

Regal Fritillary Found • Using a Controlled Burn to Protect Birds • Detroit Audubon Creates Community

# Flyway



## MISSION

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

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Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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## Mystery Bird

**Question:** Can you identify this early spring migrant? For the answer, go to page 12. Photo by Evan Deutsch

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**Correction** In the Spring 2023 issue of the Flyway, on page 14, the third photo from the top should have been captioned: “**Chalk marker artwork** and photo by Kaisa Ryding.” We apologize for the omission.

## On the Cover

Scarlet Tanagers are exotic summer visitors in the eastern U.S. This male has scarlet feathers only for the spring and summer breeding season. After breeding season, the male molts into plumage similar to the female, a dull yellow-green with darker wings. Photo by Karen Panagos



# Letter from the Executive Director

by Gretchen Abrams



Happy Summer!

It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through 2023! Time flies when you are having fun and when you have been really busy. We have been very busy this year, especially with some significant changes. We moved our office to a location that better suits our needs and one that offers us the opportunity to build community with like-minded organizations. Six new board members joined Detroit Audubon to help us further our work. I invite you to "meet" them on page 11. Kathy Garrett joined the growing Detroit Audubon team this spring as our new member and donor relations assistant as well as our new *Flyway* editor. You may have already noticed, *Flyway* is changing too. We look forward to bringing you new features such as community connections and

field trip highlights, while keeping features we know you have come to expect, like the occasional book review and the nature gallery.

While any change can be difficult, change also means growth. We are looking forward to the growth that the decision to drop Audubon from our organization's name will bring as well as the energy our new board members bring. Board member Patrick Filbin shares thoughtful insight on the decision to change our name below.

None of this growth would be possible without your support. Thank you for your membership and your commitment to our mission to protect birds and the environment we share.

Happy Birding!

Gretchen Abrams

## Board Member Patrick Filbin Reflects on the Importance of Changing the Detroit Audubon Name

The decision to change Detroit Audubon's name was not casual, nor was it without research and careful consideration. New Board of Directors member Patrick Filbin understood the importance of his vote and so did his own research on who John James Audubon was and why it was important to our organization and to birds that the name be changed. Here is a portion of Patrick's letter to the board explaining his decision to vote in favor of a name change:

*I have read and appreciated the many comments that have been shared with regard to whether John James Audubon's name should be removed from the name of the Detroit Audubon Society due to his participation in the slave trade, his ownership of enslaved humans and his dismissive views toward those promoting abolition. Like many of those who have weighed in on the topic, I am voting in favor of a name change to something that does not expressly embrace or include Audubon's name.*

*Honestly, I surprised myself with the amount of time and energy spent in deciding how to vote on this issue. I was undecided even after a deep dive into Audubon's life and a consideration (and then a reconsideration) of the many excellent points made by members of Detroit Audubon and other Audubon Society members in other parts of the country.*

*On one hand, it is easy to tear down monuments and symbols of those we have venerated in the past due to our changing views and values. On the other hand, we should take efforts to preserve and honor history—even those aspects of our history that are shameful and morally inconvenient—in order to learn, contextualize and move forward.*

*So, given these competing interests, what are bird loving societies to do with John James Audubon? Thirty-five years after his death, the first bird preservation society was named in his honor, which eventually led to the establishment of the National Audubon Society in 1905. The Detroit chapter of this organization was founded in 1939, employing and adopting John Audubon's name as an honorific. His name is synonymous with birding.*

*Audubon also owned and sold enslaved human beings. He had human slaves working in his Kentucky household until financial difficulties forced their sale. He took enslaved men with him on a boating trip down the Mississippi in 1819, selling his boat and both men as chattel once he arrived in New Orleans. He was privately dismissive of abolitionists and his public writings employed racist motifs and themes. Although we might be tempted to simply view him as a "man of his time," it bears noting that many other men (and women) of that time stridently sought the immediate emancipation of all enslaved persons and the permanent abolition of the institution of slavery. Audubon's views may have been in keeping with the views of many of his contemporaries, but they were also opposed by many and stood contrary to a fundamental appreciation of humans as free agents imbued with a right of self-determination and personal freedom.*

*What changed my mind was the urgent realization that now is time for a reckoning. Our mission isn't simply about identifying and admiring our avian friends: our task is much bigger than that. Man-made environmental change impacts and threatens all of us. Bird counts are falling, so are vital insect counts. Habitats are under constant pressure and these threats come from every direction and impact all animals. The only way we can meaningfully mitigate this trend is by taking a more inclusive posture and a broader view and educating those around us to do the same. We need to act now, we need to act together, and we need to involve the next generation. Let's take this opportunity to advocate respect and dignity for all people and all animals, great and small. Let's take this opportunity to announce our own Reconstruction by unshackling ourselves from an association with an ugly and complicated past and moving towards a more positive future. And, let's take this opportunity to introduce others to the wonders of birding.*





## The Strategy of an Osprey's Hunt

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY SANDEE DUSBIBER

Ospreys are not very choosy when it comes to their diets. They will feed on any fish within a striking range of no more than three feet below the surface of the water. Their targets are slow moving: surface feeders like herrings, which form in large schools; bottom-feeding fish such as carp, flounder, and perch; and fish that dwell in shallow waters. What they eat also depends on which fish are available during

a particular season. For example, in the Great Lakes region, their diet consists mainly of bullhead, bass, Bluegill, and perch. Besides fish, Ospreys prey on other animals such as small birds, turtles, rodents, frogs, crustaceans, and even small alligators.

