



A Detroit Audubon Publication

Spring 2021

Flyway



Spring Birds

Singing the Blues!

The Enigmatic Swift

Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers

How Birds Learned To Build Their Nest

Flyway

A publication of Detroit Audubon

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Original articles, photos and art welcome at jbull@detroitaudubon.org

The mission of Detroit Audubon is to foster the appreciation and conservation of birds and the environment we share. Our three mission areas are: Education, Research, and Action.



MYSTERY BIRD

Detroit Audubon volunteer Bruce Szczechowski found this bird part in a roosting box used by an Eastern Screech Owl at the Southgate Anderson High School Nature Area. Can you identify the bird it was feasting on just from its beak? According to Bruce this owl seems to have a preference for this bird, which is about its same size.

Check your answer on page 18.



TWO POSITIONS OPEN ON DETROIT AUDUBON'S STAFF: Office Administrator and Membership Coordinator (open right now) and Program Coordinator (open in June).

The Office Administrator/Membership Coordinator position has been posted for a few weeks and interviews should start soon. The hope is to have somebody start by April 1st, but the position will remain open and applications will be accepted until a successful candidate is found. To view the position description and to learn how to apply go to: <https://www.detroitaudubon.org/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities/>

Sarah Halson, our wonderful current Program Coordinator, will be leaving the position in June. We wish her well and hope she stays involved with us in other ways!

The Program Coordinator coordinates our field trips, webinars, public programs, school programs, our Young Birder's Club, and more. The successful applicant must have a solid background in environmental education and experience in both delivering and coordinating programs, using social media, and have great communication skills. Watch Facebook and our website for the official announcement and for information on how to apply.

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Male Eastern Bluebird, Pointe Mouillee,
by Dongfan Chen

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President's Perspective: Welcome Spring

by Rochelle Breitenbach

What a year this has been for Detroit Audubon! The staff, Sarah and Ava, along with a number of our partners (see the Winter *Flyway* on the website for the list) created some fantastic webinars that brought nature indoors at a time when we couldn't offer field trips. If you missed these webinars, they are available on YouTube. We offered virtual school nature programs and have plans to finish up the school year with lessons on birds and the benefits of native plants to birds and people. We had to hold off planting the Detroit City lots that are being turned into meadows until now. Happily, the remaining lots will all be planted this spring.

I am so ready for spring and everything it brings, and I bet you are, too. After a year of COVID-19 we still have a lot of questions, but one thing we know for sure is that once again we are looking forward to spring birding and native gardening. If the COVID-19 restrictions encouraged you to find birding, congratulations and WELCOME! You have joined an incredibly diverse group of millions of people who enjoy birding and nature. If you are interested in learning more about bird identification, there are many resources available to help you improve your skills.

Two free downloadable apps that help with ID are the Audubon Bird Guide and Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab. Experienced birders can also help new birders learn field markings for quick ID of fast-moving birds. We look forward to seeing you on a field trip where you can get some birding tips from Jim, Bruce, or one of our other great field trip leaders. An additional advantage to being out in the woods and fields is the extra dose of oxygen you get from the trees and plants that use carbon dioxide and return oxygen to the air. Breathe deeply!

Remember that your financial investment in Detroit Audubon is incredibly appreciated and makes so many things possible: sharing birds and nature with school kids and lighting a spark in a future ornithologist or environmental pioneer, developing relationships with neighborhood leaders who take ownership of the meadow habitat created on formerly vacant lots, and educating homeowners on ways they can birdproof their windows and save the lives of thousands of birds. Thank you for everything you do for birds that helps them survive and thrive!!

Let's face the coming year with bravery, optimism, and an appreciation for the healing effects of nature.

Pied-billed Grebe mom and chick, Pointe Mouillee, by Dongfan Chen. At 13 inches long, they are small, but very loud and ubiquitous in marshland habitats like Pointe Mouillee. Its nest is often on floating vegetation or on material built up from the bottom.



The Enigmatic Swift

By Rebecca Minardi

In last year's spring issue, I waxed poetic about the return of the warblers during migration season. Of course I love warblers; everyone does. Their bright colors and brief appearances make all birders crazy. But the bird I really wait most patiently for, the species that sparks pure joy when I first hear its tinkling chatters, is the Chimney Swift. I usually exclaim to whoever is around (and even if no one is around), "The swifts are BACK!" Though the Chimney Swift is a rather drab dresser, its unique shape (sometimes termed "the flying cigar") and even more unique behavior make it one of the easiest birds to identify. When I first started birding in Des Moines, Iowa, they were the first birds I really studied, as I was lucky to have a sizable roost right in my apartment complex. Like the name implies, the Chimney Swift almost solely roosts in human-built structures such as chimneys and other tall, narrow towers, though they also can be found roosting in caves and tree hollows. They've so adapted to modern humans that they are more likely found in highly urban areas than in rural areas. This is also because we rarely allow dead trees to stand, so swifts have little choice but to rely on what we've built.

Other than during sleep or while on the nest, swifts are always on the wing. They eat, drink, bathe, and perhaps even copulate during flight. Because of this, a birder is only likely to see swifts soaring high in the air, calling to each other as they search out insects and drop like falling arrows into chimneys. I've seen Chimney Swifts up close twice. Once I found a dead one, much to my sadness and curiosity; I imagined that much like the rest of its life, it also died on the wing and gracefully fell to earth. The second time I saw swifts up close was when I was



fortunate enough to find one of their nests. There is a great stone wall at the entrance to my parents' neighborhood with a hollow end that extends deep into the ground. Though it isn't very tall, a swift pair decided to nest in the stone hollow. I carefully scaled the wall when the swift parents were out foraging to peer into the dark at the babies in the nest. I felt very lucky to see something that is often a mystery. Swifts nest one pair to a site, unlike their great fall roosts where upwards of tens of thousands of swifts can jockey for space to sleep in a large chimney. During breeding season, a pair will construct a cup nest against the wall (often in a chimney) and may get help from one or two older fledglings in the rearing of their new brood.

Over the summer, swifts begin congregating in their great roosts. Many birders have a favorite roost they follow, whether it be in a church, school, or abandoned building. Watching Chimney Swifts circle, dive, and disappear as the day grows dark is one of late summer's greatest pleasures. In October, they begin their long journey to South America for the winter. So yes, I anxiously await the sight of my first Blackburnian Warbler of the spring, but my birder's heart belongs to the swift, whose loops and calls remind me that summer's just around the corner.

Photos from top:

Young Chimney Swifts. Washtenaw Bird Center photo

The flying cigar: Chimney Swift by Caleb Putnam

Inside a fake chimney at the Washtenaw Bird Center



Migratory Bird Treaty Act Protections To Be Restored

By Jim Bull

One of our oldest and most effective conservation laws, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) was enacted by Congress in 1918 to implement the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1916. Just three years ago we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the MBTA, which protects millions of birds. It has been enforced by administrations of both parties to curb industries from senselessly killing birds. It is credited with saving Sandhill Cranes, Snowy Egrets, Wood Ducks, and countless other species from extinction.

The previous White House administration started trying to roll back the MBTA's protections in 2017 by redefining prohibited "take" of a species to govern only intentional killing or harm of a bird species—but those efforts were consistently knocked down by the courts in lawsuits brought by National Audubon and more than 500 environmental organizations.

On January 7, 2021, just 13 days before the inauguration of our new president, the previous administration published a new rule to give their new interpretation the force of federal law. That new rule explicitly excluded "incidental take" from being covered by the act, which means birds killed as a "result of an action but not the purpose of that action" would not be considered a violation of the MBTA. This new rule could fairly be called a license to kill birds, as long as your action has another purpose.

There have been very few legal actions brought under the old provision on incidental takes, but its existence and the threat of possible legal action served as a check on industry excesses. Practices that were no longer covered by this new rule include covering tar pits in prairie pothole areas that attract large numbers of waterfowl that get oiled and then die. Future oil spills like the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that killed at least 800,000 birds directly and thousands more indirectly would have resulted in no fines or legal action whatsoever. That new rule put millions of birds in peril and was antithetical to the purpose of the act and likely a violation of the treaty itself.

