



MYSTERY BIRD

Can you guess this bird? Answer on page 15.
Bruce Szczechowski photo



Corrin Jessen photo

Detroit Audubon Young Birder Scholarship

Hog Island Audubon Teen Camp
June 11-16, 2017

Deadline: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017

Calling all Young Birders! Detroit Audubon is pleased to announce the 2017 Young Birder Scholarship for Southeast Michigan teens. One lucky recipient will be sent to the prestigious Audubon Hog Island Camp for a week of hands-on workshops led by the best birders and ornithologists in the country. Apply at <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/scholarships>.

About the Scholarship: The Detroit Audubon Young Birder Scholarship covers full tuition to the 2017 Hog Island Audubon Camp (\$1,295) including room & board, workshops, guided walks, and all boat trips. The scholarship does not include transportation to and from Maine, although additional support may be made available for applicants with demonstrated need. Applicants must be available to attend

Continued on page 4



Awards Dinner Rescheduled to 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12 Featuring Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Dr. Marc Edwards and Rashida Tlaib



L-R: Dr. Hanna-Attisha, Dr. Edwards and Rashida Tlaib

on behalf of birds and the quality environment they and we depend on. Awardees include:

President's Award: Rashida Tlaib. Rashida is the daughter of Palestinian immigrants to Detroit and the eldest of 14 children. Ms. Tlaib attended schools in southwest Detroit, earned a B.A. in Political Science from Wayne State University and a law degree from Thomas Cooley Law School. The first Muslim-American woman in the Michigan State House, she was a Democratic representative for District 12 from 2009 to 2015. She is currently the Community Partnerships and Development Director for the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice. She was a fierce leader in the fight against the pet coke piles on the Detroit riverfront, fought state moves to allow even more air pollution (including from a new Marathon refinery) in her district, the most polluted in the state, and leads the movement for a Community Benefits Agreement requirement for major future developments in the city.

Conservationist of the Year Award Co-recipients:

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha is Director of the Pediatric Residency Program at Flint's Hurley Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Human Development at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Her self-initiated research found a doubling of blood-lead levels in children after Flint switched its drinking water source. Despite her findings being denounced by state officials, Dr. Hanna-Attisha testified before Congress and continued to stand up for Flint's children. Finally, the state had to admit she was right. Last spring she was named to *TIME*'s 2016 list of the 100 Most Influential People. Recently she launched a \$100 million fund (flintkids.org) dedicated to the healthy development of Flint's children; and has undertaken other efforts to meet the needs of these children. A lifelong environmental advocate, Mona Hanna-Attisha embodies committed environmental action.

Dr. Marc Edwards is the Charles Lunsford Professor of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech, where he teaches environmental engineering, applied aquatic chemistry and engineering ethics. His research group uncovered the 2001-2004 Washington, D.C. lead crisis and the 2014-2016 Flint water disaster. *TIME* Magazine dubbed Edwards "The Plumbing Professor" in 2004, and listed him amongst the four most important world water "innovators." The White House awarded him a Presidential Faculty Fellowship in 1996. In 2010, he won outstanding paper in Environmental Science and Technology for research on lead in water poisoning of children in Washington, D.C. In 2013 Edwards was the 9th recipient (in 25 years) of the IEEE Barus Award for "courageously defending the public interest at great personal risk," and in 2016 he was named among the most influential people in the world by *Fortune* and *TIME* magazines. Dr. Edwards will be joining us from Virginia via Skype.

Other awardees include:

Conservation Organization of the Year Award: The Greening of Detroit

Conservation Business of the Year Award: Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe

Fred Charbonneau Bird Conservation Award: Richard Quick, Randy Kling, and Erin Rowan for their extensive volunteer work that has made our Black Tern research possible.

Detroit Audubon's Annual Awards Dinner will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 12 in the social hall of Central United Methodist Church, next to Comerica Park at Woodward and Adams, kitty-corner from the FOX Theater). Tickets are just \$40 and will be available at <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/awardsdinner/>. Our annual awards ceremony is also a fundraiser for Detroit Audubon. A silent auction will help raise funds to further support our education, research, and advocacy

THINK SPRING

Sign up for our Memorial Day
Weekend Nature Get-Away
May 26-29

Snow is flying. However, you can already prepare for a great spring event with Detroit Audubon—our annual Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away at the Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, just north of Hale, MI. It is a 187-mile trip; about 3 hours away.

Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center has hosted Detroit Audubon's Memorial Day Nature Get-Away for over 30 years, but was put on the real estate market four years ago. Each year we wonder if the camp will still be available. Fortunately for us, the property still has not been sold, the camp stays open to generate income, and we can again gather there. So join us this year—you'll want to make it an annual tradition!

The camp sits on a high bluff with spectacular views of Loon Lake, especially at sunset. You'll be lulled to sleep by the plaintive call of the Common Loon. Barred Owls serenade us and sometimes come close enough to see. Eastern Phoebe's nest under the dining hall eaves; Pine Warblers call around Seaholm Lodge; Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Redheaded and Pileated Woodpeckers, and even Olive-sided Flycatchers (rather uncommon these days), can sometimes be heard and seen. American Redstarts sometimes nest right over the walking bridge to the dining hall. Bald Eagles can be seen swooping over the lake, catching fish for their young. A marsh boardwalk has given us great views of Swamp Sparrows, Sora and Virginia Rail, Veeries, Green Herons, and even a White-winged Scoter two years ago.

You can also enjoy excursions to great birding meccas nearby, including Tawas Point State Park (often touted as a miniature Pointe Pelee), the rare Kirtland's Warbler breeding grounds, the Rifle River State Recreation Area, and AuSable River flooding overlooks.

Moreover, you'll enjoy great food and the friendliest people you could ever meet.

So put the dates May 26-29 on your calendar. Even better, register now, and give registrations to your friends and family as holiday gifts!

Check out our website for more information: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/birding/MemorialDay>

Flyway

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

Deadline for Spring Issue:
March. 1st, 2017



DETROIT
AUDUBON

BULLY PULPIT: THE NEED TO BE VIGILANT

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



Hanging in my bedroom is a framed print by renowned Canadian nature artist Robert Bateman depicting a bald eagle flying through a fierce snowstorm, its beak open as it cries out in the midst of the squall. The title Mr. Bateman gave to this painting is "Vigilance." That is the word that comes to me as I write today. Robert Kennedy, Jr., legal counsel to the Environmental Defense Fund and co-founder of the Waterkeepers Alliance once said, "No environmental victory is permanent: eternal vigilance is required!"

Please know that whatever has happened, whatever is happening, or whatever will happen in the future, Detroit Audubon is resolute in its commitment to fulfill its mission to: "promote awareness and protection of the environment through education, research, and advocacy...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."

We are doing what we can. Our Safe Passage Committee, until recently under the leadership of volunteer Rob Duchene and now led by new board member Heidi Trudell and our Research Coordinator, Erin Rowan, continues to do important work to document casualties from buildings that leave their lights on during migration, or that do not have bird-safe glass and other design features. They have also honored those building owners and corporations that have stepped up to the plate and taken measures to protect migrating birds, and will be recognizing even more of them. Our new Research Coordinator, Erin Rowan, is now adding the consistency of a staff member to these efforts, and is committed to expanding them and helping us to be more effective in pursuing them.