The Osprey soars over the water at an altitude of 50 to 100 feet when hunting for food. The male will scan the surface, relying on its sharp eyesight to locate that certain fish. When it sees the prey, it hovers with tail spread and wings fanning rapidly as it figures the depth, angle, and position before plunging into the water to catch dinner. When it prepares for a dive, it folds back its wings and free falls with its feet right under its head so that it can grab the prey with its sharp talons. The Osprey will then use horizontal wingbeats to rise off the surface of the water, making sure the catch is secure before flying away. The Osprey points the fish's head forward, parallel with its body, for better aerodynamics. It will shake off any excess water in midair to make the load less heavy.

The Osprey will quickly find a place to perch with the food it just caught. They eat their prey dead or alive, using their sharp and strong beak to tear off chunks of flesh starting from the head. The male Osprey is responsible for hunting for food for its family. When feeding its babies, it will tear off small chunks of food, but it may swallow large pieces of flesh, skin, scales, and even bones. They will regurgitate indigestible matter in the form of pellets for their young. I tried to take as few pictures of him eating as I could since we need to be respectful while they are eating and feeding their young.





# Field Trip Highlights

Detroit Audubon offers field trips nearly every weekend (and often more than one on a weekend). Many of these walks involve spotting birds, but several offer a slightly different focus. As birds cannot survive without healthy habitats, in April we held a “working field trip,” or a Cleanup at Callahan Park, a park near our office where we have cooperated with the city of Detroit to install a meadow of native plants that has successfully drawn 116 species of birds, including Ring-necked Pheasants, Chimney Swifts, Indigo Buntings, and House Wrens. The cleanup involved removing invasive species, trash pickup, and clearing sidewalks so that others may more easily enjoy this developing bird habitat.

Birds depend on our ability to share our love of birds with as many people as possible, and that includes kids. The Circle Forest Program: Birding for Kids invited kids to try their hand at birding. We provided binoculars and several strategies for beginning birders to identify birds even without binoculars. Some of the attendees already knew a thing or two about identifying birds, which is a great indicator for the future of these kids and birds!

The Elmwood Cemetery Bird and History Walk is a popular monthly walk that combines birding with a history tour of Elmwood Cemetery. The Executive Director of the Historic Elmwood Foundation, Joannie Capuano, joins us on our walks and provides fascinating history about the cemetery and why it is such an important piece of Detroit and southeast Michigan history. The cemetery is also a popular place for birds to visit! Elmwood Cemetery is one of the few places in the city of Detroit where the topography has never been altered, and birds clearly enjoy the benefits of this natural landscape.



The Birding Paddling Trip in May was a great day to combine two favorite activities: birding and boating! Canoers and kayakers joined Detroit Audubon and Friends of the Rouge on Phoenix Lake in Plymouth and identified nearly two dozen birds. Our next Birding Paddle Trip will be on Saturday, October 7, on Newburgh Lake. Stay in touch with Detroit Audubon to register.

Because birds are part of a complex and amazing ecosystem, our field trips also feature other species such as butterflies, bees, and frogs. Whether you attend a Detroit Audubon field trip to learn about birds, or to simply enjoy a natural space, you are welcome! Your participation in our field trips helps us sustain our work to foster the appreciation and conservation of birds and the environment we share.



## Upcoming Field Trips You Don't Want To Miss!

Throughout the year, we offer a wide range of field trips most weekends throughout southeast Michigan, with events sometimes reaching into northern Ohio, Traverse City, and Canada.

Here are a few unique upcoming field trips and programs you don't want to miss!

**On Sunday, July 23 from 12-3 pm at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, we will be offering our second “Buggin’ Out” program.** This jam-packed event is filled with all things BUG! We'll have crafts, opportunities to interact with live bugs, and chances to learn about what you can do at home to help bugs and other pollinators. We'll also be leading a guided walk around Humbug Marsh to search for dragonflies, butterflies, and other native insects.

**Join us Sunday, September 17 from 8:30am-3:30pm in Traverse City for our second “Birds, Bikes and Wines” field trip.** On this tour you will enjoy local birders' favorite birding spots, biking along Leelanau's scenic trail, several wineries, and lunch overlooking the vineyards.

We're excited to invite you to a **brand new field trip, “Birding Horseback Riding” on Saturday, September 23 from 8:30 am - 1 pm at D-Bar-A Ranch in Metamora.**

To learn more about these events, and to be sure you get a spot, register through your monthly member email, or at [eventbrite.com/organizations/events](https://eventbrite.com/organizations/events).