Both National and Detroit Audubon and many of you contacted the White House asking them to rescind this new rule. The new rule did go into effect, but it will not be in effect for long. On Monday, March 8, the Biden administration announced new measures to strengthen the act and restore its full protection of



*Snowy Egret by Rosemary Gillian/
Audubon Photography Awards*

*Below left: Male Wood Duck
at Pointe Mouillee
by Dongfan Chen*



migratory birds. When good things happen for bird conservation, it is important to show our appreciation. You can let the White House know your thoughts on this issue by sending a message to the White House online message system at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> or calling the White House comment line at 202-456-1111.

You might also consider emailing Deb Haaland, the first Native American appointed Secretary of the Interior, to let her know your thoughts on this issue, and bird and wildlife conservation generally. While Haaland has not been confirmed as of this writing, her nomination has passed out of committee and is likely to be approved by the time you receive this issue of the Flyway. You can email the Department of the Interior at feedback@ios.doi.gov or call the Department of the Interior at (202) 208-3100.

For general information about the MBTA go to this National Audubon webpage: <https://www.audubon.org/news/migratory-bird-treaty-act>. For specific information on the announcement about rescinding the last administration's rule that gutted the act's protections go to: <https://www.audubon.org/news/biden-administration-says-it-will-revoke-trump-rule-let-companies-kill-birds>.

Singing the Blues!

By Jim Bull

Whose heart hasn't melted when spying that little bird with a royal blue back and robin-orange breast belting out his flute-like song atop a fencepost in spring or early summer? It is really hard to behold this beautiful fellow and not be happy, at least a little bit. The old adage, the "Bluebird of Happiness" is well founded, don't you think?

It is the male that has the bright blue head and back. The female is also blue and has an orangish breast as well, but much paler. Like all blue color in birds, the blue we see is not the result of a pigment (a chemical that reflects certain wavelengths of light), but feathers with an exquisite design that structurally reflects the blue part of the spectrum when light hits them right. But hold a bluebird feather up to the light, and you are likely to see a dull brown color. Light is hitting it from an angle different from when it is lying flat on the bird's back.

Their robin-orange breast and that flute-like song belie another relationship tidbit, little-known at least among nonbirders or beginning birders—they are thrushes, cousins to those other great flutists of the avian world such as our beloved Wood Thrush, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and yes, the familiar American Robin of our dooryards too.

While our spring-summer happiness singer is the Eastern Bluebird, other parts of this country play host to the closely related Mountain Bluebird and Western Bluebird. The Western Bluebird has a very similar plumage to the Eastern, but has a blue throat whereas ours does not. The Mountain Bluebird is a lighter sky blue all over. All three have similar nesting habits.

Unlike its thrush cousins, bluebirds (all three species) nest exclusively in cavities in dead trees, or bird houses that mimic them near the edge of an open field, prairie, or meadow. Most nesting bluebirds I've seen have been in nest boxes put out by caring folks to mimic the dead trees that sport the old woodpecker cavities they prefer. I have also seen them nesting in old woodpecker holes in dead trees in the early pioneer stages of Jack Pine succession in Kirtland's Warbler management areas. We also see them in their more natural abodes in a tornado-torn swath of open prairie bordering a woodland on our annual field trip to Toledo's Oak Openings Metropark. Oakwoods, Lower Huron, and Indian Springs Metroparks have bluebird trails (a series of nest boxes installed and regularly monitored). There are other trails at Eliza Howell Park, a Detroit city park on 5 Mile Road near Telegraph, and at Heritage Park in Farmington. Until about five years ago there used to be an active bluebird trail with nesting bluebirds on Belle Isle. The boxes suffered a fair amount of vandalism. Detroit Audubon would like to reestablish this bluebird trail and the Michigan DNR, which manages this new state park, seems amenable, but we would need a dedicated cadre of volunteers to monitor the trail. If you are interested in helping, send an email letting us know to staff@detroitaudubon.org.

Bluebirds are mostly insect eaters, swooping to catch flying

insects on the wing and gleaning insects and other invertebrates from vegetation and on the ground. Those that stay the winter turn to eating berries, but still may find an insect here or there.

If bluebirds are singing the blues instead of a happy song these days, it might be because humans don't seem to value what they need the most—dead trees! A former superintendent of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks decreed that any dead tree even visible from road or trail had to be removed. Now a dead tree too near a road or a trail can be safety hazard, but one visible but further away is veritable wildlife apartment building hosting a succession of woodpeckers, flying squirrels, Eastern Screech-Owls, raccoons, and the list goes on. A trail videocam pointed toward a dead tree reveals a wildlife convention center or a stopover destination for furry or feathered tourists. Luckily the present Metroparks manager understands the importance of dead trees and of keeping much

of each park as natural as possible. As Robert Kennedy, Jr., reminded me and others on a visit to the Detroit River several years ago, "No environmental victory is ever permanent, constant vigilance is required."

Why do bluebird trails need to be monitored? Well, for one, nest boxes need to be cleaned after the season is over or they will not be used again. They need constant attention during the breeding season too. Before bluebirds arrive back on territory and begin nesting, invasive House Sparrows and European Starlings will claim the nest boxes for themselves. Once they start to build a nest, the only way to preserve the box for bluebirds is to throw out the intruding nest materials as soon as they are noticed. More pernicious is another nasty behavior reported for both of these nonnative species—they have been known to kill a female bluebird incubating eggs or brooding chicks on the nest and build a new nest on top of her carcass. Proper design of a bluebird box can help prevent this: make the hole so it is hard for either of those species to get in, and never add a perch below the hole—that is a design feature that favors House Sparrows, which like to perch



A bluebird nesting box at Sand Valley Golf Resort, Wisconsin, by Jim Bull.

On facing page, a male and (at right) a female Eastern Bluebird, both by Bruce Szczechowski.



before entering a nest hole. Bluebirds don't need or use a perch, so don't add one! Many books and pamphlets show proper dimensions and designs for a bluebird box—it would be wise to follow those directions if you want a bluebird trail to be successful.

There is another species you are most likely to see when you put up a bluebird trail—Tree Swallows! In fact, some like to put a second bluebird box on the back of each post sporting a bluebird box. Tree Swallows and bluebirds get along just fine as neighbors on the same nest pole! Only one pair of tree swallows will nest on a pole, so there is no need to worry that they will take over both. They may also help drive away House Sparrows and starlings, and with their iridescent blue backs and snow-white breasts, they are fun to watch as they catch insects in the air.

Here's wishing you many happy hours this year and years to come watching these birds of happiness while they are with us in spring and summer (and, amazingly,

even all winter if the food supply is good enough!). Hopefully some of you will find additional happiness helping Detroit Audubon restore the bluebird trail on Belle Isle and maybe other places as well. And remember what some have suggested the Eastern Bluebird is seeming to say with its song, "Cheer Cheerful Charmer! Cheer Cheerful Charmer!"

For more information on bluebirds, I recommend:

Stokes, Donald W. and Lillian Q. ***The Bluebird Book: The Complete Guide To Attracting Bluebirds***. Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1991.

Tekiela, Stan. ***Bluebirds (Backyard Bird Feeding Guides)***. Cambridge, MN: Adventure Publications, 2017.

Zickefoose, Julie. ***Enjoying Bluebirds More***. Marietta, OH: Bird Watcher's Digest, 1999.

Griggs, Jack, Cynthia Berger, and Keith Kridler. ***The Bluebird Monitor's Guide to Bluebirds and Other Small Cavity Nesters***. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 2001.

For Kids:

Kirby, Pamela F. ***What Bluebirds Do***. 2013.



