



**DETROIT  
AUDUBON**

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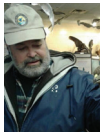
Spring 2017 • Vol. 2017, Issue 1

# Flyway

## DETROIT AUDUBON'S 2017 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION/TEACH-IN - "SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!"

**Celebrate the 47th Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 at the Downriver Campus Wayne County Community College, 21000 Northline Rd., Taylor, MI**

In collaboration with the Continuing Education Department at Wayne County Community College District, Detroit Audubon presents the annual Earth Day Celebration and Teach-In April 22, to help educate the community about the environment and celebrate our precious planet. Presentations and events include.



**Don Sherwood M.S.**, retired Community College Professor of Biology and Downriver resident, is a lifelong birder with experience as an assistant bird bander and raptor rehabilitator. Presently he is a volunteer counter with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual Detroit River Hawkwatch at Lake Erie Metropark. Sherwood knows the

flora and fauna surrounding the WCCC Downriver Campus, where he has observed over 130 bird species over three decades.



**Ancilleno (Leno) Davis, M.Sc.** is an educator, capacity builder, and conservationist from the Bahamas. He was introduced to bird monitoring and conservation through the Kirtland's Warbler Bahamian Research and Training Program. He holds degrees in environmental science and is a Ph.D. candidate at Miami University in

Oxford, OH. With 15 years' experience bringing local perspectives to international conservation issues, he fosters conservation efforts in the Bahamas, has participated in conservation conferences around the Caribbean and in the USA and in conservation capacity building in 11 countries and territories. He serves as a Director at Large to BirdsCaribbean and started Bahamians Educated in Natural and Geospatial Science (BEINGS).



**Dr. Larissa Larsen** is Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning and Natural Resources at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She teaches graduate classes in environmental/land use planning, and physical planning and design. She began a green infrastructure planning project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and oversees

graduate community-based projects in Detroit neighborhoods. Larissa's research focuses on environmental inequities in the built environment and advancing urban sustainability and social justice. Most of her current work involves climate adaptation planning and urban heat island studies. In 2012, she and her students worked with the US Green Building Council to write *Green Building and Climate Resilience*. She will speak on recent research on urban vegetative buffers to mitigate pollution-related health problems.



**Dr. John H. Hartig**, Manager, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, is a member of Detroit Audubon Advisory Board and Great Lakes Safe Passage Committee. A trained limnologist, Dr. Hartig has spent 30 years in environmental science and natural resource management. He was River Navigator for the Greater

Detroit American Heritage River Initiative, and worked for the International Joint Commission on the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. As an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University, he taught Environmental Management and Sustainable Development. His publications include *Ecological Benefits of Contaminated Sediments Remediation*; *Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban Industrial Rivers That Caught on Fire*; and *Bringing Conservation to Cities: Lessons from Building the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge*; and he edited the anthology *Honoring Our Detroit River: Caring for Our Home*. He won numerous conservation awards.



**Julie Beutel**, folksinger and peace and justice activist, is well known locally for singing at many peace and justice rallies. She produces concerts for other local musicians, hosting house concerts in Detroit. She has a rich and expressive voice. She is also an accomplished actress, including playing Clara Ford in the opera, "The Forgotten," narrating documentaries, and doing other voiceover work. She is fluent in Spanish, having lived in Spain for one year and Nicaragua for two years. She has performed at other Detroit Audubon conferences, most recently at the Detroit Zoo.

**Joe Rogers** received a biology degree from Central Michigan University, and spent many years in the field studying raptors, including nest studies of Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and owls. Through Michigan's Nongame Wildlife Fund, and in conjunction with the Ottawa National Forest, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and The Nature Conservancy, Joe spent almost 30 years working on reintroduction and monitoring of Peregrine Falcons at Michigan's Wild Sites. Joe has received numerous awards for his educational presentations with live birds of prey, designed to capture the audience's interest so that they might become stewards of our environment and protectors of the natural world.



Joe Rogers giving a live bird demonstration.

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE 8:00 AM-2:00 PM:

- 8-8:45 a.m. Bird Hike** in Natural Area with Don Sherwood
- 8:45-9 a.m. Registration**, Ray Mix Room (where the program will be held)
- 9 a.m. Welcome**, Dr. James Bull and WCCCD Representative
- 9:15-10:00 Ancilleno (Leno) Davis**, Preserving "Our Michigan" Birds in the Bahamas, Bahamian and Caribbean Conservation
- 10-10:25 Dr. Larissa Larsen**, Can Trees Improve Your Health?
- 10:30-11:10 Julie Beutel**, Earth Day: A Musical Celebration
- 11:15-Noon Lunch** Detroit Audubon Update, Young Birder Scholarship Winner
- 12:10-12:40 Dr. John Hartig**, Urban Bird Treaty City Designation, update on Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
- 12:45-1:45 Joe Rogers**—Live Hawk and Owl Demonstration
- 1:45 Closing Remarks**

For more information or to order a lunch (Steak or Bean Tacos, salad and fruit dessert) go to: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/annualconference/>

# Flyway

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Original articles, photos and artwork are welcome. Email to

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**Summer Issue Deadline:** June 1st, 2017

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## BULLY PULPIT SPRING FLYWAY 2017: RANGE OF ACTIONS

**By Detroit Audubon President, Dr. James N. (Jim) Bull, PhD**

In her acceptance speech for the President's Award at our recent Awards Banquet, former State Representative Rashida Taib had an important message. She told us that, particularly in these times when environmental protections are under assault, it is important to be creative in taking action, and to employ a variety of strategies. She added that, although she still believes in electoral politics, sometimes the most effective action is to do civil disobedience and get arrested to call attention to the issue and get action.

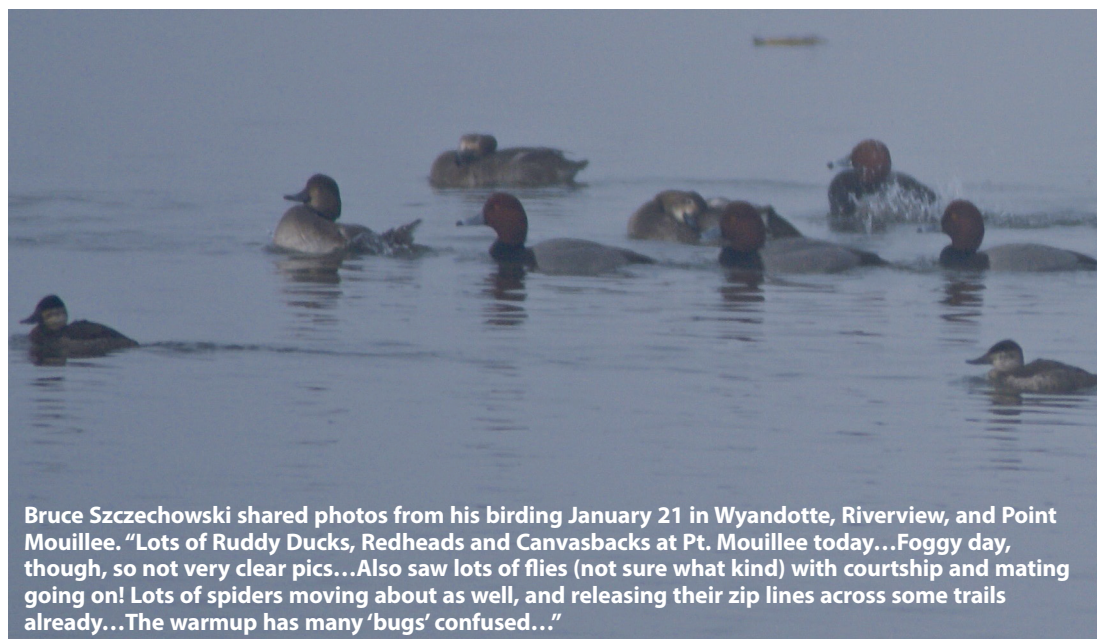
Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel, Senior Pastor of Central United Methodist Church, our host for the dinner, welcomed us to that historic peace and justice church. Most of Central's former pastors had been arrested; she had not been arrested yet, but is working on it.

