



MYSTERY BIRD'S NEST

What bird built these nests? They were photographed by Bruce Szczechowski on the Belle Isle Bridge. (Look for the answer on the last page of this issue.)

Errata

In the spring issue on page 9 we attributed a photo of an Evening Grosbeak to Sharon Korte. She informs us that she did not take that photo. We regret the error. If you know who took it, please let us know. We would like to give proper credit.



The Flyway Has Gone Green!

As announced previously, only one issue of the Flyway is printed and mailed annually (in March). For the other three online issues, we need all members' email addresses.

If you, or a member you know, has missed an issue of the Flyway, please contact the office at detas@bignet.net or (313) 960-3399 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.



CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP WITH RONALD BROWN ACADEMY AND SAVING BIRDS THROUGH HABITAT

This spring, Detroit Audubon assisted in bringing a classroom of fourth graders on three field trips. These students learned about banding at the Rouge River Bird Observatory, went to premier birding hotspot Magee Marsh, and enjoyed a guided nature walk and learned about birding by sound at Stony Creek Metropark. At Magee Marsh, almost as soon as they disembarked from the bus, students were able to watch eagles bring fish to feed their young at a nest right at the edge of the parking lot. These first-time students were equally thrilled to see American Robins and Baltimore Orioles.

Detroit Audubon has also been working with an additional two 4th grade classrooms at Ronald Brown. They learned about local birds in the area, carefully observed museum specimens, learned about natural journaling, and how to use binoculars. The students were given their own nature journals and encouraged to write, observe, listen, wonder about, and draw birds over the summer to continue their studies. Some older students have been invited to join our Young Birder's Club. Ronald Brown Academy is an amazing Detroit Public School on the east side of Detroit.



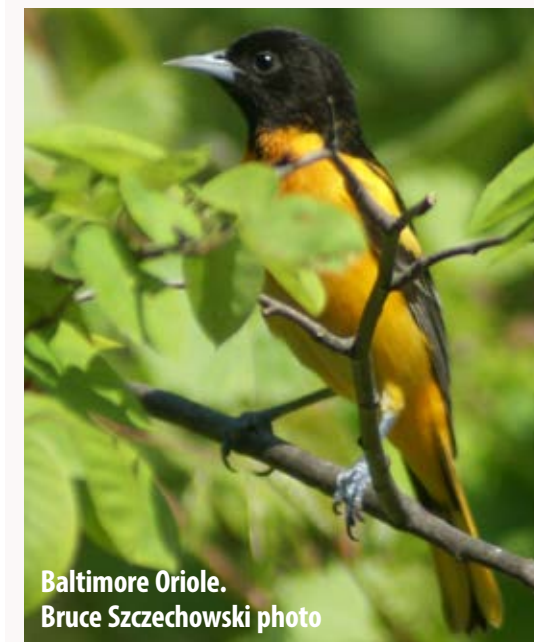
Young Birders Scholarship

Detroit Audubon is pleased to offer, for a fourth year, a Young Birder's Scholarship to a young birder aged 13-18 in southeast Michigan.

This year Corrin Jessen, a Romulus high schooler, is the recipient! She has been birding from a young age and has a passion for birding by sound. She is excited to meet other birders her own age!

This year's scholarship will be fully paid tuition plus up to \$500 towards travel costs to attend the American Birding Association's Camp Avocet, based at the University of Delaware's stunning Virden Retreat Center in historic Lewes, Delaware.

Corrin will have the opportunity to improve her birding skills, meet other young birders, and explore a possible career in birding and ornithology. Delaware boasts an outstanding fall migration of shorebirds with fabulous viewing opportunities at two major National Wildlife Refuges and six ecologically-based birding regions. Camp Avocet will be full of migrants such as dowitchers, Black-necked Stilt, Semipalmated, Western and Least Sandpipers, and, of course, hundreds of American Avocets. Over 150 species of birds are often seen and studied during this seven-day camp extravaganza!



Baltimore Oriole.
Bruce Szczechowski photo

Flyway

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

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DETROIT
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BULLY PULPIT *Volunteering and the Importance of Regular Contact with Nature*

by Detroit Audubon President, Dr. James N. (Jim) Bull



In June, I made my second visit to Oakwoods Metropark as a volunteer on the grassland bird survey that Detroit Audubon is co-sponsoring with the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. The data from these surveys will help to inform resource management decisions with an eye to fostering greater native bird diversity. The Metroparks Resource Management Department pounded in metal stakes to mark every stop on each survey route, so the route is easy to follow. It took me just under an hour to complete the three stops on my route. Other routes have 4-5 stops, so they may take up to 1.5 hours. My half-mile walk on level ground wasn't strenuous, but was off-trail through a field. Pushing through high grasses at times got my pants a little damp from the dew. Doing this route for the first time last year, my first stop was in a Phragmites patch in about six inches of water, so I now wear knee-high boots. You do need to know birds pretty well to go alone, but you could go with another volunteer and work on becoming a "route leader" down the line.

It was a beautiful morning: sunny, with a slight cool breeze—very comfortable. In addition to birds, I was greeted by Brown-eyed Susans and Daisy Fleabane in bloom. I heard several Field Sparrows, Willow Flycatchers, and Common Yellowthroats. I had visuals of Red-winged Blackbirds, and a Song Sparrow that sat on a weed stem and sang for at least 5 minutes! I not only heard the plaintive flute-like song of the Eastern Meadowlark, but actually flushed one off a nest! What a great way to start my day, and had I had not signed up to do the survey, I probably would have stayed inside.

This was an easy volunteer stint, and I'll look forward to my two remaining visits to complete this year's survey. At the other extreme is the time commitment (along with passion and expertise) given by new member and volunteer Erin Rowan, who is transitioning to take over Black Tern research responsibilities from long-term volunteer Randy Kling. When she's out monitoring nests, or banding young or adult terns boating from colony to colony in the St. Clair Flats March on Harsen's Island, it's from dawn to dusk each day! We'd really like a second volunteer to go with her each time for safety reasons and to assist her. Interested?

We also need volunteers to help lead environmental education programs for children and youth—sometimes at schools, other times at places like our birding spot on the Detroit River across from Belle Isle. Don't worry; our Program Coordinator will train you! We do need experienced birders to serve as mentors for elementary schoolchildren we are teaching in some Detroit schools when we take them out on field trips. Then there are events where we want to have a table and spread the word about Detroit Audubon. We can do more of that if we have a trained volunteer corps that is excited about bringing others into birding and

conservation. And, with only one part-time employee, we have lots of opportunities to help with behind-the-scenes logistics in our office, now located next to Wayne State University in Cass Commons.