**To Register for Upcoming Field Trips, visit [detroitaudubon.org/birding/fieldtrips](https://detroitaudubon.org/birding/fieldtrips).**

Saturday, July 29 at 1 pm: **Corrado Park - Butterflies, Birds & Bees at Corrado Park**

Saturday, August 5 at 8 am: **Pointe Mouillee Driving Bird Event at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area**

Saturday, August 5 at 9 am: **Welcome to Birding Field Trip at Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center**

Saturday, August 5 at 10 am: **Detroit Greenspace Bus Tour at Palmer Park**

Saturday, August 12 at 8:30 am: **Elmwood Cemetery Bird and History Walk at Elmwood Cemetery**

Sunday, August 20 at 10:30 am: **Detroit Audubon Volunteer and Partner Appreciation Program at Palmer Park**

Thursday, August 24 at 6 pm: **How to Start Birding Walk at Belle Isle Athletic Shelter Parking Lot**

Friday, August 31 at 7:30 pm: **Bats of Belle Isle at Belle Isle Nature Center**

# In Support of Hummingbirds: Beyond Red Flowers

BY COLLEEN STURM • RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD PHOTOS BY EVAN DEUTSCH

Each spring, hummingbird fans eagerly await the arrival of our ruby-throated friends. Many of us roll out the proverbial welcome mat with vast arrays of brightly colored, tubular-shaped flowers in the hope that hummers will stop to visit. But hummingbirds do not live by red flowers alone. To fully support these beautiful little birds and properly welcome them into our yards, we need to look beyond Red Columbine, Honeysuckle vine, Bee Balm, Cardinal Flower, and the like.

A proper hummingbird diet includes flower nectar, tree sap, and lots—and lots—of bugs. Ideally, a welcoming garden has a good mix of native trees, shrubs, and flowers where the tiny birds can find shelter, drink nectar, sip on sap, and hunt for bugs.

## Searching for Shelter

Passing hummingbirds may grab a quick meal or two in a colorful garden, but they only move in if there is proper shelter. Like all birds, hummers nest where there is adequate shelter for the whole family, and for shelter, hummers look for trees and shrubs. For purposes of resting and nesting, Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds generally head high in the trees. When wind and rain come, hummers seek areas of dense foliage such as tightly growing shrubs or perennials. Gardeners hoping to welcome a hummingbird family for an entire breeding season should consider shelter options and incorporate a generous mix of native trees and shrubs within the garden.

While hummingbirds drink both nectar and sap, nectar and sap are very different substances. Flower nectar is primarily comprised of natural sugars (glucose, fructose, and sucrose). It is made by plants as a tasty reward for visiting pollinators, including hummingbirds. Sap, on the other hand, serves the plant's own nutritional needs. Sap flows within the plant's vascular system to carry nutrients throughout the entire plant.

While energetic hummers certainly need the carbohydrates found in nectar, they also need the many nutrients found in sap. This is especially true in early spring when the tiny birds rely on sap to fuel the long migration north. Since a hummingbird cannot drill holes in tree bark, it gladly relies on the tree-drilling services of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Sapsuckers drill deep sapwells that stay open long after the sapsucker flies away. Hummingbirds cleverly follow the migrating sapsuckers to dine at the abandoned, but still flowing, sapwells.

## Hummingbirds Need Insects Too

It is commonly estimated that small insects and spiders comprise 60-80 percent of an adult hummingbird's diet. Although we generally picture hummers politely sipping at flowers, these little birds are keen hunters. When zipping here and there around the garden, hummers aren't always looking for nectar. They are just as likely

to be searching for aphids, ants, small beetles, and tiny flies. They also often hunt on the wing by snatching mosquitos, gnats, and midge flies from the air and spiders (and trapped bugs) from available webs.

When planning a garden for hummingbirds, gardeners would do well to remember that attracting hummers goes hand in hand with welcoming Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and insects. When there is room for a tree, perhaps consider a native maple or birch as these two species are considered to be

sapsucker favorites. The beautiful native shrub New Jersey Tea has lovely white spring blooms and is a favorite of both insects and hummingbirds. Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), and Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) have yellow, daisy-like flowers and are known to attract the types of tiny midge flies that hummers love to eat. Cup plant is also known to attract small birds because it actually captures rainwater at the base of its leaves. On a smaller scale, hummers may enjoy milkweeds that attract aphids as well as clematis vines that attract ants. Native plant gardens attract the bugs and the birds together. Just remember: don't

spray pesticides! As long as you are welcoming bugs (and spiders), you are welcoming hummingbirds!

Hummingbirds are fun to watch. Like tiny flying jewels, they decorate our gardens and bring us joy. So, bring on the red flowers—and the trees, the shrubs, and the bugs—and welcome the hummingbirds home!