Although it has a storied history in the United States, starting with the Boston Tea Party and Henry David Thoreau, employed to great effect by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the civil rights movement, and in the more recent environmental justice movement, civil disobedience is probably not in Detroit Audubon's DNA. However, I do think it is important that leaders and members of our organization learn how to use a wide variety of methods to be effective in our advocacy on behalf of birds and of a clean and healthy planet generally.

While it is unlikely that Detroit Audubon will become involved in civil disobedience, it is important to acknowledge that when other groups engage in those kind of actions, it sometimes raises the profile of those issues, and may motivate lawmakers to pay more attention to more mainstream policies advocated by groups like ours. For instance, while Audubon members never got into boats to confront fishermen who were inadvertently killing dolphins and intentionally killing whales, the fact that Greenpeace did those things may have made the country more amenable to responding to our more traditional approaches to those same issues. When Bill McKibben and others with 350.org were willing to get arrested to call attention to climate change, they put that issue front and center. They opened ears among the public and in legislative bodies to policies advocated by Audubon and other more traditional environmental groups. Together these different approaches to the same issue help make us all more effective. So there is value not only in biodiversity but in action diversity as well.

Probably more than most local chapters of National Audubon, Detroit Audubon has a long history of issue advocacy. Back in the 1940s, President Dr. Walter P. Nickell was urging cities in SE Michigan to enact leash ordinances to keep cats indoors to protect birds. Recent studies show that his concern about cats was prescient, but just as controversial today as it was over 70 years ago. We've offered rewards to catch poachers of hawks and owls, opposed hunting of Mourning Doves and wolves, called for a tuna boycott to save dolphins (thereby helping to launch a national campaign), opposed the Detroit incinerator—even joining a lawsuit against it with the Sierra Club, opposed the pet coke piles on the Detroit riverfront, and led an 8-year campaign to save Humbug Marsh, now the centerpiece of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge. We've had a long history of speaking at public hearings and of mounting letter-writing campaigns. Lately, with National Audubon's help, we successfully beat back an anti-biodiversity bill that passed the state legislature. Our email alert motivated many Audubon members around the state to call Governor Snyder to ask him to veto that bill—and he did! Audubon's alert and Audubon members' response was given much of the credit. Detroit Audubon members participated in marches on both the Humbug Marsh and pet coke issue. Carrying signs on wooden poles was new for us in those campaigns.

After the first Earth Day in 1970, a plethora of state and federal laws were passed to protect the environment, with major



Bruce Szczechowski shared photos from his birding January 21 in Wyandotte, Riverview, and Point Mouillee. "Lots of Ruddy Ducks, Redheads and Canvasbacks at Pt. Mouillee today...Foggy day, though, so not very clear pics...Also saw lots of flies (not sure what kind) with courtship and mating going on! Lots of spiders moving about as well, and releasing their zip lines across some trails already...The warmup has many 'bugs' confused..."



leadership coming from National Audubon and its many chapters, including Detroit Audubon. Michigan often took the lead in these efforts, especially with guidance from Dr. Joseph Sax, who started a whole new field—environmental law. The University of Michigan Law School became one of the first to offer a program in that new field. Sax and his students wrote or contributed to the writing of many of these landmark laws, with the particular genius of giving them teeth that would help guarantee that they had the desired effect. Sax's team wrote provisions allowing citizen lawsuits, and requiring that environmental impact studies be done and public input sought before an environmentally damaging project was given the green light.

Many of those laws, including the Endangered Species Act, are under attack today. Many have already been watered down by the courts, but even those weaker protections may be a thing of the past if we don't act effectively to defend them. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was itself a creation of the National Environmental Policy Act, largely authored by Sax and Michigan's longtime congressman John Dingell. The EPA would be abolished and the Act repealed under several recently introduced bills which now have a real possibility of passing and being signed into law. The appointees that now head the EPA, Interior Department, and the Energy Department seem to have disdain for their agency's important missions, and seem to want to undermine their effectiveness. We shall see.

As I wrote in my last column, we need to be vigilant; now we need to be effective as well. As an organization, we have not been as active lately in taking action on environmental policy issues, but that is in our Mission Statement and we need to build up that third leg of our mission stool (the other legs are research and education). That's why I hope that we soon will add an Environmental Policy Coordinator to our very effective Program Coordinator (Terra Weiland) and Research Coordinator (Erin Rowan).

In the meantime, I am so glad that the Audubon Great Lakes Office (headquartered in Chicago) recently hired a Climate Change Organizer for Michigan. Brian Merlos (see his article elsewhere in this issue) is not only stationed in Detroit, but for the time being shares our office. His job will be to engage Audubon members in Michigan to make a difference on climate change. Brian, along with the Policy Coordinator we hope to be able to hire soon, will work on engaging our members. One goal is to provide training and opportunities to learn and practice a variety of action strategies to help us be more effective in advocating for birds and the quality environment they need (and we humans need as well). Brian will also be working to engage and mobilize urban populations that have traditionally been underserved and under-represented in the Audubon movement. We will have to open our eyes and our hearts not just to the impact of climate change and pollution on birds, but on groups of marginalized humans as well, like those lead-poisoned children in Flint championed by our Conservationists of the Year, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Dr. Marc Edwards.

If we really care about these issues, and about this planet, many of our members will become trained, well-versed, and adept at employing a wide range of strategies in order to be as effective as we can be on these issues. There will soon be new opportunities to be trained and volunteer to take action more effectively to protect birds and the clean air, clean water, and other quality natural resources they depend on. Keep your eye on our webpage and Facebook page to learn the specifics. Are you excited and ready to take advantage of those opportunities?

And remember, the best motivator for environmental action is to experience and enjoy the birds and other wonders of nature, for it is in so doing that we become more intimately acquainted with what is truly at stake. That love born of experience is what will keep us going, whatever actions we choose to take.

In that spirit, I wish you happy spring, happy birding (this is THE best time of the year for that, right?), and happy action-taking, whatever form that fits for you. I invite you to join our field trips to bolster that appreciation and motivation, and join our efforts in environmental advocacy as well if you are so moved. I guarantee you will be in good company!

## DETROIT AUDUBON'S SPRING CAMPOUT AT POINT PEELEE NATIONAL PARK

Shake out your sleeping bags, count your tent poles and stakes, and join Detroit Audubon at Pt. Pelee National Park for our annual Pelee Spring Campout. This event is for tenters ONLY at the White Pine group campground. There will be plenty of migrating birds to watch, lots of camaraderie, and a nightly campfire (wood is provided).

**Dates: May 18-21, 3 nights total.**

**Cost is \$17 per person per night, 2 night minimum.**

Please send checks made out to Michael Fitzpatrick, 56 Hubbard St., Mt. Clemens, MI 48043. List names of all campers you are registering. Please include phone number and/or email address. Indicate which nights you want. A confirmation will follow. Camping is limited to 20 persons per night. Direct any serious questions to the camp leader, Lee Burton at [leejburton@charter.net](mailto:leejburton@charter.net).

## WHAT BIRD IS THIS?

Can you identify this bird? Take a guess and check the answer in this issue. Photo by Sandee Vartanian Busbiber



## SUPPORT AND CONNECT WITH DETROIT AUDUBON

**Shop at the Detroit Audubon bookstore.** Members receive a 10% discount!

**Support** the Annual Fundraising Appeal with a donation.

**Volunteer** to staff our table at conferences, help plan or host events, or assist in the office.

**Like Detroit Audubon on your Facebook page.**

**Follow Detroit Audubon on Twitter.**

**Explore our photo library on Flickr.**

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

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

*[Note: you must re-designate Detroit Audubon as your rewards recipient each year in April.]*

For more on how to help make a difference with Detroit Audubon, please go to

[www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org)

## 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.**

# Audubon

Guide to North American Birds

## AUDUBON ONLINE BIRD GUIDE

This online guide to North American birds features over 800 species of birds in 22 orders and 74 families.

The guide covers all of North America's regular breeding birds, as well as non-breeding species that regularly or occasionally visit North America, north of Mexico.

Use the link below to use the Guide.

[www.audubon.org/field-guide](http://www.audubon.org/field-guide)



## EARTHSHARE

EarthShare is a national non-profit organization with more than 25 years of experience in connecting people and workplaces with effective ways to support critical environmental causes.

Check it out...

<http://www.earthshare.org>

.....

# eBird

A joint project of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon, eBird is a site where you can upload your birding checklists so that they can be used as a scientific database to increase our understanding of birds and the problems they face.