Just call the office (313-960-3399) and we'll find a niche that is right for you. If enough folks sign up, maybe we'll offer a volunteer/docent training course! With over 6,000 members, we have only begun to soar to the heights we could reach if more folks signed up to help out a few hours or a few days per month—or even per year!

Whether you get out as a volunteer helping us with field research, with education programs, or behind the scenes, I do hope you take lots of time to get out and enjoy the wonders of the natural world this summer. That is such a benefit in itself. I know I am better for going out in nature this morning and it was volunteering that drove me to do so. Researchers are finding that contact with nature is not only therapeutic but essential for our well-being. Perhaps conservation heroine Rachel Carson put it best:

"Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. Whatever the vexations or concerns of their personal lives, their thoughts can find paths that lead to inner contentment and to renewed excitement in living. Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."



Downtown Detroit, viewed from Belle Isle.
Bruce Szczecowski photo

Stephen Stackpole

by Jim Bull

Stephen Stackpole died January 31, 2014 at the age of 88. A Grosse Pointe resident all his life, he was a long-time member of Detroit Audubon and a great lover of birds and the out-of-doors.



From the age of seven I remember going on excursions to band Common Terns on Bob-Lo Island in Canada with my dad's best friend, Dr. Walter P. Nickell, naturalist and ornithologist at Cranbrook Institute of Science and one of the early presidents of Detroit Audubon. Stephen Stackpole always came along to take 16mm movies of the terns. He also may have provided the boat we took to the island from a marina in Amherstberg. He never got involved in the banding, but was quietly intent on filming.

A major benefactor of "Uncle Nick's" bird research, he was also a major funder of Sergei Postupalsky's efforts to bring back the Bald Eagle and Osprey to Michigan.

His official obituary added, "Mr. Stackpole was well versed in classic literature, grammar, ancient history and nature. He enjoyed discussing the history of aviation, Mickey Mouse, and Audrey Hepburn, sometimes all in a 10-minute conversation."

He left bequests to a number of environmental and cultural organizations. Detroit Audubon received a \$50,000 bequest with no restrictions. Knowing of Mr. Stackpole's passion for bird conservation and wildlife cinematography, and after consulting with some of his family, we decided it would be fitting to use a portion of his bequest to fund the LiveCam of the Chimney Swifts inside the chimney at the Historic Winery (Swift Sanctuary) in Farmington, MI. That camera will henceforth be known as the Stephen Stackpole Memorial Chimney Swift LiveCam.

SWIFT NIGHT OUT, AND NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SWIFT SANCTUARY

On the evening of Saturday, May 21, 66 members and friends gathered at the historic Winery in Farmington (on Grand River near Orchard Lake Road). Detroit Audubon President Jim Bull welcomed everybody and gave a short talk about Chimney Swift natural history; then we all sat back in our lawn chairs waiting for the swifts to return to the chimney for the night. At first there were only two or three, then after a long while just a few more—this might be a slow night. After all, these are migrants roosting for a night or two, so there could be lulls between flocks. But as we watched, a few more came, then a few more, then the numbers started growing exponentially into a giant swirling tornado of birds. To our amazement, even after we had confidently counted at least 2,000 they kept coming and coming and coming. They'd swirl around the chimney, apparently sampling the air for the right temperature to enter. Some would even dip in and swirl back out. The whole tornado would then stream widely out to one side, but then appear again in few minutes coming back from the other direction. It was heart-in-your-throat impressive! We were amazed.

President Bull also made a momentous announcement that night—Detroit Audubon has signed a partnership agreement with the Swift Sanctuary, including a check for about \$3,500 to underwrite the purchase of the camera that was installed last May, and the Internet cost to livestream from April to November for at least the next five years. Detroit Audubon also agreed to provide educational programming at the Sanctuary and will be exploring ways to do research with the swifts as well. We hope to use citizen scientists to learn more about the swifts that roost here, and swifts in general. Detroit Audubon has also agreed to help with fundraising to underwrite the tremendous cost of repairing and maintaining the old chimney that shelters these migrating swifts. Pieces of brick and mortar are missing, making it look pockmarked when examined closely. Of course, without the chimney, the swifts will go away.

At the time of writing, the live cam is down, but luckily Historic Winery owner and Swift Sanctuary Director David White found a volunteer to scale this very tall chimney to retrieve the camera. It is on its way to the factory for repair or replacement under the warranty. We expect the repaired one or a new one to arrive within a week or two; then the volunteer will scale the chimney again to reinstall it. Once back up and running, the camera will henceforth be known as the "Stephen Stackpole Memorial Chimney Swift LiveCam." See sidebar about Stephen

Stackpole, whose bequest to Detroit Audubon made this camera and its Internet feed possible. As soon as it's back up and running, the LiveCam will be available on our website and throughout the world!

Caleb Putnam, National Audubon's Coordinator of Michigan Important Bird Area, tells us that if we can provide data documenting the incredible number of Chimney Swifts using this chimney, it could be declared one of Michigan's Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

It is automatic if the roost hosts a certain percentage of the total state population.

Look for another Swift Night Out this fall, THE big time for the swifts. Up to 50,000 have been known to roost here in one night—the biggest Chimney Swift roost in all North America. Detroit Audubon is thrilled and honored to be part of saving this chimney, underwriting the LiveCam, and promoting awareness of and research about this incredible migratory stopover site.

At left, the view inside the chimney, and (below) the rapt crowd watches the swifts return in a swirling tornado of birds.



GIANT KIRTLAND'S WARBLER APPEARS IN FIELD IN ALLEN PARK!

By Jim Bull

Allen Park art teacher Rachel Trapani wanted to apply for a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. She was Googling ideas for an art project when she happened on Oregon artist Daniel Dancer's Web site. A project started gestating in her mind and was brought to life the afternoon of Thursday, June 9, in a field next to Lindemann Elementary School in Allen Park.

I first learned of the project when I opened the June 15th News Herald and saw my favorite bird, the Kirtland's Warbler, on the front page—mostly above the fold! This was unusual for two reasons: 1) there has never been a reported sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler in Allen Park, although one might stop on the way to its nesting grounds in northern Michigan, and 2) this was a giant Kirtland's Warbler visible only from far above—"Sky Art."

