

Flyway

Spring 2016
Vol. 2016, Issue 1

A publication of Detroit Audubon • www.detroitaudubon.org



BLACK TERN PROJECT AND PROGRAM

By Terra Weiland • Photos by Caleb Putnam

Detroit Audubon and National Audubon are teaming up again this year to find out more about Black Terns! Caleb Putnam, a National Audubon researcher, has worked on this project for the past three years and wants to share our findings with the public. Caleb is one of a small handful of researchers currently studying Black Terns.

Black Terns are a priority species for Michigan, and all the Great Lake states have the species on their wildlife action plans. The breeding colony on Harsen's Island is a major source of Black Terns. The species has been declining since the 1960s, for reasons not completely understood.



During the first year of the project, Caleb focused on figuring out how many Black Terns and breeding pairs were in the area. He put up 22 breeding platforms, but took them down at the end of year one because the terns did not use them. In some areas without much nesting material, Black Terns will use the floating

platforms, but at Harsen's Island there is plenty of nesting material to make their floating nests entirely out of plants.

Caleb then worked on checking how many chicks were able to leave the nest each season; after trial and error, he developed a working enclosure to place around the nests to do the counts. He started by monitoring 14 nests and was able to band several chicks through this process.

Our team is currently trying to band adults and chicks, so that we can better understand if they return to the nesting sites year after year. Caleb wants to determine why populations overall are declining. Are adults not living long enough or not having enough chicks? Are the terns suffering at their Caribbean overwintering sites? Perhaps the adults are returning to a different site to breed? These questions are still being answered!

This is a very labor-intensive project that has depended greatly on volunteer efforts. This project is a joint effort between Detroit Audubon and National Audubon. We would like to offer a special thanks to Detroit Audubon Board Member Richard Quick and Randy Kling for their dedication to this project.



We are looking for more volunteers for this project, ideally someone living on or near Harsen's Island. There are various kinds of volunteer opportunities! Please contact Tweiland @ DetroitAudubon.org for more details.

Want to hear Caleb speak about his work in person? Do you have any questions about his research? Detroit Audubon is hosting public talks at the Algonac-Clay Library (Monday March 14th at 6 pm) and University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center (TBA). See our website for more details!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Mentors needed for young Detroit birders!

By Terra Weiland

Detroit Audubon is excited to announce that we are about to begin birding lessons and field trips with a class of Detroit fourth-graders at Ronald Brown Academy!

For several years, thanks to retired area teacher Dave Watkins and his work with



the nonprofit organization Saving Birds Thru Habitat (SBTH), Ronald Brown Academy fourth-graders have learned about birding. Their lessons culminated in a field trip to Magee Marsh at the height of spring migration. Last year, over a month after the trip, they could recall 20 different warbler species!

Detroit Audubon is teaming up with Saving Birds Thru Habitat to reach even more students this spring! We are doubling the number of students in the program by adding another fourth-grade class. Students who participated previously will be invited to join our Young Birders' Program to keep their interest going, and to further hone their birding skills.

In April, we are taking all of the Young Birders (ideally, including Ronald Brown students from last year's program) on a trip to the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary to see ducks up close. More field trips will follow this year as well, including another trip to Magee Marsh—one of the best birding spots in the country!

Help make this possible by volunteering as a birding mentor. We are aiming for a ratio of one volunteer mentor for each two to three students to give them the best birding experience in the field, so we need lots of good birders who are willing to take on this role. Please consider volunteering to help with this program. Detroit Audubon and these young birders would really appreciate your help!

Do you want to help mentor a young birder? Contact TWeiland@detroitaudubon.org or call 313-960-3399 to sign up.

MYSTERY BIRD

Can you identify this bird? It was photographed by Bruce Szczechowski near Pointe Mouillee on Saturday, March 12. (Look for the answer in this issue.)



Flyway

A publication of
Detroit Audubon
4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201-1256

313-960-3399

www.detroitaudubon.org

Office hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday-Friday

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Flyway is published four times a year (one print issue, three digital issues) for 6,000+ 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

tweiland@detroitaudubon.org

Deadline for Summer Issue:

June 1st, 2016

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Please contact the DAS office.

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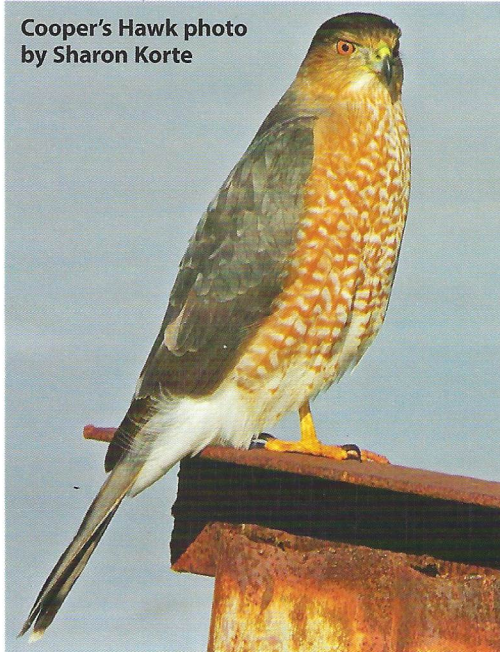
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BULLY PULPIT: THE COST OF CUTTING COSTS AND REGULATIONS

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

Cooper's Hawk photo
by Sharon Korte



You'd have to be living in a cave not to have seen the constant barrage of articles, television reports, editorials and punditry about the Flint water crisis (follow this link to view the Flint Water Advisory Task Force Final Report: <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/about-us/the-flyway/flint-water-advisory-task-force-final-report/> There are many lessons to be learned from this terrible situation.

American politicians have advocated cutting the cost of government as our preeminent priority, with a corollary insistence that we cut "burdensome" regulations. In this primary election season, some presidential candidates even advocate disbanding the Environmental Protection Agency altogether.

While cutting government spending and cutting "burdensome" regulations sounds good in the abstract, the situation in Flint should remind us that there is a cost to cutting government spending and regulations. It is reported that by spending a mere \$100/day for three months to add an anti-corrosive agent to the Flint River water, the authorities could have averted damage to the water pipes and the billions of dollars it will now take to replace them.

Regulations are a critical function of government and our only defense against those who would improve their bottom line by endangering the safety of the general public and degrading the environment. Who knows what the cost will be to take care of those children and adults who were poisoned with lead, those who were debilitated by Legionnaire's disease, or the loss of income and companionship for the families of the ten people who died of that disease?