Most Detroit Audubon field trip leaders upload their field trip bird lists to eBird.

A link is often provided in field trip reports so you can view the entire list of what was seen. It is also a great way to get a heads-up about what has been seen at a particular birding spot before you go there.

Go to [www.ebird.com](http://www.ebird.com) to explore this resource.

## SWIFT NIGHT OUT EVENT AND LIVE CAM, MAY 20TH

By Erin Rowan



It's springtime, and Detroit Audubon is getting ready for the Chimney Swifts to migrate back north and visit our partners at the Swift Sanctuary in Farmington, Michigan. This is the largest roosting site of Chimney Swifts in North America! As the swifts go down the chimney, we will get to see a live camera feed with the Stephen Stackpole Memorial Chimney Swift Live Cam, which you can find on our website ([www.detroitaudubon.org/](http://www.detroitaudubon.org/)) in April! This live feed is underwritten by Detroit Audubon in partnership with the Swift Sanctuary and is named in memory of Stephen Stackpole, whose generous bequest provided funding that makes this possible. You can see up to 50,000 swifts swirling in an avian cloud before tunneling down into the chimney of this historic winery! If you're interested in seeing the Chimney Swifts in person, Detroit Audubon will host one Swift Night Out on Saturday, May 20, at 7:30 PM; then another in September. Details will be posted on our website in the coming months: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/chimney-swifts/>.

## DETROIT AUDUBON MONTHLY NATURE PROGRAMS

Back by popular demand, Detroit Audubon and partners at Belle Isle Nature Center (formerly Belle Isle Nature Zoo) are hosting monthly Nature Programs on various birdy topics in 2017!

In January, our newest staff member, Erin Rowan, discussed her work with the Institute for Bird Populations, banding birds on the tropical island of Saipan; in February, our friend, Bruce Szczechowski shared his beautiful photographs and stories about the natural history and ecology of East African birds; in March, Jennifer Braatz from the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge talked about the many unique habitats loved by birds and birders alike that are found within the International Wildlife Refuge.

On April 6th, Detroit Audubon's new Safe Passage Chair, Heidi Trudell, will be giving a talk about Safe Passage: Great Lakes. Safe Passage works to reduce the incidence of collisions of night-migrating birds with illuminated buildings in the area. Heidi's work spans more than nighttime strikes; her talk will include other topics such as window collision prevention, wind farms, cats, and how dead birds can contribute to science! You can

These monthly nature programs are held the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at Belle Isle Nature Center. Programs are free and Detroit Audubon members and non-members are welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided. Attendance for these programs has grown each month and we encourage you to come join us at our next program!

For more information on upcoming Monthly Nature Programs or to RSVP, please visit our website at: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/monthly-membership-programs/> or kindly email us at [staff@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:staff@detroitaudubon.org).

## BLACK TERN MONITORING - 2017 SEASON

By Erin Rowan

Detroit Audubon and National Audubon's joint Black Tern Monitoring project is returning for the 2017 field season. This will mark our 5th year monitoring the population of Black Terns at St. Clair Flats on Harsens Island!

Detroit Audubon is pleased to announce that we were awarded a grant from National Audubon to support our Research Coordinator's efforts this summer. This funding will allow us to return to the field more often, use new technology, collect new data (i.e. water depth at nest sites) and capture more adults, which will help shed more light on what is pressuring this population and causing its decline.

While the terns have been nesting in the St. Clair flats for a long time, their populations in many areas have shown declines. Black Terns have seen a cumulative decline of just over 70% in the state of Michigan since 1966. They are now listed as a species of Special Concern in Michigan and have become the focus of Detroit Audubon's monitoring efforts. In order to monitor the terns, our long-term volunteer Randall Kling and, recently, Research Coordinator Erin Rowan, have gone to the flats each summer since 2013. Nests are found and monitored, eggs are measured, and adult and young Black Terns are banded throughout the breeding season. This will help give us a snapshot of the overall health of the population.

Volunteers who are comfortable working on a boat, exposed to the elements, are needed to assist our Research Coordinator in the field. If you are interested in volunteering on the Black Tern Monitoring project, please contact Erin Rowan at [erowan@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:erowan@detroitaudubon.org) or 313-800-1578.



Black Tern Chick, by Diane Cheklich



## NEW AUDUBON GREAT LAKES CLIMATE ORGANIZER SHARES DETROIT AUDUBON OFFICE

*By Brian Merlos*

Greetings from the National Audubon Society's newest staff member in Michigan. My name is Brian Merlos and I will be serving as the Climate Field Organizer in Michigan. I am excited to be working with this wonderful organization in this new role, working to protect our bird populations by combatting climate change. I grew up in Southeast Michigan and am a graduate of the University of Michigan (go blue!). During my short time at Audubon, so far, I have recognized that this is an incredibly passionate and committed community—truly dedicated to the conservation of birds.

While climate change threatens bird habitats and populations around the world, we can take action here at home to protect species most threatened by climate change. I am excited to develop programs that will take direct action in combatting climate change, but need your help!

The National Audubon Society set the ambitious (but achievable!) goal of planting 1 million native plants over the next three years. By planting native species we can provide a habitat that supports a lush and bountiful ecosystem that attracts native species, and keeps them here at home.

There will be an opportunity to use our bird spotting skills as Citizen Scientists. With our Climate Watch program, we will be using E-Bird to count the climate-threatened species we see. This will give us a better understanding of how our changing climate is impacting the local bird population.

Finally, there will be plenty of opportunities to engage and involve our local representatives so they can build the meaningful connection and develop an understanding of how birds rely on us to ensure that they can thrive for generations to come.

I want to conclude by letting you know that I am always available to hear your thoughts and ideas on how to develop these programs.

As a beginning birder, I know I have a lot to learn and hope that I can rely on you to give me the skills to be an ambassador for Audubon in Michigan. In turn, I hope to empower you to use your voice, passion, and expertise to be an advocate for birds in Michigan. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, ideas. I am always available by email at [bmerlos@audubon.org](mailto:bmerlos@audubon.org).

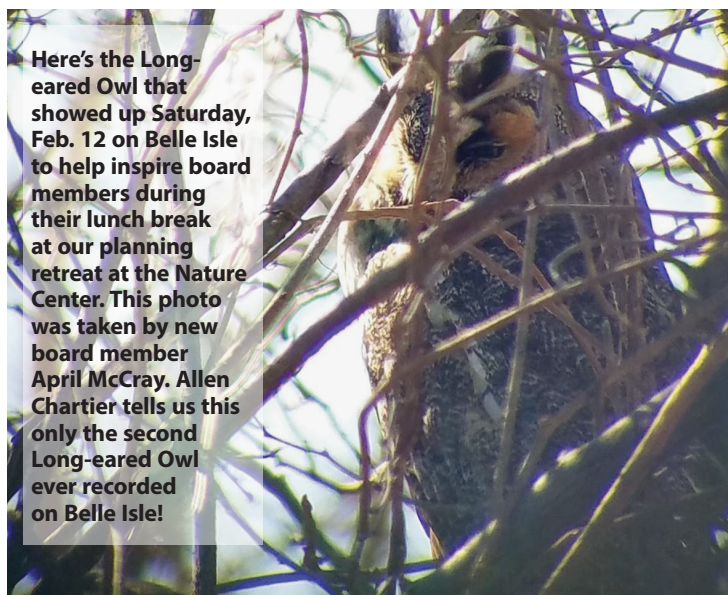
I am looking forward to birding with you!

## INTRODUCING DETROIT BIRD CITY!

Detroit Audubon is partnering with the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department on a new habitat restoration project. In its 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan, the City recommended that 19 of its unused parks be converted to "intentional meadows." Detroit Audubon's Conservation Committee proposed a pilot project, "Detroit Bird City," to assist in the conversion of five of those parks. The Detroit Audubon board approved the proposal at its February meeting.

The initial parks identified are: Bryant-Vermont, McKinley-Merrick, Wark, Lifitz, and Callahan. We plan to engage the community residents who live near those parks for their input and participation in the project. We also plan to include master gardeners and other Audubon volunteers as part of our project team.