Daniel Dancer has executed Sky Art projects all over the world, but this was his premier Michigan project. (For more of his work, go to www.artforthesky.com). Dancer created the design, and then placed the 700 Lindeman students in the outline with grey, black and yellow T-shirts. Many parents bought special shirts that bore a drawing of a Kirtland's, with the caption: "Sky Art, Lindemann Elementary School, Allen Park, MI." A red curlicue of song, the beak, and jackpine branch perch for this giant songster also were made of clothing and "turf paint."

Trapani, who grew up in and lives in Wyandotte, wanted to portray a living organism that would help connect the students to the wider world beyond Allen Park. With an arts and ecology club, she gave the students eight rare Michigan species to choose from: Spotted Turtle, Wood Turtle, Copper-bellied Snake, Mountain Lion, Henslow's Sparrow, Lake Sturgeon, moose, and the Kirtland's Warbler. She created a laminated poster with photos and information about each species that all teachers at the school hung in their classrooms. Many did lessons about the species; in her art classes, Trapani presented a PowerPoint with photos of each species and additional information about each. Then came the voting. Each student came up to her desk individually and told her which species they were voting for. She did not have students raise their hands, to avoid any kind of peer pressure. Some told her it was a very difficult choice—they wanted all eight!

The two top vote getters were the Kirtland's and the Lake Sturgeon. Some of the boys were a little disappointed that they didn't do the Lake Sturgeon (which resembled a shark, first appeared on Earth when the dinosaurs were still around, and has made a comeback in the Detroit River). Many chose the Kirtland's because of its compelling story and connection to Michigan, but also because it makes for a more colorful and appealing art project than the others. Dancer would have done either, but was more excited about the Kirtland's because he had already done a sturgeon elsewhere. He told Trapani that this project was one of his top five favorites due to the bird's beauty and its story that captures the imagination.

The more the students learned about the Kirtland's, the more excited they got—particularly when they learned it is found almost exclusively in Michigan; that people come to see it from

all over the world; and that Michigan Audubon and Detroit Audubon tried to make it our state bird ten years ago. (One objective was to foster statewide awareness of the Kirtland's Warbler, once on the brink of extinction with only 167 pairs, but soon to be removed from the Endangered Species list because there are now over 2,400 pairs! The recovery goal was 1,000 sustained pairs.) Detroit Audubon has worked to save the Kirtland's for over 50 years. We are glad to see these 700 elementary students become ambassadors for this Michigan comeback bird!

Teachers throughout the school had their students do in-depth projects on the Kirtland's, including artwork and writing. Eight-year-old Luke MacDonald told a News Herald reporter, "We did a (craft) project on the Kirtland's Warbler. I learned a lot about them and it was a lot of fun."

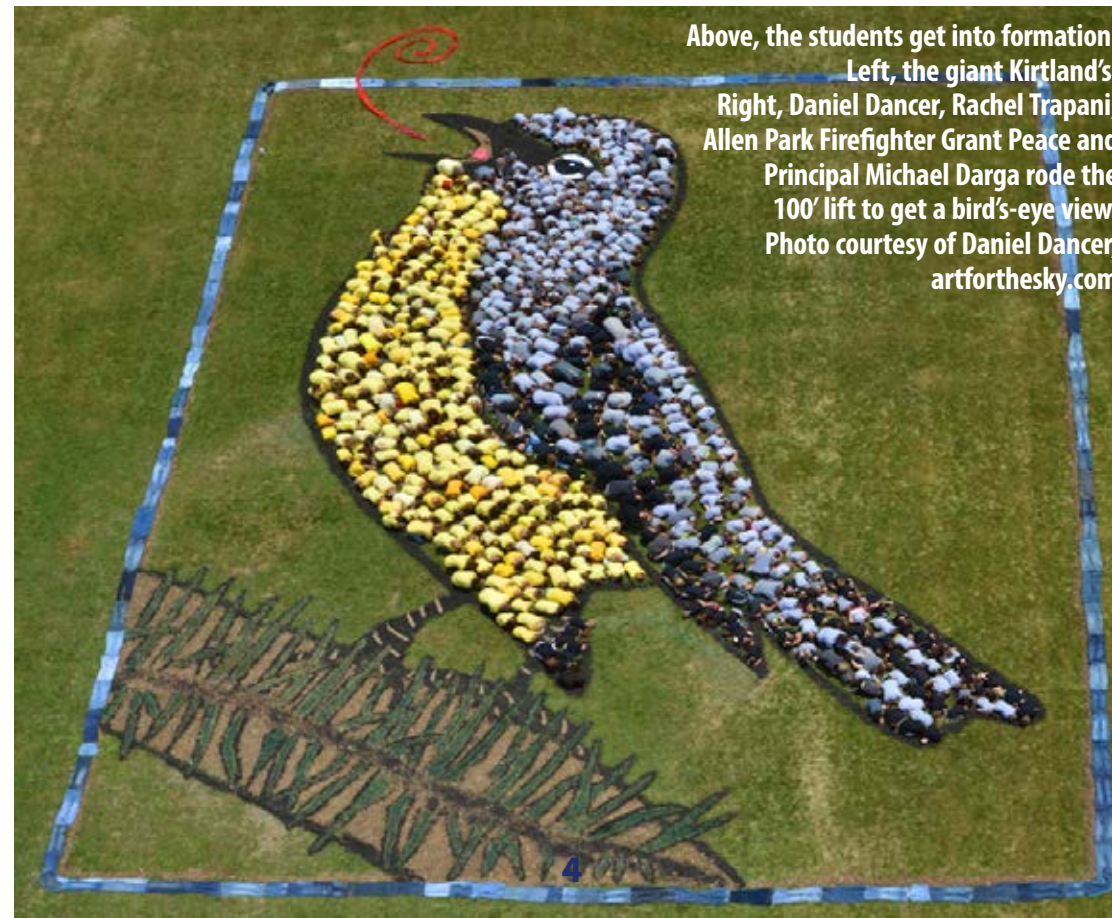


Trapani said she had help from the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance, from all the teachers and administrators at the school, and from parents. Allen Park's Department of Public Works donated sand and mulch to help with the non-living part of the art piece, while the Fire Department donated use of a lift truck to get photos and video of the project from a perch high above—the only way to see the finished piece unless you were in an aircraft.

