

Lark Sparrow at Oak Openings.  
Sharon Korte photo



### NOMINATIONS FOR DETROIT AUDUBON AWARDS NEEDED:

Detroit Audubon would like your input on who you think deserves to be recognized this year for our annual conservation achievement awards. They will be presented at an event in the first part of 2018. We are looking for nominations for the following awards:

**Business Conservationist of the Year**

**Organization Conservationist of the Year**

**Fred Charbonneau Award for Bird Conservation**

**Conservationist of the Year**

Please send your nominations to [staff@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:staff@detroitaudubon.org). Please include the name and contact information for the organization or person nominated, and a paragraph explaining why they deserve the award. (Links to articles or websites with information about them would be helpful.) Nominations are due by October 27.



## THE CLOSE OF THE BLACK TERN FIELD SEASON

By Erin Rowan



Black Tern in flight,  
Diane Cheklich photo

Our last day in the field capturing and banding chicks and adult Black Terns was July 25th. Our partners, Caleb Putnam and Stephanie Beilke from Audubon Great Lakes, worked with me to create summaries and content for a poster session at the American Ornithological Society Conference which was held in Lansing this year. We presented our findings on the Black Tern Project at the conference the week of July 31st. The conference and our poster session were a great success!

Below are some of our summaries from the 2017 field season:

- Combined Detroit Audubon and partner effort put us in the field for a total of 23 days this year, compared to 11 last year.
- 14 volunteers and 8 project partners assisted me in the field this year.
- We found a total of 154 nests (this includes first, second and possibly third nesting attempts after nest failure due to storms and the weak substrate we witnessed this year – there are also some duplicates from our big week of adult capture that we will sort out this winter due to having multiple techs/partners in the field collecting data at the same time).
- 63 new adults were banded this year, along with 132 chicks. This is a new record!
- 10 additional adults were recaptured this year, one of which was a natal recruit (meaning it was born at St. Clair Flats and returned 3 years later as a mature adult)! Another new record!
- 24 flying juveniles were seen prior to the end of the field season, mostly in Big Muscamoot Bay.



Erin Rowan banding  
a Black Tern. Diane  
Cheklich photo

- Most of the nesting areas were empty of adults and young by July 25th, save our new Doty West colony, where adults were still seen sitting on eggs on July 25th. (The water was, sadly, too deep to attempt adult capture at this time.)

- This area was established by late arrivals or Terns that had failed elsewhere. Nest failures were also witnessed at this location.

Our adult recaptures from this year brings our total recaptures for the project to 15—two of which were natal recruits.

Detroit Audubon and Audubon Great Lakes will work on writing the annual report this winter. Stay tuned for details on hatching success of the Black Terns at Saint Clair Flats in 2017!

Killdeer in flight.  
Bruce Szczekowski  
photo



### YOUNG BIRDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

Once again, Detroit Audubon is offering a scholarship opportunity to a young birder aged 13-18 in southeast Michigan. This scholarship provides full-paid tuition to attend a birding camp during Summer 2018 (more details coming soon!). Our scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to improve his or her birding skills, meet other young birders, and explore careers in birding and ornithology. Once details are confirmed, more information and an application can be found at: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/scholarships/>



### MYSTERY BIRD

Can you guess this ghostly visitor's identity? Check your guess on page 9.



# Flyway

A publication of  
Detroit Audubon

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313-960-3399 [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

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

## Program Coordinator:

Jac Kyle

## Research Coordinator and Office Administrator:

Erin Rowan

*Both of our staff members work part-time and are often out of the office conducting programs or research. They will return calls/emails as soon as possible, but there may be delays.*

## Flyway Editors:

Jim Bull, Jac Kyle, and Erin Rowan

## Layout: Tana Moore

*Flyway is published four times a year (one print issue, three digital issues) for 5,000+ National Audubon Society members in Southeastern Michigan.*

*Opinions expressed by the authors and editors do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Detroit Audubon Society.*

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Original articles, photos and artwork are welcome. Email to

[jac@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:jac@detroitaudubon.org)

## Deadline for Winter Issue:

Dec. 1st, 2017



DETROIT  
AUDUBON

## BULLY PULPIT - WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

By James N. (Jim) Bull, Ph.D., President

John Muir once wrote, "When we try to pick out anything by itself we find that it is bound fast by a thousand invisible cords that cannot be broken, to everything in the universe." That quote came to mind as I have been contemplating the news about Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. As I write, the damage from all three—but especially Irma and Maria—is still being assessed (many areas are still unreachable). The human tragedies are almost too great to contemplate. The entire island of Barbuda was apparently totally leveled—buildings and trees—and Puerto Rico has suffered a similar fate.