The goal of Detroit Bird City is to convert the unused parks to native grasslands. We will replace the existing turf grass with native grasses and wildflowers. We also plan to work with residents to build and install bird and bat houses, and conduct bird counts. Ultimately our goal is to increase grassland bird populations in the City of Detroit and improve access to nature for nearby residents. If you're interested in volunteering for our Detroit Bird City project, please email Diane Cheklich at [dcheklich@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:dcheklich@detroitaudubon.org).



**Here's the Long-eared Owl that showed up Saturday, Feb. 12 on Belle Isle to help inspire board members during their lunch break at our planning retreat at the Nature Center. This photo was taken by new board member April McCray. Allen Chartier tells us this only the second Long-eared Owl ever recorded on Belle Isle!**



**Female Harrier Hawk, by Bruce Szczechowski**

## DETROIT AUDUBON GIVING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

***Detroit Audubon thanks its members and friends for their many financial contributions during the past year. Your support during our spring and fall appeals, Bird-a-thon, as well as memorials, honoraria and workplace donations through Earthshare and the Combined Federal Campaign has helped us become much more effective in achieving our mission of promoting awareness and protection of birds and their habitats. We thank you, and our feathered friends thank you as well! Here's the honor roll:***

Thomas Addison	Mr. Mary Lou Caspers	Daniel E. and Kathartine A.	Julia G. Koths
Thomas and Sheila Addison	Diane Cheklich	Frohardt-Lane	Walter Kraszewski
William H. Ahrens	Diane M. Churgay	Janet A. Fruehauf	Julie Kraus
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Doris Applebaum	Bonnie Clay	Walter K. Geist Trust	Ronald Kustra
Joyce Arakelian	Nancy Cole	Orin Gelderloos	David and Sandra Ladd
Joy Ashteneau	Read and Joan Cone	Mark A. Germaine	Anne E. Larimore
Barbara J. Ashteneau	Diana M. Constance, M.D.	Lisa D. Goldstein	Gayle Larson
Robert D. Athey	Dennis M. Cooperson	Patrick and Joan Gossman	Barbara Leeper
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James L. Bixler	Kathleen T. Emery	Kathleen Price Irvin	Robert and Valda McFarling
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Antoinette P. Book	Peter Every	Shaila M. Jehle	Marilyn and Martin McSwain
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Karen Ann Braun	James P. Eyster	Patricia Jochim	Jean M. Meske
Martha J. Breslow	Jennette Faber	Peter Joftis	Diana C. Mileski
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Donald G. Budden	Denise A. and Thomas Figlewicz	Jeff and Stephanie Kadel-Taras	Robert Mitchell
James N. Bull	and Kozina	Janet Kahan	Gerald and Marilyn Mitchell
Rose Burke	Joy L. Fitzpatrick	James and Joanna Kastely	Mary E. and Diane A. Mitchell
Richard and Mary Burney	Carol and Robert Fletcher	Stephen M. Kelley	Mary E. and Diane A. Moix
Patricia Butara	Marilyn Florek	Marlyne Kilbey	Janet Moody
James and Diane Beutel	William V. Floutz	Marian E. Kirby	Janet A. Morosco
c/o Wild Birds Unlimited	Allen Forsaith	John and Beverley Kirby	John Moroun
Jeanne A. Callihan	Bonnie M. Foucher	Judith D. Kirkeby	Linda Morrison
Delphine D. Campbell	Joanna Fowler	Christine Klein	Jan and Felicia Nagalski
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Kay and Thomas Carlson	Ann L. Frank	Robert E. Koenig	Mary Louise Nebel
Raymond and Lynn Carpenter	Matthew J. Franzen	Denise Koffman	David Nicksay
Carolyn Carr	Candace Friedman	Felicia A. Kopp	Emily A. Nietering
Bernadette M. Carrothers	Anthony W. and Beverly A. Fritz	Brian Koppin	



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Debra O'Hara  
Thomas F. Pais  
Richard C. Palumbo  
Mark and Suzanne Pappas  
Susan Parcheta  
Arthur R. Park  
Gloria Parsons  
Judith Patrick  
Wenda Paulot  
Rodney Pedrys  
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Margaret H. Peterson  
Dianne Peterson  
Sally and Paul Petrella and Stark  
Karen A. Pettke  
Stephen R. Polk  
Richard Quick  
David L. Ranson  
Mike and Susan Gail Raymond  
Francine Rea  
Mark and Suzanne Reynolds  
Betty Richards  
Thomas E and Cheryl A. Robertson  
Carolyn R. and Paul David Robinson  
Clarence Rod  
Marla Rodgers  
Marli Rodrigues  
John Michael Root  
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Judith A. Rosen  
Rita Runchock  
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Matthew Rybinski  
Guadalupe Sanchez  
Alice Marcczewski Schacht  
Sharon Schcaff  
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Deborah R. Schornack  
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Marcia D. Schwarz  
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Leonard and Margaret Weber  
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Robert White  
Katherine P. White  
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James and Diana Woodyard  
Laura Woolley  
Rosemarie Worden  
Rudy Ziehl  
Delle Jean Zurschmiede

### In Memory of

Jim Eckert  
Joe Forest  
Larry Lebsch  
John G. Makris  
Oscar Noren

John O'Connor  
Paula Treusch

### In Honor of

Kim Fields

### In Kind

Belle Isle Nature Center  
City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Center  
Clouds for Buttercream  
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge  
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy  
Detroit Zoological Society  
East Michigan Environmental Action Council  
Historic Elmwood Cemetery and Foundation  
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority  
IOBY  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
National Audubon Society  
Saving Birds Through Habitat  
Spicer House, Heritage Park, Farmington Hills, MI  
Sterling Heights Nature Center  
Swift Sanctuary/Historic Winery, Farmington, MI  
Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery  
Karen Tumblin  
United Neighborhood Initiative (UNI)  
U of M Dearborn, Environmental Interpretive Center  
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Wild Birds Unlimited Grosse Pointe Woods

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(L-R) Erin Rowan (with her Fred Charbonneau Bird Conservation Award), Jim Bull and Caleb Putnam. At right, Randy Kling, who earned a Charbonneau Award as well, and President's Award winner Rashida Tlaib.



whether they be birds or people.

Dr. Mona told us this was actually her second award from Detroit Audubon—she received another one as a member of her ecology club in High School for their campaign to oppose the incinerator in Warren. She is going to try to find that award so we can document it. Apparently we have had good judgement in giving her awards twice. Many of us didn't even know we had a youth award—something we probably ought to bring back.

Dr. Edwards showed us a PowerPoint which clearly told the story of lead poisoning of water as an issue throughout the United States. He called it a story of betrayal.

## DETROIT AUDUBON'S 2017 AWARDS DINNER

**By Sara Srinivasan, Rebecca Minardi, and Jim Bull**  
**Photos by Brian Burke**

Detroit Audubon's Awards Dinner on February 12 was a time to honor and celebrate those in our community who have gone above and beyond the call to protect human and environmental health. The evening started out with a wine and cheese reception at the Swords into Plowshares gallery at Detroit's historic Central United Methodist Church. Following the reception, guests were treated to a gourmet meal provided by Betsy Jackson.

President Jim Bull opened the evening's ceremonies reminding those in attendance of Detroit Audubon's mission: to promote awareness and protection of the environment through education, research and advocacy in Detroit and the surrounding area.

The first people to be recognized were Erin Rowan, Randy King, and Richard Quick, who each received the Fred Charbonneau Bird Conservation Award. Erin (who is now Detroit Audubon's Research Coordinator) and Randy both volunteered with the long-running Black Tern Project at St. Clair Flats. Richard Quick, a longtime Detroit Audubon board member and former president, has worked tirelessly to bring awareness of bird conservation to the public, including being the Detroit Audubon coordinator of the Black Tern project for several years.

National Audubon researcher Caleb Putnam told us about Randy and Erin's involvement and also gave Randy an award from National Audubon.

The next award went to Greening of Detroit as the Conservation Organization of the Year, while Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe Woods was honored with the Conservation Business of the Year Award.

After dinner, the big awards of the night were presented.