Tree Swallows at Pointe Mouillee by Bruce Szczechowski



Chicks in a nesting box at Sand Valley Golf Resort by Jim Bull

Bluebird eggs in a nesting box by Doug Burton



Song Sparrow singing at Pointe Mouillee by Bruce Szczechowski



We Need Your Old Flyways

All of our *Flyway* newsletters and in the last few years, magazine issues, that we have published are archived on our website at <https://www.detroitaudubon.org/the-flyway/>. Unfortunately, we have an incomplete set of these publications. Detroit Audubon was founded in 1939 and we think a newsletter was produced very early on. In the early years the newsletter may not have had the name *Flyway*. Here are the gaps we have:

1939-43—we have no issues from this period

1944-55—we have only one issue from each of these years (except 1949 from which we have two issues)

1959—we have just one issue

1960s—we have none

1970s—we only have one issue, January 1978

1980s and '90s—we have none

2000-2003—we have none

2004—we only have the Winter issue

2005- present—we have complete sets.

If you have any of these missing issues you can help us complete our collection by sending them to our office at: Detroit Audubon, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201. Or you can drop them off in person, but please call first (313-588-1015). Your help would be much appreciated.



*Red-winged Blackbird,
Pointe Mouillee, by Dongfan Chen.*

You know spring is here or well on its way when you hear the first "Oncheree!" of the displaying male Red-winged Blackbird.

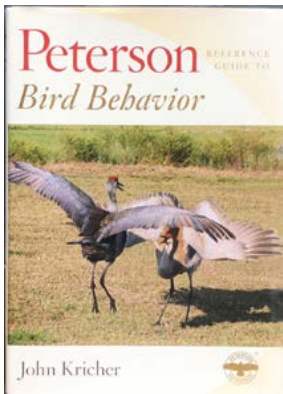
They can control this display of their showy bright-red epaulets. They nest mostly in cattails. The female's brown plumage, with a streaked breast, looks nothing like the male's, but this subtle coloration enables her to blend into the background while on the nest or feeding young.

Caspian Terns, Pointe Mouillee, by Dongfan Chen. Our largest tern at 19-23 inches long, with a four-foot wingspan and a stout red beak, they nest on sandy or pebbly beaches on small islands. Some breed at Pointe Mouillee, but most are visitors during migration on their way further north to Saginaw Bay, the Upper Peninsula, or north into Canada.



Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior, by John Kricher

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020) • Book review by Emily Simon



If you are looking to expand your knowledge of birds beyond what can be found in your field guide, you would do well to check out the *Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior*, by John Kricher. The latest in the extensive Peterson catalog of natural history field guides and reference works, this book landed on a number of “best bird book” lists for 2020, and deservedly so.

Kricher is a biology professor emeritus who taught ecology, ornithology, and vertebrate evolution for 48 years at Wheaton College in

Norton, Massachusetts. The author of *Tropical Ecology*, widely considered the leading textbook on global tropical ecology, he is perhaps best known for his classic *New Neotropical Companion*, a comprehensive one-volume guide to the South American rainforest—its flora, fauna, and major ecosystems.

Kricher traces his lifelong enthusiasm for birds and evolution back to his childhood and, interestingly, an early connection with Audubon. Having already developed an interest in dinosaurs, he became a birder at age 8, and his parents supported his birding pursuits from the beginning. When he was 18, the Wyncote (PA) Bird Club awarded him a scholarship to attend the storied Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. This formative experience fueled his academic passion for ecological systems, leading to a Ph.D. He went on to write the Peterson field guides to eastern, western, and Rocky Mountain forest ecology, among many other books.

The *Reference Guide*, unlike other works exploring bird behavior, is organized by behavioral topic rather than by bird species or families, as is found in the *Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* or Kenn Kaufman's *Lives of North American Birds*. The book's 16 chapters cover broad aggregate subjects, such as general anatomy and physiology, migration, and bird diversity, but also dive deep into singular bird characteristics, including bird brains and senses, feathers and flight, social behavior, bird song, territories, mate attraction and pair bonding, and nesting behavior, among others. Each chapter provides a concise overview of a particular category of bird behavior, covering forms that are universal among bird species as well as highlighting behaviors that are specific to certain bird families or even bird species.

Kricher weaves through the narrative his fascination with the behavior and evolution of even our most common birds. The author's enthusiasm and teaching style come through in the book, which aims to make the science of bird behavior accessible to a general audience. Kricher explained to Nate Swick in an American Birding Association weekly podcast interview

(January 7, 2021) that he kept his authorial voice geared toward encouraging a small group of students to appreciate the wonder of birds. “If you can't get your students interested in what you've spent your life doing, then probably you should go do something else,” he noted. Indeed, Kricher speaks often in the book directly to birders with anecdotes and tips for learning about how birds actually live their lives.

As comprehensive and engaging as the text is, the book's greatest asset may be the hundreds of color action shots, many of Kricher's own, that propel each chapter forward and vividly bring each topic to life. Covering as much page real estate as the text, the photos alone should earn this book a prominent place in the birder's library, if not on the coffee table. Moreover, the photos are not run-of-the-mill images we have all seen before. Birds are shown in their habitats, doing what they do, and because of this we see them in a new light.

The guide also includes an extensive annotated bibliography, both of general reference works and more specialized books and articles for each chapter, which provides a fantastic jumping-off point for further study. These lists, with Kricher's comments on their content and usefulness, can be invaluable aids in deciding what aspect of birds to explore next. Indexes, both of birds mentioned in the text and a list of birds along with their scientific names, round out the additional features.

In short, the *Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior* fully achieves all the quality expectations befitting a book with the Peterson name on it, providing its readers with a fun, detailed exploration of North American bird life in all its complexity and diversity. As Kricher commented to Swick, “Birds go a long way toward helping us explain how the natural world works and why it's of value to learn how it works and to appreciate [its] extraordinary beauty.”





How Birds Learned To Build Their Nest: The Tale of the Sleepy Student *By Wilbur T. Bull*

Reprinted with minor edits from Your Detroit Zoo (Vol. 3, No. 3, February 1949), publication of The Detroit Zoological Park Commission, Royal Oak, MI with permission of the Detroit Zoo.

In the beginning of time, when the Great Spirit placed all animals and birds on the earth, he called the birds together to teach them the art of nest building. So goes this legend:

There were only five steps: nest-anchoring, foundation-building, cup-forming, nest-insulating, and nest-lining. He explained each step very carefully. He showed how each step could be best accomplished to serve the needs of the different kinds of birds. When he had finished, every bird should have been able to build a perfect nest. But, alas, some of the birds were not very good pupils. I am sure all of you have noticed the great differences in bird nests. Some didn't learn their lessons very well!

Did you ever see a Killdeer's nest? The Killdeers and their relatives were playing on the sands of the beach while others were attending the Great Spirit's lesson. You know the result. The only nest they knew how to build is to arrange a few pebbles on the bare ground.

The Mourning Dove was tardy to class and went to sleep after the lesson on how make a nest foundation. As a result, after a sudden storm strikes, you are likely to find baby Mourning Doves or eggs destroyed on the ground beneath the nest when the weather clears.

The Northern Cardinals weren't much better students. They whispered and sang in class, finally leaving altogether after the third step, which was "cup forming." Although their nests are somewhat stronger than the doves', they too lose many nests in storms.

The orioles were one of the bright-eyed students who listened carefully and learned the fine art of nest building as the Great Spirit intended. They weave security and warmth into their nests so it is a true home for their young.

The real truant of the American bird world was the cowbird. He "played hooky" altogether. He never even learned that birds were supposed to build their own nests. When the time comes for her to lay eggs, Mrs. Cowbird looks around until she finds another bird's nest, deposits her eggs, destroys one of the other bird's

eggs so that her deed will not be noticed, and goes merrily on her way. Most songbirds will continue their incubation without noticing the strange egg. The cowbird fledgling is usually larger than its foster brothers and sisters so it rapidly develops into a bully, crowding the others out of the nest or at least managing to get most of the food.