Likewise, I am grateful that our Conservation Committee, under the leadership of board member Diane Cheklich, is doing yeoman's work in its endeavors to create more native grassland habitat on the ground in SE Michigan, to oppose unnecessary mowing in our parks and preserves, and to lead other advocacy efforts.

However, to be at our most effective in

advocating for public policies that are consistent with our mission, we need a coordinator for our environmental advocacy efforts, as well as for our educational and research efforts. The first two legs of our mission are being ably covered by our Program Coordinator Terra Weiland and Research Coordinator Erin Rowan. The Detroit Audubon board set a goal in 2016 to hire both a Research Coordinator and a Policy Coordinator. We have accomplished the former by hiring Erin Rowan, although we still have to undergird both of these coordinator positions with adequate funds, and upgrade them from part-time to full-time. It is also extremely important that we complete our mission-focused staff to include a Policy Coordinator, in order to ensure that Detroit Audubon has a place at the table as important decisions regarding the environmental future of our region, our state, nation, and planet are made. Just like that bald eagle in the painting, we too must be eternally vigilant!

Until we have a Policy Coordinator on staff, our effectiveness will be severely limited by the time that our volunteers have available. Often the public hearings, legislative and agency forums that allow for citizen input are held during weekdays, when most volunteers are involved in their career work. We can and must be at the table so that our voice (your voice) for birds and the environment they depend on can be heard. A Policy Coordinator would also orchestrate ways for our members to join the action personally. It is only with your help that we can add this position, in addition to ensuring that our existing staff is sustained and their hours expanded to the full-time status they require.

Together we can make this happen.
The birds and the planet we all share are depending on us.

Have a new year full of awesome experiences with birds and the rest of nature, and one in which we all recommit ourselves to protect and enhance the environmental legacy with which we have been entrusted. Let's do all we can to make sure we pass that legacy on to future generations in better shape than we found it. Have a happy, productive, and vigilant new year!

"Vigilance" by Robert Bateman.
Used with permission of the artist.



Field Trip Leaders Needed

By Jim Bull

Currently I lead about 2/3 of the Detroit Audubon's field trips. I love going on field trips and leading them is a surefire way to get me out when other business might otherwise keep me inside.

However, depending on one person for so many of our field trips is just not sustainable. We need a cadre of new field trip leaders.

Not only would more leaders remove the risk of having to cancel a field trip if something happened to me, a wider diversity of field trip leaders usually means a wider variety of destinations, and benefits of having folks with different kinds of birding expertise.

Let us know if you'd like to lead a field trip (even one would be helpful) and where you'd like to lead it (you should be somewhat familiar with the area). If you are not ready to lead a field trip on your own, how about being a co-leader of a field trip with me? Be a co-leader once or twice, and you should then be ready to lead a group on your own.

Actually, it would be great if all our field trips could have co-leaders or understudies!

And, if you've already got some expertise, it would mean having critical backup for leading the field trip if I were unavailable. To volunteer, email staff@detroitaudubon.org and tell us about your birding experience, where you'd like to lead a field trip, what time of year, time of day, and a proposed date or two.

WANTED: VOLUNTEER WEBMASTER ASSISTANT

Must be proficient with WordPress.

If you are interested please contact Erin Rowan at erowan@detroitaudubon.org.

MONITORING WITH GREENING OF DETROIT

By Terra Weiland

Detroit Audubon has subcontracted on a grant with Greening of Detroit for a restoration project on a small island at Maheras-Gentry Park in Detroit. The Greening project proposes to improve habitat quality for birds and other wildlife at Maheras-Gentry through the removal of invasive species and replanting with Michigan native plants by Detroit youth. This work aligns with the Detroit Audubon's mission of bird conservation and stewardship, citizen science, and education and outreach.

Detroit Audubon will support the Maheras-Gentry Native Island Restoration project through the collection of valuable bird monitoring data. Point counts have been established at the park where we stand in one place and count the number of individual birds seen and heard around us, as well as record which species are present. This data will give us an idea of which birds used the park before restoration and after restoration, when the same points are revisited and new point count data is collected. Erin Rowan, our Research Coordinator, and Ava Landgraf, our intern, have been monitoring Maheras-Gentry Park starting this fall. Some notable sightings have been: Ring-necked Pheasant, White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Cardinals, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and a Herring Gull in a sea of Ring-billed Gulls!

Along with formal bird monitoring, Detroit Audubon is also conducting educational activities on site. This fall, we began our educational programming at Maheras-Gentry together with partners from The Greening of Detroit, Alliance for the Great Lakes, and the Detroit Community Nature Center. Together we lead a great program with sixty 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from Carstens Academy of Aquatic Science! We played litter tag to illustrate how litter can affect wildlife and helped clean up one of Detroit's beautiful parks. Altogether, we collected over 41 pounds of litter! While removing litter, we used data sheets to keep track of how much litter we collected, and of course, bird watched! Golden-crowned Kinglets, Mallard Ducks, Ring-billed Gulls, and Canada Geese were our most common birds of the day.

We are also excited to be working with local students in future programming at Maheras Gentry by teaching them how to monitor for birds. Student participants

will learn how to identify local wild birds, how to use specialized equipment like binoculars, and how to collect and record scientific data accurately.

This initiative at Maheras-Gentry will provide an opportunity for ecological restoration of an important coastal zone. Simultaneously, Detroit youth will participate in place-based environmental education learning experiences and hands-on scientific data collection.

We are looking forward to partnering with Greening of Detroit on a project that will provide numerous benefits for people and animals within the community.





Corrin Jessen photo

“Hog Island is a breeding ground for optimism. People’s lives are changed when they see how birds lead us to ecosystems and they hold a special place in their hearts and souls for nature – and for Hog Island. Most important, Hog Island fuels our passion for teaching others about the world we’ve been entrusted to protect.”

—Audubon President David Yarnold

Young Birder Scholarship

Continued from page 1

all five days of camp, June 11-16, 2017. Applications are due by midnight on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

The Hog Island Audubon Camp, designed for teens, includes five days of guided bird walks, hands-on workshops, and chances to observe Audubon’s seabird conservation field research in action. Participants may also visit a breeding colony of puffins, weather permitting.

Instructors include Scott Weidensaul, ornithologist and author of *Living on the Wind*; Corey Husic, birder and researcher of Harvard University; and Stephen Kress, Director of the Seabird Restoration Program and Vice President for Bird Conservation of the National Audubon Society.

All teens, including those from groups traditionally underrepresented in science and birding, are encouraged to apply.

About Hog Island

Hog Island, ¼ mile offshore from the coast of Maine, has been a center of environmental education programs since 1936. Featuring over 300 acres of stunning natural habitat, the island is dominated by white and red spruce, white pine and birch trees, with hay-scented fern “balds,” or clearings, on the island’s southern tip. The island’s many historic lodges serve as a second home to visitors, who revel in beautiful views of the forest and Atlantic coast.

Over 150 bird species have been identified on the island, several of which breed there. The list includes seabirds and shorebirds rarely seen inland such as Black Guillemots, Atlantic Puffins, Storm Petrels, and several kinds of terns. Breeding season ensures good views of not only birds in bright breeding plumage but some active nests as well. Its habitat richness and remoteness makes it a premiere location for birding and bird study.

