telegraph Road. Enter the park and drive about a half-mile around the loop and park near the nature trail.

Pointe Mouillee

August 10, 2013 (Saturday) 8 a.m.
Leader: Jim Fowler

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

Directions: Take I-75 to Exit 26 and drive east on South Huron Road 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 24, 2013 (Saturday) 8 a.m.
Leader: Richard Quick

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.

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

Directions: Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow the signs for

Highway #3. You will be on Huron Church Road, which is also Highway #3. Follow Highway #3 for approximately 35-45 minutes. There are two exits for Leamington. Take the second exit for Erie Street. Turn right onto Erie Street and travel through eight stoplights. Turn left at the ninth intersection (Erie St. and Seaciff Dr./County Road 20). Drive approximately 1/2 mile, and you will see a large Point Pelee National Park sign indicating a right turn. After making the right turn on Bevel Line, follow this road for approximately 10 minutes to arrive at the front gates of the park. Entrance fee required: about \$8/person. Meet in the visitor center parking area. Remember to bring passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.

Lake St. Clair Metropark (formerly Metro Beach Metropark)

September 8, 2013 (Sunday) 8 a.m.
Leader: Joanna Pease

We hope to see fall migrants aplenty, with summer temperatures still a reasonable expectation.

Address: 31300 Metropolitan Parkway, Harrison Township, MI 48045.

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. Meet at the center. Metropark entrance fee or sticker required.

continued on next page



DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2013 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

continued

All events are subject to change. Please check the updated [field trip schedule](#) on the [Detroit Audubon website](#).

Lake Erie Metropark - Hawkfest (no bird hike)

(REVISED DATES) September 21 and 22, 2013 (Saturday and Sunday)

All day: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your children and enjoy the many games, crafts, talks, demonstrations, displays, and live hawks and owls in and around the Marshlands Museum. Be sure to visit the Detroit Audubon display and bookstore and get down to the boat launch, where you can view the hawk migration and check 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

October 12, 2013 (Saturday)

8 a.m. - noon

Leader: Jim Bull

This is a good time for fall migration of land and water birds. Migrant Raptors should still be going over as well if the winds are right. We will traverse woodlands, boardwalks and observation platforms looking for warblers, other songbirds and migrating water birds. We will also go down to the boat launch to observe the hawk migration for a while. Some years the number of hawks can be spectacular! We may also visit the Gibraltar Bay unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Directions: Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn right on Jefferson. The entrance to the metropark will be on your left. An annual park sticker or day pass is required to enter the park. Meet at the Marshlands Museum parking lot at the trail head (toward the far end of the parking lot).

Sandhill Crane migration stopover viewing at Haehnle Sanctuary

October 20, 2013 (Sunday)

2:30 for hike or 4:30 p.m. to

observe from hill only

Leader: Jim Bull

Point Edward and Lake Huron Shore, Ontario

November 2, 2013 (Saturday) 8 a.m.

Leader: Jim Bull

Belle Isle, Detroit

November 10, 2013 (Sunday) 9 a.m.

Leaders: Steve Santner and Fred Charbonneau

Owl Prowl - Oakwoods Metropark

November 15, 2013 (Friday) 7 p.m.

Leaders: Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull

Detroit Christmas Bird Count

December 15, 2013 (Sunday)

Coordinator: Tim Nowiki

Rockwood Christmas Bird Count

December 21, 2013 (Saturday)

Coordinator: Jim Bull

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE DURING SPRING MIGRATION!

Thanks to Mark Wloch of Southgate for permission to print his story and photos, which appeared on his blog "Mostly Birds (but not always)" in April 2012.



Just Like Tex Said...

In November 2011, when I had Wayne County's first-ever Rufous Hummingbird in my yard, I had several local birders stop by to see it. One gentleman who came by was 91-year-old Tex Wells. Tex has been one of the top state listers yearly since at least the late 1970s—one of the top three since 1992. A state lister is a birder who tries to see as many species of birds in the state as possible in a calendar year.