One of the few birds that outsmart the cowbird is the Yellow Warbler. It usually discovers the larger egg. Rather than incubate the cowbird's egg, the warbler builds a new floor over the top of the original nest, adds a second story, and tries again. Yellow Warbler nests with as many as five stories have been found

The next time you see a bird's nest, see if you think it was made by a good student in nest building.

EDITOR'S NOTE ON DEFENSES AGAINST COWBIRD PARASITISM: American Robins and Catbirds often outsmart cowbirds too. Biologists think that American Robins and Catbirds probably evolved their blue egg color in response to cowbird parasitism. Cowbirds do not often lay eggs in these nests, but if they do, the host parent invariably tosses the cowbird eggs out of the nest, easily discriminating the oddball egg or eggs due to the dramatic difference in color. For a cool YouTube video showing an American Robin throwing a cowbird egg out of the nest go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBTML1zcqQA&t=3s>

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *My dad, Wilbur T. Bull, was the author of this article. I found it when sorting through his file cabinet in the basement. I remember seeing it years ago but was glad to see it again. I've told many people that my roots in Detroit Audubon go back about as far and about as deep as possible since my parents met on a Detroit Audubon bird hike led by Dr. Walter P. Nickell and then named me after two ornithologists, Nickell and John James Audubon. Dad supervised Detroit Audubon's Nature Cabin at the Detroit Zoo, which is how he came to write an article for a Detroit Zoo newsletter. He also supervised a question booth staffed by Detroit Audubon volunteers, served on the board, and was a longtime volunteer, especially for conservation issues advocacy. —Jim Bull*



Top of page: Northern Cardinal male and female feed young at nest. Note the loose weave of the fibers allowing light to show through them. Photo from Clicker.com

Above left: Mourning Dove hen on the nest by Bruce Tuten, CC BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

Above right: Killdeer on nest at Pointe Mouillee by Bruce Szczechowski

Yellow Warbler male sitting on a multi-layer nest. Each layer below the top one contained a cowbird egg. Courtesy of [Depositphotos](#).

At right: Male Baltimore Oriole tending its exquisite nest by Bruce Szczechowski



Above left: Female Brown-headed Cowbird by Doug Ritenburg/Audubon Photography Awards 2016

Above middle: Brown-Headed Cowbird male displaying, Milford, Michigan by Jocelyn Anderson/Audubon Photography Awards 2019

Above right: American Robin nest with cowbird egg (the white one with brown speckles) by Ted Kinsman, Science Source.

Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers

Article and photos by Jim Bull



When you are out birding this spring getting “warbler neck” from looking high into the trees for songbird migrants, gaze downward from time to time, and you’ll have another colorful feast at your feet – spring ephemeral wildflowers!

“Ephemeral” means short-lived and they are – usually just three to four weeks from mid-April to mid-May. Spring ephemeral wildflowers come out at the same time conditions are best for birding; warblers and other songbirds are stopping over on their way north, and they are easy to see because tree leaves haven’t come out yet. No leaves is critically important for these woodland denizens. They have to get their flowering done before the leaves come out. Otherwise there won’t be enough light filtering to the forest floor to fuel the photosynthesis necessary to provide the energy for reproduction.

Look for them in deciduous woodlands that have not been infested with non-native earthworms (all Michigan earthworms are non-native and invasive) and thus have a thick leaf layer on the ground called “duff” that provides protection and moisture for the germinating seeds. If you or anybody you know use worms as bait for fishing, please do not throw leftovers into the woods, and tell them not to do so either. Just a few worms could multiply to doom the ecosystem of a woodland. Worms make quick work of the leafy “duff” layer, leaving bare soil and no protection for wildflower seeds.

Photos this page:

Background- Eastern Redbud is a flowering shrub that adds color to the woodland landscape during springtime. They are a legume, in the same family as peas, beans, and clover, and thus have a pea-like flower. They also have nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their root nodules making them especially good for soil fertility.

Above, *Trillium Grandiflorum*. Named for having three leaves and three flower petals, they carpet native woodlands in Michigan that are not infected with earthworms. This is the most common species, but there are several less common species including the deep red Painted Trillium, which used to be a specialty of Detroit Audubon’s St. Clair Woods Sanctuary near the Pine River (they haven’t been found the last few times our sanctuary committee visited the property). White flowers become pink as they fade.

R: Bruce Szczechowski getting ready to photograph ephemeral spring wildflowers.

Facing page from top, L-R:

Bloodroot. This plant has elegant white flowers with beautifully designed succulent leaves in almost a heart shape. It is named for the red sap in its roots (but please don’t dig them up to look, just trust me on this! They are protected!).

Spring Beauty. Delicate flowers of white with light lines of pink radiating down each petal. I’m told they have a little tuber that tastes something like a potato, but I’ve never wanted to dig them up and so have not tasted them. (Besides, they are protected)

Trout Lily or Dog-toothed Violet. The name “Trout Lily” is understandable because the mottled reddish-brown and green leaves reminded the namers of speckled trout that they’d caught. They are yellow, not purple, and look nothing like a violet or a dog’s tooth so that name is mystery. Ants help sow their seeds by taking them to their burrows where they feed on a sugary eliasome that the Trout Lily puts on the end of its seeds. After eating, the ants discard the seed on a soil trash pile that winds up being the equivalent of planting the seed in a cultivated, well-fertilized garden.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Part of the Arum plant family of mostly showy tropical flowers, the “pulpit” is a modified leaf called the spathe, and the preacher inside (“Jack”) is the flower stalk called a spadix. Their fruit is a cluster of shiny red berries. All parts of the plant are poisonous to eat, but it is always fun to see!

Dutchman’s Breeches. Closely related to the cultivated “Bleeding Hearts,” the flowers do look like the upside-down trousers of the old fashioned “Dutch boy” pantaloons. They will be often found with a relative called Squirrel Corn, which looks like white Bleeding Hearts.

Violet and Dandelion in an American Heritage Lawn. That is what my natural resources professor, Bill Stapp, used to call lawns that are not treated with pesticides and thus have a rich diversity of plant species including dandelions, violets, and clover (the pink, purple, and yellow make a colorful display!). Dandelions are more nutritious and more delicious than most of the salad greens you buy. Clovers are legumes which have nodules on their roots harboring bacteria that fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil air pockets into nitrates (NO₃), a nutrient plants need, making the lawn healthier and helping feed the nitrogen-hungry grass. And American Heritage lawns are great for birds too. Providing lots of seeds and insect food and avoiding pesticides is a bird-friendly way to go!





Spring Birds

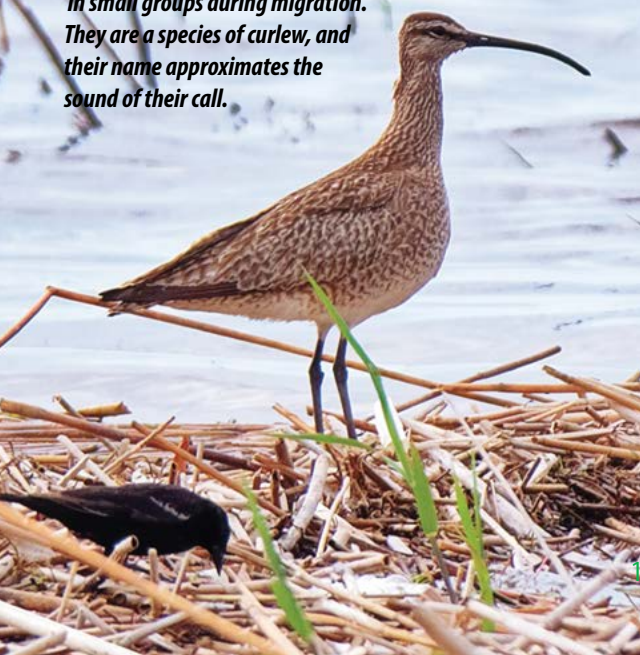
Male Common Yellowthroat singing, Pointe Mouillee, by Dongfan Chen. You can't miss the male's loud territorial call, "Witchitee, witchitee, witchitee, witch!" blaring at you from its haunts in a marsh or bog, but it is much harder to see one. They stay hidden in vegetation most of the time. The male has a bright yellow throat and black mask. The female has an olive back and a lighter yellow throat. They are common and breed throughout the state.