## The Importance of Keeping Hummingbird Feeders Clean

There is no question that sugar-water feeders are a popular way to attract hummingbirds. These feeders placed out in early spring do provide essential calories for hummingbirds as they arrive in the neighborhood after a long migration flight.

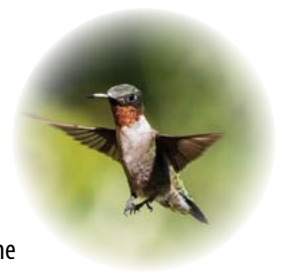
The downside to hummingbird feeders is the potential spread of disease. Improperly made sugar-water and the use of poorly cleaned feeders can lead to

fungal/mold overgrowths that can be very dangerous to birds. Any use of sugar-water feeders requires strict adherence to the proper sugar-water recipe\* and diligent cleaning practices.\*\*

\*Sugar-water recipe: 1 part sugar, 4 parts water

\*\*The National Wildlife Health Center recommends cleaning bird baths and feeders with a solution of nine parts water to one part bleach. (If there is visible debris, scrub it off before soaking in the bleach solution.) Dry out the feeder before hanging it back up.

As long as you are  
welcoming bugs  
(and spiders), you  
are welcoming  
hummingbirds!





# A Regal Fritillary is Found in Southeast Michigan

BY A DETROIT AUDUBON VOLUNTEER

I was butterfly watching in a wildflower patch in southeast Michigan in July 2022 when I saw, and took quick photos of, a fairly large butterfly, one that I did not immediately recognize.

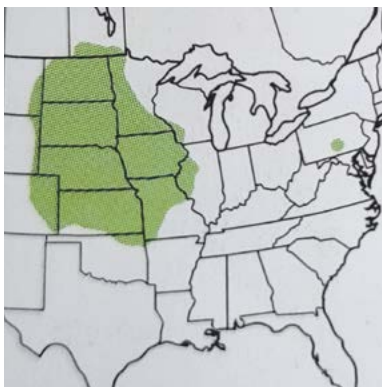
In reviewing my photos later, I thought it might be a species of fritillary, but it didn't match any of the fritillary species in the field guide that I consulted, focusing my attention, as is my habit, on those whose range maps included Michigan. Months later, again looking at butterfly photos from last summer, I had a "wait a minute" reaction. It just might be a species that is not expected to be found in Michigan. The Regal Fritillary, according to the field guide range map, does not occur within hundreds of miles of southeast Michigan. But it looked just like the insect in my photos.

The Regal Fritillary is a prairie butterfly and was a Michigan butterfly at one time, when there were more prairies here.

Efforts to restore prairie habitats in our area might lead to a return of a rare butterfly.

Michigan butterfly experts confirmed my tentative identification from my photos. This was indeed a Regal Fritillary (a male), the first verified Michigan sighting since the 1980s. The question now is whether there is a breeding population around here. Or was this just a lone individual, a vagrant wandering outside its area?

On the advice of butterfly conservation individuals, I am not making public at this time the exact location of the sighting. There is a concern that someone might attempt to add this species to their butterfly "collection" or that enthusiasts seeking to view the rare species might trample the vegetation where the female lays its eggs (should there in fact be a breeding population).



This is an exciting find!

What is especially significant is that it suggests that efforts to restore prairie habitats in our area might lead to a return of a rare butterfly, one that many considered extirpated.

*At left, range map from the Kaufman Field Guide to North American Butterflies, 2003.*





## Summer Nature Gallery

So many of those spring migrants we look forward to seeing have come and gone, many to their northern breeding grounds. However, some of those birds have decided to call Southeastern Michigan home for the summer. And lucky for us, most of them can be seen with binoculars and/or a spotting scope. Many of the birds in this gallery are waterfowl and are easier to spot than passerines (perching birds) who hang out in trees. Check out eBird (a free app for your phone) to see which birds are being seen at “hotspots” around the area. Visit any number of Metroparks, state parks, or county parks. And make sure to join us on one of our field trips to learn more about the birds you see here.

### From top left:

#### **Black Tern.** Photo by Evan Deutsch

The North American population has declined sharply since the 1960s. Loss of nesting habitat, runoff of farm chemicals and loss of food supply are factors. However, Detroit Audubon has been involved in efforts to help bring them back.

#### **Pied-billed Grebe.** Photo by Evan Deutsch

All ducks are waterfowl, but not all waterfowl are ducks. Grebes have lobed toes, an adaptation they use to propel themselves underwater to get food, and a duck has webbed feet. Grebes have an ancient lineage, and research has shown they are most closely related to flamingos.

#### **Killdeer.** Photo by Nick Hinnant

Killdeer get their name from the shrill, wailing kill-deer call they give so often. Look for them on open ground with low vegetation (or no vegetation at all), including lawns, golf courses, driveways and parking lots. This species is one of the least water-associated of all shorebirds.