Trapani and her students were featured on [WXYZ \(Channel 7\) News](#), and were guests on the WDIV (Channel 4) "[Live In the D](#)" show as part of a regular feature with the Michigan Wildlife Council. She and some of her students will do a presentation this fall at our annual Conservation Conference or at one of our member programs.

Dancer's Web site features a quote from Claes Nobel, Senior Member of the Nobel Prize Family: "Art For the Sky opens hearts, instills vision and changes the way we see the world." Detroit Audubon Education Committee Chair Sara Cole, Program Coordinator Terra Weiland, and I are all enthusiastic promoters of integrating environmental education and the arts. Mere knowledge of environmental facts is not enough to motivate people to take action to preserve and heal our planet, but coupling "academic" learning with artistic expression can bridge that gap. Through music, visual art, and drama, students can express their impressions of, connections with, and concerns for the environment and the planet.

Trapani wanted students to "think beyond Allen Park." The Sky Art project has gotten folks throughout the Detroit area more aware and excited about Michigan's modern Phoenix, the Kirtland's Warbler. One boy remarked to Trapani, "We just made history!" Indeed they did. You can see more of Dancer's project on his website at: <http://www.artforthesky.com/> To see an inspiring video about the Kirtland's Warbler Sky Art, go to: <https://vimeo.com/171810275>.



Above, the students get into formation.
Left, the giant Kirtland's.
Right, Daniel Dancer, Rachel Trapani, Allen Park Firefighter Grant Peace and Principal Michael Darga rode the 100' lift to get a bird's-eye view. Photo courtesy of Daniel Dancer, artforthesky.com





BLACK TERN EDUCATION/FUND-RAISING CRUISE JULY 1

The morning began with a downpour, but it was clear skies by the 10 a.m. sail time. Lake St. Clair Metropark Naturalist and DNR Biologist Terry McFadden gave us an introduction to the lake ecosystems and history. Then National Audubon's Michigan Important Bird Area Coordinator and Black Tern Research Supervisor Caleb Putnam gave us background about the rare Black Tern, efforts to learn what is causing its decline and what actions may save it. Program Coordinator Terra Weiland worked mightily in the rocking boat to keep the food from flying. When we reached calmer waters near the nesting area she served her homemade St. Clair Spritzer mocktails with fresh mint garnish from her garden, sandwich wraps, and wonderful East Indian curry and sweet potatoes made by Education Chair Sara Srinivasan. This was all topped off with tern nest cupcakes made by Terra and her friend Leigh at cloudsforbuttercream.com. One young attendee told us those were the best cupcakes she ever had.

We didn't get as close to the terns as we would have liked because of the water depth near the mats where they nest, but all had a good time. We had a full boat, which means we raised the maximum from this trip to support our Black Tern research. Fun and fundraising for a good cause—what could be better?

More Detroit Audubon Black Tern Events Coming Soon:

SATURDAY July 23 11 a.m., BLACK TERNS AND BIRDING 101, at Harsens Island Reader's Cover, 30645 Channel Drive, Harsen's Island, MI 48028.

BLACK TERN BREWERY CELEBRATION ON HARSEN'S ISLAND: \$10 admission to brewery with samples of several beers and ales. After that, all proceeds from alcohol sales go to our Black Tern Research fund. Watch Facebook and our website for details.

THE UPS AND DOWN OF BLACK TERN RESEARCH

by Erin Rowan, Detroit Audubon Research Volunteer

I had a bit of a trying day in the field Friday, June 3rd. Losing the calipers within my first 30 minutes out of the boat was unfortunate, as was the GPS not working properly when navigating back to an existing nest, not to mention the boat's engine trouble, and the boat trailer falling off the ball hitch as I lowered it into the water! I am the champion of "first day" problems. I am glad I had a safety buddy to help me through it all.

We are up to 18 nests now for the field season. The float tests suggested the eggs were laid within the last five days. I weighed the eggs in nests with a complete clutch of three eggs each. I was not able to measure length and width of the eggs because I lost the calipers, but new calipers have been ordered.

The Fisher Colony had fewer Forster's and Black Terns than the previous week. This colony has been hit hard twice, first by a big storm two weeks prior, and now apparently by a predator. The terns may actually be abandoning the colony at this point. As happened last week, two Forster Tern eggs were found predated—one with the same puncture shape as before, which suggests Black-crowned Night Heron predation (although none have been seen), and another that was not eaten but was covered in small punctures. Three Black Tern nests were found here, although I suspect there are more. The good news is that the predator doesn't seem interested in the Black Tern nests, so far.

The Doty south colony remains small, with just one pair of adults with one egg in their nest. However, on the north end we came across 18 adults and found all nine nests! It was here that I really got the hang of what to look for in the new bullrush, away from the mats, where a majority of the birds are nesting so far this year. We came across a black water snake, but did not see any evidence of predation.

Mackie Colony still had 10 adults and we found four nests! There was no sign of potential predators at Mackie this week, other than muskrats. I did not make it to the far end of Mackie or Strawberry Colony, due to lack of time.

Despite the trials with the field gear, we had a really successful day! More Black Terns are arriving, and I hope the next time we get back out in the field, we'll be able to catch and band some adults and possibly find some fresh hatchlings. Until next time. . .

Above, Black Tern photo by J.S. Jourdan. Below, L-R: Terra taking attendance, a tern nest cupcake, Michigan DNR Biologist Terry McFadden, Caleb Putnam, and enjoying the cruise.



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

This Memorial Day Weekend, Detroit Audubon celebrated tradition by again visiting Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center. Detroit Audubon has been camping here since 1969, with an ongoing bird checklist going back to 1975!

Loon Lake is a classic, picturesque Michigan lake! Campers enjoyed our classic nature singalongs around a campfire, with s'mores. During the day, we enjoyed canoeing and swimming in the lake, along with some exciting birding trips! At night, Loons could be heard in the distance; and during the day, we had excellent views of the nearby nesting Eagles that return every year. This campout is unique in that so many campers return year after year; participants that are now adults have been coming since they were infants!

Memorial Day Bird Camp has scheduled field trips; or, if participants prefer, they can enjoy the beautiful Loon Lake area and bird on their own. As a group, we went to Tawas Point and spotted a Kirtland's Warbler singing near the trail! We also went to the Riffle River observation tower and watched as two Bald Eagles flew nearby. We also went to visit the Kirtland's Warbler U.S. Forest Management Area near Mio, Michigan! There we spotted around six Kirtland's Warblers, with excellent views of this rare bird. On the last day, we went to Tuttle Marsh Wildlife Area, and had an exciting view of a Virginia Rail! Virginia Rails were also seen up close at Loon Lake's Mud Lake marsh boardwalk.