Below, Ruddy Turnstone, Pointe Mouillee, by Dongfan Chen. A strikingly marked sandpiper that visits during stopovers in migration on its way to and from its breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra, this bird is named for its behavior of inserting its bill under stones and shells and then flipping them over to look for invertebrate delicacies.



Killdeer in flight, Pointe Mouillee, by Bruce Szczechowski. Often first announced by their loud, shrill alarm call "Kill-deer, Kill-deer!" they nest on the ground on sandy or pebbly beaches and old fields. When an intruder comes too near their nest or chicks, one or both of the adults will feign a broken wing, lead the predator in the opposite direction with short flights, and then give the broken wing performance again!

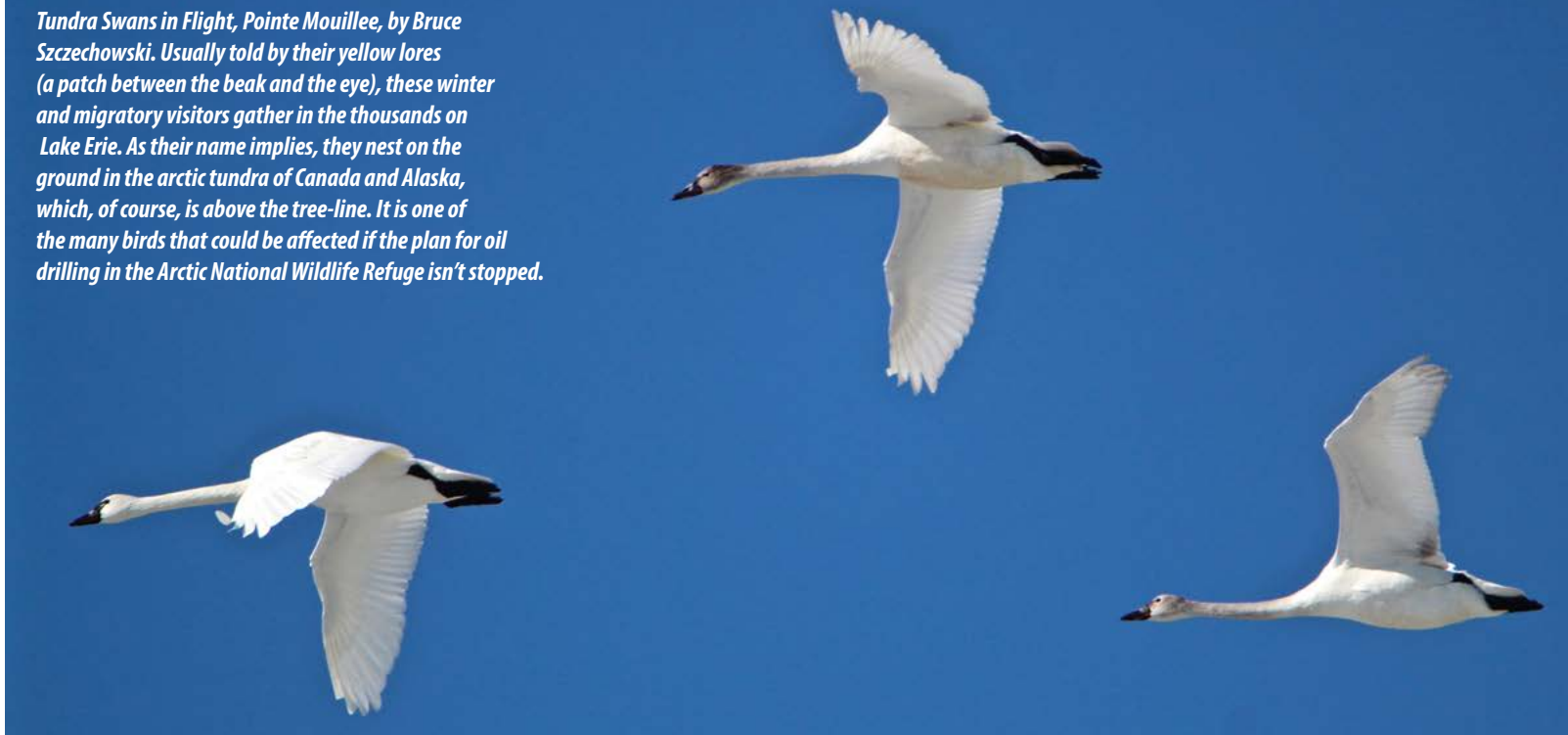
Whimbrel, Pointe Mouillee, by Dongfan Chen. With their long decurved beaks, they are striking and exciting visitors during stopovers on their way to and from their nesting grounds on the Arctic tundra. They often stick together in small groups during migration. They are a species of curlew, and their name approximates the sound of their call.



Green-winged Teal, Pointe Mouillee, by Dongfan Chen. One of our smallest ducks at just 14-15 inches long, they are both migrants and breeders at Pointe Mouillee (one of only a handful of known breeding spots in southeast Michigan). Their nest is usually located in an upland of dense grass, weeds, or brush within 100 feet of a pond or marsh margin. They are infrequently seen and often a highlight of a birding outing to a marshland.



Tundra Swans in Flight, Pointe Mouillee, by Bruce Szczechowski. Usually told by their yellow lores (a patch between the beak and the eye), these winter and migratory visitors gather in the thousands on Lake Erie. As their name implies, they nest on the ground in the arctic tundra of Canada and Alaska, which, of course, is above the tree-line. It is one of the many birds that could be affected if the plan for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge isn't stopped.



American Robin with nesting material, by Dongfan Chen. Our most familiar thrush, which has adapted well to living with humans, they locate their heavy mud and stick nest not only in trees, but also above porch lights, and even in one case inside a Walk-Don't Walk signal in midtown Detroit!

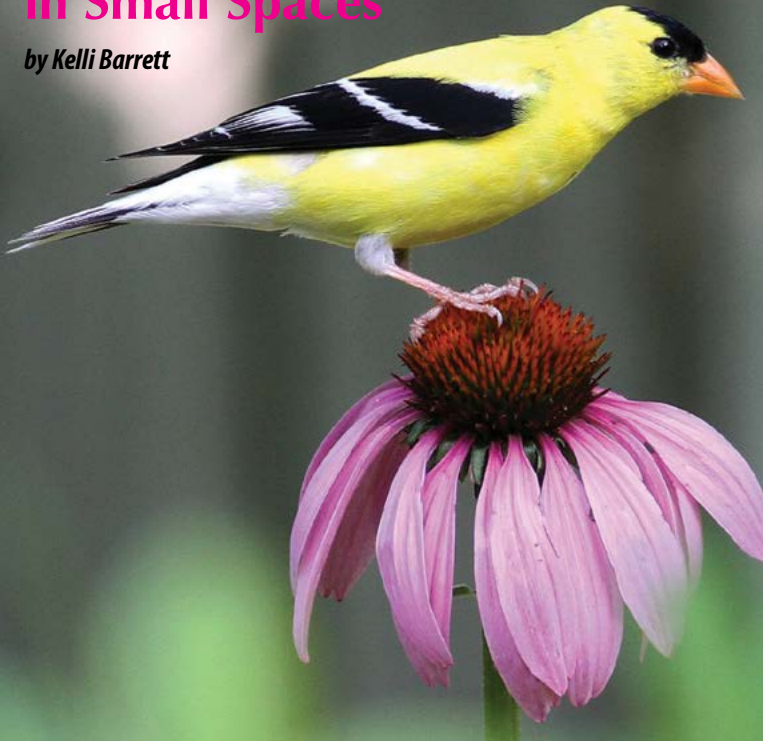


Female Baltimore Oriole with nest material, by Dongfan Chen. While males loudly announce themselves with their piercing song in spring migration and all summer long, they spend most of the year in the tropical rainforest of Central and South America, which is good reason for Michiganders to care about saving those habitats by buying only shade-grown coffee! Unlike the brightly orange-colored male, the female has a brownish back, and light burnt orange to yellow breast and belly. She does most of the work building their exquisite pendulous nest.