#### **Yellow-crowned Night Heron.** Photo by Sandra Dusbiber

Yellow-crowned Night Herons forage at all hours of the day and night, stalking crustaceans in shallow wetlands and wet fields. Their diet leans heavily on crabs and crayfish, which they catch with a lunge and shake apart, or swallow whole.

#### **Great Blue Heron.** Photo by Sandee Dusbiber

Great Blue Herons weigh only five to six pounds thanks in part to their hollow bones — a feature all birds share. They nest in colonies called rookeries, building large coarse stick nests in dead trees directly over the water or overlooking wetlands. Some birds overwinter here if there is open water with access to fish.

#### **Double-crested Cormorant.** Photo by Evan Deutsch

Some claim cormorants hurt local fisheries. In fact, biologists say cormorants eat invasive species, especially Round Goby in Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay and Lake Michigan's Beaver Archipelago. This bird is drying itself in the sun after diving for a fish.

#### **Sandhill Crane** (following page). Photo by Karen Panagos

The Sandhill Crane is Michigan's largest bird and its oldest living bird species. From wingtip to wingtip their outstretched wings can measure up to 7 feet. Their calls, seemingly as loud as a jet engine, include trumpeting, bugling, rattling, and croaking.











## A Controlled Burn at a Detroit Bird City Meadow

BY RACHEL FELDER, NATURALIST, DETROIT PARKS AND RECREATION • PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN ABRAMS

Palmer Park is one of 14 regional parks in the city of Detroit, with about 300 acres for the community to explore. From tennis courts to a splash pad and a 70-acre old-growth-forest called the Witherell Woods, the park has tremendous assets. There is currently a restoration project taking place in the park conducted by the City of Detroit, People for Palmer Park, and the Detroit Exploration and Nature Center that has been underway since 2019. A focus of the project has been on managing the natural spaces to create and maintain the habitats that lie within them.

A number of actions can be taken to foster and improve the health of a grassland, forest, or other ecosystem. For example, incorporating more plant diversity could increase the habitat for native animals and attract pollinators. Introducing more soil diversity can help maintain the health of a natural area. A controlled or prescribed burn is another method to manage and improve a natural space. The teams involved at Palmer Park determined that a controlled burn would be the best way to contribute to the health of the park's meadow.

### Ensuring Safety for a Controlled Burn

A controlled burn is an intentional fire that is planned, prescribed, and carefully executed as a part of maintenance for certain meadows, prairies, and/or forests. Controlled burns (also known as prescribed burns) are carried out by professionals and only take place under proper weather conditions to ensure the safety of the public as well as the people performing the burn itself. The controlled burn scheduled to take place in Palmer Park was a joint effort, taken on by the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department and Huron Clinton Metroparks in cooperation with the Detroit Fire Department.

Detroit Bird City meadows promote an environment for native pollinators and birds.

The controlled burn was scheduled for April 13, but because the weather conditions were not safe, the burn was canceled. Though an important part of

what is being done in the restoration project is to maintain the health and integrity of the meadow, the safety of those involved and those in the surrounding communities comes first. The weather cooperated on May 11, and the controlled burn was performed successfully.

### The Importance of Detroit Bird City Meadows

The specific site where the burn took place is a Detroit Bird City meadow located in Palmer Park behind the Detroit Exploration and Nature Center. The Detroit Bird City Project is a city-wide project established through a partnership

between Detroit Audubon and the Detroit Parks and Recreation and General Services Department to create and improve bird habitats in parks throughout Detroit. The meadow's wildflowers at Palmer Park provide habitat for native pollinators and birds. The area is equipped with a bench as well as a species list of many of the birds that call Palmer Park home.

If you would like to learn more about controlled or prescribed burns, visit the US Forest Service and the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources websites.





# Community Connections

## Detroit Audubon: A Hub for Bird Conservation

### Safe Passage

Good news is in the works to make Detroit a more bird friendly city. Detroit council member Angela Whitfield-Calloway's office reached out to Detroit Audubon to advise on a legislative proposal:

"I am writing to request that the Legislative Policy Division draft an ordinance requiring bird-friendly building standards for all new construction and major renovation projects. This would require that new development in the City of Detroit include bird-friendly designs that minimize bird collisions while still maintaining aesthetics of the building. This is an important step to help reduce the number of bird fatalities in our city, as well as promoting energy efficiency and sustainable development practices."

At this point we are unsure of how far this proposal will go, but it is wonderful news that this important issue is being addressed, especially with the Sterling Group's "glass cube" under construction in the former Joe Louis Arena location on the Detroit River—a vital migratory flyway.

### Take action

Email or call the members of Detroit City Council, urging them to support a "Bird Friendly Building Ordinance." Council members and their contact info can be found at: <https://detroitmi.gov/government/city-council>

Join our Safe Passage Committee by sending an email to [staff@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:staff@detroitaudubon.org).