Jim Bull gave Rashida Tlaib the President's Award for her efforts to reduce the negative environmental and human health effects of the refineries in Southwest Detroit, and her leadership in opposing the pet coles piles on the Detroit riverfront. Rashida gave an impassioned speech on the prevalence of environmental justice issues in Detroit.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, and Dr. Marc Edwards (via Skype) then received the Conservationists of the Year Award for their persistence and zeal in bringing the Flint water crisis to national attention. Both gave inspiring speeches on the dangers of complacency in the face of environmental injustice and reminded those in attendance to keep fighting for those most vulnerable to environmental issues,

"It is amazing how easy it is for an agency in a democracy to become corrupt when you punish good people and reward bad people enough," he said.

He also worked on the lead poisoning of the water in Washington D.C., but told us that the situation there is still being largely ignored. He said that the difference in Michigan was due to the tenacity of the people of Flint who, even in the face of ridicule and dismissal, demanded action and largely got it. That's not to say the situation is totally repaired, but things are being done; and that is not the case in Washington, D.C. His PowerPoint and videos of all of the speeches that night will soon be available on our website, so keep checking.

**Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Conservationists of the Year Award winner, with Dr. Bull.**



We are already excited about next year's Awards Dinner and look forward to seeing you there! If you know of folks or organizations you think would be worthy of an award please nominate them. There is a form on our website at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYWH-1zr\\_SXv9vPK6Vv-uBziKeLXBNsZuDtLATCIUfrXedg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYWH-1zr_SXv9vPK6Vv-uBziKeLXBNsZuDtLATCIUfrXedg/viewform?usp=sf_link)



American Pipit, by  
Bruce Szczechowski



## THE 43RD ROCKWOOD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*By Tom Carpenter, compiler*

This year's Rockwood Christmas Bird Count (CBC) tallied 83 species, close to the average of 82 species for the 43 years of the count.

Interesting species sighted—those recorded on fewer than 15 previous counts—included Northern Shoveler, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Savannah Sparrow. An American Pipit, a count week bird seen just before the count, was probably the most exciting species, having been recorded on only two past counts, plus one additional count week. Snow Goose was also present the day after the count in Lake Erie Metropark.

Species found in high numbers include: the Peregrine Falcon, Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser. On the down side, the number of Common Goldeneye was the lowest ever recorded; and Common Merganser, American Kestrel, Great Black-backed Gull and Brown Creeper were also less abundant than usual. There were no Yellow-rumped Warblers, a species that we have had on 39 past counts, or Red-shouldered Hawks (33 past counts). Also absent were irruptive northern species—no winter finches, Snowy Owls or Northern Shrikes. And Wild Turkey, now ubiquitous even in SE Michigan, somehow evaded us the day of the count and during count week.

Weather no doubt contributed to the low numbers of many species and probably somewhat depressed the species total as well. To read the full Rockwood CBC report, complete with a species list, please visit our website at: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count/>

## DETROIT AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT REPORT FOR 2016

*By Timothy Nowicki*

On December 18, 2016, a group of 36 intrepid volunteers awoke to very cold (17°) temperatures to participate in the 72nd Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Back in 1900, Frank Chapman started a campaign to count birds during the Christmas season. Today, over 2500 counts are conducted: 1902 in the United States; 471 in Canada; and 132 in Latin America, the Caribbean, Bermuda and the Pacific Islands. These counts provide data that help document trends in bird populations—like the expansion of the Northern Cardinal northward, or the contraction of the winter range of the Evening Grosbeak. The longevity of the Detroit count has reflected statewide or national population trends in the arrival of the House Finch and Red-bellied Woodpecker, reduction in Black Duck numbers, and more. Below are some observations based on this year's count in relation to 72 years of data.

Species seen in high numbers include: Tundra Swans (61), Hermit Thrushes (5), American Robins (238), Sharp-shinned Hawks (4) and Cooper's Hawks (16). The number of House Finches counted this year (170) has dropped significantly from its high of 440 in 1993. The decrease in numbers is likely the result of the effect of conjunctivitis infection on the population.

To read the full Detroit Audubon CBC report, complete with a species list, please visit our website at: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count/>.



Sub-adult Bald Eagle, by Bruce Szczechowski



Tundra Swans, by Bruce Szczechowski





Great Blue Heron with gulls, by Bruce Szczechowski

## RECENT BIRDING TRIPS

### ***Shiver on the River Birding Field Trip on Belle Isle Saturday February 4, 2017:***

Our Shiver on the River Belle Isle field trip was cold, but 29 people turned out, and we had a good trip despite the bitter wind. (It was as windy and cold as Thursday night's program at the Nature Zoo.) We saw one Bald Eagle, one Red-tailed Hawk, only one American Robin, a few American Tree Sparrows at the nature zoo bird feeders, and one Red-bellied and one Hairy Woodpecker. By far the most numerous duck was the Common Goldeneye with only a very few Bufflehead, Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, and only two Canvasbacks—although they are usually in the thousands. Here's the ebird list: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S34186175>

### ***Elmwood Cemetery Field Trip***

Jeevak Badve, who came on our most recent Elmwood Cemetery Walk, took several photos, including White-breasted Nuthatch and the Ring-necked Pheasant the group was thrilled to see several times on that trip. Our Elmwood Cemetery trips are unique bird walks; they're a combination of Detroit local history and nature. Beginners are always welcome, and we can provide binoculars. On this walk, we also saw Red-tailed Hawks, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, and several Northern Cardinals!



### ***Point Mouillee Winter Field Trip, Saturday, January 14***

We had 29 people go on this trip in five vehicles, driving the dikes (those that were open). Temperatures were in the 40s, with slight wind. Dike roads were solid. Six Bald Eagles and six female Northern Harriers were the highlights! A few Tundra Swans even flew over, too. Here's the link for the ebird checklist: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S33803487>.

## ENHANCING BIRD EXHIBITS, DETROIT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

### ***By Terra Weiland***

Detroit Audubon's partnership with the Detroit Children's Museum is still underway! We are working to enhance current bird exhibits and create free Ornithology lesson ideas for educators. These lesson ideas can be taken back to the classroom or used right at this wonderful Museum!

Kid-friendly ID cards for bird specimens in their lending library are being put together and bird watching lesson plans are being written. Detroit Audubon wants to make these lesson ideas available to any interested educator on our website. Stay tuned for more developments!

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CAMPOUT

### ***Sign up for our Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away May 26-29, 2017***

Great news! The Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center will be open again for 2017! We are pleased to continue our Memorial Day Weekend tradition. Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center has been the headquarters for Detroit Audubon's Memorial Day Nature Get-Away for over 30 years. 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, the ethereal north country sound that you can feel in your bones. 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 the uncommon Olive-sided Flycatchers can sometimes be heard and seen. American Redstarts may 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. You can also enjoy excursions to great birding meccas nearby, including Tawas Point State Park (often touted as a miniature Point 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 May 26-29 on your calendar.

The whole weekend is family-friendly! Sign up and bring your friends and family!

### **Fees for 2017:**

#### **Plan A: With lodging at Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center**

Pre-K children free.

Adult (8th grade and up) \$192

Youth (5th to 7th grade) \$168

Child (K-4th grade) \$95

#### **Plan B: Day Use (for those not lodging at the Center)**

Pre-K children free.

Adult (8th grade and up) \$164

Youth (5th to 7th grade) \$141

Child (K-4th grade) \$82

To register, download the registration form at <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/birding/memorialday/> or call (313) 960-3399 to request that a form be mailed to you. Questions about the Nature Get-Away can be directed to Jim Bull at (313) 928-2950 or [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org).

## BIRDS AND BEES VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT

### ***By Terra Weiland***

To celebrate Valentine's Day, Detroit Audubon joined our friends and partners at the Belle Isle Nature Center for a fun, G-rated Birds and Bees event. The goal of the day was to show why our local birds are so important. There were arts and crafts, environmental performers, and educational talks on nesting and courting.

At the Detroit Audubon table, we invited families to upcoming field trips, showed them how to use binoculars, and gave them helpful advice on what to do if they find a baby bird this spring, in a short nest-making activity.

Do *you* know what to do if you find a baby bird? The first step is to determine if it's a nestling or a fledgling. (Hint: fledglings are best left alone, but you can help out the fledgling by keeping pets inside while it learns to fly!) Check out the Emergency Care for Birds section on our website for more information. <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/about-us/emergency-care-for-birds/>





## SHIVER ON THE RIVER 2017 AND UPCOMING SPRING RIVERWALK EVENT

*By Terra Weiland*

In February 2017, we celebrated winter waterfowl on the Detroit River at Shiver on the River. We talked to the public about the over 250,000 wintering waterfowl along the Detroit River, and made duck calls out of drinking straws with kids and adults. Our partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brought a fun migration game and Wildlife Cornhole. Before Shiver on the River, Detroit Audubon led a field trip around Belle Isle, which is a birding hotspot in Detroit.