Hog Island is one of the most renowned birding camps in North America with a legacy of leadership in providing experiential, hands-on environmental education opportunities to youth. The founder of the modern field guide, Roger Tory Peterson, was among its first teachers in 1936. Rachel Carson visited Hog Island in 1960 and mentioned it in her landmark book, *Silent Spring*. The camp’s current director, Stephen Kress, is the founder of Project Puffin, recognized internationally for the pioneering work that brought puffins and terns back to their historic nesting islands on the Maine coast. For youth interested in birds (and possibly a bird-related career), this camp is a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

For more information about the camp:

hogisland.audubon.org/bird-studies-teens

Apply here:

<http://www.detroitaudubon.org/scholarships>



Corrin Jessen photo

Bird in the Spotlight: The Puffin Project Sea Bird Restoration Program for the Atlantic Puffins at Egg Rock Island

One of the most enriching experiences of the week is an exciting, scenic boat trip and tour to Egg Rock Island. The trip affords opportunities to see numerous coastal birds including Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Black Guillemots, and Common Loons. One of the birds that had all birders abuzz was the Atlantic Puffin. The book *Project Puffin: How We Brought Puffins Back to Egg Rock* by Stephen Kress and Derrick Z. Jackson highlights the successful reestablishing of puffins to Egg Rock Island.

Puffin restoration to this historic island dates back to the early 1970s, when approximately 914 young puffins were fledged there. This project is currently still active with a year-round project team. Teachers and their classrooms can become actively involved by participating in the Puffin Project. For a \$100 donation, a class can adopt a baby puffin!

For updates and current highlights of the Puffin Project Sea Bird Restoration program please visit: <http://projectpuffin.audubon.org/get-involved/adopt-puffin>



What is “Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week”? An Inner-City Educator’s Recap

By Zakiya A. Jackson

Off the scenic coast of Bremen, Maine lies a beautiful island where an enjoyable educational experience awaited me and several other teachers. I attended “Sharing Nature: An Educator’s week at National Audubon’s Hog Island Camp in Maine. I was able to participate in this wonderful training because of the kind generosity of the National Audubon Society through a \$900.00 Derrick Z. Jackson scholarship, which is awarded to teachers from ethnically diverse backgrounds, and a \$500.00 travel stipend from the Detroit Audubon. “Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week” is a phenomenal 6-day birding, nature and outdoor program for educators, taught by educators.

National Audubon’s 333 acre-Hog Island Camp in Maine is also the site for Audubon camps for adults, families, teens and leaders in conservation education. Located in Maine’s breathtaking Muscongus Bay, beautiful Hog Island boasts lush forests, amazing wildlife—including the Todd Wildlife Sanctuary right on the camp grounds—and a rich history.

The other educators and I participating in “Sharing Nature” left with memorable experiences; a fresh approach to teaching; a new professional learning community of educators; and a plethora of new strategies, lessons and activities that are sure to enrich their students’ learning experiences.

Being awarded this scholarship is meaningful to teachers like me because of the population of students that I reach on a daily basis. Exposing my students to environmental and outdoor educational experiences has proven to be rewarding to their learning experience, and introduced them to career paths that they wouldn’t otherwise consider. Director Pete Salmansohn, the coordinator of “Sharing Nature” and his professional, insightful and creative camp staff helped us learn how to educate adults, families and youth—including how to introduce project-based and inquiry-based lessons on birds and their habitats.

Twelve Benefits for Educators to Attend Sharing Nature: Educator’s Week

This week of learning provided me with the following benefits, which you may also receive should you decide to follow in my footsteps and attend this Audubon camp. In “Sharing Nature” I:

- received excellent instruction from expert educators and naturalists in the fields of science, conservation, environmental and outdoor education
- became part of a dynamic learning community of educators from across the nation
- received interactive and engaging resources, lessons and activities that are sure to enrich cross-curricular learning experiences for students back home
- got involved in sea life conservation (specifically the the Atlantic Puffin Project at Egg Rock Island)
- learned innovative ways to incorporate music, art, photography, journaling, and hiking into the learning experience
- learned the history of Native Americans that lived on the island long ago and about the fossil remains that are there
- explored intertidal pools and the amazing creatures that can be found hidden in Maine’s coastal shoreline
- learned about birds of prey and how to implement birding/ bird watching activities
- learned how to incorporate the outdoors as a classroom to introduce sensory-based learning
- dined on fresh gourmet cuisine prepared daily by a phenomenal professional chef
- experienced exciting boat field trips, including a sea bird tour
- enjoyed a delicious Maine lobster dinner with instructors and educators to end a wonderful week of learning

Why a teacher from an ethnically-diverse background should attend

National Audubon Society’s Vice President of Community Conservation and Education, Dr. Chandra Taylor-Smith, led a thought-provoking presentation and panel discussion, including all ethnically diverse attendees. She expressed the need for increasing diversity and inclusion in environmental education. Dr. Taylor-Smith told us that National Audubon wants to strengthen its conservation efforts by increasing diversity among its employees, membership and through outreach to others. During the panel discussion, teachers from ethnically diverse backgrounds were able to discuss with all other attendees how natural resources, environmental education and the outdoors have impacted our lives. All teachers talked about their love of outdoor activities, their passion for conservation and preservation of natural resources, and concern about conservation issues, which for many were shaped by the lasting impact of the childhood experiences with nature they recounted. They agreed that it was important for National Audubon to diversify its outreach to people and to hire employees from a diversity of backgrounds with the goal that all communities and ethnic groups actively aware and involved.

My participation in the panel discussion increased by own appreciation of diversity. My mind immediately went to thoughts of how to address the many needs of my inner-city students in Detroit, who come from diverse backgrounds. Teachers like myself face the challenge every day on how to effectively present differentiated lessons that address a diversity of learning styles. When I returned, I encouraged some of my students to apply for student scholarships that are also available. As a result, two of them will attend Hog Island Audubon Camp this next summer (2017)!

I am extremely grateful to the National Audubon Society, the Detroit Audubon Society, Friends of Hog Island, Mr. Pete Salmansohn, Eva Matthews, Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Z. Jackson, Juanita Roushdy and the phenomenal staff at the Audubon camp. As teachers, it is always our heartfelt desire that as we develop professionally, so in turn our students will benefit with a greater depth of knowledge.

I encourage minority teachers who are interested in attending “Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week” to apply for stipends available for educators from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Currently the National Audubon Society/ Friends of Hog Island is offering a total of six scholarships—four of which can only be used for Educator’s Week, and two of which can be used for ethnically-diverse individuals for ANY Hog Island camp session. This includes all the birding programs as well as family camp.

TO APPLY: E-mail a letter of interest with contact information and two professional references to Camp Director Pete Salmansohn at psalmansohn@audubon.org. Awards are given on a rolling basis, so early application is strongly suggested. For details, photos and videos about the camp visit: hogisland.audubon.org.



Zakiya Jackson is a special education teacher within the Detroit Public Schools Community District. She has taught for 15 years. Currently she teaches 6th-8th grade students. Since 2012, she has taken S.T.E.M. related trainings that have shifted her teaching style in order to address the diversity of learning styles in her students, incorporating the outdoor education activities that address environmental concerns. She has found that using the outdoors as a classroom is beneficial in creating a sense of stewardship of the earth in her students.