Young ones had a great time working together as a group to surmount obstacles on the retreat center's challenge course along Lost Creek. During the last challenge, using a rope swing to get everybody across the creek, many wound up falling into the water—but as hot as it was, they seemed to enjoy it. Looking forward to next year at Loon Lake!

Virginia Rail.
Sharon Korte photo



Kirtland's Warbler.
Sharon Korte photo



Caspian Tern at Tawas Point.
Sharon Korte photo



Brown Thrasher at Tawas Point.
Sharon Korte photo

S'MORE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FUN

Top row, L-R: S'mores around the campfire, Iargo Springs, Challenge Course and walk to Tawas Point.
Below L-R: intently watching on Kirtland's Warbler trip, and on Rifle River observation tower.
Bottom row, biologist Kim Piccolo holds open and closed Jack Pine cones; Jack-in-the-Pulpit; tree with Pileated Woodpecker holes; the Guest family; on the rifle river observation tower; a salamander, and Memorial Day lunch at Tawas Point. Photos by David Martin and Jim Bull



Bird-A-Thon Report

by Jim Bull • Photos by Bruce Szczechowski

My day started at 5 a.m. on Sunday, May 22. After a quick breakfast, I headed out. Unfortunately, after three trips back to the house to retrieve forgotten necessities, I got to Grosse Ile just as the sun was rising. It was too light for owls to be calling, but several other birds were roused by my owl calls, including Hermit Thrush and Veery.

I met up with my two partners for this daylong Bird-A-Thon, Bruce Szczechowski and Rebecca Minardi (a Detroit Audubon board member). It was warm and sunny, and one of the most fun days all year. We birded Gabriel Richard Park and Belle Isle, and looked for nesting Peregrines at the Whittier Tower (with windows broken out, the birds are nesting inside the top floors, not visible from outside); Point Mouillee; the Antenna fields on Sabo Road near Point Mouillee; and Oakwoods Metropark.

Most warblers apparently had already moved on, because we did not get the usual numbers. Despite that, we tallied 114 species in 24 hours, breaking the Detroit Bird-A-Thon record of 113, set a few years ago. The highlight of the day was a Red Knot at Point Mouillee—a bird expected to stop on the Delaware coast to feed on Horseshoe Crab eggs to refuel for its journey to the Arctic tundra. Other highlights were a regular Northern Mockingbird near the old McClouth Steel Plant on Jefferson; Horned Larks and Bobolink on Sabo Road; and several species at Pointe Mouillee, including American White Pelican, Sedge Wren, Black-crowned Night Heron, Virginia Rail, and Sedge Wren.

Unfortunately, we were the only team to conduct a Detroit Bird-A-Thon this year, as far as we know. I secured pledges worth \$855, in addition to whatever my teammates raised.

Think about organizing or joining a Bird-A-Thon team next year. It raises money for a good cause and is rewarding in so many other ways. To spend 24 hours watching these feathered wonders of creation, with the best companions imaginable...you've just got to try it—I dare you not to get hooked!

Bruce Szczechowski photos
clockwise from top left:

Great Egret

Short-billed Dowitcher

Horned Lark

Bobolink

White-crowned Sparrow

American White Pelicans



Silence instead of song: Part of Belle Isle was mowed, eliminating habitat for numerous species that had nested there in the past.
Jim Bull photo



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Detroit Audubon's Conservation Committee is up and running again, thanks to Diane Cheklich (a new Detroit Audubon board member). Although the committee has only been active for the last few months, they've already accomplished a lot. They spoke out about the Belle Isle Grand Prix at the Belle Isle Advisory Committee meeting in March, and at the Belle Isle Natural Resources Roundtable in April. The committee also started a working partnership with Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI) to transform vacant lots into urban gardens and bird habitats. UNI partnered with Detroit Audubon to apply for an Active Living Detroit Mini-Grant, and were granted \$1000 toward the vacant lot program. We are excited to be partnering with such a dynamic and community-minded organization in Detroit. The committee also developed a Guide to Bird-friendly Gardens, which aims to engage gardeners in habitat support for birds. The guide will be available online to everyone in the near future. The Conservation Committee has a lot more things planned and would love to have you join our group! If you are interested, please contact Diane Cheklich at dcheklich@detroitaudubon.org.

Stance on the Grand Prix: The Conservation Committee, along with Detroit Audubon, believes that Belle Isle is a premier Detroit park with great habitat for birds and other wildlife; transforming this island into a massive racetrack each year just doesn't make sense. Instead, Belle Isle should focus on providing recreation for its human users along with healthy habitats for its avian friends! The setup and teardown of the racetrack each year mars the beauty of this state park, while prohibiting access to certain parts of the island for months. The Grand Prix is certainly a fun and successful event, but we know that it can be held in another Detroit location, instead of on Belle Isle. We can't think of any other state park in the region that devotes months to the construction of a large racetrack or hosts a giant race. Just because Detroit takes pride in its great car manufacturing history does not mean that its citizens should be accosted with months of construction and loud noises in their park. We hope that Belle Isle and Detroit will reconsider their contract with the Grand Prix in the future.

Ring-necked Pheasant photo from
www.audubon.org

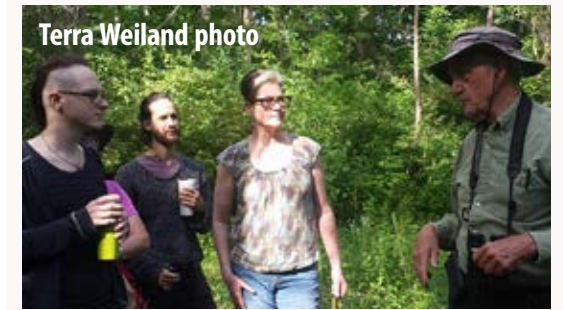


Pheasants of Detroit and a Call for Art

Detroit Audubon is excited to announce a new program this fall: Pheasant watch! Just like Eastern Bluebirds, Field Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks, Ring-Necked Pheasants in Detroit depend on precious grassland habitat. Mowing the city's open areas to resemble manicured golf courses, instead of a grassland mosaic, would eliminate habitat that birds and animals depend on and alter the character of the city. This fall, we ask that local birders report Ring-Necked Pheasant sightings; Detroit Audubon is creating a map of Detroit area Pheasant hotspots! We're also planning a pheasant guided walk—stay tuned for more info!