Many birds were also likely casualties, as Irma skirted the city of Miami and instead came ashore striking directly at Everglades National Park, a veritable mecca for bird life. Even if the birds escaped the storm, their habitat may not recover any time soon. Sanibel Island, home of the famous Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, where I saw my first and only Roseate Spoonbills during a traveling college course, was one of the hardest hit areas. Luckily, although its road was impassible for a few days due to downed trees, the refuge escaped major damage. National Audubon closed Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, home of nesting Wood Storks, until further notice while damage to buildings and habitat is assessed and repaired. It will take some time to figure out the impact on its bird populations.

Irma had a horrendous impact on human residents of the Bahamas, but avian residents may have been hit hard as well. Sensing danger, some birds may be able to fly away from the hurricane well in advance; others that stay behind can sometimes survive a hurricane by continuing to fly around in the calm eye of the storm.

The Caribbean island Barbuda is or was home to the Barbuda Warbler, which looks somewhat similar to a Yellow-breasted Chat. The bird is found on that island and nowhere else in the world. The near complete leveling of Barbuda, as mentioned earlier, has University of Oklahoma ornithologist, Jeremy Ross wondering "if this was an extinction level event for the warbler" according to [www.BirdWatchingDaily.com](http://www.BirdWatchingDaily.com).

So what does that have to do with us? Many of our favorite Michigan summer breeding birds are Neotropical migrants, several of which spend their winters in the Caribbean. For instance, Michigan's comeback bird, the Kirtland's Warbler, winters in the Bahamas. Luckily, many may not have left yet for their tropical home, but they still could arrive to find their expected winter haunts severely impacted. They primarily depend on eating berries during those months. However, the berries may have been stripped off by the wind, or if the berries had not come on yet, the bushes denuded of their leaves by the hurricane may not be able to provide enough energy from photosynthesis to produce flowers and the subsequent berries. Other Michigan summer breeders that spend the winter in the Bahamas include the Nashville Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, to

name a few. The impact on these and other species we share with warmer climes will not be known for some time.

But there is another cord these occurrences have "been bound fast to" (or, as Muir wrote elsewhere, "hitched to") and that is the connection of these devastating storms to global climate change. These two hurricanes are unquestionably among THE most severe in recent memory (Hurricane Irma was wider than the state of Florida itself, which is unheard of!). And, as I write, another extreme hurricane, Jerome, is gaining steam and could be just as severe. While no one storm event can be tied definitively to climate change, the pattern of increasing intensity and numbers of tropical storms has been predicted by many models as a consequence of a warming world.

In their 2014 Birds and Climate Change report, National Audubon scientists found that Climate Change is THE greatest threat to birds, and the effects are already evident. It further identified 314 of the 588 species studied are imperiled by our changing climate. As that report stated, "More than 60 species of wintering North American bird species have shifted their winter range northward. Soon they may have nowhere left to go." Of those 314, more than 188 are projected to lose more than half of their range by 2080 due to climate change, and another 126 will lose more than 50% of their range by 2050, if there are not dramatic changes in policy, which is not likely with the present congress and executive administration.

I am glad that Audubon's Great Lakes (National Audubon's Regional Office) employs Great Lakes Climate Organizer Brian Merlos, who shares our office when he is not in the field. He has been training folks in SE Michigan and elsewhere to be "Climate Ambassador Advocates," citizen scientists (getting involved in established and new bird counts), and as climate educators. We are grateful for his leadership and our partnership on this important issue.

It is true as Muir admonished that when you affect one thing in nature you pull on strings to many other things, the impact of one action spreading to many others. Fortunately this is not only true with negative impacts but positive ones as well; what you and I do here in SE Michigan can have reverberations for helping birds far beyond our region as well, but it does have to start with doing something. An axiom that is apropos states, "Nobody can do everything but everybody can do something!" I look forward to many of you getting involved in doing that something with us, your local Audubon chapter, or with Audubon Great Lakes. It is as easy as picking up the phone and dialing 313-960-3399 or sending an email to [staff@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:staff@detroitaudubon.org).

Wishing you happy birding and productive action-taking!