Gardening for Birds in Small Spaces

by Kelli Barrett



The gardening season is upon us. It's easy to assume that a large backyard or big swath of land is needed to construct a garden that will attract birds and other biodiversity. But that's not actually the case. Tiny gardens, hanging plants, a birdbath in an apartment courtyard, or a few potted flowers on a balcony can go a long way toward helping our feathered friends find food and shelter.



The effort may require creativity, but you will likely find that adding some green to a small space is a worthwhile endeavor.

Here are a few suggestions for growing small, bird-friendly gardens.

Go native

Native plants are perhaps the most important part of creating a bird-friendly garden. Planting native species, even in small spaces and containers, helps to restore some of the natural habitat that's been lost to development. For help choosing plants, Detroit Audubon has a guide to bird-friendly gardening on its website at www.detroitaudubon.org. The guide includes helpful links and lists native plant sellers in the area.

Detroit Audubon also hosted a native plant webinar last summer, which is available to watch on YouTube. During the presentation, Michelle Serreyn, a naturalist and native plant enthusiast at Wayne State University, recalled planting Pussytoes, a plant that attracts Painted Lady butterflies, at the busy intersection of Woodward and Warren avenues. The next day, butterflies were laying eggs. Every bit of green space can help wildlife, Serreyn said.

Plan and prepare

Planning is always a good idea when gardening, but it's especially important when short on space. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon—among other organizations—have suggestions on how to make a bird-friendly garden on their websites. Do a little research. Visit a couple of websites or chat with bird and garden enthusiasts to help you take stock of your space and determine how best to maximize it.

Try container planting

Planting flowers, shrubs, and trees in containers is space efficient and effective at attracting and feeding your neighborhood birds. Plus, container plants are a great way to control soil, sun, and other elements.

Many bird-friendly plants, such as Sunflowers, Coreopsis, and Winterberry, thrive in containers, so it's just a matter of choosing what to plant.

Another benefit of container gardening is that the practice can be cost effective and environmentally friendly. Container planting doesn't necessarily require buying pots and other holders. Essentially, any container that can hold dirt can

be used as a planter. Grow plants in unused household items—children's toys, buckets, baking bowls, and even bathtubs.

Ultimately, while it may take some effort and imagination, creating small and mini-gardens can be beneficial to all kinds of wildlife.



Photos from top:

American Goldfinch and Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea). Photo by Will Stuart, National Audubon Bird Friendly Communities

A native sweat bee on a Gaillardia aristata in a Habitat Hero-Plants for Birds garden in downtown Fort Collins, Colorado on June 27, 2019. Photo by Evan Barrientos/Audubon Rockies

Volunteers from St. Eugene Catholic Church in Asheville North Carolina plant native plants in the Church's Friendship Garden, Jardin de la Amestad, during an event sponsored by the Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society, Saturday June 2, 2018. Mike Bellame, National Audubon Society photo

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Trumpet Honeysuckle. David M. Shipper/Audubon Photography Awards 2015

The Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count of 2020

By Travis Kaye

It was cold and dark. My mother and I sat in a McDonald's parking lot on December 20, 2020 in the early morning waiting to meet Mr. Nowicki. We had birded this same Christmas Bird route several times in the past five years. In particular, we were getting ready to participate in the Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count (DA CBC). I was very excited for what the day might bring. I had a good feeling about what birds we would see. I started participating in the DA CBC when I was in 8th grade and have continued to participate every year except for last year due to a family vacation. The first two years and this past year my mother and I joined Tim Nowicki, the DA CBC organizer and compiler, to conduct the bird count.

You may be asking yourself, "What is a Christmas Bird Count?" The CBC is a census of birds, organized by the Audubon Society, that is held in many areas annually across the USA and Canada from December 14 to January 5. Many bird watchers across North America participate each year. A CBC is conducted in a 15-mile diameter zone known as a circle. All birds seen and heard in the circle are tallied throughout the day, and results are sent to the National Audubon Society. The data are then used to research and monitor population changes, environment, climate, impacts of diseases, and land development.

Tim Nowicki, our leader, has participated in 46 CBCs over the years. During the last 34 years he has served as the compiler for Detroit Audubon. In 1966 and 1967 he joined Sergej Postupalsky, a notable birds of prey researcher working on his PhD, in section 9 of the DA CBC. During those two years Sergej pointed out locations where he had found Red-headed Woodpeckers and Virginia Rails. After attending college, Mr. Nowicki returned to the Detroit area and volunteered again for the DA CBC. He again was assigned section 9. Ever since I started birding under Mr. Nowicki, he has taught me about the areas in which he had success seeing Virginia Rails and Red-Headed Woodpeckers. Seeing the Virginia Rail and the Red-Headed Woodpecker in 1992 are some of his favorite memories from the CBC. For me, it's amazing to imagine a Virginia Rail walking across the ice, or a Red-Headed Woodpecker flying through my binoculars! Another fond memory he shared with me was when he said, "One year a new birder and I were walking into a pine plantation. As we were approaching the plantation I mentioned that this would be a good place to see an owl. Just a moment or two after I said that, a Great Horned Owl flew from the trees – perfect timing!" What a cool story! I would love to see a Great Horned Owl during the CBC. Overall, it has been amazing to be able to volunteer with someone like Mr. Nowicki who has a lot of knowledge and experience with birding. Of all the times I have participated in the DA CBC, this past year was my favorite.

The DA CBC this past year started out great, with one of the first highlights of the day being a beautiful Pileated Woodpecker. Throughout the day we also observed an oddly large number of Northern Flickers. Although our list had more species than usual including multiple odd and rare birds, overall bird numbers seemed less for us than in past years. After many years of hoping to see Redpolls, we saw our first Common and Hoary Redpolls. We had 106 total Common Redpolls and one Hoary Redpoll. It's good to note that there were 125 Common Redpolls reported and two Hoary Redpolls for the entire DA CBC. Thus, we had the majority of Redpolls in our section. Also, our Hoary Redpoll sighting was one of the first recorded in Oakland County, which made the day even more special. Another uncommon bird seen this year was a Northern Pintail, which was a surprise and a delight for me. Although we have not been lucky enough to see the Virginia

Rail, this past year we saw a Red-headed Woodpecker, a first for our section in some time. Despite the unusual sightings, many of the birds we usually had an easy time seeing in years past, such as the Sandhill Crane and Red-Shouldered Hawk, just didn't show up. I was also very surprised that we had no Red-breasted Nuthatches considering the intrusion they are having this winter.

This year I had a blast! It was a great year for birding. Though I love the birding aspect of the CBC, I also enjoy contributing to citizen science and documenting bird numbers. For those who don't know, citizen science is the collection of data by the public in conjunction with scientists. Through the years of doing the CBC, I have improved myself as a birder. This coming year I will head off to college, just like Mr. Nowicki did in 1968. I hope to continue doing the CBC as I grow older, just as Mr. Nowicki has done. I admire him greatly. I can't thank him enough for the memories we have had and for the lessons he has taught me over the years.

Editor's Note: Detroit Audubon has two Christmas Bird Counts, the Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count, which is in Oakland County, and the Rockwood Christmas Bird Count which happens in the Downriver area.