In the Environmental Science classes I teach at two community colleges, I show the video, *The Waterkeepers*. It highlights the work of the Waterkeeper Alliance, including Detroit River Waterkeeper Bob Burns, who is employed by Friends of the Detroit River. Detroit Audubon was a founding partner of that program. In the video, Seattle Soundkeeper B.J. Cummings makes the point that "Pollution prevention is always cheaper than cleanup later!" Even from a purely economic viewpoint, it makes no sense to cut costs by cutting regulation and enforcement of health and safety laws. One can "externalize" the costs, but they must still be paid. Too often the price is in impaired human health and environmental quality, of course including the environments on which birds also depend. And, taxpayers too often wind up paying the greatly increased cost of cleanup, while suffering the loss of many environmental benefits.

Robert Kennedy, Jr., co-founder and chief legal counsel of the Waterkeeper Alliance, made another important point in *The Waterkeepers*: "No environmental victory is ever permanent; eternal vigilance is always required." That is where environmental groups like Detroit Audubon come in. The environmental movement won some great victories in the heady days after the first Earth Day in 1970—including overwhelming bipartisan support for passage of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (which created the EPA), the Wilderness Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Superfund Act, and the list goes on. But we became complacent because we thought victory had been achieved. Without vigilance, backsliding and sometimes avalanches of retrenchment are inevitable. Yes, eternal vigilance is required. We cannot just assume that environmental laws and regulations will be enforced; we must make sure that enforcement is, in fact, happening; and demand action when it is not to prevent future disasters like Flint from happening again.

That is why I am so thrilled to report to you that after a hiatus of many years, Detroit Audubon once again has an active Conservation Committee, which will help to us more effectively play our part in the "eternal vigilance." The committee will research issues, recommend policy positions to the board, and lead us in taking environmental action. New board member Diane Cheklich, also an award-winning independent filmmaker, has agreed to chair our Conservation Committee. She is already guiding our efforts to ensure that important grassland habitats on Belle Isle are restored so that we can once again see Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Savannah Sparrows breeding on Belle Isle.

If you would like to be part of Detroit Audubon's environmental advocacy arm, please contact Diane Cheklich at DCheklich@DetroitAudubon.org or our program coordinator at tweiland@detroitaudubon.org, or call the office at 313-960-3399.

Our ultimate aim is to get to a place where we are not just solving environmental problems or preventing new ones, but—like the new push in human health care—we are promoting environmental wellness!

To quote a Facebook post depicting little kids trying to get their arms around a giant Redwood Tree,

"I don't want to protect the environment; I want to create a world where the environment doesn't need protecting!"

We need your help in our efforts to create that wonderful new world!



TECH CORNER: NEW WEBSITE

Have you checked out our website lately?

Thanks to Lani Chisnell, a professional web developer, Detroit Audubon's website has a beautiful new look and new features! Want to register for field trips, make donations, and become a member? No problem! Just go to DetroitAudubon.org and take a look.

We still making updates and hope to add more cool features soon—like automatically adding events to your Google Calendar or iCal for a helpful reminder.

SPEND A DAY BIRDING FOR DETROIT AUDUBON—BIRD-A-THON 2016

You are invited pick a day (up to 24 hours) during the period of April 30 to May 31, 2016 to spend birding in support of Detroit Audubon during our 2016 Bird-a-thon!

Enjoy a day in the field at the peak of the spring migration while raising funds for Detroit Audubon. Your efforts will help introduce new people (especially youth) to the wonder of birds, protect wild birds and their habitats, promote nature experiences, and provide scholarships to young birder and educators to go to nature/birding camps and hone their skills.

Individuals of all skill levels are invited to organize teams or participate on a team. Each team is asked to select any day during the specified period to be their "birding day" and choose any location or locations in southeast Michigan.

In advance of the birding date, all team members are asked to seek pledges from sponsors for a certain amount for each bird species seen by the team during the selected 24-hour period. During Bird-a-thon 2013, one team recorded 114 species. For those who like competition, that is the number to beat!

Whether you get the highest number of birds this year or not, we all win! Just being out for a whole day enjoying birds with other like-minded folks is one of the highlights of the birding year for many people. You can stay out as long as you want on that day. Some will get up before dawn to add owls to their tally and may stay out even after dark at the end of the day clocking that last Common Nighthawk or additional owl species.

Team leaders are asked to register their teams by April 29. To indicate a desire to participate, or to ask for additional people on your team, contact the Detroit Audubon office at 313-960-3399 or email our program coordinator at tweiland@DetroitAudubon.org. We suggest a maximum of six members on a team, but groups of 3-4 are more common. Forms to create your team and to solicit donations

can be found online at DetroitAudubon.org. Forms and donations need to be returned to the Detroit Audubon office by the end of June at the latest.

For more info go to <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/birding/bird-a-thon-2016/>

RETURN TO BELLE ISLE NATURE ZOO

Detroit Audubon will be at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo again in summer 2016!

Students at the week-long Belle Isle Nature Zoo Summer Nature Camp examine the natural wonders and rich history of Belle Isle. The innovative camp curriculum is focused on the social and developmental needs of campers while giving them enriching experiences in nature, art, literacy, and math.



Detroit Audubon is partnering with the camp to teach the campers about birding and mindfulness. We are going to visit the tern colony on the island and keep an ongoing list of all birds spotted by campers throughout the summer.

Belle Isle Nature Zoo Summer Nature Camp is a day camp divided into two groups: students 5 to 7 years old, and those 8 to 12 years old. Please go to <http://belleislenaturezoo.org/summer-nature-camp/> for more information about how to register.

Want to volunteer and help us out with teaching the campers about birding? Please contact tweiland@detroitaudubon.org for more information!

PARTNERSHIP WITH GREENING OF DETROIT

All of us at Detroit Audubon are very excited about our new, ongoing partnership with Greening of Detroit. A local non-profit, Greening of Detroit is well known for their goal of sustainably growing a healthy urban community through trees, green spaces, food, education, training, and job opportunities.

We're partnering on grants, focusing on education and bird monitoring. This project will require the assistance of several volunteers. Stay tuned—more information to follow! If you are interested, please contact Terra Weiland at tweiland@detroitaudubon.org



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

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.

Click below to use the Guide.

<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide>



EARTHSARE

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 to explore this resource.

GOOD BIRDING, GOOD FOOD, GOOD TIMES- WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE?

Well, We Are Asking One More Thing—Join Us for Our Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away Friday, May 27-Monday, May 30!

Story and photos by Jim Bull

Only three hours away on Loon Lake just north of Hale, Michigan, on the only privately owned state wildlife refuge in Michigan, you can be lulled to sleep by the plaintive call of the Common Loon, be pleasantly awakened by a Barred Owl protesting some intruder, be dazzled by orchids along a woodland path, hear and see Virginia and Sora Rails on a marsh boardwalk. Meanwhile you can enjoy THE best food and company you could imagine during a four-day weekend, for a price you would not believe!