**Yellow-rumped Warbler. Sharon Korte photo**





# SWIFT NIGHT OUT DRAWS HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, THOUSANDS OF SWIFTS

*Story by Jim Bull; photos by Jim Bull, Sara Cole and Washtenaw Bird Center*

It was an unseasonably warm, muggy evening on Saturday, September 23, when over 150 people gathered on folding chairs and lawn chairs to watch one of THE most amazing bird spectacles. There was plenty of food for the insect-eating swifts, as the mosquitos were out in force as well—we fed them, and they fed the swifts!

The evening started in a rather unusual way for a birding event—with a concert by the amazing Farmington School of Rock, back for the second year, with several of their lead performers now graduating. How many birding events have you gone to that started out with a rock concert? We hope the music entices some of the younger crowd to get into the swifts and other birds too.

What happened next was an extra special Saturday night feature. Several Washtenaw Bird Center staff members came not only with a table full of information about the important wildlife rehabilitation work they do, but with two orphan Chimney Swifts that were ready to be released. I watched them feed these swifts about 30 minutes before they were released. After the band stopped playing, and



Jim Bull photo



Washtenaw Bird Center photo

maybe 50 to 100 swifts were starting to fly around the chimney, the Bird Center staff said it was time to release the orphans. They told us these swifts had been at their center for a month or more, and that they had been feeding them mealworms and other insects every 15 minutes all day long! The first swift was taken out of the bag and was shown to the audience. Then the staffer's hand opened and the swift flew out, but only a few feet—it landed on the front of my black Swift Sanctuary shirt—just to the right of the logo (not wanting to cover it up, I guess). So cute and so light—I could hardly feel any weight pulling on my shirt as it clung with those four claws forward, just as it would soon do inside a chimney. One of the Bird Center staff came and took it off my shirt and re-released it. I feel that my shirt has been christened by a swift (should I not wash it now?). Larry Schwitters, who installed our chimney camera, said it was a swift “hug” as a thank you for Detroit Audubon’s efforts on their behalf!

When it got dark enough, I showed a short PowerPoint about Chimney Swifts, which are such mysterious birds. We do know a fair amount about them, but there is a lot we do not know. Several people asked how long they stick around during migration. I figure they stay around 2-3 days, feeding and refueling, before heading further south, but nobody knows for sure—it’s hard to get into the chimneys to band them or to recapture them. They migrate from mid-August through early October, so this is THE prime time for numbers anyway. Swifts are continually passing through on their way to wintering grounds in Peru. Before chimneys they used hollow trees, so our chimneys led to a huge increase in their population. However, that trend has been reversed since many old chimneys they depended on are being torn down. We hope to revive our Chimney Swift monitoring program soon, so we will be needing volunteers. Meantime, if you know of a chimney with a swift roost, keep an eye out and let the owners know how important those chimneys are, if you can. All are important, but as far as we know this one is the largest roosting chimney in North America, hosting up to 50,000 swifts in a single night.

After the slide show, folks could enjoy hot dogs and other food available from vendors, buy a cool T-shirt depicting



Jim Bull photo



Sara Cole photo



Sara Cole photo

a tornado of swifts from the Swift Sanctuary, buy a book on swifts from Detroit Audubon, sign up for our mailing list, and get material about the Songbird Protection Coalition. Detroit Audubon is a founding member of that coalition, which is working to keep Mourning Doves, Sandhill Cranes, and wolves off the game list in Michigan. Material from the Bird Center of Washtenaw County (one of the very few wildlife rehab centers in SE Michigan) was available too.

There was also a bouncy house and dunk tank for entertainment.

But the swifts were the headliner act—just filling the air as far as one could see in all directions, with more and more coming in to add to the flock, hundreds at a time. They circled in a cyclone pattern for about 30 minutes, then swirled into the chimney. The last birds flew in after dark—about 8:20. All the while we could watch them on video from a camera inside the chimney, funded by a bequest from, and named for, longtime member Stephen Stackpole. Since last year we had 18,000 each night, and this flock seemed quite a bit larger, there may have been 25-30,000 on Saturday. There was a program Sunday as well. Our program coordinator Jac Kyle gave the PowerPoint talk that night. We enjoyed perfect weather both nights.

If you didn’t come this year, put it on your calendar for next year—always the fourth weekend of September. We wish the swifts happy travels on to Peru and back again in May. We’ll have a spring viewing too. It’s not the festival we have in the fall when their numbers are so great, but seeing a few thousand a night in May is well worth coming out for as well!

