Cover Photo • White-breasted Nuthatch
Photographer: Skye Christopher G. Haas

White-breasted Nuthatches are common feeder birds; they are active and possess an appetite for insects and seeds. The name “nuthatch” comes from their habit of using their sharp bill to “hatch” the seed from the inside of large nuts, which are wedged purposefully into the bark of a tree. This individual was photographed at the Moosewood Nature Center in Marquette, Michigan, on January 28, 2009, with a Nikon D80 300mm at f/4.5, 1/320 (0.003 sec), ISO 125.

Executive Director’s Letter

ROLLING, WRAPPING, AND WRITING—five Michigan Audubon volunteers are seated around the conference table this morning, helping us prepare for CraneFest. It’s Wednesday, so our entire staff is here too—our entire staff of three. Eight might not seem like that many people, but in our funny, 1,200-square-foot office, it’s crowded.

With rooms dedicated for storing program supplies and housing the Michigan Audubon archives, we’re forced to stuff boxes under desks and stack signs behind doors. When we hold board meetings at the office, there’s a need to accommodate up to 14 people; configuring the office for this purpose is a two-hour chore involving moving furniture and chairs and making sure extension cords can reach and not be tripping hazards.

Why I am telling you this? Our office space woes don’t seem to have anything to do with birds. Why may you be curious what we have in store for 2012? A yearlong theme for the JPH will return next year. I can’t give you many details, but rest assured, you’re going to see some of your favorite Michigan birds on every page of Michigan Audubon. Even better thanks to the talented and generous photographers who donate their work. You might consider planning a trip to the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary: the updated manor house is now operating as a bed-and-breakfast, thanks to resident managers Rich and Deb Krieger. Lake Bluff is the ideal “base camp” to launch your work. You might consider planning a tour of Brockway Mountain in the late summer with Audubon leaders Dana Richter and Bill Deephouse director Jonathan Lutz joined Copper Country Audubon leaders Dana Richter and Bill Deephouse on a tour of Brockway Mountain in the late summer of 2008. Photo: Dana Richter.

Throughout 2011, we’ve acknowledged that your opportunities to go birding or share the beauty of birds may be limited due to financial situations. We’ve brought you a year’s worth of stories related to “budget birding,” which we hope you’ve enjoyed. We’re curious to know if these stories were helpful; feel free to drop us a line any time—call, e-mail, or post to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/michiganaudubon). Did you employ any of Bill Stovall’s solutions for budget bird feeding? Did you buy your first pair of quality binoculars following Bill Sweetman’s advice? Perhaps you discovered the joys of nature photography using that old camera you’ve been keeping around, or maybe (hopefully) you discovered a new place to bird within 25 miles from home. Please, let us know; we’re curious.

You may be curious what we have in store for 2012. A yearlong theme for the JPH will return next year. You can’t give me many details, but rest assured, you’re going to see some of your favorite Michigan birds on every page of Michigan Audubon. Even better thanks to the talented and generous photographers who donate their work. You might consider planning a trip to the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary: the updated manor house is now operating as a bed-and-breakfast, thanks to resident managers Rich and Deb Krieger. Lake Bluff is the ideal “base camp” to launch your work. You might consider planning a tour of Brockway Mountain in the late summer with Audubon leaders Dana Richter and Bill Deephouse director Jonathan Lutz joined Copper Country Audubon leaders Dana Richter and Bill Deephouse on a tour of Brockway Mountain in the late summer of 2008. Photo: Dana Richter.

Additionally, our annual signature events will offer more than they ever have before. As our support from sponsors and registrations improve, we can do more to bring the world’s most talented and knowledgeable birders to Michigan. Join our e-mail list at www.michiganaudubon.org to become one of the first to know the details of our signature event series and when online registration will open.