Join us this spring for more RiverWalk programming at the birding scopes and Interpretive display at Gabriel Richard Park. We are teaming up with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy on April 29th for a Spring Migration Program. Swing by to see birds along the Detroit River with us. The folks at DRFC will show how to put rain barrels together. Rain barrels help reduce stormwater runoff, save money on your water bill, and help plants by providing them with softer, untreated water.

In 2015, Detroit Audubon worked with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Detroit Parks and Recreation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create an educational Birding Station at Gabriel Richard Park. The station has several bird scopes, including handicap accessible scopes, and an interpretive panel depicting Detroit river birds. The station is partially in honor of late Detroit Audubon board member Georgia Reid, tireless volunteer for many conservation organizations, and distinguished educator for 45 years at Wayne State University.



### BINOCULAR BUDDIES- GOAL REACHED!

*By Terra Weiland*

Detroit Audubon was crowdfunding for binoculars and a spotting scope to aid in our mission of environmental education. The Metro Detroit area is a great place for wildlife and birdwatching. We want to reach the next generation of conservationists and inspire them to protect the natural world.

Birdwatching with binoculars is a fun and exciting way for students to interact with nature and feel more connected to it. Birdwatching helps develop critical thinking skills and offers many possible connections to science, math, literacy, and art curricula. Detroit Audubon regularly visits classrooms for free, and having binoculars for every student will allow us to be more effective. We give lessons on how to use binoculars, how to look for and identify birds and, most importantly, help start that spark that leads to a lifetime of loving nature.

Before we started crowdfunding, we had 12 office binoculars—not enough to take an entire classroom outside birdwatching. We had to be “binocular buddies” and share. Our office binoculars were also large and heavy, which can make birdwatching difficult and frustrating for younger children. We wanted to raise enough money for two classroom sets of binoculars and a spotting scope so that we can take a full schoolbus of children birding!

This project met its goal of \$6,112 but will still gladly accept donations so the program can grow. \$100 buys 1 pair of binoculars; \$500 buys a spotting scope. \$25 helps a Detroit youth spot a native songbird, and \$50 supports so much more than birdwatching. Help get our kids outdoors to foster the preservation of birds and the clean air, water and wetlands we depend upon in Michigan. To donate please visit: <https://www.ioby.org/project/detroit-audubon-binocular-buddies>.

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS: DETROIT AUDUBON NEEDS BIRDING MENTORS FOR MAGEE MARSH TRIP!

*By Terra Weiland*

Detroit Audubon is excited to announce that we are again working with fourth graders at Ronald Brown Academy for the second year in a row! Retired Detroit schoolteacher David Watkins, an active member of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, has been working with Ronald Brown Academy for several years. Their lessons have culminated in a field trip to Magee Marsh at the height of spring migration. We are pleased to again be working with David Watkins and Saving Birds Thru Habitat to reach even more students together this spring! We are doubling the amount of fourth graders in the program by adding another class to the program.

On Friday, May 5th, after a series of in-class birding lessons, students will head down to Magee Marsh with hopes of seeing warblers. We would like to have the students in small groups with birding mentors, to identify species and help keep the experience personalized.

These trips will require many volunteer chaperones and birding mentors. Detroit Audubon and these young birders would really appreciate your help! If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at [Staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:Staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### UPCOMING DETROIT YOUNG BIRDER'S PROGRAMS

All young birders are invited to participate in our third season of programming specifically for young birders between the ages of 6 and 18. These programs are aimed at helping young bird enthusiasts expand their knowledge of birds and birding, and allow them to explore career pathways. If you have children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors who might be interested, feel free to invite them to join any of the young birder events. Detroit Audubon can loan field guides and binoculars.

On Friday, April 21, we are having our annual Woodcock Watch at Oakwoods Metropark. At 6 pm, we will have our Young Birders' Pizza Party, with an exciting game of Woodcock trivia. Come prepared to test your knowledge of this interesting and peculiar bird!

Our Youth Field Trip leaders are planning a trip to Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is designated as a United States Important Bird Area (IBA) for its global significance to migratory waterfowl. Over 265 species of birds have been documented there, including raptors, shore and wading birds, and more than 100 songbird species. Please check our social media and website for more information.

Northern Mockingbird, by Bruce Szczechowski



## URBAN BIRD TREATY CITY DESIGNATION FOR DETROIT

By Erin Rowan

The Metro Detroit Nature Network (MDNN) was founded in 2016 and is composed of over 20 nonprofit conservation organizations and state and federal agencies. Detroit Audubon joined MDNN last year and has been an active partner, along with the Detroit Zoo and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in working towards MDNN's first big achievement: applying for an Urban Bird Treaty City Designation for the Metro Detroit Area.

Part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Migratory Bird Program, the Urban Bird Treaty is a collaborative effort between USFWS and participating U.S. cities. This program brings together nonprofits, academic institutions, state and federal agencies and municipalities to create bird-friendly cities in four main ways:

- creating or restoring habitat through conservation
- reducing hazards through bird-safe building programs (i.e. Safe Passage, continued education for architects)
- citizen science projects (through bird and habitat monitoring programs), and
- education and outreach.

Other key features of the program include creating backyard and schoolyard bird habitats and providing opportunities for wildlife and natural resources job skills and career development for young people. Across the country, 27 cities have become Urban Bird Treaty Cities. For more information on the Urban Bird Treaty Program, you can visit: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/urban-bird-treaty.php>.

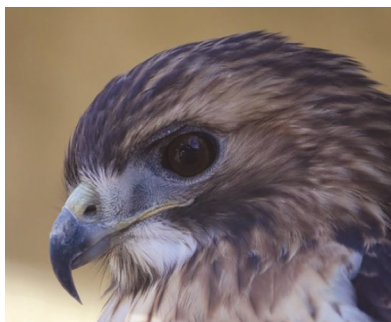
The MDNN Application spans the 7-county region around Detroit (Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, Monroe, and St. Clair counties) and includes descriptions of ongoing education programs, conservation and restoration projects, bird and habitat monitoring programs and hazard reduction programs currently underway by our partners and other organizations within the region. It is truly inspiring to see how many wonderful projects are occurring within this area to improve habitat for and protect birds!

Once obtaining the Urban Bird Treaty City designation, MDNN can apply for Urban Bird City Treaty Grants, which aim to promote and extend the conservation, education and monitoring programs highlighted in a city's agenda. This potential future funding could go towards projects like Detroit Audubon's Safe Passage: Great Lakes, which aims to reduce bird-building collisions during Spring and Fall migration.

The document is under its final round of review and revision before being submitted to the USFWS. Detroit Audubon is proud to be an active partner in the creation of this document and is grateful for all the hard work that our partners, Tom Schneider (Detroit Zoo Curator of Birds) and John Hartig (Detroit River International Refuge Manager) have put into this document.

We will update you on the progress of the application in our next *Flyway*, or sooner! If you have any questions about the Urban Bird Treaty City Designation, please contact Erin Rowan at [erowan@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:erowan@detroitaudubon.org) or at 313-800-1578.

**Above, Blue Jay and Red-tailed Hawk photos by Sandee Vartanian Busbiber. As common as they are, Blue Jays are strikingly beautiful.**



By Erin Rowan

We are gearing up for the spring season of monitoring efforts for Project Safe Passage: Great Lakes! Detroit Audubon's Project Safe Passage works to reduce the incidence of collisions of night-migrating birds with illuminated buildings in this area. The number of birds killed in these nighttime collisions runs into the millions nationally. We monitor buildings for evidence of bird collisions and contact managers of buildings five stories or higher to advise them of the economic and environmental benefits of turning lighting off on their top floors during migration seasons. This could reduce nighttime bird mortalities by up to 80%.

Rob Duchene, our former Safe Passage Chair, resigned last year, but has continued to be extremely supportive of Safe Passage, ensuring the project moves forward by passing along all of the project materials to the office and sharing information with our new Safe Passage Chair and Research Coordinator. Detroit Audubon owes

Rob an enormous debt of gratitude for the tremendous passion, the long hours, days, months, and years he's poured himself into Safe Passage. He will be missed!