We're also asking our readers and fellow bird lovers to submit pheasant-themed art pieces for an online gallery celebrating Detroit's iconic unofficial bird. We would love to see art in all forms, including poetry, sketches, paintings, sculptures, murals, etc.! Send text or photos of your work to tweiland@DetroitAudubon.org. Check out our Facebook page for updates on our office art project—a Ring-Necked Pheasant needlepoint by Program Coordinator Terra Weiland.

Terra Weiland photo



Eliza Howell Bird Walk

In early June, Leonard Weber, former Detroit Audubon president, led the yearly nesting birds walk at Eliza Howell Park in Detroit. He is particularly in tune with this natural space, having birdwatched at Eliza Howell weekly for years, keeping a local bird list! During the walk, we visited nests that he had found earlier, including warbler nests.

This was an excellent field trip with a great mix of beginner and expert birders! One participant who joined us had recently found a pair of binoculars at a thrift store and wanted to try out the hobby; at the end of the walk, she said she had happily found a new way to spend time outside!

One exciting find (below) was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest photographed by Margaret Baxter—made of plant down and held together with spider silk, it is about the size of a quarter and sits on top of a small branch.



DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2016 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Detroit Audubon 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 have entrance fees) and everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders.

To RSVP: Please email DAProgramCoordinator@DetroitAudubon.org or call the Detroit Audubon office at 313-960-3399 by the Thursday before each field trip so 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.

ELMWOOD CEMETERY, DETROIT

Saturday, July 16th at 9 a.m. Leader: Leonard Weber

Join us for a morning bird walk in this beautiful, historic spot.

Sunday, July 17th at 6:30 p.m. Leader: TBA

A perfect place for an evening bird walk with our Young Birders.

POINTE MOUILLEE** Reservations Required

Saturday August 6th, 8 AM

Leaders: Jim Fowler and Jim Bull

One of the premier shore birding areas in the interior of the continent when water levels are favorable. Only 4 vehicles can travel on the dikes, so group size is limited. You must RSVP by Thursday, August 4, to reserve a spot.

Directions: Take I-75 to Exit 26 and drive east on south Huron Rd. to U.S. Turnpike. Turn south and look for Sigler Road. Turn east and drive to the parking lot at the end. We will caravan into the dikes; ride-sharing required.

To RSVP: Please email DAProgramCoordinator@DetroitAudubon.org or click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pointhe-mouillee-birding-with-detroit-audubon-reservations-required-tickets-25407821478>

OJIBWAY PARK, Windsor, Ontario

Saturday August 13th, 8 AM

Leader: Jim Bull

We will explore this natural area for early fall migrants but also enjoy the prairie in colorful bloom, butterflies and more. The Ojibway Prairie Complex comprises five closely situated natural areas within a 10-minute drive from downtown Windsor. The Department of Parks & Recreation's Ojibway Nature Centre administers Ojibway Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, and Black Oak Heritage Park—315 acres in all. See more at

<http://www.ojibway.ca/complex.htm>.

Directions: Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rt. 3 to the E.C. Row Expressway (about 1.5 miles). Go right and take the Matchette Road exit. Go left 1.5 miles. Meet in the Ojibway Nature Center parking area. Remember to bring passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.

Nighthawk at
Magee Marsh.
Sharon Korte photo



To RSVP: Please email DAProgramCoordinator@DetroitAudubon.org or click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ojibway-park-windsor-ontario-birding-with-detroit-audubon-tickets-25408228696>

POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK

Saturday August 27, 8 AM Leader: TBA

Although best known for spring migration, Pelee is also good in the fall! We will be there for the beginning of migration but there is plenty to see, including shorebirds in the Hillman Marsh area north of the park.

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

LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK

Sunday September 11th, 8 AM

Leader: Cathy Carroll

We hope to see fall migrants aplenty in summerlike temperatures.

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

LAKE ERIE METROPARK – HAWKFEST (no bird hike)

Saturday, Sept. 19 and Sunday Sept. 20, 10 AM to 4 PM

Leader: TBA

Bring children to enjoy the many games, crafts, talks, demonstrations, displays and live hawks and owls at Hawkfest in and around the Marshlands Museum. Be sure to visit the Detroit Audubon display/bookstore as well as other vendors, and walk to the boat launch to view the hawk migration and see 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.

SWIFT NIGHT OUT at Swift Sanctuary and Historic Winery

31505 Grand River Farmington, MI 48336

Saturday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Sept. 25, 6 PM to sunset

Leaders: Jim Bull and Terra Weiland, Program Coordinator

Join us with our Swift Sanctuary partners to watch the spectacular show as up to 50,000 Chimney Swifts swirl like a tornado, right down into this historic winery. This is likely THE largest roost of Chimney Swifts in North America! Bring a lawn chair to watch this incredible show. Detroit Audubon will have a table, live VideoCam, PowerPoint program, refreshments and a raffle to raise funds for the upkeep of this historic chimney.

LAKE ERIE METROPARK AND HUMBUG MARSH

Saturday October 8th, 8 AM to 1 PM

Leader: Jim Bull

Lake Erie Metropark is one of the best places for hawk migration in North America if the winds are right. We will traverse woodlands, boardwalks and observation platforms looking for warblers, other songbirds and migrating water birds, eagles and osprey. We will also go down to the boat launch to observe the hawk migration. Some years the number of hawks can be spectacular! Humbug is a key area for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which Detroit Audubon fought to save from development.

SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION Stopover at Haehnle Sanctuary

Sunday October 16, 3:30 for hike, 5 pm to observe from hill only

Leader: Jim Bull

Join us for a hike through the autumn woods. Stay to watch hundreds of Sandhill Cranes fly in to roost in the marsh for the night as they have done since the Ice Age. Or just join us on the hillside at 5:00. Northern Harrier and a plethora of waterfowl are also possible. Dress warmly; bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. Overlook is handicapped accessible.

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

POINT EDWARD AND LAKE HURON SHORE, Ontario

Saturday November 12, all day; depart 9 AM

Leader: Jim Bull

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

Directions: Take I-94 east to Port Huron and take the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia. Meet at the Ontario tourist information center in Sarnia. Passport or enhanced driver's license required for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.

continued

OWL PROWL, Oakwoods Metropark- YOUNG BIRDERS' PROGRAM PIZZA PARTY

Saturday November 19th, 7 PM

Leaders: Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull

We will call for owls and expect to hear them call back, and maybe fly in close where we can see them. This program is especially good for families with children. Before the Owl Prowl, please join us for our Young Birders' Program Pizza Party!