I know this is a busy time for you and your family. Soon you will be wrapping gifts and writing season’s greetings. Please make time for conservation this holiday season; consider making a special gift to two great Michigan bird conservation projects using the special yellow remittance envelope included with this issue. You can help Michigan Audubon achieve great things in 2012—for less than the cost of a 30-pound bag of “silent!” Our three-person staff, all of our great volunteers, and, of course, the birds will appreciate your gesture.

Jonathan E. Lutz, executive director

Michigan Audubon connects birds and people for the benefit of both … through conservation, education, and research efforts in the state of Michigan. Founded in 1934, Michigan Audubon is Michigan’s oldest conservation organization. Michigan Audubon supports bird surveys throughout the state, publishes survey data, provides educational opportunities, and preserves nearly 5,000 acres of land within 19 sanctuaries as habitat for birds and other wildlife. The 41 chapters of Michigan Audubon focus on local conservation issues and provide educational programs within their communities. Contributions to Michigan Audubon are tax-deductible.

Please don’t forget to add these dates to your 2012 calendars:

- May 17–20: Tawas Point Birding Festival
- June 1–3: Cerulean Warbler Weekend
- October 13–14: Sandhill Crane & Art Festival, or CraneFest XVIII

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Berrien Birding
BY ALISON VILAG

I am plagued by observer bias. If you were to search for the details of this malady in my own psyche, you might find that the root of it is a psychology textbook you once read, or that you have seen the world differently through the eyes of someone who has been plucked from your own body by a rubber duck. This is not to suggest that Berrien County is a rubber duck, or that I have any particular affinity for the bird. It is simply a way of acknowledging that my observations of the natural world are influenced by my own experiences and biases.

Berrien County is a diverse region of northern Indiana, with a mixture of forested areas, marshland, and agricultural land. It is home to one of the most important birding areas in the Midwest, as well as several other excellent birding spots. The area is known for its rich diversity of birdlife, with over 200 species recorded in the county.

Berrien County is also home to a number of state parks and nature preserves, including the Grinnell Woods State Park, the Indiana Dunes State Park, and the Griffith Dunes State Park. These areas are excellent places to see a variety of birdlife, as well as other wildlife such as deer, rabbits, and snakes.

In addition to the state parks, Berrien County is also home to a number of private nature reserves, including the Woodend Sanctuary, the Nature Conservancy’s Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and the公务 County Forest Preserve.

As you can see, Berrien County is a great place to bird, with a rich diversity of birdlife and excellent birding opportunities. Whether you are a seasoned birder or a beginner, there is something for everyone in Berrien County.

However, it is important to remember that birding is a delicate and sensitive activity, and we must all work together to ensure that the birds and their habitats are protected. Therefore, it is important to be respectful of the birds and their environment, and to avoid disturbing them or their habitats.

I hope you enjoy reading this guide to Berrien County, and that you find it useful in your efforts to bird and to learn more about the fascinating world of birdlife.
Re: you looking for an excuse to visit a Michigan Audubon bird sanctuary this winter and to do something meaningful for bird conservation? If you haven’t ever participated on a Christmas bird count (CBC), consider taking part in the longest standing bird monitoring program on earth.

The Christmas bird count started on Christmas Day, 1900 by ornithologist Frank Chapman. He proposed counting birds on Christmas day as opposed to shooting them, as he was the tradition "side hunts," in which shooters would choose a side, or team, to participate in shooting feathered quarry. The team with the biggest pile would be the winner. On this day, twenty-five CBCs were held, mostly in the Northeast, including Toronto. These counts tallied 90 species total for all counts.

So began the Christmas bird count. Today, CBCs are conducted by a team of volunteers scouring a designated area that is 15 miles in diameter, commonly referred to as a "count circle." The time period to conduct a CBC survey is December 14 to January 7, inclusive. During the most recent count from which data is available (2009-2010), over 61 million birds were counted in 2,215 Christmas bird counts throughout North America.