**From top left: Washtenaw Bird Center staff prepare to release the two orphan swifts, the two swifts to be released, Farmington School of Rock, the gathering crowd, and swifts swarming the chimney.**



# PROJECT SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES

By Erin Rowan

Project Safe Passage Great Lakes aims to protect migratory songbirds through surveying buildings early in the morning for evidence of bird strikes during night-time migration (i.e. looking for injured or dead birds along the building perimeter). The following data is recorded for each bird strike: volunteer name, date, time, location, side of building, species, age and sex (whenever possible). Injured birds are taken to wildlife rehab facilities by volunteers, and dead birds are frozen and taken to our friends and partners at University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology to be added to their collection. Once data is compiled for particular buildings over the course of 3-5 years, we will make recommendations to building owners and managers on night-time lighting and window retrofits that would limit the number of bird strikes at a particular location.

The Fall season is now upon us and our volunteers are back at work monitoring buildings in downtown Detroit and Mt. Clemens! We monitored 5 buildings this past Spring and will be surveying at additional buildings this Fall! Because it's Fall, and new baby birds are flying south for the first time, we expect more bird-building collisions than the Spring and are encouraging our volunteers to survey their buildings or routes at least 2-3 times per week rather than once per week.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help us with our building surveys, so if you live in or near Detroit, Southfield, and Troy, we have buildings along historic survey routes that need coverage! We also happily take incidental strikes, so if a bird hits your window at home or at your office and you would like to contribute to this citizen science program, please feel free to contact us!

If you are interested in volunteering with Project Safe Passage Great Lakes, or would like to inform of us an incidental bird strike, please email our Research Coordinator at [erowan@detroitaudub.org](mailto:erowan@detroitaudub.org). If you are interested in learning more about our Project Safe Passage, please visit our [website](#).



Above, architectural features like glass-skinned skyscrapers and see-through passages are beautiful, but lethal for migrating birds.

At far right are some of the casualties: a Fox Sparrow (above) and an Ovenbird (below, Hawkins photo) that died after colliding with buildings.

At right, Priscilla Hawkins performs the grim but essential task of collecting dead birds in downtown Detroit.





Learning by holding a Cooper's Hawk study skin.



## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) YOUTH LEARN ABOUT BIRDS OF DETROIT

*Story and photos by Diane Cheklich*

Detroit Audubon's partnership with Southwest Detroit-based Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI) continued this summer with a July program for UNI youth who were in conservation training with Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Detroit Audubon Conservation Committee members Diane Cheklich and Erin Rowan gave a presentation called "Birds and Detroit" that talked about (among other things) the rich bird life in the Detroit area, how to identify birds, and the conservation opportunities that exist in the city. Then the group went on a bird walk in the community, visiting two local green spaces, including a vacant lot that UNI and Detroit Audubon converted to bird habitat in 2016. They were happy to see that birds had moved into the birdhouses that the youth installed last year!





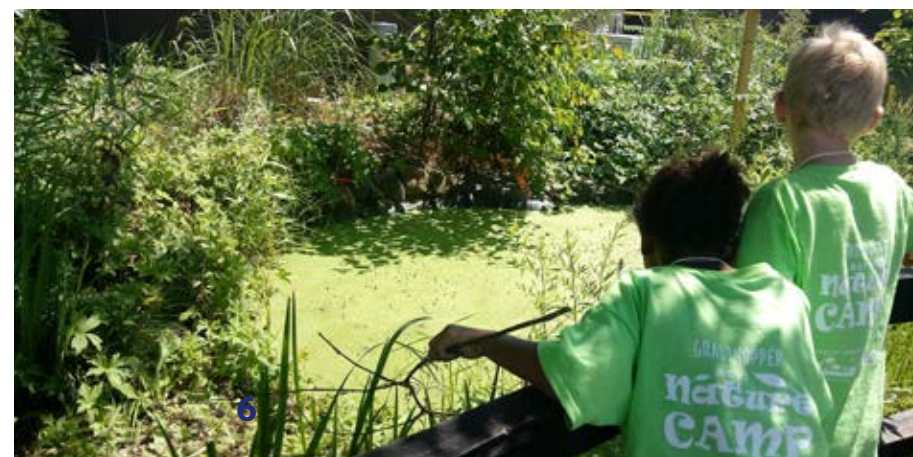


## AN EVENTFUL SUMMER WITH BELLE ISLE NATURE CAMP!

*Story and photos by Jac Kyle*

Detroit Audubon partnered with the Belle Isle Nature Center for another wonderful summer of exploration on Belle Isle. The camp is a free week-long program broken up into two groups: Grasshoppers (5-7 years old) and Dragonflies (8-12 years old). We joined the camp each week during their “field trip day” to take hikes near Blue Heron Lagoon or explore forested sections behind the Nature Center. Campers learned how to use binoculars, and many started their own Life