### Meadow Movement

Thanks to our Detroit Bird City project, a Meadow Movement is happening in Detroit. In the last few months we have been contacted by more than a dozen land owners, home owners, and donors who want to build a meadow in their backyards or on lots they own or plan to purchase. Still others want to donate money so Detroit Audubon can buy land and restore habitat for birds. With 21 square miles of unused land in the city of Detroit, we have a unique opportunity to be a model for how conservation and habitat restoration can play a vital role in urban revitalization. We are looking forward to continuing to work with residents, neighborhood coalitions, Detroit Parks and Recreation, and the US Fish and Wildlife's Partners for Wildlife program to expand Detroit Bird City. You can support the meadow movement by donating today at: <https://www.detroitaudubon.org/get-involved/donate/>

### Conservation and Research Coordinator

Our Conservation and Research Coordinator has been busy starting the 2023 season of Black Tern field work. So far this year we have installed seven nest cameras and five different types of nesting platforms. However, the water level at St. Clair Flats has been low, making very sturdy vegetation mats for the Black Terns

and making the chance of terns nesting on our platforms unlikely. The cameras are set up to record both a nest and one or two platforms placed nearby, so it will be interesting to see how the birds intersect with our platforms. Even if the Black Terns do not need the platforms this year, we need to test how they function so they can be used in years when the birds do not have access to study vegetation mats needed for successful nesting. We have already seen some nests with chicks, which on June 8th is pretty early compared to past years. We think the Black Terns are benefiting from the lack of storms so far this summer. Hopefully this success continues, and the nesting season terns out well!

## Detroit Audubon Creates Community

Detroit Audubon has been invited to participate in a variety of local events to share information about bird conservation, education, and of course, our many wonderful field trips. In 2023 we attended:

- Belle Isle Nature Center Winterfest where we reached 789 people.
- Shiver on the River where we reached 426 people.
- Think Spring with Ferndale Garden Club where we reached 175 people.
- Greenfest at the Detroit Zoo where we reached 250 people.
- Green Day at the Belle Isle Nature Center where we reached 639 people.
- Michigan Birds: Walks and Talks where we reached 60 people.

Our participation in these events is vital to the health of our organization

and could not happen without a team of dedicated volunteers who distribute literature, educational materials, and help spread the word about how important Detroit Audubon is to the environment in Southeast Michigan.

**If you would like to help spread the word, let us know!** Email [programs@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:programs@detroitaudubon.org) or call (313) 588-1015.

### Blacks, Browns, & Birds Event

For the second year in a row, we worked with local partners, Black to the Land Coalition, BIPOC Birders of MI, and Outdoor Afro, to offer Blacks, Browns, & Birds, an event in honor of Black Birders Week in late May. The Belle Isle Nature Center hosted our event with 13 other

partners. Hiking backpacks, binoculars, and bird field guides were just some of the free giveaways offered to attendees.

### Michigan Radio's "Bird and Nerds" Event

Detroit Audubon Research Coordinator Ava Landgraf talked on air with April Campbell, Laura Weber Davis, and Lester Graham on the the Michigan Radio feature "Birds and Nerds." They discussed topics such as how they first started birding, some examples of successful bird conservation programs, such as our Detroit Audubon's Detroit Bird City project, and how people can support birds at home.



# Welcome New Board Members



**Evan Deutsch**

Evan is a relative newbie to Detroit Audubon. After attending one of our monthly Elmwood events in the fall of 2021, he fell in love with birding. He went on as many of our field trips as his schedule would permit, learning new things along the way and befriend our field trip leaders. He retired in January 2022 from

a long career in advertising and gifted himself a camera to take pictures of the birds he saw. That soon became a passion. You may see his images in the **Flyway** or social media. Unless the weather stops him, he is out photographing birds, butterflies, and bugs every day. Evan also leads our monthly new birder walks, helps out at Detroit Audubon events, and contributes to the **Flyway**. In addition to his passion for wildlife, he is devoted to helping homeless dogs. He is a volunteer at a local animal shelter and does outreach with a humane organization in Pontiac. Evan shares his home/bed with two rescued dogs.

**Patrick Filbin**

After graduating from James Madison College at Michigan State University, Patrick worked as a Congressional lobbyist and Capitol Hill staffer before earning a law degree. Patrick has worked as a lawyer for the past 31 years, specializing in the defense of attorneys and other fiduciaries. He has three adult children and enjoys his free time birding, playing music, reading, and traveling.



**Meredith Meyer**

Meredith Meyer is an active birder and bird photographer. Her lifelong interest in birds was reignited during the pandemic, when she relocated her office to an outdoor patio—a move that coincided with spring migration. She became immersed in birds migrating through the Detroit area and the challenges they face. Meredith's concern for migrating birds led her to Detroit Audubon. A member

of the Safe Passage Committee, she is focused on raising community awareness for Lights Out and increasing the use of bird-safe practices to reduce window collisions. Meredith brings to the Detroit Audubon board more than 30 years' experience in public relations and marketing, primarily in the health care sector. She currently operates a freelance PR consultancy, M Communications. Meredith graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in English. Follow her birding content on [Twitter @MeredithMComm](https://twitter.com/MeredithMComm).