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



Ring-billed Gull.
Bruce Szczechowski
photo



BELLE ISLE, DETROIT

Saturday November 26, 9 AM

Leaders: Jim Bull and Joe Rashid

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

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

DETROIT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** Reservations Required

Sunday December 18 Leader: Tim Nowicki

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

To participate, call Tim Nowicki at 734-525-8630 or tnowick@gmail.com or the Detroit Audubon office at 313-960-3399.

ROCKWOOD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT and Public Hike

Monday December 26, 9 AM to 11 AM Leader: Jim Bull

Public hike: 9 AM to 11 AM: Contact Jim Bull at jamesbull22@yahoo.com or 313-928-2950 to register for the morning hike. A chili lunch is provided.

Christmas Bird Count: All day event! Detroit Audubon cosponsors this annual count of the 15 mile diameter circle which includes Grosse Ile, Lake Erie Metropark, Trenton, Rockwood, South Rockwood, Newport, and Oakwoods Metropark. A chili dinner will be provided. Registration is required.

RSVP: If you want to participate in the all-day count, contact count compiler Tom Carpenter at tcarpen1980@yahoo.com or at 734-728-8733.

L-R: *The Messenger* director Su Rynard, Detroit Audubon President James Bull, and Rob Duchene, chair of the Safe Passage Committee. Rose Attilio photo



The Messenger Screening and Safe Passage

In April, Detroit and National Audubon sponsored the first screening in Michigan of *The Messenger*, which focuses on the decline of migrating songbirds. The showing was at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak, and was presented as part of the Detroit Free Press Film Festival. The show was sold out (we are contemplating another screening later this year).

The film was particularly powerful in showing the effects of light pollution during songbird migration. Birds die from exhaustion from becoming blinded and unable to find their way by building lights on their long journeys. Songbirds often migrate at night, and evolved to fly with only the moon and stars; bright city lights are a hazard to songbirds.

After the screening, President James Bull, Rob Duchene, chair of our Safe Passage Committee, and the film's director Su Rynard had a thoughtful discussion about the film. We were thrilled when so many volunteers came forward after the screening to sign up for our Safe Passage Program, which works to reduce bird fatalities during migration by working with buildings to turn their lights off during peak migration.

Dottie Charbonneau (widow of Fred Charbonneau, who helped start the Safe Passage program) and former board member and volunteer Rose Attilio.



Education Nature Camp

Detroit Audubon is excited to be working again this summer with our partners at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo! Local Detroit students will explore the birds of Belle Isle with Detroit Audubon every Wednesday this summer. They will learn bird-watching basics, including bird identification and how to use binoculars.

Younger students will combine literature and birding on our guided story walks, where we will also focus on listening to the birds and mindfulness. Older elementary students are asked to become conservationists and naturalists as we take a guided bird walk to the Common Tern colony and think about ways to protect our natural world. At the Common Tern colony they will serve as Citizen Scientists, helping the Detroit Zoo and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge count the number of terns present.

Grassland Bird Surveys

For the second year in a row, Detroit Audubon and Huron-Clinton Metroparks are working together to conduct grassland bird surveys at Oakwoods Metropark. Detroit Audubon is pleased to have found volunteers ready and able to conduct four surveys during June. Volunteers headed out one morning every week just after sunrise to survey all birds they saw or heard onsite. The data will be used to measure the effects on bird populations before and after habitat management.

**For the Latest
from Detroit
Audubon
visit our
website
often:**

www.detroitaudubon.org



Looking at a Cooper's Hawk nest at Elmwood Cemetery. Terra Weiland photo

Elmwood Cemetery Bird Walks

Detroit Audubon is pleased to continue its monthly bird walks at Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit's only certified arboretum.

Elmwood Cemetery has been a great venue to reach new birders; it's conveniently located and beautiful. Detroit Audubon is happy to offer equipment and expertise to beginning birders. During May, Elmwood Cemetery was a great warbler trap; and every month, we have been watching both a Red-tailed Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk nest. People have even been coming to these Friday morning walks as a before-work activity. And the group just keeps getting bigger and bigger!

Due to the demand for more Elmwood Cemetery walks, we have scheduled two walks there in July. On Saturday, July 16th at 9 a.m., you can join us with Leonard Weber for a morning bird walk. On Sunday, July 17th at 6:30 p.m., enjoy an evening bird walk with our Young Birders' group! Hope you can make it! Elmwood is a wonderful place to bird, and to enjoy one of the few places that still features Detroit's original topography and a lot of great history too. Stay tuned for more of these walks in the fall.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AT GABRIEL RICHARD PARK



This past Earth Day, Detroit Audubon celebrated our birding scopes and wayside exhibit along the Detroit River with a public event on Saturday, and with two classes of local 3rd graders from Experiencia Preparatory Academy.

Students learned to use binoculars, along with the scopes and wayside exhibit along the Detroit River. Looking for nests around the park, they were very pleased to find Red-winged Blackbirds nesting nearby, along with Cliff Swallows along the bridge to Belle Isle.

They also read stories about migration, played migration hopscotch, carefully studied

preserved museum specimens, and learned what to do if they found a baby bird out of its nest this summer.

Students had such a great time at Gabriel Richard, they wrote and performed a class play about Red-winged Blackbirds as their final project (right), complete with bird costumes.



YOUNG BIRDER'S CLUB NEWS

On June 4th the Young Birders' Club joined a regular Detroit Audubon field trip to see nesting birds in Detroit's Eliza Howell Park. Leonard Weber, Detroit Audubon past president who knows that park like the back of his hand, had many nests already staked out for all to observe from a safe distance, including a Hummingbird nest!

There's one more Young Birders' event this summer: On Sunday, July 17th at 6:30 p.m. you can join us for an evening bird walk at Detroit's Historic Elmwood Cemetery. (See the online field trip page for directions.) If you are young and you are not yet an early bird, this trip is for you!

Watch for more Young Birders' field trips and programs in the fall issue of the Flyway.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY AT BELLE ISLE NATURE ZOO

Jim Bull, Detroit Audubon President (center) and Research Volunteer Erin Rowan talk with a member just prior to presenting their program, "Celebrating Endangered Species Success Stories" at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo on Endangered Species Day, May 20th.