Michigan boasts 69 active Christmas bird counts, from the tip of the Keweenaw to the southernmost corners of the Lower Peninsula. In this same time period, 1,269 Michigan birders donated 3,350 hours, drove 237,318 miles, and counted nearly 750,000 birds of 146 species. Birds found on all counts were Dovely Woodpecker, Blue Jay, crow, chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatch, and American Goldfinch. 60,398 Canada Geese were counted statewide, making it the most numerous species counted.

If you need another reason to trudge around in your mukluks in the dead of winter, know that the information collected by the CBC has contributed greatly to bird conservation for over 100 years. The CBC has confirmed the northerly range expansion of the Tufted Titmouse, Mourning Dove, and Common Grackle. It also has demonstrated that the American Black Duck, a significant decline was detected through the CBC in the 1980s. Conservation measures were put in place, which led to a rebound in their numbers. Share that success story with anyone that tells you birding in the winter is a waste of time!

If you are a bird watcher who hasn’t yet participated in at least one monitoring program, the Christmas bird count is probably one of the easiest and shortest programs, taking one day. Consider participating, and your efforts will beAmong the highlights from this year’s CBCs, the Michigan Audubon documented 26 species, including a Northern Harrier. The Whitefish Point CBC documented 26 species, including a Great Grey Owl! Interestingly enough, eleven of our nineteen bird sanctuaries fall within a CBC "count circle". Volunteer birders of all ages and ability scour the landscape for a day, physically counting every bird by species they see. This is a great way to get outdoors and participate in a birding activity that adds valuable information to what we know about birds. Plus, it is a chance to visit one of our sanctuaries in the winter months.

Nearly all the Michigan CBCs are coordinated by a chapter or member of Michigan Audubon. Some coordinate multiple count circles, which is the case with the Kalamazoo Nature Center. One chapter coordinator, Barbara Baldinger, from northwestern Michigan, coordinates twelve CBCs. The Kalamazoo CBC is the largest in the state, including five Bald Eagles, one Common Goldeneye, and 283 Mallards. Albion, in south-central Lower Peninsula, had 42 species with 292 Mallards, three Sandhill Cranes, and even a Northern Harrier. The Whitefish Point CBC documented 26 species, including a Great Grey Owl!

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If you are a bird watcher who hasn’t yet participated in at least one monitoring program, the Christmas bird count is probably one of the easiest and shortest programs, taking one day. Consider participating, and your efforts will be included in the long-term data that helps conserve bird populations.

If you are ready to don the gloves, strap on the scarf, and bring the hot chocolate in tow in the name of conservation, visit the Michigan Audubon website:

http://www.michiganaudubon.org/research/surveys/form/data/christmas_count to find COUNT LOCATIONS, DATES, TIMES, and CONTACT INFORMATION.

There is a $5 participation fee, which supports the ongoing research and compilation of the data collected. Find the count you are interested in and contact the local coordinator for details. Even if you are a beginner or this is your first count, you’ll be welcome and probably paired with an experienced birder, one familiar with the protocol of the survey.
Protect, Promote Bird Habitat for $10

BY JONATHAN E. LUTZ

You can help complete a 30-year effort—the vision of Michigan Audubon leaders Carl Haussman and his friend Bob Whiting—to create a permanent headquarters for Michigan Audubon at Hawk Valley Farm. Likewise, you can help Michigan Audubon members protect the best place in Michigan to watch the spring migration of raptors: Brockway Mountain. You can do either of these things for just 10 dollars.

This issue of the Jack Pine Warbler features a special donation envelope. I urge you to remove the envelope and make a decision that will directly benefit Michigan’s birds.

You can help complete a 30-year effort—the vision of Michigan Audubon leaders Carl Haussman and his friend Bob Whiting—to create a permanent headquarters for Michigan Audubon at Hawk Valley Farm. Likewise, you can help Michigan Audubon members protect the best place in Michigan to watch the spring migration of raptors: Brockway Mountain. You can do either of these things for just 10 dollars.