FALL FIELD TRIP REPORTS

by Jim Bull

We had a beautiful day on October 8 for the Lake Erie Metropark field trip. About 20 people joined us. We had good views of Great Blue Herons, lots of Great Egrets, and 32 Yellow-rumped Warblers. There were other warblers but we never got good enough looks to identify them definitively. We also saw four Northern Flickers and a few Black-capped Chickadees. The spectacular occurrence of the day, however, was at least 300 Turkey Vultures flying over—some climbing higher and higher in the thermals. Counters at the boat launch had 600 Turkey Vultures (twice as many as we saw) and had Bald Eagle and Red-tails in their scopes. Research Coordinator Erin Rowan and I went to see the areas where Tundra Swans congregate after the field trip ended. We saw 40 swans flying there, but of indeterminate species. The time of year indicates they were probably Mute Swans. Here is the ebird checklist link: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31952684>

We enjoyed another beautiful autumn day on Sunday, October 16 for the Sandhill Crane field trip. Despite early rain and misty conditions, we had a wonderful fall hike through woods, wetlands and two restored prairies.

Unfortunately, we did not see even one Sandhill Crane at Haehnle Sanctuary—a first, and I’ve been going there every year since the 1970s! Jackson Audubon docents told us the water was too high there this year. We often see Northern Harrier flying low over the marsh. We didn’t see them, but others said they saw two flying over the marsh just a few minutes before our arrival. We did have one Bald Eagle fly over, a few Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, lots of geese and some mallards. At Pond Lily Lake, just before sunset, five Sandhill Cranes came in and settled on the far side of the lake in a marshy area. We saw them flying and, in the spotting scope, roosting in the water. They did not trumpet at all, which one of our members was looking forward to, as she had never seen or heard them. It was a nice afternoon, but the silence and paucity of cranes really felt weird and unprecedented. Hope this was just bad luck, and not a sign of something serious going on with the cranes. Five people showed up for the hike and one hiker, Stefanie, took lots of photos. On the way to Haehnle in the early afternoon I had a pretty amazing sighting of at least 30 Turkey Vultures roosting in trees along I-94 between Dexter and Chelsea, MI. Here are the links for our eBird reports on this trip:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32092516>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32092603>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32092656>

The all-day Point Edward to Pinery Provincial Park field trip on Saturday, November 12th brought out a small group. The weather forecast was not good, but it turned out to be quite a pleasant day. We had a couple hundred Long-tailed Ducks right near the Bluewater Bridge, and found Horned Grebes as we went further up the coast. No loons or scoters, however, this year. The weather may have been too nice that day for them—seems the colder it is, the better the birding. At our usual stop at a sewage treatment plant we had lots of Bonaparte’s gulls, and a plethora of other waterfowl—including lots of Northern Shovelers, Gadwall, Mallards, American Black Ducks, Bufflehead, Hooded Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, Redheads, and one Green-winged Teal sitting on a pipe at the far



end of one pond. Bruce Szczechowski took a nice photo of that one (below) to document that uncommon sighting.



We also had a flock of Snow Buntings in the agricultural field adjacent to the sewage plant. Sadly, the dripping water pipes that usually attract American Pipits were not there—and neither were the Pipits. At Pinery Provincial Park we had many of the common feeder birds. Because this trip covered so much territory, no e-bird report was filed.

Left, at Lake Erie Metropark. Ava Landgraf photo

Below, gulls at Point Edward. Sharon Korte photo





Detroit: Take a Walk on Its Wild Side

By Erin Rowan

Our Annual Conference, "Detroit: Take a Walk on its Wild Side" on November 5, was a great success! A big thank you to our partners at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo for hosting the event! Over 61 people attended and heard a variety of talks and panel discussions related to bird conservation, habitat restoration and environmental justice within the Metro Detroit Area.

One panel discussed the future of greening the City of Detroit, and another discussed the importance and care of native grasslands. It was sobering to hear that up until last year, the Detroit Planning Department only had two city planners. The department is now at full capacity with 30 city planners working diligently on prioritizing infrastructure needs of the city. Both panels discussed vacant lots and their great potential for creating green spaces for recreation, native habitats for wildlife, and community gardens within the heart of Detroit.

We heard speakers from Lindemann Elementary School, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Detroit Zoo talk about Kirtland's Warbler Sky Art in Allen Park, Peregrine Falcon monitoring in Detroit, the return of Bald Eagles to Detroit, and Common Terns on Belle Isle. We also heard from our Young Birder Scholarship recipients and National Audubon's Teacher Scholarship recipient.

Guy Williams, our keynote speaker and CEO of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, took us on a history tour of environmental justice in the City of Detroit. We learned just how closely conservation is tied to environmental justice. For example, planting a buffer of trees to surround an industrial zone not only beautifies the neighborhood and creates habitat for wildlife, but also acts as a carbon sink, cleaning the neighborhood's air and reducing negative health impacts of air pollution, like asthma. It was a very powerful and inspirational talk that tied the many themes of our conference together, showing us how all our goals intersect towards making Detroit a healthier, greener city for both birds and people.

We'd like to thank all our partners who help made this wonderful event possible:

Allen Chartier, Barb Baldinger, Belle Isle Nature Zoo, City of Detroit Planning Department, Corrin Jessen, Detroit Future City, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Detroit Zoological Society, Friends of Ojibway Prairie, Greening of Detroit, Jared Zaporski, Lindemann Elementary School, the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Zakiya Jackson. We would also like to thank the Sandwich Guy for catering the event!

Grassland Bird Surveys in Our Metroparks

By Erin Rowan

Detroit Audubon will be returning to Oakwoods Metropark in June of 2017 for our third year of surveying grassland birds!

Over 250 million acres of tallgrass prairie has been lost to agriculture, invasive species, poor management and the expansion of urban landscapes. An estimated 80% of short grass prairie has been converted to agriculture. Much of what remains of grasslands in our region is fragmented, often in small patches that are not large enough for breeding bird territories. Forty-two species of birds in North America rely on grassland habitat for nesting and are in serious decline. The good news is that multiple studies have found grassland habitat restoration to be successful, especially if a mosaic of grassland types is grown together.

Oakwoods Metropark is actively managing its grasslands by reducing invasive shrubs and increasing the presence of native grasses and flowers each year. Our monitoring efforts aim to track their management's success over the course of many years.

If you are interested in volunteering with us as a Grassland Bird Surveyor, please reach out to our Research Coordinator, Erin Rowan, at erowan@detroitaudubon.org or at 313-800-1578. We especially need help from experienced birders, but please don't hesitate to reach out if you're a novice! We can arrange for some training in bird identification prior to the start of the field season.

Children's Hospital Programming

By Terra Weiland

We are pleased to be continuing Environmental Education Programming at the Children's Hospital of Michigan! As the young patients are recovering, Detroit Audubon is bringing nature inside to them.

Our first lesson focused on how to use binoculars and identify common birds in Michigan. We also read many bird storybooks! During our second visit right before Halloween, Detroit Audubon visited again and this time our lesson focused on owls. The children made owl masks, listened to owl calls, and learned why owls can fly so silently (it's because of their feathers!). Our next visit will focus on beak adaptations. We will be exploring questions with the children like: Why are some beaks so good at one particular job, and can you predict what a bird will eat based on its beak?