This is the first year Detroit Audubon has presented a program to commemorate this critical legislation, but we plan to make it an annual tradition. Jim presented the comeback stories of the Kirtland's Warbler in northern Michigan, and the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon in and around Detroit. Erin gave an illustrated talk about her Black Tern research that aims to keep that species off the Endangered Species List.

The Belle Isle Nature Zoo is interested in co-sponsoring other evening public programs with Detroit Audubon, so this may be the first of many public programs we will present there.



In Memoriam: John Makris

Past President, Detroit Audubon Board Member for over 30 Years

By Jim Bull

John Makris passed on June 3rd. At the visitation, I told his wife Carol that Detroit Audubon owes him a great debt of gratitude for his over 30 years of service on the board, serving several terms as president and legal counsel (including helping with the lawsuit jointly filed with the Sierra Club against the Detroit incinerator).

He was also our representative to the environmental organizations that formed the Michigan Environmental Council, and attorney and advisor for the establishment of the Paint Creek Trail. His service spanned my time on the board, and that of my parents.

I thanked Carol for her own long service to Detroit Audubon, as well.

John once said that he first got involved with Detroit Audubon because his teacher, Tessel TenHave, gave extra credit to his students for attending Detroit Audubon wildlife films narrated by photographers at the Rackham Auditorium. He loved Detroit Audubon, and gave generously of his time and expertise.

Rest in peace, John.



New Logo, Shorter Name

The Detroit Audubon board voted at its March meeting to adopt a new logo. The House Wren is still our mascot, but we have taken this friendly, bubbly bird out of the triangle cage that has confined it over many iterations of the logo. Nobody on the board could figure out why the bird was encased in a triangle in the first place, and our records show no explanation.

The new logo is cleaner and more modern looking. It features the same House Wren in its natural brown color on an Eastern White Oak branch with the words "DETROIT AUDUBON" in blue in a modern font.

Two years ago we voted to remove the word "Society" from our name. While we did not change our name legally, it made sense to standardize "Detroit Audubon" as the name we are known by. The word "society" as part of our name dates back to our founding in 1939 when a great majority of organizations called themselves "societies." Even many churches have "society" as part of their legal names if incorporated in the 1800s or early 1900s.

Today it sounds quaint; the modifier is not commonly used for used for organizations. With this change, we follow in the footsteps of Michigan and National Audubon, along with many other Audubon chapters across the country that no longer use "Society" as part of their names.

It is time to officially acknowledge and explain the change. Our new logo combines a strong nod to tradition by keeping the wren as our symbol, but updates the look and the name for a new era.

We hope you like it.

ONE OFFICE AT CASS COMMONS IN DETROIT

Since April 2015, we have been primarily operating out of our new office at 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit, in an environmental non-profit hive known as Cass Commons. We held onto the office provided by the city of Southfield as well, but it was used only three hours per week by our bookkeeper.

For efficiency and many other reasons, the board decided at our June meeting to have only one office—the midtown Detroit space we are really using and thriving in. Our office is located in a building owned and operated by the East Michigan Environmental Action Council. It is the former "church house" or office building of the First Unitarian Church. The church still holds services on Sundays and Wednesdays, and the sanctuary is used for many other events.

We thank the City of Southfield for providing us office space for the last several years and look forward to continuing to work with them from our new location.

We now have all of our books, files, and equipment out of storage and in one place. Moving to Detroit has made it much easier to get involved in efforts to make Detroit's renaissance as "green" as possible. We are pushing the city to make sure that native grassland expanses are included in future plans, along with a diversity of other habitat types. We have also been presented with countless partnership opportunities. Folks from EcoWorks, one of our non-profit neighbors, came to look at the books in our new office and offered to help to carry boxes. That conversation resulted in an opportunity for Terra Weiland to connect with 60+ Detroit Public School classes—groups that had been asking for nature programs in addition to energy education. A partnership was born. One such class came to our birding spot at Gabriel Richard Park this spring and wrote a play about birds. It is now on our Facebook page and will find a place on our website Kids Corner very soon.

Located right next to Wayne State University and in the midst of Detroit's Cultural Center, we have met hundreds of people attending concerts in the sanctuary and the Cass Commons Noel Night. We have forged partnerships with the Children's Museum and nearby Children's Hospital, and are exploring relationships with several others. A Wayne State professor, who happens to be an avid birder, invited us to apply for a substantial grant to do bird programming in Midtown Detroit. Stay tuned! We have built a partnership

for children's programs and possibly cosponsored programs for the general public at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo. And, we have connected with Detroit organizations like Greening of Detroit and Detroit Future City that we had little or no contact with before. We are really in the mix. Detroiters who never birded before are getting the bug through our numerous Detroit-based birding field trips, some right around our Cass Commons immediate neighborhood (we found that there was no report of birds from this location on e-Bird prior to our entries).

Rebecca Sanders, National Audubon Vice-President in charge of the Great Lakes Region, who moved her office from a Chicago suburb to the Loop, told us that moving to Midtown Detroit "was a wise strategic move."

We are still committed to serving all of Southeast Michigan. Many of our field trips are in the suburbs and further afield; we are heavily involved with research and education about the declining Black Tern colonies on Harsen's Island in St. Clair County; we continue to partner with the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and U of M Dearborn in the Downriver area; we initiated a major partnership with the Swift Sanctuary in Farmington, and we continue to conduct occasional programs in Southfield, some taped by their Cable TV company. And, Safe Passage is still working to get buildings in Troy, Auburn Hills, Southfield and Dearborn to turn their lights off at night during spring and fall migration to cut down on bird casualties. We are better positioned to coordinate programs and projects in Detroit and throughout the metro area from our perch at Cass Commons, where we hope to be for some time to come. Come down and see our new digs!



Detroit Audubon Mission Statement

adopted November 2015

The Detroit Audubon Society promotes awareness and protection of the environment through education, research, and advocacy.

We initiate and support efforts to foster the preservation of birds and other wildlife and the clean air, water, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands, and other natural resources upon which all life depends.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Like us to get reminders of field trips as well as notifications of volunteer opportunities, upcoming programs, and workshops. Share with your

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

MYSTERY BIRD'S NEST

The pottery-like structures below are Cliff Swallow nests on the Belle Isle Bridge.

**Did you guess correctly?
Bruce Szczechowski photo**



Below, Cliff Swallows collecting building materials.
www.audubon.org photo