Join us for our over 30-year Memorial Day Weekend tradition: a trek to the Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center (formerly Camp Mahn-Go-Tahsee).



The camp is ideally situated near other great birding locations in northern Michigan. They include the breeding grounds of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler, Tawas Point (northern Michigan's answer to Point Pelee), AuSable River Scenic Overlooks, the Rifle River Recreation Area, and the Tuttle Marsh wildlife area. The Huron National Forest stretches between most of these destinations as well. There will be a campfire one night and an evening program on a natural history topic another night. Canoes, kayaks, and paddleboats can be taken out for a lake excursion at no extra charge. If you are quiet, you may get to see beaver felling an aspen tree or a Green Heron stalking and then spearing a fish. You may even see an eagle grab a fish in its talons and fly away! From a distance, you can observe a mother Loon incubating eggs or taking care of chicks on her floating nest. You may also find other fascinating aspects of nature, like a salamander under a log, or kit foxes frolicking near a den alongside the entrance road.

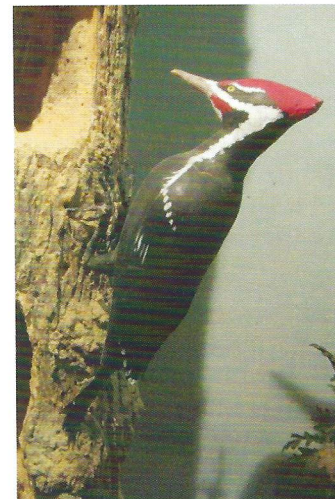


The sad thing lately is that we never know if this will be the last year we can go to this camp. Three years ago the retreat center's board of directors decided to sell the camp but have not found a buyer. Meanwhile, they keep it open to generate some income to offset expenses. The camp was built and operated by two former Detroit Audubon members for many years. The nature center at the camp is full of dioramas made by one of our past presidents and his wife (Homer and Dot Roberts) with their carved birds and animals (e.g. the Pileated Woodpecker exhibit shown at right).

If anybody out there has a spare \$1 million or so, you could probably purchase the camp and give it to Detroit Audubon not only to ensure that this Memorial Day "Bird Camp" continues, but to see that urban youth from the Detroit area can experience a week in the north woods. It may be a pipe dream; but who knows? Anything is possible, so I make this suggestion only half-facetiously.

I do know that Detroit Audubon and the Loon Lake Association would like to see this mile of natural shoreline and the rest of this nature preserve kept undeveloped as the sanctuary it was intended to be. While that is the bottom line, the best scenario is to find some way to keep it operating as a camp. Why? Well, if you haven't come yet, come this year and you will see why so many are in love with this setting and this program. I know I could not imagine a Memorial Day weekend doing anything else!

Go to the Detroit Audubon website to download a registration form at <http://www.detroitaudubon.org/birding/field-trips/memorial-day-weekend-2016/>, fill it out, and send it in.



RIVERWALK BIRDING STATION, SHIVER ON THE RIVER

By Terra Weiland

In February 2016, we celebrated the new Birding Station at Shiver on the River at the Belle Isle Casino with our Winter Waterfowl Program. Over 250,000 birds winter along the Detroit River every year! We talked to the public about wintering waterfowl along the Detroit River and made DIY duck calls out of drinking straws with kids and adults. Our partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brought along a fun migration game and Wildlife Cornhole. We also held a selfie contest at the Birding Station, which will continue all year long! Simply post a photo of yourself with #ScopeSelfie on social media—help us spread the word about this amazing birding station and be entered to win a fabulous prize!

Join us this spring, summer, and fall for more programming at the scopes! We are teaming up with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy (DRFC) on April 22nd and 23rd for some Spring Migration Programs! Swing by to see birds along the Detroit River with us and talk to the folks at DRFC about the benefits of rain barrels and how to put one together. Rain barrels help reduce stormwater runoff, save money on your water bill, and help plants by providing them with softer, untreated water.

In spring 2015, Detroit Audubon worked together with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Detroit Parks and Recreation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create an educational Birding Station along the Detroit Riverwalk at Gabriel Richard Park. The station has four birding scopes (two handicap accessible) and an interpretive panel depicting Detroit River birds. This Birding Station is partially in honor of Georgia Reid, a late Detroit Audubon board member, tireless volunteer for many conservation organizations, and distinguished educator for 45 years at Wayne State University.

Join us again on July 27th and July 30th for our summer program, and October 22nd for our fall program!



THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT AFTER 100 YEARS

The National Audubon website explains:

"...the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) is a law that protects birds from people. ...Congress passed the MBTA in 1916...in response to the extinction or near-extinction of a number of bird species that were hunted either for sport or for their feathers..."

Many of the threats birds face today—wind turbines, high-tension power lines, communications towers, and the like—are relatively new, so the Act and enforcement strategies need to be revamped. To learn the history of the MBTA, go to <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-migratory-bird-treaty-act-explained>

To learn more about current legal activities and new threats to birds, follow the links on the National Audubon website at <https://www.audubon.org/news>.

ENHANCING BIRD EXHIBITS AT THE 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!

The 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 idea available to any interested educator on our website!

In the future, we hope to co-host a special fund raiser gala with the Detroit Children's Museum, showcasing the museum's first-edition Audubon prints! Stay tuned for more developments!

At left, Detroit Audubon Program Coordinator Terra Weiland handled the Detroit Audubon table at Shiver on the River. David Martin photo

HELP SUPPORT THE DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY IN 2016

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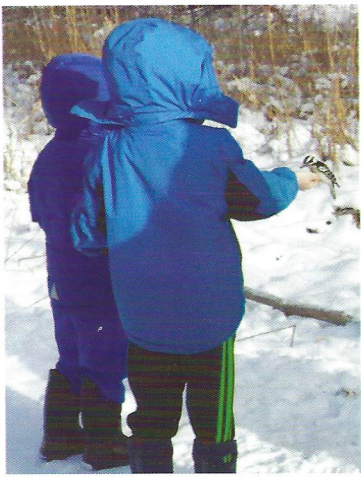
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Detroit Audubon Society, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit MI 48201**



Above, Young Birders brave the cold for a chance to hand-feed birds at Kensington Metropark.

YOUNG BIRDERS' PROGRAM OFF TO A STRONG START

By Margaret Baxter, coordinator

On Saturday, February 13, 2016, the Detroit Audubon Young Birders Program members braved single-digit temperatures as they gathered data for the Great Backyard Bird Count and hand-fed avian residents of Kensington Metro Park including chickadees, titmice and Downy Woodpeckers. Check out a short video of the Young Birders in action on our new Youtube Channel and on our Facebook page!