Travis Kaye with Tim Nowicki.
Photo by Jill Noll



*Above, a group of Sandhill Cranes.
At right, a close-up photo by Julie Baker.*



MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS ARE AGAIN PUSHING TO HUNT SANDHILL CRANES AND WOLVES: URGE STATE SENATORS TO VOTE "NO" ON SENATE RESOLUTION 2 (SR 2).

While Detroit Audubon is NOT against hunting generally (we have a number of hunters in our ranks and appreciate all hunters do to provide habitat and funding for all wildlife species including the non-game species we love), we strongly oppose hunting of Mourning Doves, Sandhill Cranes, and Gray Wolves.

Michigan's special population of the Eastern race of the Sandhill Crane is just holding steady, not exploding as some are saying. The statistics just do not bear them out. The Western race of Sandhills is huge, with up to 600,000 gathering at the Platte River in Nebraska. By contrast we are lucky to have 1,000 to 2,000 gathering at the Haehnle Sanctuary in the Waterloo area. Farmers complain about cranes eating corn they plant in the spring, but Avipel, a chemical repellent, has proven effective in stopping this seed depredation. Hunting cranes in the fall would do nothing to alleviate the "problem" of cranes eating corn after it is planted in the spring and early summer.

A hearing of the Senate Natural Resources Committee was held the morning of Wednesday, March 3. Due to the testimony and data presented by those opposed to the resolution, the matter was tabled. It could come up again soon, but there was no vote taken yet on discharging the bill from committee.

For more information and to get involved in the effort to stop this push to hunt the Sandhill Crane, go to the Songbird Protection Coalition website (<http://www.songbirdprotection.com/>). Michigan Audubon has a lot of info on its website as well (<https://www.michiganaudubon.org/action-alert-protect-sandhill-crane-by-urging-no-on-sr-20/>). Julie Baker, our friend who runs the Songbird Protection Coalition, told us by phone that one of the most important things our members could do is to call their state senator's office and tell them how you feel about this issue. That can really turn the tide—even one phone call can change a senator's vote on an issue. To find your senator go to this website: <https://senate.michigan.gov/>.



Gray Wolf by William Campbell, US Fish and Wildlife Service

There is also a move afoot in the legislature to mandate hunting of the Gray Wolf in Michigan. Michiganders have twice overwhelmingly voted to keep wolves protected, and the measure won in every county including all the Upper Peninsula counties. Dr. John Vucetich, a world authority on wolves from Michigan Technological University, has repeatedly indicated there is no ecological reason to hunt wolves. Ecological research is clear that it is the prey species that controls the predator populations more than the other way around, so wolves are not a threat to deer or any other prey species. Wolves also have a natural population control mechanism that limits the number of fertilized embryos brought to term, adjusting to the prey population's size. And the social nature of packs also makes hunting especially problematic and may increase the extremely small number of human-wolf interactions as older alpha members of the pack who kept frisky young ones under control are eliminated. When fully investigated, the vast majority of the stories you hear about a "wolf" problem in the UP are not grounded in fact or in science. You can find more information about this issue at the Songbird Coalition website as well. Detroit Audubon was one of the groups backing the two successful campaigns in which Michiganders voted overwhelmingly against hunting wolves.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER ALLIANCE IS LOOKING FOR BIRDERS TO HELP CONDUCT CENSUS OF THE ONCE ENDANGERED BIRD

Now that the Kirtland's Warbler is off the Endangered Species List, it is critical that the population is monitored to make sure that it is still growing or at least holding steady. The Michigan DNR does not have the resources to conduct this count on its own, so the non-profit Kirtland's Warbler Alliance has stepped up to the plate to lead the effort on DNR lands. The Alliance is looking for serious birders who can volunteer at least two days or more to do this field survey between the dates of June 6 and June 27. The census, which used to be an annual undertaking, is now set to happen every five years. Training will be provided. For more information and to apply, visit the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance website at <https://www.kirtlandswarbler.org/>.

In Memoriam: Richard Quick (1944 – 2021)

by Leonard Weber

Richard Quick, a pillar of Detroit Audubon for decades, passed away on February 14, 2021.

Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Richard came to Detroit in 1967 after completing a Masters degree in teaching at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. He taught biology and, later, computer science, in Detroit public high schools for 39 years, retiring in 2006.

Richard and I were longtime residents of the Rosedale Park neighborhood in northwest Detroit. I first got to know him in 1990 when we both participated in a community volunteer effort to provide regular recycling opportunities to residents in our part of the city.

It was primarily through Richard that I later became active in Detroit Audubon. He was the leader of the first field trips I went on, he encouraged my submission of a birding essay to the *Flyway*, and he asked me if I would be a candidate for the board.

Once on the board, I began to realize the enormous extent of Richard's Detroit Audubon activities, both in duration and variety. Richard became involved with Audubon in 1968. He was teaching at Western High School, and a fellow teacher, Joe Bartell, invited him on some field trips.

Richard served on the board for most of his years in Detroit, starting when he was still in his 20s and continuing uninterrupted until 2016, when he was slowed down by Parkinson's disease. He was Detroit Audubon's president three different times (1974-75, 1993-94, and 2007-08) and treasurer and/or Finance Committee chair for many years.

He was active, often in a leadership role, in numerous Detroit Audubon projects. He helped coordinate and staffed display tables and exhibits at the Hawk Fest, Flower Shows, Home Builders Shows, and other community events, often including the arduous task of setup and take-down. He helped establish trails at the St. Clair Woods Nature Sanctuary and coordinated Detroit Audubon's bird seed sales. He participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count, and he led field trips as well as co-chaired the Field Trip Committee for several years.

He immersed himself, literally, to launch Detroit Audubon's Black Tern research in collaboration with Audubon Great Lakes starting in 2013 at the St. Clair Flats Important Bird Area, tromping around the marsh in hip waders to install nest platforms and helping band chicks and adult birds. He was co-recipient of the Fred Charbonneau Award for Bird Conservation in 2017, along with Erin Rowan and Randy Kling, for their volunteer work on the Black Tern research project.

Some of my favorite memories of Richard are directly related to bird watching: field trips to Point Pelee National Park in Canada, partnering with him on cold Detroit Christmas Bird Count days, and sharing a sighting of White-winged Crossbills in our Detroit neighborhood.

Richard was a Detroit Audubon stalwart who personified the Audubon Society recognition that it is through the knowledge and appreciation of birds that we learn to conserve the environment on which both they and we depend. His death

Richard Quick releasing a Black Tern
by Caleb Putnam



is sad; his life of dedicated service should be celebrated.

Editor's note: Leonard Weber is a past board member, past president, and current volunteer field trip leader with Detroit Audubon. He conducts most of his field trips at Eliza Howell Park, which is near the Rosedale Park neighborhood where he became friends with Richard Quick. One other note: I always loved Richard's email moniker expressing his dry sense of humor- getrichquick.

Michigan Loses a Giant in the Field of Environmental Protection:

Former Attorney General Frank Kelley (1924-2021)

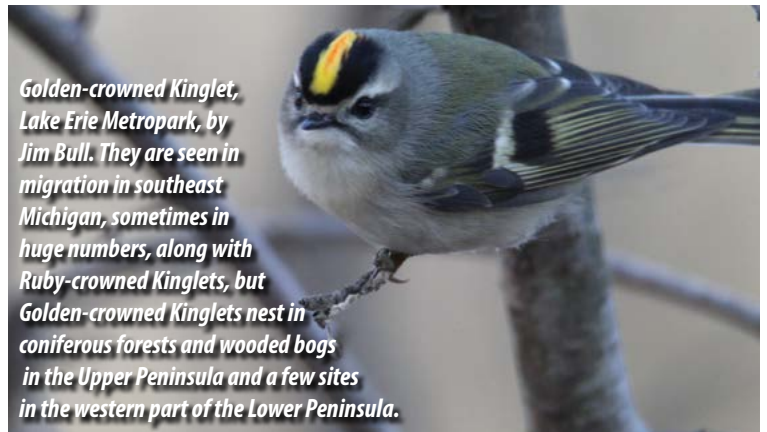
by Jim Bull

Frank Kelly, Michigan's longest serving Attorney General (1961-1998), who put environmental and consumer protection on the map not just for Michigan but nationally, passed away Friday March 5 at an assisted living home in Naples, Florida. He was 96 years old. According to the *Detroit Free Press*, when he moved to Florida in 2020 he remarked, "I think everybody should slow down at age 90 and just enjoy life."