Lists. Some favorite moments included watching American Robins find worms, witnessing a pair of male Goldfinches chasing each other, and getting surrounded by Barn and Tree Swallows as they looked for food. The excitement was infectious as campers located birds in nearby trees and successfully zoomed in with their binoculars. We talked about the importance of birds in their lives and some things they can do to help protect birds in Detroit. Much to our heart’s delight, many campers could not understand why someone would mow a meadow. Sounds like we have some grassland advocates in the making! In total, we worked with 146 campers during the eight-week program and look forward to continuing this partnership in the years to come.





## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Detroit Audubon is looking for volunteers to help with one of three local Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs): the Detroit River CBC, Rockwood CBC, and Detroit Audubon CBC!

If you are an experienced birder (or even a new birder!) and are interested in helping find and count birds along some of these historic routes, please reach out to our Research Coordinator, Erin Rowan, at [erowan@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:erowan@detroitaudubon.org) or 313-800-1578. For more information on the Christmas Bird Count, please visit our [website](#):

## NEEDED: VOLUNTEER WEB-ASSISTANT

Detroit Audubon is in need of a web-assistant who is familiar with using Wordpress and Divi Builder to update parts of our website.

This volunteer would work under the supervision of our Office Administrator to help us make our website more user-friendly. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested in volunteering, please contact our Office Administrator, Erin Rowan at [erowan@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:erowan@detroitaudubon.org).



## DETROIT AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

*adopted June 2017*

**The mission of Detroit Audubon is to foster the appreciation and conservation of birds and the environment we share.**

*Our three pillars or mission areas are:  
Education, Research, and Action.*

## JOIN DETROIT AUDUBON FOR A BIRDING AND WILDLIFE SAFARI IN KENYA JUNE 28-JULY 11

***\$5,500 double occupancy if we have 12 participants\****

Tembokanga Tours and Educational Adventures, partly owned by former board member and Detroit Audubon friend Bruce Szczechowski, will host a 15-day tour featuring as many as 300 different bird species and all the spectacular wildlife of the African Savannah and Rift Valley.

The tour will be intimate, with approximately a dozen participants. This will afford opportunities to experience eating and interacting with villagers in the Rift Valley and Highlands.

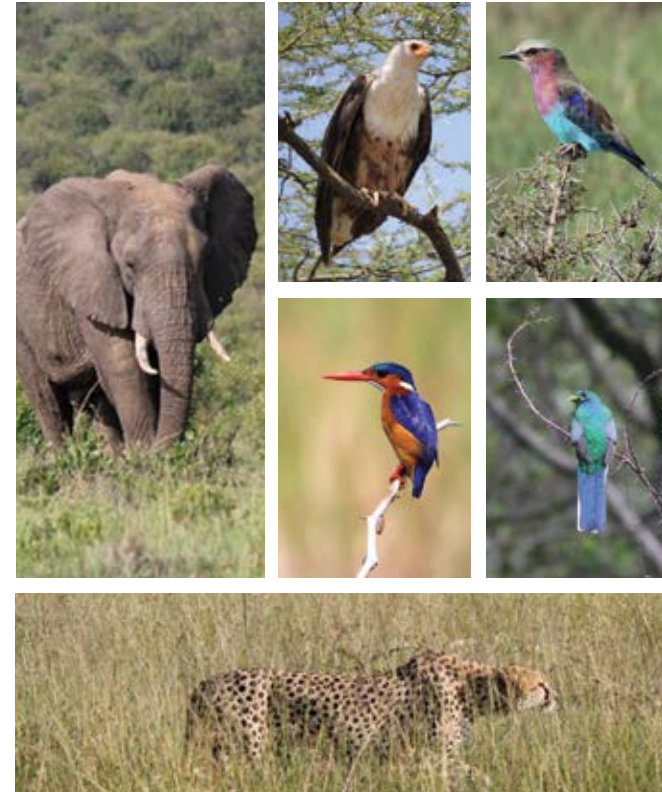
Highlights will include visiting Masai Mara National Park, Lake Nakuru National Park (featuring thousands of Greater and Lesser Flamingos), Lake Biringo, Lake Nasasaha and more. One of Kenya's best birders will be our guide on many of the excursions. We will stay at well-appointed (3-4 star) resorts and hotels.