If you would like to volunteer for Detroit Audubon Nature Programming at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, please send an email to our Program Coordinator at tweiland@DetroitAudubon.org

Project FeederWatch: It's Time to Get the Birdseed!

By Erin Rowan

Project FeederWatch is organized by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. A Citizen Science project, much like the Christmas Bird Count, project FeederWatch encourages people to put up a bird feeder in their yard and periodically count the birds they see at their feeder. This is a winter-long survey, beginning as early as November through early April. Data is sent to Project FeederWatch to join a larger database that can help scientists track the movements of wintering birds over a large geographic range as well as trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Are you interested in participating? Here's what you need to know!

1. All age levels and birding skill levels are welcome!
2. You can monitor your bird feeder as frequently or infrequently as you'd like; you create your schedule.
3. Materials you will need: bird feeder, bird bath, or bird-enticing plants.
4. There is an annual participation fee of \$18 which goes towards materials (your Research Kit), staff support, web design, data analysis and the year-end report.
5. Your Research Kit will include a welcome letter, a FeederWatch Handbook and Instructions, a full-color poster of common feeder birds, and a bird watching calendar, to help you keep track of your FeederWatch days.
6. This year, Wild Birds Unlimited, a Detroit Audubon and Cornell Laboratory partner, is offering \$15 off any purchase of \$50 or more at their participating stores, to all FeederWatch participants, which will offset much of your annual fee! This offer expires on February 28, 2017.

To participate in FeederWatch, you can register online at: <http://feederwatch.org/join-or-renew/>

Detroit Audubon is happy to announce that we are working with four classrooms in Detroit this winter participating in Project Feederwatch! Detroit Audubon is covering the participation fee and providing materials (bird feeder, seeds, and identification chart). Terra, our Program Coordinator, will be regularly visiting students throughout the winter for science, math, and literacy lessons around Project Feederwatch. Students are observing the bird feeders and recording the data. Their first assignment is to report on a "Mystery Bird" that they can't identify. We have asked them to write a detailed description of the "Mystery Bird". The experts at Detroit Audubon will help identify their bird!

If you have any questions about how to participate in FeederWatch, please contact our Research Coordinator, Erin Rowan at erowan@detroitaudubon.org or 313-800-1578.



White-crowned Sparrow
in winter plumage. Bruce
Szczecowski photo

The Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 17-20, 2017

By Erin Rowan

A 4-day event coordinated by National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Great Backyard Bird Count invites people all over the world to record their bird observations for just 15 minutes in their own backyard! All ages and birding levels are welcome to participate, and you can participate on any or all of the four days of this international birding event!

This year, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held on Friday, February 17th through Monday, February 20th. You can submit your backyard observations online at: gbbc.birdcount.org. Last year, over 160,000 people participated in the GBBC globally, and provided scientists with the largest international snapshot of bird populations ever recorded!

Please visit the GBBC website gbbc.birdcount.org for more information on how you can participate.

If you have any questions about how you can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, please contact our Research Coordinator at erowan@detroitaudubon.org or at 313-800-1578.

Shiver on the River

By Terra Weiland

On the first Saturday in February each year, the Friends of the Detroit River host Shiver on the River! This family-friendly event celebrates the Detroit River and its wildlife. Stop by the historic Belle Isle Casino Saturday, February 4th, 2017, 10 AM to 3 PM.

At the Detroit Audubon table, we will learning more about winter waterfowl. The Detroit River is vital habitat to thousands of waterfowl that winter on it every year. Test your Waterfowl ID skills with our quiz! We'll also be making DIY duck calls and leading short trips throughout the day to Gabriel Richard Park. Be sure to stop at Gabriel Richard Park while entering or leaving Belle Isle. There are some fantastic bird scopes and displays there, so you can get a good look at the waterfowl.

Other notable happenings at Shiver on the River include: a Coast Guard ice rescue and demonstration, environmental displays, and children's activities. This is a great day to get outside in the winter and learn more about the attractions on Belle Isle!



I have also loved helping Erin with her research monitoring birds. Two days a week we meet around 7:00 AM and stand in the cold for an hour recording the birds we see. It does not sound great, but I love how much I am learning. I can now use shape, behavior, and flight pattern to help me determine a bird species. I love learning the bird calls so much, I am reviewing them on the Internet in my free time. This research has been an especially great learning experience, and has shown me that I might want to pursue a career with research.

Overall, my time with Detroit Audubon has been extremely enjoyable and rewarding. I highly recommend volunteering or interning with Detroit Audubon to anyone. This semester is actually my last before I graduate. Although I will be completely done with undergraduate school in December, I am sure I will continue working with Detroit Audubon.

(L) Ava at Open Streets. Below, with a Southwest Detroit class, and staffing a table at Swift Night Out with Detroit Audubon President Jim Bull.



My Semester in Detroit with Detroit Audubon

By Ava Landgraf

The University of Michigan Semester in Detroit program offers students the chance to leave the Ann Arbor bubble for a semester and experience the culture and complexities of Detroit. The students take a class on Detroit history, along with other options, such as a creative writing or environmental justice class. The focus of Semester in Detroit is the internship experience, which allows students to receive school credit for working with a Detroit company or nonprofit. The program director works with each student individually to find an internship that fits their interests and aspirations. I came to Detroit with this program at the beginning of September to work with Detroit Audubon.

One of my favorite tasks with Detroit Audubon has been lesson and program planning. I loved making owl masks for the Boo at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo event, and an Owl Jeopardy game for the Owl Prowl. Terra and I have visited a couple of classrooms so far and taken the students on walks to look for birds. We are excited to soon start talking about ideas such as habitat, adaptation, and migration! As we continue working with these classes, we hope to spark an interest in nature and science.



November Owl Prowl and Young Birder's Pizza Party

By Terra Weiland

In November, Detroit Audubon President Jim Bull and naturalist Kevin Arnold led an Owl Prowl at Oakwoods Metropark. Despite the first snowfall of the year and cold weather, over 50 people attended!

On Owl Prowls like this one, there's no guarantee of owls showing up, since they are wild animals. If you're lucky (and we often are), you can hear owls answer back to the call—and sometimes even come in close enough to get a good view of them.

We started the evening with a Young Birders pizza party. Ava Landgraf, our intern from Semester in Detroit, put together a game of Owl Jeopardy. Despite some tough questions, our Young Birders knew quite a bit! Can you answer some of the questions from the game?

Q: Which is generally larger: male or female owls

A: Females are generally larger

Q: What is the purpose of tufts on some owl species?

A: Camouflage

Q: What is the name of the owl who asked, "How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?"

A: Mr. Owl

After the pizza party and trivia game, our Young Birders joined the rest of the field trip. Kevin Arnold began the Owl Prowl by showing us beautifully preserved specimens, giving a short lesson about Owl Natural History, and explaining what owl species we would be looking for that night: the Eastern Screech Owl. Then, we bundled up and moved outside.



We walked out on the trails, letting our eyes adjust to the darkness. Kevin played a recording of an Eastern Screech Owl, hoping one nearby would hear it and be offended that another owl was in its territory!

At the first stopping place, the only response to our owl calling was a young infant on the walk mimicking the call with delight. However, at the second stopping place, we heard an Eastern Screech Owl call back! For several minutes, we heard the nearby Owl hoot back at us, which is always a thrilling experience.

Left: Playing Owl Jeopardy at the Owl Prowl.