While talking to me in my yard last November, Tex asked if I had ever had a Yellow-throated Warbler in my Sycamore trees. I told him that I hadn't, and he explained that they are sometimes called the Sycamore Warbler for their fondness for that tree species. Fast forward five and a half months, and what do you know? A Yellow-throated Warbler shows up in one of my Sycamores. It stuck around for only a minute, but long enough for me to get some halfway decent photos of it.

The Yellow-throated Warbler is not often seen in southeast Michigan; it is most frequently noted in the southwest corner of the state, which hosts a small breeding population. But as this blog entry demonstrates, anything is possible during spring migration season, so keep an eye on your Sycamore trees!



(c) Mark Wloch



Pine Warbler.
Roger Becker photo

ANTI-BIODIVERSITY BILL ALSO OPPOSED BY YOUR DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

Detroit Audubon encouraged members to raise their voices to oppose SB 78, which would prohibit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources or any other state agency from taking action with the specific purpose of "achieving or maintaining biodiversity".

This bill would remove biological conservation, restoration and ecosystem considerations from the DNR's management toolbox, and eliminate the scientific finding that most losses of biodiversity "are from unintended consequences of human activity."

Detroit Audubon helped involve many other local groups and National Audubon Society in the effort to oppose this bill.

We may need you to take action again. Watch your email in-box for an alert, and visit [our website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates.

FEATHERED TALES

On April 16th, **Jim Carlson** of Independence Township spotted an American Robin that was all white except for a pink belly, at Greenview and Avington streets.



Jeff Grundy took a photo of a Northern Cardinal with a white head at a feeder in his back yard on Christmas 2012 (see photo at left).

Jeff lives in Washington Township, at 28 Mile Rd. between Mound and Camp Ground Road. The bird hung around all winter.

Note about abnormal plumage in birds

Albinism is a genetic mutation that prevents the production of the pigment melanin, affecting the bird's body as well as its feathers. Albino birds are generally all white, with pink eyes.

Leucism is a genetic mutation that prevents melanin from being deposited normally in the feathers. Leucistic birds may have all white or grayed-out feathers, or show patches of white in places on the feathers. Body pigmentation remains normal.

Birds with either condition are rare. Albino birds generally do not survive to adulthood. The abnormal coloring of both albino and leucistic birds makes them more visible to predators and may interfere with their ability to be recognized by, or to attract, a mate. Also, the absence of melanin in the feathers may cause the feathers to weaken, be more prone to wear, and even hinder flight.

While walking around the Detroit Zoo on February 21st, noticing some vultures flying over, **Gail White** spotted a Bald Eagle. This is rather unusual, for they're seldom seen away from large bodies of water.

On February 13th, **Allen Marshall** was looking for a Red Fox he had seen in the neighborhood. As he was driving down Jefferson near Kirby, he saw an eagle in a tree. The bird then then took off down the road in front of him.

Michael James shared a sighting of a Pileated Woodpecker in the Village of Dixboro just outside of Ann Arbor around March 24th. Although there are quite a few in Michigan, they are rarely sighted—and because of their size and color, quite a treat to observe.

On April 18th in Detroit, **Karen Tonso** caught this Cooper's Hawk in flight (right) and nesting (below).



ANSWER TO BIRD ID QUIZ

You are correct if you identified this bird as a female **Red-winged Blackbird!** This bird is often mistaken, at least initially, for a sparrow, due to the brownish overall appearance and heavily streaked breast.

It's a common and excusable mistake for enthusiastic birders, because the preferred habitats of Red-winged Blackbirds are shared with certain sparrows (especially Song and Swamp Sparrows). But in the field, there are some strong clues as to this bird's identity.

The first clue is size. Blackbirds are medium-sized birds. Generally at least an inch larger than the largest of our sparrows, they may be three to four inches larger than the smaller sparrows.

The second clue is bill size and shape. Blackbirds have medium length, slender bills, while sparrows have small conical bills.

The third clue is the wide pale "eyebrow". In mature females the forward portion of the eyebrow, as well as the chin area, are often tinged with a distinctive pinkish-peach color. If you see this peachy countenance you are most assuredly looking at a female Red-winged Blackbird.