Especially exciting was spotting a pair of Rusty Blackbirds who serenaded some of the young birders and even took seeds near us! This species has been in a rapid decline over the last 40 years, and finding a pair in the park was a special treat. For more information on this bird, how to spot it, and how to help the species, visit <http://rustyblackbird.org/>.

All young birders are invited to participate in Detroit Audubon's second season of programming specifically for young birders between the ages of 6 and 18. These programs are aimed at helping young 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.

Upcoming Events (See Field Trip list for details and directions):

Sunday April 3, 6 PM- Young Birders' Pizza Party

7:30 PM Woodcock Watch

Oakwood Metro Park Nature Center

See the sandpiper of the upland do his aerial courtship flight at dusk—it is quite amazing. The birds are rather comical, with long bills, and big eyes that see in front and behind them. This is a regular Detroit Audubon field trip, but there is a special pizza party beforehand just for our Young Birder's Club.

Friday April 8, 7 PM- Frog Symphony

West Bloomfield Nature Preserve

Join us to hear (and maybe see) frogs singing their romantic serenades. We often see good birds and salamanders in the marsh before dark. Good for families and children. This Detroit Audubon field trip is co-sponsored by Friends of the Rouge and the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department.

May 14 Magee Marsh, International Migratory Bird Day with Jim Bull

(One of the best places for songbird migration in the U.S.)

May 27-30 Memorial Day Weekend Nature Get-Away

This event is particularly great for children and youth. See article in this issue.

Saturday June 4, 8 AM- Nesting Birds, Eliza Howell Park, Detroit

This field trip is designed to provide participants an opportunity to watch the active nests of several different songbird species (located in advance by the leader). In a



typical year, we can expect to see nesting Baltimore Orioles, Orchard Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Northern Flickers and others. Experienced birder Leonard Weber will guide this visit. This is a regular Detroit Audubon field trip that is especially good for Young Birders! After the program, join us for a special Young Birders treat. (See field trip list page 9 for directions)

Saturday, June 25, 10 AM- Birds of Detroit's History, Elmwood Cemetery

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. The birding walk is followed by a pizza party.



For more information, or to be added to the DAS Young Birders' email mailing list, contact Tweiland@DetroitAudubon.org

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY IS MAY 20TH

May 20th, Endangered Species Day, celebrates success stories, and reminds us of the need to protect Earth's most fragile plants and animals from extinction—including 314 bird species documented by Audubon as threatened by global warming.

According to National Audubon, "The strongest federal safeguard against the extinction of species in the United States is the Endangered Species Act. Since 1973, the Act has helped save some of America's most critically imperiled birds and wildlife, including the Bald Eagle, the Peregrine Falcon, the Gray Wolf, the Grizzly Bear and the Whooping Crane."

Add to that list Michigan's Kirtland's Warbler, which had dwindled to 167 pairs, but has stabilized at about 2500 pairs and will soon be delisted!

Despite its success, Congress has seriously considered gutting the law. Audubon is working to strengthen the act to ensure the survival of rare birds and wildlife. Locally, Detroit Audubon has been working to keep the Black Tern from becoming endangered (see article in this issue).

Find events marking the day on the Endangered Species Coalition event calendar at <http://www.endangered.org/campaigns/endangered-species-day>. Downloadable information on endangered species can be found at <http://www.audubon.org/content/endangered-species-act>.

GRASSLAND BIRD SURVEY

Detroit Audubon and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks are partnering again this year to survey grassland birds! We'll be in Oakwoods Metropark in Flat Rock, Michigan for the entire month of June 2016.

We are currently accepting volunteer monitors for this project! If you would like to become a monitor for this bird survey or future bird surveys, please contact our Program Coordinator at Tweiland@DetroitAudubon.org

DETROIT AUDUBON GIVING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015

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:

Up to \$25

Doris Adler
Lisa Anneberg
Lisa Badgero
Peter & Dorothy Baldori
Catherine Barlow
Jean Belknap
John Bieda
Joseph Bieda
John Bieganowski
Terese Birmingham
Pam & Phil Biske
Eliza Blok
Arthur Booth
Dennis Brendel
Russell Brown
Donald Budden
Joan Capuano
Raymond & Lynn Carpenter
Mary Caspers
John Chalk
Vivian Cheklisch
Michele Christy-Cote
Luke & Tom Collias
Read & Joan Cone
Dorothy Craigie
Julie Decker
Carol Dettling
William Dillon
Mary Ann Dinallo
Stephen Dunbar
Richard Endress
Joy Fitzpatrick
Karen Flores
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Mathew & Terri Franzen
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Rena Levi
Mary Pat Lichtman
Leslie Littell
Jon Markey
Mary Markovski
Diane Marston
Elain McLenaghan
Marilyn McSwain
Jean Meske
Victor Meyers
John Michrina
Carol Morris
Dorothy Joyce Nesbit
Gloria Oeda
Elizabeth Osborne
Louis Paull
Margaret Peterson
Grace Potoski
William Powers
Dwain Read
David Richter
Wanderley Rodrigues
Susan Rofe
John Root
Jennifer Rose
Carlos & Lylian Ross
Paulette Sanders
Randolph & Phyllis Schad
Diane Seigny-Lefebvre
Kim Sfreddo
Arthur Siegal
Bruce Simrod
Steven Slavik

Virginia Smith
Ida Sorscher
Angela Stead
Robert & Angela Stead
Roberta Stimac
Joseph Strumia
Donna Supal
James & Cathy Sylvia
Bruce Szczecowski
James & Diane Tarcha
Mahmoud Tayeh
Tracy Thompson
Donald Titus
Lenore Trombley
Garrett VanCamp
Spencer & Lisa Vanderhoof
Sanford Waxer
Virginia Weingate
Frederick Welsh
Blanche Wicke
Paul Winder
Carol Wolff
Gary & Sue Workman
Antonio Xeira
Rudy Ziehl

Up to \$50

Thomas Addison
Alec & Judy Allen
Thomas Allenson
Doris Applebaum
John Bailey
Gary Baker
Diane Bancroft
Mary Bandyke
Everard Belfon
Elizabeth Bishop
Thomas Blaser
Anna & John Bouwhuis
Deborah Bradley
Richard Burney
Patricia Butara
Brian Campbell
Kay Carlson
Mark R. Carver
Ellen Chase