Above, an owl skull, part of the display brought by Kevin Arnold.



Swift Monitoring: What's Next?

By Erin Rowan

Chimney Swifts, like many other bird species in North America, are in decline. A bit of a mystery bird, the Chimney Swift spends most of its life on the wing, and not much is known about its ecology. They nest and roost within...you guessed it, chimneys! While nesting, they are territorial—you rarely find two pairs of Swifts in one chimney! However, when they are migrating south for the winter and roosting along their migration route, you can find upwards of 20,000 individuals in a single smokestack!

Some possible causes of the decline in their numbers include a lack of breeding habitat (chimneys!), as many homes are now built without chimneys; and newly built chimneys are often lined with sleek materials, which prevents the birds from landing. Many chimney tops are also being covered with wire mesh, or capped, which also prevents Chimney Swifts from nesting.

Another possible reason for their decline is climate change. With Spring arriving earlier, insect populations might be peaking out of synch with the swift's migration habits.

Detroit Audubon's partnership with the Swift Sanctuary in Farmington Hills is expected to continue into 2017. The smokestack at the Swift Sanctuary is the largest roosting site of Chimney Swifts in North America. We are grateful that our volunteer, Larry Schwitters, has been monitoring the swifts remotely using our live camera within the chimney. See below for his 2015-2016 data comparison chart!



As swifts circle down into the stack, live video from inside the chimney is projected on the wall.

Overall, our maximum numbers were similar each year, with swifts arriving and departing at roughly the same time. Arrival and departure times were more spread out in 2015 than 2016, but it is too soon to say more with so little data. We hope that over time we will witness trends and changes in Chimney Swift arrival time and population density that may give us insight into the cause of their decline.

We are hoping to expand our Swift Monitoring efforts in 2017 beyond our partnership with the Swift Sanctuary. We are searching for a network of volunteers who would be interested in leading the effort to locate new roosting sites of Chimney Swifts in SE Michigan that we can monitor during the Fall (August - October) to expand our database. We will also be reaching out to other organizations that are currently monitoring Chimney Swifts in the state of Michigan to collaborate on creating a database that will provide us with regional—and eventually national—population estimates for this enigmatic little bird!

If you are interested in being a volunteer for our Chimney Swift monitoring expansion, please contact Research Coordinator Erin Rowan at erowan@detroitaudubon.org or at 313-800-1578.

Swift Night Out at the Swift Sanctuary

By Terra Weiland

In September, Detroit Audubon and the Swift Sanctuary of Farmington co-sponsored Swift Night Out. This was a fun-filled, two-night celebration of the spectacular roosting Chimney Swifts at the Swift Sanctuary in Farmington, MI. The Swift Sanctuary chimney is the largest known Chimney Swift roost in North America. We had festive birding nights unlike any other!

Detroit Audubon had a table at the Swift festival both nights and presented a program on the natural history of Chimney Swifts. Both nights started off with music and a festive atmosphere, leading up to the descent of over 14,000 Chimney Swifts into the chimney to roost for the night.

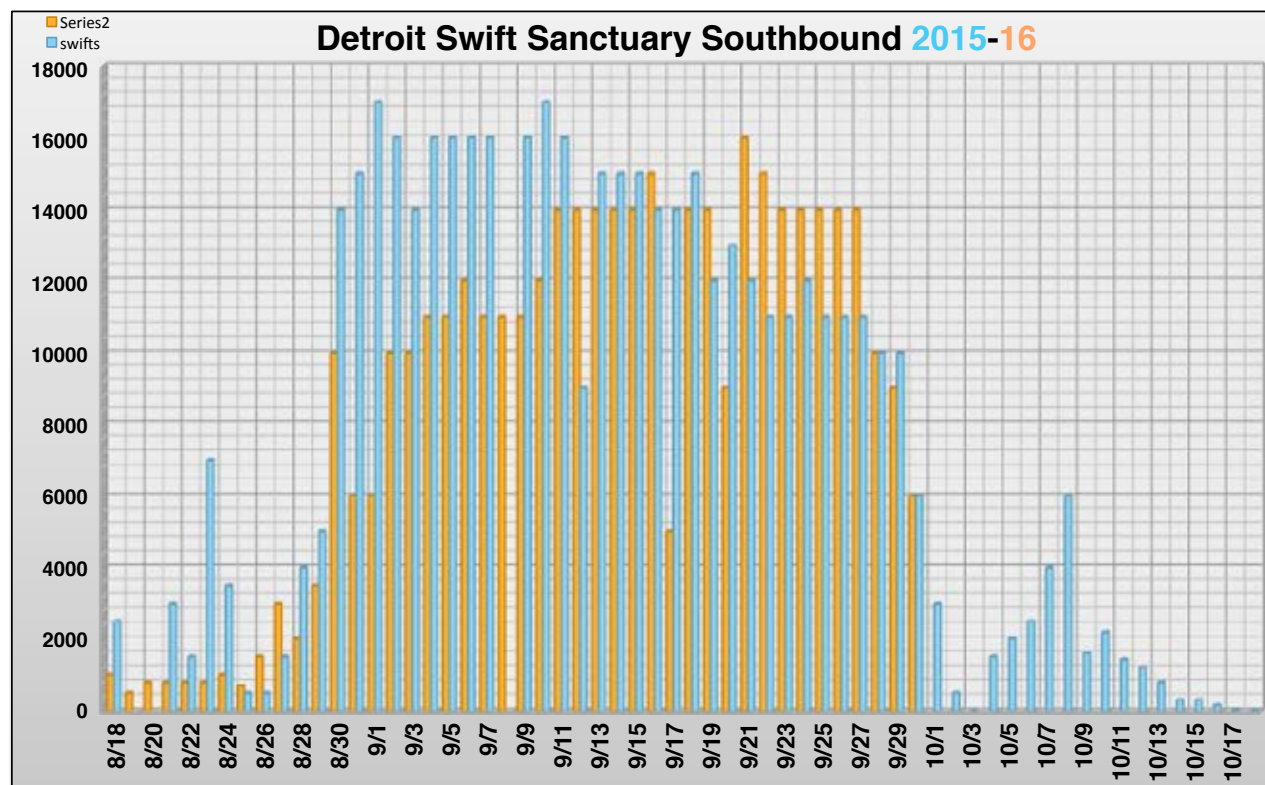
As the swifts went down into the chimney, we projected video from the inside using the Stephen Stackpole Memorial Chimney Swift Live Cam. This live feed is underwritten by Detroit Audubon in partnership with the Swift Sanctuary in Farmington Hills, MI, and is named in memory of Stephen Stackpole, whose generous

bequest makes this live feed possible. You can also see live footage on Detroit Audubon's website from April to October, when Chimney Swifts are using the roost.

This event was a wild success! Over 500 people came out to celebrate Chimney Swifts with Detroit Audubon, and our friends at the Swift Sanctuary in Farmington, Michigan.



Over 500 people enjoyed the show!



DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY 2016 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Detroit Audubon field trips offer fantastic year-round birding opportunities. We visit renowned regional hotspots during the migration season. Other trips focus on the many interesting resident species. All trips are free, unless otherwise noted. Everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders!

If you want to carpool or are willing to let somebody else ride with you (especially on field trips farther afield) let us know.