Email [staff@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:staff@detroitaudubon.org) to let us know of your interest, and a trip meeting will be set up to let you know more and to give you a chance to sign up. This is both an educational and fund-raising event for Detroit Audubon.

*\*\$1,000 more for single room occupancy. Price will increase if there are fewer than 12 participants, and does not include airfare to and from Nairobi National Airport.*

*Dates are approximate and subject to change until registrations are secured.*

**Photos by Bruce Szczechowski**



**Kirtland's Warbler.**  
Sharon Korte photo



***For the Latest News and Views from Detroit Audubon  
be sure to frequently visit our website:  
[www.detroitaudubon.org](http://www.detroitaudubon.org)***



## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

**Yes, Detroit Audubon has a Facebook page! [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.**

## FLYWAY: GONE GREEN!

**Only the Spring issue of the Flyway is printed and mailed annually. 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 313-960-3399 or [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org) 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.**

**Caspian Tern.**  
Sharon Korte photo







## DETROIT BIRD CITY AND GRASSLAND BIRD SURVEYS

*By Erin Rowan*



We are happy to announce that our Detroit Bird City grassland restoration volunteers collected our baseline bird survey data at our 5 pilot parks in Detroit this June! Some exciting species found within the heart of the city were: Indigo Buntings, Cedar Waxwings, Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Ring-necked Pheasants and Chimney Swifts. We are hoping to get restoration started at one pilot park within the next year, and are actively seeking funding for the restoration of all 5 parks. We will continue to survey birds at the same locations each year to determine if restoration recruits more native species into these green spaces - 42 bird species rely on grassland habitat in North America!

Our Grassland bird surveys at Oakwoods Metropark were also completed this past June. These surveys aim to monitor the presence and absence of grassland birds in areas where active grassland restoration has occurred within Oakwoods Metropark. Some grassland species seen by our volunteers this year include: Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Field Sparrows, Clay-colored Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and Ring-necked Pheasants.

We would like to send a big THANK YOU to all of our bird survey volunteers for all their hard work and dedication getting out to these sites early in the morning each week, battling ticks, and walking through vegetation that was sometimes taller than they were!! If you are an experienced birder and are interested in volunteering with our Detroit Bird City or Grassland Bird Surveys next June, please contact our Research Coordinator Erin Rowan at [erowan@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:erowan@detroitaudubon.org) or at 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. Everyone is welcome—especially beginning birders—and you can always bring a friend.***

The day before each trip, by 5 PM please contact the Detroit Audubon office at 313-960-3399, or email either the office at [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org) the field trip leader. Email is preferred. Leave your name, email address, phone number, and the number of people in your party. This will tell us how many to expect, and we can notify you of any changes.

If you want to carpool or are willing to let somebody else ride along with you, let us know at [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org) or 313-960-3399.

*Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm all dates and times before the event. For maps of all Metroparks, see <http://www.metroparks.com/ParkMaps>*

### **Humbog Marsh Field Trip has been CANCELLED.**

Construction is still occurring at the site so we can not access the area. We apologize for the inconvenience.

### **Elmwood Cemetery**

**Friday October 13th at 9 am**

**Leader: Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator**

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. Other dates for trips to Elmwood are April 15, May 13 and 27. Summer field trips will be announced in the next issue.

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

**o RSVP:** Please fill out [form here](#) or email [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### **Eliza Howell Park**

**October 21st 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. \*\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN START TIME**

**Leader: Leonard Weber**

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

**To RSVP:** Fill out [this form](#) or email [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org)



Green-winged Teal.  
Sharon Korte photo

### **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.

**To RSVP:** Please [fill out form](#) or email [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### **Elmwood Cemetery**

**Saturday November 4th at 9 am**

**Leader: Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator**

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. Other dates for trips to Elmwood are April 15, May 13 and 27. Summer field trips will be announced in the next issue.