Steve/Susan Christophersen
Philip Crookshank
Julia Olsen Davis
Diane Dawson
Calvin Devitt
Jack Dubois
Emily Duthinh
Pamela Essere
Fern Ettinger
Chris & Rose Fielding
Denise Figlewicz
Susanne Fortuna
Bonnie Foucher
Ken/Joanna Fowler
Daniel Frohardt-Lane
Frank Giblin
David & Annabel Griffiths
Maria Grimminger
Cole Hawking
Priscilla Hawkins
Michele Hayden
William Hillegas
Herman Hintiryan
William Hoffman
David & Linda Jacklyn
Charles Jehle

Joanna Kastely
Emily Kerley
Grant Kitchen
Robert Koenig
Stella Koshkarian
Julie Kraus
Gayle Larson
Alice Marcavski
Arthur & Alice Marotti
Kenneth Meyer
Laura Miller
Greg Mischenko
Cynthia Motzenbecker
Holly Nieuwendijk
Madeline O'Neill
Andrew & Catherine Ogawa
Jeannine Palms
Anne Pancell
Judith Patrick

William Phelps
Michael Raymond
Mike & Susan Raymond
Dietrich Roloff
Herb & Audrey Saperstein
Jill Schumacher
Jeanne Servis
David & Jeanette Sharpe
Amber Sitko
Barbara Skimants
Anne Smith
Jonas Snyder
Dr. Janice Tomakowsky
Cynthia Taylor
Carol Thomas
Sondra Travers
Roberta/John Urbani/Leon
Seetha Uthappa
Catherine Varoas
Richard Viinikainen
Stewart Vining
Kay White
Adelaide Wiley
Laura Woolley
Martin/Jared Zaporski

Up to \$100

Gloria Albrecht
Linda Balogh
Mary Bandyke
Roger & Janet Becker
Barbara Bommarito
Marian & Roger Bradley
Karen Braun
M. Calleja
Carol Campbell
Christopher Chamberlin
Barabara Cingel
Douglas Clason
Diana Constance
William Damon
Robert Dekold
Joyce Delamarter
Nesta Douglas
Rosalie Eppert
Herbert Gabehart

Jacqueline Hand
Lezlie Hart
Anne Honhart
Geoffrey Hoyer
Joachim Janecke
Shaila Jehle
Peter & Dorothy Joftis
Charles Judge
Janet Kahan
Stephen Kelley
Judith Kirkeby
Paul & Leigh Konwinski
Denise Figlewicz & Thomas Kozina
Richard & Barbara Krueger
Barbara Levantrosser
Jack Lutz
Michael Martin
Eric & Paige Miller
Mary Moix
Kathleen Moore
Barbara Moorhouse
Janet Morosco
William Noren
Jane Perrin
Dianne Peterson
Marcia Schwarz
Lloyd Semple
Bradley Simmons
David Stoddard
Andrea Topjian
Jon Walgren
Phillip Walton
Stewart Warren
Frederick Welsh

Denise Figlewicz & Thomas Kozina
Richard & Barbara Krueger
Barbara Levantrosser
Jack Lutz
Michael Martin
Eric & Paige Miller
Mary Moix
Kathleen Moore
Barbara Moorhouse
Janet Morosco
William Noren
Jane Perrin
Dianne Peterson
Marcia Schwarz
Lloyd Semple
Bradley Simmons
David Stoddard
Andrea Topjian
Jon Walgren
Phillip Walton
Stewart Warren
Frederick Welsh

Up to \$200

Margaret Beck
Bernadette Carrothers
Dolores & Cynthia Concato
C. Theresa Czerwinski
Morris Hoffman
Daniel & Lisa Kliensky
Terrence & Mary Ann McDonald
Jan Nagalski

Up to \$500

Cathy and Bob Anthony Fund
Thomas & Carol Cracchiolo Foundation
Jean Wright and Joseph L Hudson Jr. fund.
Mark Pappas
Joanna Pease
Lois Ryan
Bonita Stanton
Leonard Weber

Up to \$1000

Eco Physics, Inc.
Elaine Ludwig
Richard Quick
Cheryl Schwartz

Up to \$5000

Martin Feingold

In Memory of

Fred Charboneau
Carol Galloway
Frank Grimminger
Dr. Herbert Lux
Oscar & Dorothy Noren
Pam Raddcliffe

In Honor of

Jim Bull's leadership

In Kind

East Michigan Environmental Action Council
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Island Coney of Grosse Ile Township
Office Depot-Office Max, Southgate, MI
St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile, MI
Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe

DETROIT AUDUBON ANNUAL SPRING PEELEE CAMP-OUT

Detroit Audubon will hold its annual spring tent camp-out at Pt. Pelee National Park, Ontario, Canada May 19-22, 2016 (Thursday-Sunday).

This outing is tent camping only at a group campground within the park. Amenities include warm showers, sinks, flush toilets, covered eating area, and a group fire pit for evening camaraderie.

Group size is limited to 20 campers per night, so don't delay.

NOTE: Because campers will be crossing into Canada, all campers will need a passport or enhanced Michigan Driver's license, and \$5 appx. toll fee per vehicle.

Please indicate:

- the primary register's name
- which nights you want for camping
- the names of other campers
- a phone number and/or email address for confirmation
- your postal address (so we can send you a registration form)
- type of citizenship that will be used (passport or enhanced driver's license)

Camping will cost \$18 per person, per night.

To reserve your site and register, make checks out to **Michael Fitzpatrick** and mail with participants' information to **56 Hubbard St, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043**.

BIRDS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE WITH CHAD WILSEY

By Terra Weiland

This past January, Detroit Audubon, along with National Audubon, hosted national climate expert and research scientist Dr. Chad Wilsey to speak about how climate change will affect the future of North American birds.

Dr. Wilsey's research used extensive citizen science data and detailed climate layers to model the relationship between how species are distributed and climate through the end of this century. This study modeled both the winter and summer ranges of 588 North American birds and how they will change in response to a warming climate.

The science is clear that climate change is the biggest conservation threat to birds through the rest of the century. As a result, the fate of North American birds will depend critically on conservation decisions that reduce the impacts of climate change, as well as the ability of these birds to colonize areas that become climatically suitable outside of their current ranges. As the climate changes, bird ranges are also going to shift in surprising ways!

Did you miss the talk? Don't worry! Check out Detroit Audubon's new Youtube page for the full talk: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UU9axkna3mwFzFoFq7AGMtlA>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping Detroit Audubon in one of these volunteer positions:

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR This committee coordinates, oversees and promotes our two Christmas Bird Counts (Detroit Audubon, is mostly in Oakland County; and Rockwood, downriver), Black Tern Monitoring Project, Chimney Swift Monitoring Program, Project Feeder Watch, Bird-a-thon (share coordination with fund-raising committee), and dead and injured bird survey with Safe Passage Committee. This committee is also charged with a special project: researching and publishing a new edition of *A Field List of Birds of the Detroit-Windsor Region*.