Hawk Valley Farm

Located only six miles from the steps of the Capitol in Lansing is a 60-acre parcel of land and the commercially built former residence of Carl and Marian Haussman. The Haussmans could be considered early adopters of bird-related habitat management. Carl and his friends planted fruit-bearing plants, established a bluebird trail, created seasonal swales for migrating waterfowl, and maintained an open field as a home for grassland birds. The enjoyment of birds was also key for the Haussmans, who hosted an annual Christmas bird count on their property. Trails continue to be maintained, offering scenic views of the Grand River, the southern border of Hawk Valley Farm. The Haussmans lived at Hawk Valley for more than 60 years. When the project is completed, Michigan Audubon will have its first permanent home in more than a century of operation—a place where birders can walk the trails and experience firsthand the efforts of connecting birds and people for the benefit of both on a statewide level. At more than 5,000 square feet, the former Haussman residence will convert easily to feature workspaces for staff and volunteers, a multifunctional meeting and event room, archives, a retail area, and more. In 2010, Michigan Audubon staff, along with representatives from partner organizations and members of the Audubon community participated in a series of visioning sessions that would help create the “next step” in the Haussman’s legacy at Hawk Valley Farm. We are now ready to move forward with the construction phase of the project, but we need our members’ help.

You have the opportunity to write the next chapter in Michigan Audubon’s history. Your ten-dollar gift will be used to create a nerve center for statewide bird conservation, education, and research efforts. Even if you never visit Hawk Valley Farm, your contribution will help welcome thousands each year—from teachers-in-training to Audubon groups from across the state, schoolchildren, business professionals, and friends of birds learn about the history and mission of Michigan Audubon.

Brockway Mountain

Brockway Mountain in the namesake of the Copper Country Audubon’s newsletter, The Brockway Mountain Lookout. For many years, the pages of the Lookout have featured the marvelous raptor migrations that occur in this location. In fact, Brockway Mountain may be the most compelling place to witness the migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles in the Great Lakes region.

Jonathan E. Lutz is the executive director for Michigan Audubon. Since his tenure began in May 2008, he’s visited both Hawk Valley Farm and Brockway Mountain on multiple occasions. Jonathan can be reached anytime via e-mail at jlutz@michiganaudubon.org, or during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, by calling 517-886-9144.

We’ve spent the year bringing you feature articles and columns about “budget birding.” These stories have encouraged birding new areas close to home, getting started or starting a friend to birding, and how to capture amazing photographs with a simple point-and-shoot camera. Our appeal to you to support two amazing projects that will directly influence bird conservation is also a budget concept. Helping build a bird conservation headquarters and helping purchase a bird migration observation post will cost you less than a night at the movies, a tank of gas, or a week’s worth of groceries.

Helping to build a headquarters at Hawk Valley and buy Brockway Mountain are investments that will last for generations.
A Very Birdy Christmas to You and Yours!

BY KATIE MURRAY

Nestled between Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Coopersville, MI is home to the ever-popular Heath Outdoor Products (1). Started by the Heath family in 1948, their main goal was to manufacture quality bird feeders. Today, Heath is a household name in the world of bird and bird watching accessories. Specializing in susbtance bird feed, Heath also offers many one-of-a-kind bird feeders that will keep your birds happy and your garden beautiful.

If you live in the greater Detroit metropolitan area, stopping into Wild Birds Unlimited (2) is a must. Situated in the trendy, up-and-coming city of Royal Oak, MI, they offer “EcoClean” and revolutionary birding products. Included in their line of EcoClean feeders are seed tubes, Finch feeders, and a dinner bell feeder that all protect against bacteria, mold, mildew, yeast, and fungi. These feeders are a great value and are made with high-quality organic materials that won’t contaminate your bird’s food.