Environmental and consumer protection were not "things" when he launched those important focal points of his office, of which he was justifiably proud. He and Dr. Joseph Sax at the University of Michigan helped invent the field of environmental law. I got to meet him in the early 2000s when he (a lifelong Democrat) and his good friend, former Governor William Milliken (a Republican), called together a confab of environmental groups in Lansing to draft a Conservation Agenda for Michigan. He was also known as a pioneer in civil rights law. Because of his long tenure in office, he was often referred to as Michigan's "Eternal General." Now he is our "Eternal General" in fact. Rest in peace; Michigan's citizens, human, animal and plant, rest easier because of your efforts on their behalf! He will be missed but what a life well lived. Michigan and the world will be forever in his debt!

Golden-crowned Kinglet, Lake Erie Metropark, by Jim Bull. They are seen in migration in southeast Michigan, sometimes in huge numbers, along with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, but Golden-crowned Kinglets nest in coniferous forests and wooded bogs in the Upper Peninsula and a few sites in the western part of the Lower Peninsula.



2020 DONOR LIST

Detroit Audubon wishes to publicly thank the following individuals and organizations who made possible our work to foster awareness and conservation of birds and the environment we share during a year when a pandemic changed almost everything we did. Field Trips were curtailed for a while but are back with limited numbers and safety procedures. Webinars have taken off and have helped us reach hundreds of new folks. These will certainly continue even when we are more back to a new normal. Our work is your work, and it would not be possible without the generous support of our members and friends.

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Audubon Great Lakes—Black Tern research

Bird Center of Washtenaw County—webinar

Bird Studies Canada—Detroit River Important Bird Area waterfowl survey work

Birding Magazine for permission to reprint an article by Rebecca Minardi

City of Detroit General Services Department—webinar

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy—field trip sponsorship and leadership

Detroit Zoological Society—assistance with Black Tern research and Safe Passage Great Lakes.

Detroit Zoological Society, Belle Isle Nature Center—webinars

East Ferry-Warren Community Association

Historic Elmwood Cemetery and Foundation—field trip sponsorship and assistance

Huron-Clinton Metroparks (Lake Erie Metropark)—webinar

Huron-Clinton Metroparks (Oakwoods)—Owl Prowl leadership

Jerry Jung sponsored Derek Sederlund who provided site preparation and installation work for Detroit Bird City.

Manistique Community Tree House Center

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area) for use of boats and gas for Black Tern research

MYSTERY BIRD REVEALED:

If you guessed Northern Cardinal you are right. That stout beak comes in handy to crack open big seeds, and bird banders handle this species very carefully because that beak can also draw blood if it chomps down on a finger. You've probably been hearing its loud, melodic territorial and courtship song "Birch birch birch birch" since late February. In this species both males and females are known to sing.

Jim Bull photo



Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Outdoor Adventure Center)—webinar.

Michigan State University—Detroit Bird City project work
 National Audubon for permission to reprint articles and photos
 National Wildlife Federation—webinar

North Corktown Neighborhood Association

University of Michigan School of Environment and Sustainability (SEAS)—webinar

University of Michigan School of Environment and Sustainability (SEAS)—Black Tern research.

Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
 US Fish and Wildlife Service for native grassland seeds used to plant areas for our Detroit Bird City project.

Wayne State University assistance with Great Lakes Safe Passage project
 Woodbridge Neighborhood Development



Violets in an American Heritage lawn by Jim Bull.

Flyway

A publication of Detroit Audubon

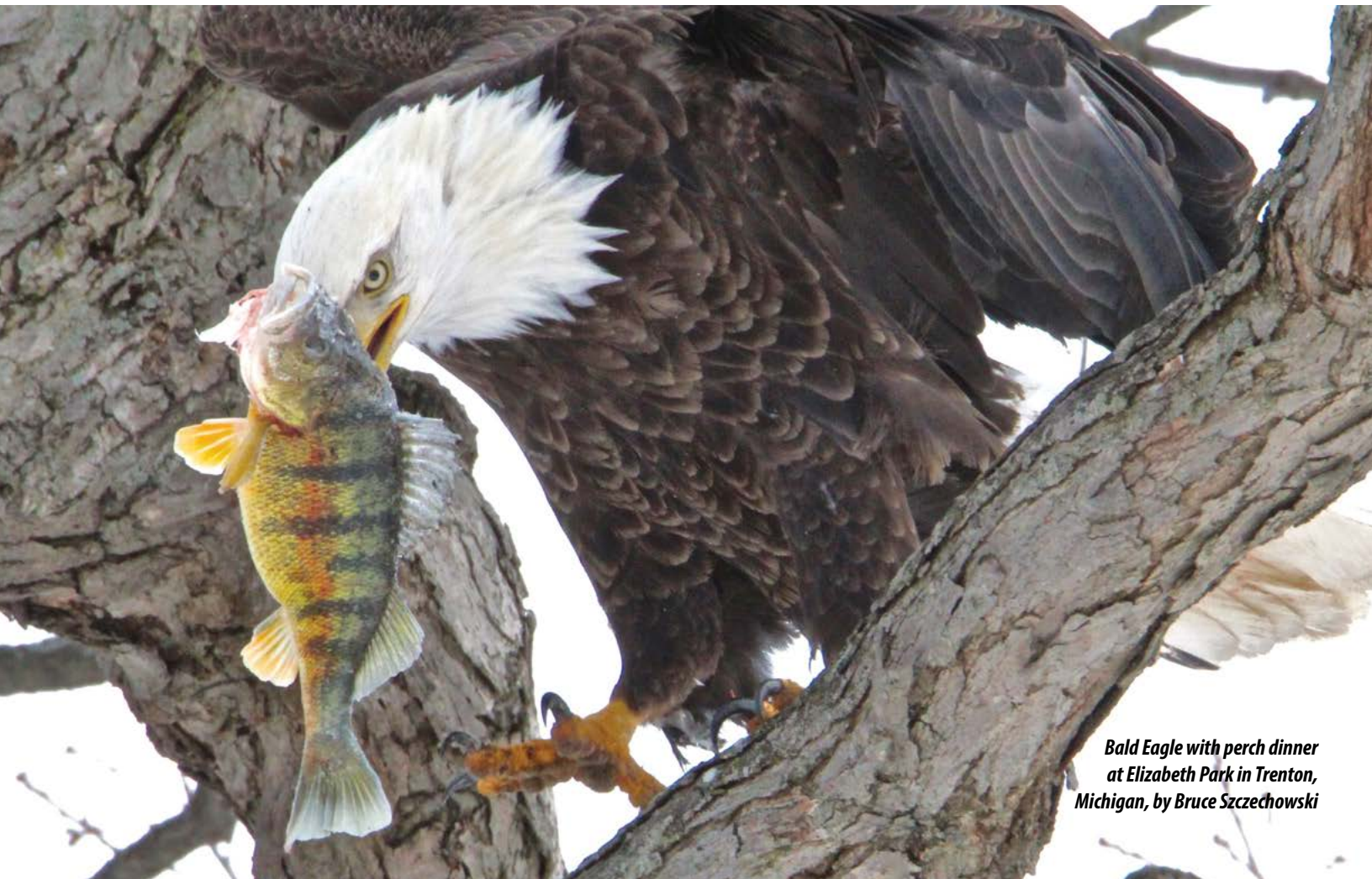
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*Bald Eagle with perch dinner
at Elizabeth Park in Trenton,
Michigan, by Bruce Szczechowski*