The chairperson would convene and chair the Citizen Science and Research Committee meetings three to four times a year, establish the agendas, and serve as the Citizen Science Committee's representative on our board of directors.

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR This Committee does the major planning and coordination for our fundraising program, including our

two annual appeals, Bird-a-thon, major gifts campaigns, planned giving, grant writing, and special giving campaigns—not only to generate the necessary income to maintain Detroit Audubon's current operation but to grow in its staffing and missional impact. Develop plans to present to the board for its approval and involvement. The chairperson would convene and chair at least four committee meetings yearly, recruit committee members, and serve as the committee's representative to the board of directors. This person needs experience in fundraising, running annual and major gifts campaigns, and ideally would have connections with major funders in the Detroit area.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR:

Conservation Committee, Education/ Communications Committee, Citizen Science Committee, Fundraising and Development Committee

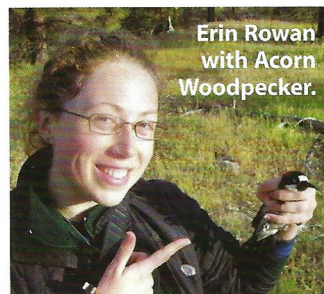
If interested and qualified for any the above positions, please contact Detroit Audubon President Jim Bull at dapres@detroitaudubon.org or call 313-928-2950. A cover letter explaining your skills and background would be helpful.

VOLUNTEER COPY EDITOR FOR FLYWAY

Detroit Audubon needs a copy editor to proof articles, catch typos, clarify unclear passages, and to package the articles and photos for layout. If you are interested please send a cover letter and resume to jamesbull22@yahoo.com.

WELCOME NEW MAJOR VOLUNTEER, ERIN ROWAN

Erin Rowan arrived in the Detroit area just in time! Erin and her husband are living in Riverview and just closed on a house in Wyandotte. Currently she is providing



home care for seniors in the Downriver area, but she was anxious to find a local outlet for her real passion—bird research! She served as Staff Biologist at The Institute for Bird Populations (Point Reyes, CA) where she was responsible for coordinating and managing their bird banding programs within the continental U.S., Canada and the Pacific Islands. She recruited, trained and supervised 28

interns and field biologists each year. She also did avian research and banding in Yosemite National Park and on the island of Saipan, doing educational programs for school groups about bird conservation on the side in both places. As long-time volunteer Randy Kling phases out his involvement in the Black Tern research project we jointly sponsor with National Audubon, Erin enthusiastically agreed to join the team and fill in the major gaps we were facing in data collection this summer. Because of her generous donation of volunteer time this summer, we will have a full season of data collection after all. Detroit Audubon could use a full-time staff member to coordinate our citizen science projects and research projects like the Black Tern Study. We hope we can find funding to support a full-time research position in the future. Erin would be a very strong candidate for such a position. She is also volunteering to help us write grants to help fund our Black Tern research project and a full-time research position. We will involve her in some public programs about the tern research this summer and fall, so stay tuned. You definitely need to meet her! Please welcome Erin and thank her for rescuing the summer 2016 data collection season of our Black Tern research project.

LOOK IT UP!

National Audubon's 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. Just go to: <http://birds.audubon.org/birdid>

The Audubon Online Bird Guide

Identify Birds



Detroit Audubon Society field trips offer fantastic year-round birding opportunities. We visit renowned regional hotspots during migration seasons. Other trips focus on the many interesting resident species. All trips are free (although some parks have entrance fees). Everyone is welcome, especially beginning birders. NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Please contact the Detroit Audubon office at (248) 354-5804 or email the trip leader by 5:00 PM on Friday before each trip so we'll know how many to expect and can notify you of any changes. Leave your name, address, number coming, phone number, and email address. If you can carpool or give rides, let us know. See <http://www.metroparks.com/ParkMaps> for park maps.

WOODCOCK WATCH, OAKWOODS

METROPARK Sunday, April 3, 7:30 PM

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.

FROG SYMPHONY, WEST BLOOMFIELD WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

Friday, April 8, 7 PM

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

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. The Young Birder's Club will be joining us.

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

ELMWOOD CEMETERY, Friday, April 15, 10 AM - Noon

Leader: Terra Weiland

See the March 18 event for details and directions

LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK, Sunday, May 8, 8 AM - 1 PM

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 to Metropolitan Parkway exit. Drive east into the park (entrance fee) and park on west side of the main parking lot. Meet at the Nature Center.

ELMWOOD CEMETERY, GABRIEL RICHARD, AND MILLIKEN STATE PARK

Friday, May 13, 10 AM

Leader: Terra Weiland

See March 18th event online for Elmwood details and directions.

In addition to Elmwood Cemetery, we will also make short stops at both Gabriel Richard Park and Milliken State Park on the riverfront to see avifauna frequenting those spots. You can also see the Birding spot (with an interpretive display on Detroit River birds, and four permanently mounted spotting scopes) that Detroit Audubon co-sponsored.

MAGEE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA (Oregon, OH), Saturday, May 14, 7 AM - 4 PM

Leader: Jim Bull

This is THE biggest weekend in birding at one of THE best North American sites to see warblers and other songbird migrants—sometimes up close. In recent years we have seen nesting Bald Eagles, Woodcock, Common Night Hawks, and Screech Owls. Meet at the start of the birding boardwalk trail on the deck with the warbler display (west end of the parking lot). Arrive early for a close parking spot.

Directions: Take I-75 to Toledo; go south on I-280 to Highway 2. Follow Hwy 2 east about 18 miles and 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.



Evening Grosbeak.
Sharon Korte photo

POINT PEELE BIRDING CAMP-OUT May 19-22

Coordinator: Mike Fitzpatrick (michaelfitz44@gmail.com), **Camp Leader:** Lee Burton
A great opportunity to spend several days at one of North America's premier birding hot spots. At \$18 per night, you can stay the whole time or just one or two nights. We are lucky to be one of the few groups allowed to camp there every year. (See article in this issue for details.)

POINT PEELE DAY FIELD TRIP May 20, 10 AM – noon

Leader: Lee Burton

Point Pelee has long been known as one of THE best migratory traps for songbirds. Lee Burton, Point Pelee campout leader, has offered to lead a "get acquainted with Pelee" field trip for those who want to come for just the day.