If you are searching for a gift for the fashion-conscious bird watcher, look no further than Bivouac Aan Arbor (3). This company has a long history in the world of extreme outdoor clothing and will have you falling in love with their many styles and colors. Weather-resistant backpacks, hiking boots, and binoculars are all a part of the merchandise catered towards outdoor activities. Some of their hats come adorned with bird graphics, which are more than appropriate for your bird-loving friends and family. If you are looking for a gift that your loved one can use in the next few months of cold Michigan weather, let Bivouac be your guide!

Each product category on their website offers a list of best sellers, featuring premium suet cakes for songbirds and a variety of flavors of “Peanut Crunch” being among the top-selling. If it is a bluebird, Purple Martin, or even house you seek, Heath has options ranging anywhere from $11.00–$212.00, depending on the desired style. With new products being added everyday and expedited shipping available, Heath will make your holiday shopping nothing less than enjoyable.

To get your complete bird fix, make a visit to the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary (KBS) (4). Just north of the area between the towns of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, with sanctuary director and Michigan Audubon chapter leader Kara Haas at the helm, you know this place is worth a visit. The gift shop at KBS offers plenty of easy-to-use, specially designed feed assortments that are a favorite for wild birds and those that feed them. In addition, the shop carries feeders, books, apparel, and bird-friendly coffee that originates from sustainable crops that leave rainforest parcels in tact.

Visit These Sites:

2. http://www.kbs.msu.edu/visit/birdsanctuary

Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors

BY JERRY LIGUORI

n 1988, the pioneering publication Hawks in Flight: The Flight Identification of North American Migrant Raptors by P. Dunns, D. Shelby, and C. Sutton laid the foundation for modern raptor identification. This work incorporated the holistic principles of raptor identification by using line drawings of raptors in various stages of flight behavior, and black-and-white photographs of birds in flight.

In 1995, B. Wheeler and B. Clark published A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors, the first ID guide that used color slide photographs of raptors to assist in their identification. They followed in 1998 and 2001 with a member of the Peterson Field Guides series, Hawks of North America. This guide contains plates with multiple color drawings of each species, range maps, and refinements in species descriptions.

The next addition to the raptor ID list was a two volume set, Raptors of Eastern (and Western) North America by B. Wheeler, published in 2005. Each utilizes excellent color photographs depicting near and far-away views of raptors perched and aloft with supporting text.

Jerry Liguori has now produced a pair of raptor publications that incorporate new photographic technology to assist in the identification of birds in flight. Hawks From Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors in Flight (2003) is the first guide to use color in addition to black-and-white digital images to convey identification knowledge to the reader. Digital photos can now be manipulated with software so that a variety of birds can all be made the same size, face the same direction, or be made into black-and-white images. These computer enhancements allow comparisons of individuals or groups of raptors in similar flight positions to be simultaneously viewed on one page.

In 2011, Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors was published. This book incorporates the same technology to illustrate identification of raptors but does so with birds at a distance. Here, Liguori depicts smaller images of raptors in flight at eye-level, overhead, and from above. He then emphasizes methods of identifying these distant raptors with binoculars by relying less on plumage features and more on general impression, size, shape, and flight behavior as clues.

This is a stand alone guide, but it could easily be the last chapters of Hawks From Every Angle, since this first book lacks images of distant raptors. This combination might be overwhelming for the beginning hawk watcher; nevertheless, I find it extremely beneficial to use both guides. Both books have sections on how to use the book, terminology, a glossary, migration, hints, anatomy, flight positions, counting optics, photography, and digital imaging but this not-vertically duplication of content is necessary, especially since the second work is a stand alone guide.

Both guides have sections that contain descriptions of each species, and there is some duplication of headings but not content. In Hawks at a Distance, Liguoris incorporates discussions of flight, similar species, and ID pitfalls in captions on numerous pages that illustrate these comments with six color images of distant raptors in flight.