**Jeremiah Steen**

Jeremiah Steen is the Executive Director of the Steen Foundation—a youth-led foundation that invests in the aspirations of young people using the Critical Youth Theory Model. He is also a board member at Friends of the Rouge. Additionally, Jeremiah is a trustee at the Skillman Foundation, Steering Committee member for Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, Vice-Chair for the Association of Fundraising Professionals - Detroit, and advisory board member for the Michigan Nonprofit Association and The Soul of Philanthropy - Michigan.



**Colleen Sturm**

Colleen is a former accountant and an enthusiastic, long-time native plant gardener who raises multiple species of butterflies each summer. As an MSU Conservation Steward and Master Naturalist, she spends much of her time working on conservation projects, environmental activism, and educational outreach. Colleen and her husband also enjoy going on nature hikes to look for birds, bugs, and beautiful scenery.



**Carla VanKampen**

Carla has worked at nonprofit organizations throughout her career, focusing on environmental and conservation education at the Detroit Zoo for over 15 years, and currently working on the development team at Detroit Public Television. She has a passion for conservation and an ever-growing sense of wonder about the natural world. Carla has a B.S. in zoology (Northern Michigan University) and an M.A. in biology (Miami University—Global Field Program).



Thank you for joining our Board of Directors! You join a dedicated team of people who work together to support the Detroit Audubon staff as we all work toward the appreciation and conservation of birds and the environment we share.



# Meet Tamiko Anderson, a Frequent Detroit Audubon Field Trip Attendee

BY KATHY GARRETT

Tamiko's first Detroit Audubon field trip was a bird walk at the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge in Trenton in 2022. She had been looking for "any type of nature-focused event that was low cost, and offered a chance to be around others." A recent car accident shook her and she knew she had to "be good" to herself. "It was time to start living."

Since that field trip, Tamiko has repeatedly discovered that being in nature "helps with healing." When a Black-capped Chickadee ate out of her hand at Kensington Metropark, "I cried!" says Tamiko; "That tiny touch made me feel like I'm real, I'm here." She drove to Port Huron for Sturgeon Day with the Department of Natural Resources, just to pet the fish. Tamiko returned to the Wildlife Refuge, where she was fascinated to learn that two juvenile Screech Owls were being taught to fly at night and that one had mastered flight. Tamiko attended the Bird Paddling Trip

in Plymouth and recently went on the field trip to the Holliday Nature Preserve, a natural oasis in Westland. No matter the location or the focus of the walk, simply being outside and paying attention to the natural world has offered Tamiko comfort, rejuvenation, and even friendship.

"It's a whole other world, a whole other language," says Tamiko of being in natural spaces. "I can

unwind, and just be in the present." While many birders are focused on collecting lifers or documenting the arrival of spring warblers, all of us know the healing nature brings. For many of us, setting aside time to be outside birding, hiking, or simply walking in the woods isn't just enjoyable, it's necessary.

What Tamiko did not expect from attending field trips has been the friendships she has made. "It's not just about the birds; it's about the people I meet! People come from all backgrounds. They know about plants, flowers, and trees, and they bring what they know on field trips. I've met old couples, young couples, couples

where one is crazy about birds and the other is just along for the ride." As we raise our binoculars to catch a glimpse of a warbler, or to follow a Baltimore Oriole to its nest, "the next thing you know you're talking about kids, life, photography, apps, tools. It's not just about birding; it's about life. It's amazing, and it's working. I feel better; I feel good."

Whether you are a Navy veteran, a mother of four, a hi-lo driver, steel plant worker, part of a blight clean-up crew, or you deliver for Amazon or GrubHub (all of which describe Tamiko), your perspective is welcome on a Detroit Audubon field trip. Take a tip from Tamiko, who heads to field trips thinking, "I wonder who I'm going to meet today."

"It's not just  
about birding;  
it's about life."

*Tamiko Anderson (R) points out a bird.*



## Mystery Bird

**Answer:** If you guessed Red-winged Blackbird, pat yourself on the back. What confuses many people is the female, who looks nothing at all like the male. Male Red-winged Blackbirds are glossy black with red and yellow shoulder badges. Females are crisply streaked and dark brownish overall, paler on the breast, and often show a whitish eyebrow. Male Red-winged Blackbirds are harbingers of spring, arriving in late February/early March to stake out their territory. They do this by flashing their scarlet field markings, hunching their shoulders forward and spreading their tail, all the while warning others with loud squawks. The females arrive about a month later. They migrate south anywhere from late August into October.

Photo by Evan Deutsch



## You're Invited to Detroit Audubon's Raptors on the River Fundraiser

Join us for a birding river cruise! We'll observe local bird species and learn all about raptor migration from birding experts while we enjoy an evening on the Detroit River with fellow bird enthusiasts. Bring your binoculars if you have them and cash for the bar.