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

WETZEL STATE RECREATION AREA, Macomb County, Saturday, May 21, 8 AM

Leader: Leonard Weber

This trip offers a nice mixture of habitat. Breeding birds regularly observed include: Sedge and Marsh Wrens; Harriers; Forster's and Caspian Terns; Clay-colored, Savannah, Song, and Grasshopper Sparrows; Bobolink; Meadowlark; Orchard Oriole; Brown Thrasher; Eastern Towhee; Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; Blue-winged Warbler; Willow

Flycatchers; Ruddy Ducks; Redheads and Pied-billed Grebes. This four-hour trip will require walking 3-4 miles. Be prepared for wet trails.

Directions: Take I-94 east to Exit 247 (M-19/New Haven Rd.). Take M-19 north to 27 Mile Rd. Go west on 27 Mile past Werderman Rd. Meet in the parking lot at the end of 27 Mile Road.

SWIFT NIGHT OUT Saturday, May 21, 7:30 PM until nightfall

Leader: Jim Bull

Join us at the Swift Sanctuary to watch the spectacular show as up to 50,000 Chimney Swifts swoop around like a tornado before swirling right down into this historic winery. A wooded area behind the historic winery abuts the Rouge River, so there may be some migrants as well. This is THE largest roost of Chimney Swifts in North America! As the swifts fly down the chimney, we may be able to see a live video of their activity within the chimney, which was partly supported by Detroit Audubon. Bring a lawn chair to sit and watch this incredible show.

Location: Swift Sanctuary, 31505 Grand River Farmington, MI 48336

The biggest congregation of swifts in this chimney usually happens in the fall. See September 24-25 for a bigger program at the Swift Sanctuary.

DETROIT AUDUBON MEMORIAL WEEKEND NATURE GET-AWAY May 27-30

Coordinator: Jim Bull

Wonderful people and fine birds at the Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, and areas nearby like the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area and Tawas Point. See the full article in this newsletter for more info., and visit detroitaudubon.org for a registration form.

ELIZA HOWELL PARK Saturday, June 4, 9 AM

Leader: Leonard Weber

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

Directions: Eliza Howell Park is on Fenkell (Five Mile Road) in Detroit, about one block east of Telegraph Rd. Enter the park, drive about ½ mile around the "loop," park near the nature trail.

BREEDING BIRDS AT KENSINGTON METROPARK Saturday, June 11, 8 AM

Leaders: Curt and Kathy Hofer

Kensington Metropark is known for the long-standing Great Blue Heron Rookery in Wildwing Lake, roaming Sandhill Cranes, and nesting Ospreys. Other species likely to be observed are Acadian Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Hooded Warbler, Wood Thrush, and all of our local swallows. Also seen occasionally are Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Henslow's Sparrow. Some trails can be soggy, so wear appropriate footwear. The trip will last about four hours.

Directions: Take I-96 west toward Lansing to Exit 151, Kensington Road. Proceed across



Northern Harrier at Pointe Mouillee by Bruce Szczechowski

DETROIT AUDUBON 2016 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE *continued*

Kensington Road into the Metropark on Highridge Drive. Follow Highridge Drive to the Nature Center, about 1/2 mile past the tollbooth. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Metropark pass or entry fee required.

SUNRISE SERENADE AT LEFURGE WOODS NATURE PRESERVE Saturday, June 17 7:00 PM for camping or Sunday, June 18, 4:30 AM for Sunrise Serenade.

Leader: Greg Norwood, Biologist for Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
Co-sponsored with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

In the tradition of Aldo Leopold, take some time to listen to the beautiful songs of a summer morning. Birding experts will be on hand to help us document the progression of bird song, keeping track of when each species first begins to sing. Join friends for a camp-out on Friday night or arrive by 4:30 AM on Saturday if you don't wish to camp. Bring friends, family, blankets, chairs, and a tent if you'd like to camp. Please, no pets. Please also bring plates, cups and utensils for breakfast. Attendance is limited. Contact the Detroit Audubon office at 313-960-3399 by Thursday, June 16 for reservations.

Location: LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve, 2252 N. Prospect Road, Superior Township, MI 48198. Entrance is on Prospect Road halfway between Geddes and Vreeland Roads.

ELMWOOD CEMETERY Birds of Detroit's History, Saturday, June 25, 10 AM followed by a Young Birders pizza party. See article on page 6.

OAK OPENINGS METROPARK Saturday, June 25, 8 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 here are Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, and Henslow's Sparrow. We had such a great day last year (our first here in many years) we just had to come back!

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 3/4 mile. The turnoff for the Buehner Center will be on the left. Meet in the parking lot.

POINTE MOUILLEE** Saturday, August 6, 8 AM

Leaders: Jim Fowler and Jim Bull

One of the premier shore birding areas in the interior of the continent when water levels are favorable. Only 4 vehicles can be accommodated on the dikes, so we can probably only accept about 25 people. You must call 313-960-3399 by Thursday, August 4 to reserve a spot.

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

OJIBWAY PARK, WINDSOR, ONTARIO Saturday, August 13, 8:00 AM

Leader: Jim Bull

We will explore this natural area to see what early fall migrants are coming through, but also enjoy the prairie in colorful, full-bloom, spy its butterflies, and more. The Ojibway Prairie Complex is a collection of five closely-situated natural areas within a 10-minute drive from downtown Windsor. The Department of Parks & Recreation's Ojibway Nature Centre administers three of these areas, Ojibway Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, and Black Oak Heritage Park, for a total of approximately 315 acres. See more at <http://www.ojibway.ca/complex.htm>. Passports or Enhanced Driver's License Required (\$5 appx. Toll fee per vehicle).

Directions: Cross the Ambassador Bridge and follow Rt. 3 to the E.C. Row Expressway (about 1.5 miles). Go right and take the Matchette Road exit. Go left 1.5 miles. Meet in the Ojibway Nature Center parking area.

POINT PEELE NATIONAL PARK Saturday, August 27

Leader: TBA

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

Directions: Cross the Ambassador Bridge (fee about \$5) and follow Rte. 3 to Leamington. Follow signs to Point Pelee National Park (entrance fee required: about \$8). Meet in the Visitor Center parking area. Bring a lunch and your passport for entry into Canada and back into the U.S.

LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK Sunday, September 11, 8 AM

Leader: Cathy Carroll

We should see fall migrants aplenty, with still-summery temperatures.

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

Hermit Thrush
by Bruce
Szczechowski



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.



<http://www.facebook.com/DetroitAudubon>

<http://www.twitter.com/DetroitAudubon>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/DetroitAudubon>

ANSWER TO MYSTERY BIRD QUIZ:

Did you identify this bird,
photographed by Bruce
Szczechowski near Pointe Mouillee?
It is a Lapland Longspur in winter
plumage.