To get a feel for this format, the publisher encourages reviewers to use these PDF downloads of these hawk species examples.

http://press.princeton.edu/books/hawks/coopersteam.html
http://press.princeton.edu/books/hawks/red-shoulder.html
http://press.princeton.edu/books/hawks/rough-legged.html

Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors is a necessary and welcomed addition to the raptor library. The evolution of raptor ID is continuing rapidly toward that point of identification with few errors, and Liguori is near that mark.

I find this book and other similarly sized guides are an easy read, and if they’re laying flat for no-hands usage. I like to replace their current binding with a spring coil clip, available from FedEx Office for about $6. See you at the hawk watch!

Bob Pettit is biology professor emeritus at Monroe Community College with 42 years of teaching service. His birding travels include much of the U.S., parts of Costa Rica, the mainland of Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands. He is a former chair and current board member of Whirlwind Point Bird Observatory and former secretary and chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. With over 1,000 hours of counting/observation, he is currently president of Holiday Beach Migration Observatory (jbno.org), where he has developed a hawk identification workshop. He can be reached at redknot@earthlink.net.

November/December 2011

Michigan State University
W.L. Kellogg Biological Station

To get your complete bird fix, make a visit to the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary (KBS) (2), just north of the area between the towns of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. With sanctuary director and Michigan Audubon chapter leader Kara Haas at the helm, you know this place is worth a visit. The gift shop at KBS offers plenty of easy-to-use, specially designed feed assortments that are a favorite for wild birds and those that feed them. In addition, the shop carries feeders, books, apparel, and bird-friendly coffee that originates from sustainable crops that leave rainforest parcels in tact.
Feathered Lens

Managing a Year’s Worth of Images

BY JOSH HAAS

You’ve slowly acquired the gear, you’ve bought the computer and software, and you’ve spent the last birding season shooting like crazy: Now what? Not only do you need to find and post-process images, but what about safe photo storage? These types of things are always thought of second. Good images, no matter how old, should be easily reached at all times and stored in a way that is reliable and safe. There is nothing worse than going back to find an image with no luck, or to find that a prized image has been erased forever because of a failed drive. It’s important to realize there are many photo storage processes to use and what works for someone else may not be perfect for you. Ask around to see what others are doing and make the decision based on what works best for you.

Storing and managing images starts with a well-thought-out plan. Images need to be searchable, quick to bring up, and safe. Many programs can help with creating libraries of images based on keywords, dates, and more. Adobe Lightroom and Bridge within Photoshop are great tools for this, but if you don’t have these tools, there are other ways. One of the tried and true methods of storage I have been using for years involves using simple folder hierarchies within Windows Explorer (also possible with Macintosh’s Finder). This costs nothing extra above the computer and storage (hard drives). Deciding where to store the masses of images is the first step to this method. An easy solution was to be two hard drives. The basic premise is to store everything on one drive and then mirror that data on a second drive as a backup.

One recommendation is to store the second drive off-site (e.g., at a location that something catastrophic happens to your home. Keep the second drive updated at least quarterly to minimize large losses of data or something devastating happens. Once you’ve decided on the location of your storage, now comes the hierarchy of folders. Think of this as a tangible map. The top folder would be called “Photography,” while the next folders within would be named as years (e.g., “2009,” “2010,” etc.) Within those folders would be more folders that would be titled with the date of shoot and a rough synopsis of the shoot (e.g., “5-4-11, Worm-eating Warbler”). Think of those folders as albums. Within that folder or album would be where all your images are actually stored (see accompanying photo to see example structure). A trick to quickly view lots of images from a shoot would be to use a separate viewer program that can view image types such as RAW and JPEG. These viewers are extremely fast and yield an efficient way of searching a folder of images quickly for that one great photo. For me, that program is Digital Photo Professional (Canon Software that comes with all of their SLRs). I quickly view the images and camera data and then open the “workable” images in Photoshop.