Our new Chair, Heidi Trudell, works with Washtenaw Safe Passage in Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, and has been working on dead bird surveys for over 13 years. She brings a wealth of knowledge, and we are happy to have her on board as we go through this transition. We are in the process of changing our Honor Roll system and protocol in an effort to create a dataset on bird-building collisions in Detroit, Troy and Southfield, which will not be enacted until the fall.

If you are interested in meeting Heidi and seeing her in action, she will be giving a talk about Safe Passage on April 6th, as part of Detroit Audubon's Monthly



Nature Programs. This event will be at 7pm at Belle Isle Nature Zoo. We will have volunteer sign-ups at this event for Safe Passage, and will bring supplies to hand out to volunteers. You can RSVP for the event here: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/monthly-membership-programs/> or email us at [staff@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:staff@detroitaudubon.org)

We are looking for volunteers to help us monitor buildings historically monitored in Detroit, Southfield and Troy. We are hoping that people can walk the perimeters of these buildings looking for evidence of recent bird collisions in the morning (between 7am and 10am). Alternatively, we are also looking for volunteers to scout these cities for potential "problem" buildings to which we can expand our monitoring efforts in the future. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Erin Rowan at [erowan@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:erowan@detroitaudubon.org) or 313-800-1578.



## DETROIT AUDUBON 2017 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. All are welcome, especially beginning birders, and you can always bring a friend.**

*Note: Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm all dates and times before the event.*

### **Detroit Pheasant Walk - Saturday, April 1, 8:00 a.m.**

Join Detroit Audubon for our first ever pheasant walk in Detroit! Pheasants are a great example of urban wildlife, and they are known to find habitat in some of Detroit's open spaces. Though they are skittish birds, we hope to see some at a few sites where pheasants have been spotted. We will start at the intersection of Scott and Grandy on Detroit's east side. Please park on Scott street near the hoop house. To RSVP: Please fill out the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/ghnxfN7QmOnoxhvE3> or email us at [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### **Frog Symphony, West Bloomfield Nature Preserve - Friday April 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Leaders:** Sally Petrella (Friends of the Rouge), West Bloomfield Naturalist Lauren Azoury, and Jim Bull: [Jbull@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:Jbull@detroitaudubon.org)

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 parking lot.

### **Elmwood Cemetery - Friday, April 14 at 9 a.m.**

**Leader:** Terra Weiland, Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator

This is one in a series of walks to explore this beautiful 86-acre cemetery, 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.

### **Woodcock Watch, Oakwoods Metropark - Saturday April 21, 2017 at 7:30pm 6 pm Young Birder's Club Pizza Party**

**Leaders:** Park Naturalist and Jim Bull



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.

### **Spring Birding 101 at Gabriel Richard Park - Saturday April 29th at 9 am**

**Leader:** Terra Weiland, Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator

Learn about the birds migrating along the Detroit River and join us in playing a short migration game, bird watching along the RiverWalk, and talking about volunteer opportunities to help migrating birds survive the long trek!

### **This is part of: GREEN DAY – RECYCLING, BIRDING AND RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS!**

Join the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, The Sierra Club, Detroit Audubon Society and Green Living Science for a fun-filled day of environmental activities! The day will kick off with a birding workshop hosted by the Detroit Audubon Society, showing off the new spotting scopes in Gabriel Richard Park and helping visitors learn about waterfowl on the Detroit River. Next at 10 AM is a rain barrel workshop with the Sierra Club. Learn about the benefits of rain barrels and how to make your own rain barrel! Afterward, Detroit residents stick around for a presentation by Green Living Science on recycling in Detroit.

### **Elmwood Cemetery - Sunday April 30 at 9 am**

**Leader:** Terra Weiland, Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator  
(See April 14th event for description.)

### **Lake St. Clair Metropark - May 7th, 8:00 am**

**Leader:** Cathy Carroll

This Metropark is a justly famous migrant trap. A good list of warblers, as well as many other nesting and migrant birds, will be seen.

**Directions:** Take I-94 east and exit on Metropolitan Parkway. Drive east into the park (entrance fee) and park on west side of the main parking lot. Meet at the Nature Center.

### **Elmwood Cemetery - Tuesday May 9, 2017 at 5:30 pm**

**Leader:** Terra Weiland, Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator  
(See April 14th event for description.)

### **Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (Oregon, OH) - Saturday May 13th, 7:00 am-4:00 pm**

**Leader:** Jim Bull

This is THE biggest weekend in birding at one of THE best sites in North America to see warblers and other songbird migrants, sometimes up close. In recent years we have also had nesting Bald Eagles, Woodcock, Common Nighthawk, and Screech Owls.

**Directions:** Take I-75 to Toledo; go south on I-280 to Highway 2. Follow Hwy 2 east about 18 miles, turn north at the Magee Marsh entrance. Follow signs to the preserve parking lot. Drive to the west end of the beach parking lot at the beginning of Birding Trail. Meet on the deck with the warbler display. Get there early or you may have to park far away.

### **Point Pelee Spring Campout - May 18-21**

**Leader:** Lee Burton

Shake out your sleeping bags, count your tent poles and stakes, and join Detroit Audubon for our annual Pelee Spring Campout. Limited to 20 tenters ONLY at the White Pine group campground. There will be plenty of migrating birds to watch, camaraderie, and a nightly campfire. Cost is \$17 per person per night, 2 night minimum. Direct questions to camp leader Lee Burton [leejburton@charter.net](mailto:leejburton@charter.net). Please include phone number, names of campers you want to register, email address, and which nights you want.

### **Point Pelee Day Trip - Saturday May 20th, 10 am**

**Leader:** Lee Burton, Roger Becker

Join a "get acquainted with Pelee" field trip for those who want to come for just the day to one of THE best migratory traps for songbirds. Bring a lunch and your passport.

**Directions:** Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rte. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Point Pelee National Park (entrance fee required: about \$8). Meet at the Hummingbird garden in front of the Visitor Center. Lee will be holding a "Detroit Audubon" sign.

### **Swift Night Out at Swift Sanctuary and Historic Winery, Farmington, MI**

**Saturday May 20, 7:30 pm to just after sunset**

**Leader:** Jim Bull

Join us with our partners at the Swift Sanctuary to watch the spectacular show as up to 50,000 Chimney Swifts swirl around and down into this historic winery—THE largest roost of Chimney Swifts in North America! We may watch a live video cam of their activity. Bring a lawn chair to watch this incredible show. The biggest congregation usually happens in the fall; see September 24-25. 31505 Grand River Farmington, MI 48336.

### **Rouge Park Bird Walk - Sunday May 21, 2017, 8 am to 11 am**

On Saturday May 20th, Friends of Rouge Park are having their annual volunteer cleanup and park and river improvement day from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm. Volunteer if you can!

On Sunday May 21st, we are excited to be co-sponsoring a bird walk with Friends of Rouge Park. We expect to see breeding song birds. Meet at the Scout Hollow sign, on Spinoza Drive near West Chicago.

### **Eliza Howell Park - June 10, 2017 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Leader:** Leonard Weber

Over 30 species of songbirds nest in Eliza Howell Park in Detroit. At the peak of their breeding season, we will view some of their nests. In a typical year, on this walk we see active nests of at least six species. This walk is good for participants of all ages.

## DETROIT AUDUBON 2016 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE *continued*

### **Oak Openings Metropark, Toledo - Saturday, June 17, 8:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Leader:** Jim Bull

Famous for its rare oak savannas and prairies, this Toledo area Metropark is a mecca for specialty breeding birds. Often seen are Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, and Henslow's Sparrow.

**Directions:** From I-75, merge onto I-475 W (Exit 204) toward US-23/Maumee/Ann Arbor, then left onto US-23 S/I-475 S toward Maumee/Dayton. Merge onto Airport Hwy/OH-2 W (Exit 8B) toward Airport/Swanton. Turn left onto Girdham Rd. until it dead-ends into Oak Openings Parkway. Turn left (east) onto Oak Openings Parkway and proceed about a half to three quarters of a mile. The turnoff for the Buehner Center is on the left. Meet in parking lot.