ROCKWOOD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2015

By Tom Carpenter, compiler

The Rockwood Christmas Bird Count is one of two Christmas Bird Counts that Detroit Audubon sponsors (the other, the Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count, is in Oakland County). The Rockwood Count encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle centered on Rockwood, MI. It includes all of Grosse Ile, Elizabeth Park, Pointe Mouillee, Lake Erie Metropark, Oakwoods Metropark, and areas in between. The 2015 count was held on Saturday, December 26th and produced 85 species, slightly above the average of 82 species for the 42 years this count has been in existence.

By far, the highlight was a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Jerry Jourdan's feeder. This species is new to the count. It has to be one of the few state records and probably a first for a Michigan Christmas Bird Count. Jerry also had a Harris Sparrow at his feeder the day after the count—also a new species, albeit a “count week” bird. Other species seen on fewer than 15 previous counts include Eared Grebe (seen once before in 2012), Sandhill Crane (seen once before in 2000), Surf Scoter (2 past counts and 1 count week record), White-winged Scoter (3 past counts and 1 count week record), Horned Grebe (5 past counts and one count week record), Common Loon (6 past counts and 1 count week record), Northern Saw-whet Owl (6 past counts and 1 count week record), Northern Mockingbird (9 past counts) Snow Goose (9 past counts plus 1 count week record), Northern Shoveler (12 previous counts) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (12 past counts and 1 count week record).

A couple of species were more numerous than usual. The 10 Pied-billed Grebes tied with 1991 for a record high. American Coot and Eastern Bluebird both had their 2nd highest totals. Ruddy Ducks were more widespread than usual, present in four different areas.

On the downside, Song Sparrow and American Black Duck were present in the lowest numbers ever recorded in the count, and Common Mergansers tied with 1979 for their lowest total. Mourning Doves and Northern Cardinals were also less abundant than usual.

For the second year in a row, there was a special 2-day duck hunt during the count, which probably affected both the numbers and, to a lesser extent, the species of waterfowl counted. The day before Christmas, there were Green-winged Teal and lots of Northern Shovelers at Pt. Mouillee; the former was absent the day of the count and only two of the latter were present. Many waterfowl were less numerous than they have been for the past few years—including Mallard, Tundra Swan, Northern Gadwall, and Ring-necked Duck.

A few usual species were missed, including Common Grackle, Red-breasted Nuthatch (both on 37 past counts), and Red-shouldered Hawk (33 past counts). There were no shorebirds, few blackbirds, no unusual gulls, and the Pine Siskin was the only winter finch.

Special thanks must go to Kevin Arnold and Paul Cypher for the use of the museum, and Jim Bull of Detroit Audubon for providing the chili, for the post-count get-together. The 43rd count will be on Monday, December 26, 2016. Please mark your calendars and pass the word on to anyone you know who may be interested in helping.

Total species: 85. Total individuals: 20,319. 31 observers in 11 parties, 2 feeder watchers, 30 hours/26 miles on foot and 44.75 hours by car. 4.75 hours/25 miles owling.

Weather: Cloudy all day, ENE winds 10-15 MPH, 37-45°, all water open; no snow cover.

Bold type indicates an unusual species or an unusually high total for the species.

A species was considered unusual if there was fewer than 15 previous count records.

*** designates a new high or low total for the species; the previous high or low and the year is in parentheses.**

DETROIT TEACHER GIVEN SCHOLARSHIP

Detroit Audubon was invited to join with National Audubon to help make it possible for Detroit teacher Zakiya Jackson to attend the “Educator’s Week at Audubon’s Hog Island Camp” in Maine this July. The National Audubon Society is providing a substantial scholarship to cover most of her camp tuition. The Detroit Audubon board voted to provide her \$500 to help with travel expenses, which are also substantial.

Through this teacher, who will gain experience and skill in environmental education at this camp, we will reach an entire classroom—and potentially a whole school—of students. Zakiya has also agreed to join our Education Committee.

Look for a report from her in a future issue of the *Flyway* and at one of our member programs this fall.

Results of the 42nd Rockwood Christmas bird count 2015

Snow Goose 2	Great Black-backed Gull 30
Cackling Goose 5	Rock Pigeon 129
Canada Goose 2869	Mourning Dove 265 (low)
Mute Swan 271	Eastern Screech Owl 8
Tundra Swan 487	Great Horned Owl 4
Wood Duck 1	Snowy Owl cw
Northern Gadwall 14	Short-eared Owl 1
American Wigeon 4	Northern Saw-whet Owl 1
Am. Black Duck 17* (29 in 1983)	Belted Kingfisher 2
Mallard 769	Red-bellied Woodpecker 36
Northern Shoveler 2	Downy Woodpecker 62
Northern Pintail 6	Hairy Woodpecker 9
Green-winged Teal cw	Northern Flicker 20
Canvasback 1091	American Crow 14
Redhead 405	Horned Lark 21
Ring-necked Duck 1	Blue Jay 50
Greater Scaup 51	Black-capped Chickadee 152
Lesser Scaup 3	Tufted Titmouse 17
Bufflehead 88	White-breasted Nuthatch 37
Common Goldeneye 104	Brown Creeper 14
Hooded Merganser 25	Carolina Wren 6
Common Merganser 2* (2 in 1979)	Winter Wren 4
Red-breasted Merganser 1	Golden-crowned Kinglet 13
Ruddy Duck 734	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
Surf Scoter 1	Eastern Bluebird 99
White-winged Scoter 3	Hermit Thrush 4
Sandhill Crane 5* (1 in 2000)	American Robin 375
Common Loon 1	Northern Mockingbird 2
Pied-billed Grebe 10* (10 in 1991)	European Starling 2179
Horned Grebe 2	Cedar Waxwing 12
Eared Grebe 1	Yellow-rumped Warbler 3
Great Blue Heron 52	American Tree Sparrow 383
Bald Eagle 19 (11 a, 5 i, 4 u)	Song Sparrow 5* (8 in 2012)
Northern Harrier 4	Swamp Sparrow 4
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Golden-crowned Sparrow 1
Cooper's Hawk 12	White-crowned Sparrow cw
Red-tailed Hawk 31	White-throated Sparrow 81
American Kestrel 8	Harris Sparrow cw
American Coot 6589	Dark-eyed Junco 204
Bonaparte's Gull 210	Snow Bunting 20
Ring-billed Gull 1074	Northern Cardinal 129 (low)
Herring Gull 211	Red-winged Blackbird 27
mixed Herring/Ring-billed gull 35	Brown-headed Cowbird 1
House Finch 79	American Goldfinch 140
Pine Siskin 14	House Sparrow 440



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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.

Call our office at 313-960-3399 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