Please note that the schedule is subject to change. Please RSVP by 5 pm the day before each trip so we'll know how many to expect and can notify you of any changes. You can find an RSVP link in each field trip description at <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/birding/field-trips/> or email us at Staff@DetroitAudubon.org.

Rockwood Christmas Bird Count Reservations Required Monday, December 26, 2015**

Detroit Audubon co-sponsors this annual count of the 15 mile diameter circle including Grosse Ile, Lake Erie Metropark, Trenton, Rockwood, South Rockwood, Newport, and Oakwoods Metropark. A chili lunch and dinner will be provided.

Public hike: 9 AM to 11 AM Go to <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count/> to register for the morning hike. Details about where to meet will be sent to those who register.

Feeder Count: If you live in the count area (see above) and have a bird feeder, you can count birds right from the comfort of your own home (the best way for many songbirds). If you can help with the feeder count, email Jim Bull at jbull@detroitaudubon.org or call him at 313-928-2950.

All-day Rockwood Christmas Bird Count. If you are an experienced birder, many routes need more coverage (some are not covered at all due to lack of volunteer counters). To participate in the all-day count, contact count compiler Tom Carpenter at tcarpen1980@yahoo.com or at (734) 728-8733 for an assignment.

Point Mouillee

Saturday, January 14 - 9 AM-12 noon

Leaders: Bruce Szczechowski and Jim Bull

This our first winter field trip to Point Mouillee—a great birding venue in every season. On this trip we will be looking for Short-eared owls, Northern Harriers, and wintering ducks, as well as winter finches. Since we will caravan to drive along the dikes, reservations are required; and 25 people (or however many we can squeeze into four vehicles) is our limit. We may rent a van, which may entail a small fee for participation.



Elmwood Cemetery

Wednesday, January 25, 10 AM

Leader: Terra Weiland

This is one in a series of walks to explore the birds, unique landmarks, and history of this beautiful 86-acre cemetery which is among the top “must-see” historic sites in Detroit. Designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead and dedicated in 1846, the cemetery provides a unique opportunity to experience the nature, culture, and history of Detroit.

Location: 1200 Elmwood Avenue, Detroit, MI 48207. Park near the cemetery headquarters or on the road along the edge of the pond.

Belle Isle, Detroit (part of Shiver on the River)

Saturday, February 4, 2017 - 9-11 AM

Leader: Jim Bull

The Detroit River is one of the key wintering areas for waterfowl in North America, and Belle Isle is a very convenient location to take this in without having to go too far from your vehicle.

Directions: Take Jefferson to the Belle Isle Bridge. Cross over, drive around the northeast end of the island and park in the Nature Center parking lot. Plan to go to Shiver on the River at the Belle Isle Casino afterwards, where Detroit Audubon will have a booth and activities.

Belle Isle Casino & Gabriel Richard Park (part of Shiver on the River)

Saturday, February 4, 2017 - 10 AM-4 PM Leaders: TBA

Join us for presentations about wintering waterfowl of the Detroit River in a collaborative program with Detroit Audubon, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy at the Belle Isle Casino or Belle Isle Nature Zoo. There will be 15-minute tours of Gabriel Richard Park with the birding interpretive sign and spotting scopes sponsored by the three groups. Check the Detroit Audubon exhibit table at Shiver on the River for the schedule.

Location: across from Belle Isle (just east of the Belle Isle bridge)

Elmwood Cemetery

Saturday, February 11, 2017 - 10 AM

Leader: Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator Terra Weiland

This is one in a series of walks to explore the birds, unique landmarks, and history of this beautiful Detroit cemetery. Other Elmwood trips are March 9; April 15; May 9, 13 and 27. Summer field trips will be announced in the next issue. See *Jan. 25* trip for description and location.

Elmwood Cemetery

Saturday, March 11th, 2017 - 9 AM

Leader: Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator Terra Weiland

Another in a series of walks to explore the birds, unique landmarks, and history of this beautiful 86-acre cemetery. See *Jan. 25* trip for description and location.

Owl Prowl - Grosse Ile, MI

Saturday, March 11, 2017 - 7:00 PM

Leader: Jim Bull

Great Horned Owls will have been nesting since early February, Barred Owls will just be beginning, and Screech Owls will be getting ready to nest. Since they are defending territories, playing an owl tape or imitating their calls will likely bring them in where we can see them by lantern light. Meet at St. James Episcopal Church for a brief slide program on owls. Please go to DetroitAudubon.org/birding/field-trips/ by March 7th to make reservations.

Directions: Take I-75 to West Road (exit 32A) and take West Road into Trenton. Turn right at Jefferson, then left at Grosse Ile Parkway. Cross the bridge and, when you come to a “T,” turn right on East River Road. St. James is on your right at 25150 East River Rd., Grosse Ile Township. Use the driveway on the north end of the church and come in the side entrance.

Frog Symphony, West Bloomfield Nature Preserve

Friday April 7, 2017 - 7:00 PM

Leaders: Sally Petrella (Friends of the Rouge), West Bloomfield Naturalist Lauren Azoury, and Jim Bull

Join us for an evening of listening to and searching for frogs. We often see salamanders, Wood Ducks, herons and owls. Co-sponsored by Detroit Audubon Society and Friends of the Rouge. This program is especially good for children.

Directions: From Telegraph Road, go west on Long Lake Road to where it dead-ends at Orchard Lake. Turn left. At the next traffic light, turn right onto Pontiac Trail and look for the sign “West Bloomfield Nature Preserve” at Arrowhead Road. Follow signs to the preserve parking lot.

Elmwood Cemetery
Friday, April 14 - 9 AM
Leader: Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator

Yet another in a series of walks in this beautiful cemetery. See *Jan. 25* trip for description and location.

Woodcock Watch—Oakwoods Metropark
Friday, April 21, 2017 - 7:30 PM
6 PM Young Birder's Club Pizza Party (see Young Birder's Club article)
Leaders: Park Naturalist and Jim Bull jbull@detroitaudubon.org

Right at dusk, this sandpiper with a long beak and huge comical eyes does its spectacular aerial courtship display in open areas. This program is great for families with children.



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.

Elmwood Cemetery
Sunday April 30 - 9 AM
Leader: Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator

Another in a series of walks in this beautiful Detroit cemetery. Summer field trips will be announced in the next issue. See *Jan. 25* trip for description and location.

Elmwood Cemetery
Tuesday, May 9, 2017 - 5:30 PM
Leader: Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator

Another chance to explore the birds, unique landmarks, and history of this beautiful Detroit landmark. Summer field trips will be announced in the next issue. See *Jan. 25* trip for description and location.



Great Horned Owl.
Sharon Korte photo

Rusty Blackbird.
Bruce Szczechowski photo



Christmas Bird Count

By Erin Rowan

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is entering its 117th year of existence! Originally created in 1900 by ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, the Christmas Bird Count replaced an old holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." The Christmas "Side Hunt" was a wildlife census where people would go to an area and shoot all the wildlife in their path, a popular strategy back in the 1800s. Frank Chapman and others had observed a decline in bird populations and suggested a change in methodology, establishing the first ever Christmas Bird Count.