### **Pointe Mouillee Birding (Reservations Required) Saturday August 5th, 8:00 am**

**Leader:** Jim Fowler and Jim Bull

This is one of the premier shore birding areas in the interior of the continent when water levels are favorable. Only 4 vehicles can be accommodated on the dikes. We will be bringing a 15 passenger van. RSVP by Thursday, August 4, to reserve a spot.

Meet at 8900 Sigler Road, South Rockwood, MI

**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. This will be a caravan into the dikes with ride-sharing required.

### **Eliza Howell Park - September 9, 2017 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Leader:** Leonard Weber

The focus of this walk is on the early Fall migrants, including Warblers. One never knows exactly when the migrating birds will be present in great numbers, but at this time of the year and of the month there are often as many species present as at the middle of the spring/May migration.

### **Humbug Marsh - Saturday October 7, 2016**

**Leader:** Jim Bull

Humbug is a key area for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which Detroit Audubon fought to save from development. Eagles, Osprey, water birds, and songbirds are possible here. As one of the last coastal wetlands on the Detroit River, it is extremely important to waterfowl, other migratory birds, certain insects that depend on wetland, herpetofauna, and fish. Many of these species are regionally rare.

### **Eliza Howell Park - October 21, 2017 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Leader:** Leonard Weber

Fall migration continues, though the species are different from early September. A variety of sparrows are moving through the park (seeing 7 species on one walk is quite possible). Purple Finches are among the other birds we will be looking for.

### **Owl Prowl, Oakwoods Metropark - Friday November 3, 2017 at 7:00 pm**

**Leaders:** Kevin Arnold and Jim Bull

We will call for owls and expect to hear them call back, and maybe call them in close where we can see them. This program is especially good 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.

### **Point Edward and Lake Huron Shore, Ontario - Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 am - 4:00 PM**

The focus of this trip is on water birds and early winter arrivals. In the past, we have seen Bohemian Waxwings, Common Loons, Red-throated Loons, all three species of Scoters, Little Gull, Mergansers, Longtailed Duck, Evening Grosbeak, and multiple species of Grebes. This is a car caravan, stopping at multiple locations. We will stop for lunch at a restaurant along the way. Lunch is not included. There is no limit for the number of cars for the locations we have planned. This will not be a strenuous field trip. We will walk approximately half a mile at two locations on level ground.

**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.

### **Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Game Wildlife Area**

**Saturday November 18, 11 am to 2 am**

**Leader:** Jim Bull

Yes, this a long trip to this northern Indiana refuge, but it well worth it to see 8,000-20,000 Sandhill Cranes, including cranes from Michigan which stop over here on their way to the Gulf Coast and Florida wintering grounds. We will look for cranes in the surrounding fields, and do some other birding before the cranes show up. About one hour before sunset, flocks of cranes kite into Goose Pasture Viewing Areas. Inspiring and comical, they socialize and

dance before returning to roosting marshes at dusk (closed to the public). We will stop for lunch on the way down, and for dinner on the way home (food costs are not included). We will rent a 15-passenger van, to be paid in full two weeks prior. Please see website for the full price. Others can caravan or meet us there. Meeting spot for departure TBA.

### **Belle Isle, Detroit - Saturday November 25 - 9 am**

This gem of Detroit's park system (now a state park) is an excellent 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 17**

This is one of the oldest Christmas Bird Counts, part of counts all over North America used to study bird populations. Birders spend the entire day covering a 15-mile diameter circle in parts of northern Oakland Co. to count as many birds as possible. The count is Meet for pizza and count wrap-up at day's end. To participate, call Tim Nowicki at (734) 525-8630 or [tnowick@gmail.com](mailto:tnowick@gmail.com) or contact our office at [Staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:Staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### **Rockwood Christmas Bird Count (Reservations Required) Tuesday Dec. 26**

**Public hike: 9 am to 11 am**

**Christmas Bird Count:** Detroit Audubon cosponsors this all-day 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.

To participate in the all-day count, please contact our Research Coordinator Erin Rowan at [erowan@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:erowan@DetroitAudubon.org).

## WHAT BIRD IS THIS?



**Did you guess Carolina Wren?** Its chestnut cap and bright white eye-stripe (supercilium) clinches the identification of this now fairly common woodland and backyard bird, but it is its song which most often gives it away—loud, persistent and clear, somewhat cardinal-like, it is said to sing, “Tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea.” During the late 20th Century it extended its range northward from its original southern range, which is indicated in its name. It is mostly restricted to the southern tiers of counties in Michigan (below the Thumb). Carolina Wrens are attracted to peanut butter or suet at winter bird feeders. **Photo by Sandee Vartanian Busbiber**

## CONNECT WITH DETROIT AUDUBON ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Like us to get reminders and notices for field trips, volunteer opportunities, upcoming programs, and workshops. Share with your friends, and help spread the word about ways to help Detroit Audubon protect birds and the environment.



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## DETROIT AUDUBON TAKES STAND AGAINST CORN ETHANOL

**By Jim Bull**

Upon the recommendation of our Conservation Committee, who had met with activist Jerry Jung to discuss problems with corn ethanol, the Detroit Audubon Board adopted the following motion:

***Detroit Audubon opposes the increase in the corn ethanol mandate and furthermore support a complete rollback of all corn-based ethanol mandates and subsidies.***

Below, Jerry Jung explains why corn ethanol is such a problem.

### CORN ETHANOL THREATENS GRASSLAND BIRDS AND ADDS TO GREENHOUSE GASES

**By Jerry Jung**

This year the EPA has mandated that 15 billion gallons of ethanol be added to gasoline. Most gasoline contains about 10% ethanol. It is a relatively cheap way for refineries to increase the octane rating—cheap, that is, if environmental degradation and large agricultural subsidies are not factored in.

Often I am asked why I started the webpage Rethink Ethanol.com. It all started a few years ago at my hobby farm north of Clare, Michigan. I try to spend a day or two there every month of the year because, as we all know, nature presents different sides of herself as the seasons change. Late May is one of my favorite times, because that is when the Bobolinks and Monarch Butterflies return to the property. A few dozen Bobolinks usually descend on the hayfields; and until about seven years ago, I could depend on seeing hundreds of Monarchs clustered around the lilac bushes planted alongside the two-track leading into the woods. The last couple of years, the Monarchs have not arrived.

Perplexed, I started to do some research. It turns out that Monarch populations have plummeted 95% in recent years. Farming practices have a lot to do with it. Seed corn in the U.S. (Canada has banned the practice) is now coated with “neonics” that spread throughout the plant and are deadly toxic to pollinators. Round-Up-ready GMO corn and soybeans allow farmers to eliminate virtually all “weeds.”

The biggest culprit, however, is all the extra acreage being planted in corn.

On a recent motorcycle ride through eastern Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa, I was shocked at how much land is being dedicated to growing corn. Those states have become one big factory farm with corn being grown right up onto the shoulders of rural roads. Hand-painted signs read, “Family Farms, not Factory Farms.” In Iowa, for instance, 99.9% of long grass prairie is gone. Rather than supporting 400-plus species of plants, most of this land supports only toxic corn. So, it’s not hard to understand why Monarchs can’t survive the migration from Mexico.

Why so much corn? Of the 90 million acres of corn planted in this country, a full 40% is grown to be made into ethanol. That’s more corn than is fed to livestock. The 35 million acres growing corn for ethanol exceeds the landmass of Michigan. Think of all the biodiversity in Michigan—all the birds, wildlife and plants. That’s how much nature the ethanol mandate destroys—more than that if you consider the impact on migrating species and the extensive water pollution due to agriculture runoff. (Remember the toxic cyanobacteria in Lake Erie?)

Don’t be fooled by special interest campaigns promoting ethanol. Corn ethanol takes as much fossil fuel to produce as it yields. Some studies also show a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, thus compounding the problem of global climate change rather than being a part of the solution. Corn ethanol subsidies undermine research on, and production of, advanced biofuels made from sounder sources like switch grass and algae. Corn ethanol also pollutes waterways and increases the cost of food.

It makes no economic sense and it is an environmental disaster contributing in a major way to what has aptly become known as the sixth extinction.



From top:

Tree Sparrow by Bruce Szczechowski

Red-bellied Woodpecker by Deborah Farley Taylor Sullivan

White-breasted Nuthatch by Bruce Szczechowski





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Lesser Scaup, by Bruce Szczechowski

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