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

**To RSVP:** Please fill out form [here](#) or email [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### **Point Edward and Lake Huron Shore, Ontario**

**Saturday, November 11, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Cost \$10)**

The focus of this field trip will be on water birds and early winter arrivals. Historically, this has been a field trip where we see many uncommon species! 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 field trip, stopping at multiple locations. We will stop for lunch at a restaurant along the way. Lunch is not included. There is no limit on the number of cars for the locations and this is not a strenuous trip. We will walk approximately half a mile at two locations with level ground.

**Starting Location:** We will meet at the Ontario Tourist Information Center in Sarnia (1455 Venetian Blvd, Sarnia, ON N7T 7W7, Canada)

**Ending location:** Pinery Pinery Provincial Park (9526 Lakeshore Rd./ Highway 21, Grand Bend, ON N0M 1T0, Canada)

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

**To RSVP:** Please [fill out form](#) or email [Staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:Staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

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

**Saturday November 18, 11 AM to 2 AM (Cost \$75)**

**Leader: Jim Bull**

Yes, this a long trip to this northern Indiana refuge, but it is well worth it to see 8,000-20,000 Sandhill Cranes, including cranes from Michigan that stop over here on their way to the Gulf Coast and Florida wintering grounds. Beginning about one hour before sunset, flocks of cranes kite into Goose Pasture Viewing Areas from all directions. They gab, socialize and dance. One jumps here, then another and another until they seem like giant popcorn kernels in a pan. Their dancing is at once inspiring and comical. They spend an hour or two at this activity before returning to roosting marshes, which are closed to the public.

We will stop for lunch on the way down, and for dinner on the way home. Once we arrive at the wildlife area we will look for cranes in the surrounding farm fields, and do some other birding before it is time for the cranes to show up at Goose Pasture.

Cost of field trip is \$20 paid in advance. We will be carpooling to this event. Meeting place to be announced. Program fee does not include gas or food costs.

**To RSVP:** Fill out the [form](#) or email [staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

*Continued*



## DETROIT AUDUBON 2017 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE *Continued*

### Belle Isle, Detroit

**Saturday November 25, 9 am**

**Meeting Location:** Belle Isle Nature Center, Detroit

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.

**To RSVP:** Please fill out [form](#) here or email [Staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:Staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### Elmwood Cemetery

**Saturday December 2nd at 9 am**

**Leader:** Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator

Another 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.

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

**To RSVP:** Please fill out [form](#) or email [Staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:Staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

Palm Warbler .  
Bruce Szczechowski photo



Gray Catbird.  
Bruce Szczechowski photo

### Detroit Christmas Bird Count (Reservations Required)

**Sunday December 17, 2017**

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

To participate, call Tim Nowicki at (734) 525-8630 or [tnowick@gmail.com](mailto:tnowick@gmail.com) or contact our office at [Staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:Staff@DetroitAudubon.org)

### Rockwood Christmas Bird Count (Reservations Required)

**Tuesday December 26, 2016**

**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.

**RSVP:** Please out [this form](#) or email us at [Staff@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:Staff@DetroitAudubon.org).

Directions to our meeting place will be given to registrants. If you want to participate in the all-day count, please contact Research Coordinator Erin Rowan at [erowan@DetroitAudubon.org](mailto:erowan@DetroitAudubon.org).



### MYSTERY BIRD

This ghostly looking bird is an albino (not leucistic) House Sparrow! This fellow visited one of our member's feeders this year and she managed to snap a photo of this mysterious bird! Thank you, Jane Cassaday, for sharing your unique feeder bird!

Albinism, much like leucism, is caused by a genetic mutation that prevents pigments from being deposited on a bird's feathers. Unlike leucism, albinism also affects the color of the bird's legs, feet, bill, and sometimes, eyes. If you take a closer look at this bird's legs and feet, note the color of the bill (compared to normal pigmented House Sparrows) and the pale pink skin around the eyes, you can see that this House Sparrow has albinism rather than leucism.

House Sparrows, as many of you may know, are not native to North America and were introduced to Brooklyn, NY in 1851. The bird's population spread west and they are now common across North America. What some of you may not know is that because they are so common, they have been the focus of study for almost 5,000 published scientific papers! House Sparrows often take dust baths (an adorable sight) that could have helped this little guy look more like his friends and their cousins...a birder's favorite group of birds next to empid flycatchers: little brown jobs! :)