To register, go to:  
[Detroitaudubon.org](http://Detroitaudubon.org)

Sunday, September 24, 2023  
4:00 – 6:00 pm  
Diamond Jack's River Tours  
201 Joseph Campau  
Detroit, MI 48207



## Buy a Bench and Support Detroit Bird City

Support Detroit Bird City by purchasing a bench to be installed in one of our Detroit Bird City Park locations or for your own backyard birdwatching. Benches are made to order by the carpenters at Architectural Salvage Warehouse in Detroit, from salvaged lumber. Each bench costs \$1500, \$300 of which goes directly to support our mission. If you would like to participate, contact [detroitauduboned@gmail.com](mailto:detroitauduboned@gmail.com).



## Ways to Give

Be a part of Detroit Audubon's mission to foster the appreciation and conservation of birds and the environment we share. There are multiple ways to donate to support our work. Please contact us if you have any questions about the options below at [detroitauduboned@gmail.com](mailto:detroitauduboned@gmail.com) or 313.588.1015.

### Online Donations

You can make a one-time donation or a recurring donation using your credit card through our website: <https://www.detroitaudubon.org/donate/>

### Mail Donations

You can write a check made out to Detroit Audubon, and mail it to:

Detroit Audubon  
4840 Mount Elliott St.  
Detroit MI 48207

### Memorial Gifts

If you wish to honor the memory of a family member or friend by making a contribution to Detroit Audubon, you can donate online: <https://www.detroitaudubon.org/donate/>. In "Comments" indicate for whom your gift is intended. You can also mail a check made out to Detroit Audubon with a note indicating that you are making the donation in honor of a friend or family member. Please include the honoree's name. Mail the check to:

Detroit Audubon  
4840 Mount Elliott St.  
Detroit MI 48207



Northern Parula. Photo by Bruce Szczecowski

## Buy a Membership as a Gift

If you would like to give a family member or friend a membership (\$30) and/or donate in their name to Detroit Audubon as a gift, you can donate online: <https://www.detroitaudubon.org/donate/>. In "Comments" indicate for whom your gift is intended. We will contact the family or friend to let them know a donation and/or membership has been made in their name. You can also mail a check made out to Detroit Audubon with a note indicating that you are making the donation as a gift. Please include the recipient's name. Mail the check to:

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4840 Mount Elliott St.  
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## Planned Giving or Legacy Gifts

To learn all the ways to donate to Detroit Audubon through a will, estate plan, retirement plan, or trust, please contact us at [detroitauduboned@gmail.com](mailto:detroitauduboned@gmail.com) or 313.588.1015.





# Welcome New Detroit Audubon Members!

The following people joined Detroit Audubon from January 1, 2023 - April 30, 2023. Our members show their support for birds and bird habitats by helping our work in education, conservation, and community outreach. Together, we make a difference!

Kelly Altinsel	James Green	Beth Lorey	Doug Rusch
Lisa M. Appel	Mark Grozde	Steven Lott	Karen Schofield
Dr. Ventra Asana	Lexie Haselhuhn	Wandra Lulek	Carol Schroeder
Lucie Audette	Frances Helner	Joan Luther	Paul Sharkey
Janet Barry	Rachel Hermann	Marjory Luther	Kathe Stevens
Cara Beld	John Hite	Matthew Mackley	Paula Storm
Doris Breniser	Donna Hollandsworth	Elisabeth Mager	Faith Taylor
Donald Chisholm	Thomas Hubbard	Lisa Maynard	Diane Van Buren
Sarah Clark	Kimberly Johnson	Jennifer McCandless	Carla VanKampen
Lisa Copeland	Anuj Kavi	John McLeod	Arun Veeraghavan
Patricia Corrigan	Lindsey Kerr	Ido Meron	Janice Goldstein Wanetick
Laurie Crimando	Doo Hee Kim	Quinn Meron	Bill Ward
Robert Czaplicki	Mark Klauza	Sue Merritt	Crosby Washburne III
Susan DeGroff	Karen Klein	James Mills	Cynthia Webster
Gayle Dickerson	Alvin Ko	Carol Nederlander	Molly Wilson
Lauren Dolega	Elke Kroenung	Valerie Overholt	Marcia Wynarczyk
Bruce Donigan	Kirk Kurtharzdorf	MieJung Park-York	
Joseph Dugan	Margie Ladzick	Robert Partenski	
Paul Duvoy	Nancy and Ed Lamers	Sylvia Phlippeau	
Candace Elisevich	Roy M. Larsen	Andy Piontkowski	
Trina Fennell	Sandra Larsen	Mort Potter	
Anne Forrest	Michael Leahy	George Price	
Sheri Frank	Alden Leatherman	David L. Ranson	
Jane Goldsmith	Catherine Levinson	Michelle Rasulis	

# Flyway

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**Yellow Warbler.** The Yellow Warbler's diet is mostly insects of all kinds, including mosquitoes, moths, and beetles. Photo by Bruce Szczechowski