Conservation efforts have grown tremendously since 1900, as has the reach of the Christmas Bird Count! The CBC is primarily conducted by citizen scientists, like yourself, in conjunction with an Audubon chapter. Data is then sent to National Audubon, which has been managing this extensive database that has contributed to many studies regarding bird populations. CBC data has been listed as one of the 26 indicators of climate change by the Environmental Protection Agency and was also used in the American Bird Conservation Initiative's and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State of the Birds Report in 2009. This long-term data set provides us with population trends for hundreds of species of birds in North America, many of which are in decline.

Detroit Audubon is happy and proud to support the Detroit Christmas Bird Count and the Rockwood Christmas Bird Count in 2016 (December 18th and December 26th, respectively). Our Research Coordinator will be covering the International Wildlife Refuge portion of the Rockwood Christmas Bird Count, which includes Humbug Marsh and the Gibraltar Wetlands Unit. If you are interested in volunteering with either Christmas Bird Count this year, please reach out to our Research Coordinator, Erin Rowan, at erowan@detroitaudubon.org or 313-800-1578. We especially need help from experienced birders, but please don't hesitate to reach out if you're a novice! We can arrange for some training in bird identification prior to the start of the count.

Special Thanks to our Flyway Volunteers!

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from Detroit
Audubon
visit our
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often:**

www.detroitaudubon.org

Donation Items Needed:

COLOR COPIER: We really need a color copier to make flyers and handouts for our programs. At present we have to pay high prices to have such items copied at KINKOS or Office Max, and there is considerable time and mileage cost involved to get to these stores and back. It would save time and money to just be able to run off 20-50 copies of a flyer on a copy machine. Doing this on our inkjet printers is way too expensive as well. If you have upgraded to a color copier, and have one available you could donate, we would welcome the donation! If you have a copier you can donate, or know somebody who has one who would like to donate it, please send us the details at staff@detroitaudubon.org.

SOUND SYSTEM: We could use a lightweight, compact sound system to take with us to outdoor events—and even to indoor events where a sound system is not available. This will save us much time trying to find one to borrow, and the expense of renting one if we can't find one on loan. If you have a sound system that meets these requirements, please let us know at staff@detroitaudubon.org.

Shop Online and Help Detroit Audubon (Without Spending a Penny More!)

Instead of signing on to Amazon to do your online shopping, sign on to Amazon Smiles (<https://smile.amazon.com>).

When you first go to this site you can choose Detroit Audubon as your charity. Then, when you sign on to Amazon via this portal, a portion of the proceeds (of the same amount you'd pay on regular Amazon) will go to help Detroit Audubon.

It's a fast and easy way to support Detroit Audubon!



Other Noel Night activities and events at Cass Corridor Commons included: headlining performance by Detroit's "Queen of Soul and R&B" Thoretta Davis, pop-up holiday SWAP! by FreeMarket of Detroit, and eco-friendly arts and crafts workshops.

The Cass Corridor Commons serves as a multi-use, nonprofit cultural institution for cross-sectional movement work in Detroit. The Commons strives to provide a safe and inclusive place for people of all identities, and to embody principles of social and environmental justice. Detroit Audubon is proud to have an office at the Cass Corridor Commons.

Boo at the Zoo 2016

By Terra Weiland



All of us at Detroit Audubon were excited to be back at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo this fall for the 8th annual Boo at the Zoo! Over 1,000 adults and children came through the Nature Zoo on Oct. 29th for this family friendly event. Children came in costumes with their families and went trick-or-treating at tables sponsored by various organizations, all with an environmental theme.

At the Detroit Audubon table, we made owl masks and invited the families to join us at other future programs, like one of our Owl Prowls! The young trick-or-treaters used construction paper feathers to decorate their owl masks. Our table was stationed next to the bird observation window at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo, so we invited guests to borrow binoculars to get an even closer look at the wildlife outside the window. This was a great event for families to learn more about birding and about the Detroit Audubon Young Birders Program!

Along with the bird observation window, the Belle Isle Nature Zoo also features indoor animal habitats, a beehive exhibit, a native pollinator garden, and fallow deer. Definitely a fun family visit, even when there's no trick-or-treating!



Noel Night 2016

By Terra Weiland

Detroit Audubon was part of the 44th annual Noel Night at Cass Corridor Commons! Noel Night is an evening of fun, family-friendly festivities during the holiday season.

Detroit Audubon kicked off the event with a Midtown Bird Walk at 3 PM, celebrating birds found within the city of Detroit. After the bird walk, we set up our Traveling Nature Bookstore—perfect for finding the right gift! We also spoke with folks attending Noel Night about how to start bird watching, and invited them along on future field trips. Children that stopped by our table made pinecone bird feeders to take home.



Spend Earth Day April 22, 2017 with Detroit Audubon!

Save the date, Saturday April 22, the actual Earth Day, will be the date of our next Annual Conference. The conference will be held at the Downriver Campus of Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) on Northline Road in Southgate, MI.

WCCCD's Continuing Education Department is cosponsoring the event. It will be an all-day affair starting with an 8 a.m. field trip to the natural areas right on the campus and continuing until 3 p.m.

There will be an option to buy lunch. Keep tuned to our website and Facebook pages for more details, as well as our next issue of the *Flyway*.



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.

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 Staff@DetroitAudubon.org 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.

Young Birders at Kensington: Bird Hand Feeding and Special Guest

By Ava Landgraf

At the end of October, Detroit Audubon and Oakland Audubon co-hosted a great event at the Kensington Metropark. We started our afternoon with delicious apple cider and donuts. After the snacks we settled down for a presentation about our special guest: Blue the Blue Jay.

Blue was rescued as a chick and brought to a bird rehabilitation center; however, she became too comfortable with people, and could not be released back to the wild. Blue has since become a beloved education animal. She visits people, allowing them an up-close look at an amazing creature while discussing the proper ways to help an injured or orphaned bird (If you have questions about this, check out the Detroit Audubon Website!). The Young Birders even took pictures with Blue!

After the presentation we all headed outside to feed the birds. The birds at Kensington have learned that humans are

not dangerous and will even sit on your hand to grab some seeds. Chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches all came by for the food. As long as you held your hand up high and waited patiently, you could guarantee someone would land in your hand, grab a seed, and fly off.



MYSTERY BIRD

We see the Bonaparte's Gull only in migration, although it may stay all winter if there is open water. They nest throughout most of central to NW Canada into Alaska, mostly in coniferous trees in and around bogs or muskeg. This is the smallest of our common gulls and is often considered tern-like because of its size and delicate flight pattern. We see it in spring migration when the adult breeding birds have black heads (March to early June) and in the fall, when they have white heads with a large black dot behind their eye (late July through December). Also, unlike other gulls, they do not frequent garbage dumps, or scavenge carrion or refuse. It feeds mostly on insects, but will eat other invertebrates and small fish. Their legs are bright reddish. The gull was named in honor of Charles Lucien Bonaparte, a distant cousin of Napoleon, who made substantial contributions to the study of ornithology in the 1800s.

If you see a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, look them over carefully, as in their midst one can sometimes find a solitary Little Gull, which is conspicuous in flight and can be recognized by its dark underwings. The Little Gull was known to nest in Michigan, usually in and around Black Tern colonies, but was not found breeding when Michigan's 1991 Breeding Bird Atlas was compiled. Its normal range is in Europe but it is a species that has been referred to as undertaking a natural experiment to see if it can become established firmly in North America.

Bruce Szczechowski photo