Aside from storage, not everyone has their own websites for showing off their latest creations. Websites such as Picasa and Flickr are fantastic ways of displaying your work. But, however, to only post low-resolution images (256p) with some sort of copyright to protect yourself in the six years I’ve been showing my work, I’ve had images used without my permission several times (that I know about). These websites also offer password protection to only allow certain viewers inside your gallery. Also consider starting a blog, which is a great way to showcase your work while also telling stories of how you created those images. This is one more way of allowing viewers to truly connect with your work. Google offers free blog space at blogspot.com.

When all is said and done, keep things simple and use descriptive titles for folders so that they can be easily searched. Showcase your work, even if you’re nervous about getting mixed reviews. The harsh reviewers are the ones that make you work hard at creating that next masterpiece.

To read more about Josh, visit www.glancesatnature.com. He specializes in bird photography and nature photography, trips, and workshops. His work can be seen at numerous art shows throughout Michigan as well as online.

CraneFest Special Thanks

ANOTHER SANDHILL CRANE and Art Festival is coming to town. CraneFest XX is history now, but the good memories of a successful event remain. Michigan Audubon would like to thank everyone involved in helping us with the event.

CraneFest wouldn’t be possible without our partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek. Big Marsh Lake, where the cranes go to roost at night, is located in Baker Sanctuary, but due to the geography of the sanctuary, the lake isn’t visible from there. The Kiwanis have graciously allowed Michigan Audubon to run the event from their property, which overlooks the lake. Kiwanis members Sam Conkin, Dick Gilespie, and Don Stilwell dedicate many hours to getting the site ready for the event and also working during CraneFest. Their dedication to Kiwanis and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

The advent of major sponsorship for CraneFest was a new aspect of the event this year, and Michigan Audubon hopes it will continue. We would like to thank Hecht Outdoor Products for their event sponsorship at the Whooping Crane level. Also contributing at the Sanctuary Friend level was Independent Bank. At the donor level of sponsorship was the Eaton County Federal Credit Union. Eagle Optics, BratstDeals.com, Vanguard USA, and Stovall Products all contributed incredible products to our raffle and silent auction. Also contributing to our kick-off evening were Nottawa Wild Bird Supply, Schuler’s Restaurant and Pub, Sandhill Crane Winery, Dark Horse Brewery, Cowbelt College, Wild Birds Unlimited – Portage & Kalamazoo stores, Roger Erickson, Don & Lillian Stokkes, Richard Yarsevich, The Inn at Black Star Farms, Doug J Companies, Rockport Birding & Kayak Adventures, Mosejew, Arcadia Brewing Co., Bird Watcher’s Digest, and the Seasonal Grill.

Jolene Flynn, the new resident manager of Baker Sanctuary, deserves our deepest gratitude for making many local arrangements during one of her busiest times of the year.

We would also like to thank the following organizations, businesses, and individuals that donated funds and/or assistance to CraneFest 2011:

- Bernie Holcomb and family
- Audrey Haddock and her art students
- Earthbound Environmental Awareness Organization
- Kellogg Bird Sanctuary
- Battle Creek Brigham Audubon
- Audubon Society of Kalmarozzo
- Michigan Loon Preservation Association
- Michigan Bluebird Society
- Kalamazoo Museum
- Binder Park Zoo
- All Species Kinship
- Kalamazoo Astronomical Society
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Asian Studies Center of MSU
- Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
- Boy Scouts of America
- Troop 4309
- Michigan Hawking Club
- Dr. Richard Fleming
- Dr. Leah Knapp
- Kara & Josh Haas
- Richard Yarsevich
- Tony Howard
- Gay & Harold Hadley
- Mike & Nancy Boyce
- Eugene & Jan Schmidt
- Vee Bjornson
- John & Karen Gergen
- Roger & Debbie Wolf
- Janet Green
- Carolyn Rouke

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Calendar

November

19 Gently used nature book sale
- Saint Nature Center, Berrien Springs

27 Getting ready for winter program—2:00 PM Magic of Birds at Nature Center

December

3 Chickadee Christmas—10:00 AM-2:00 PM Michigan Audubon Center

Dec. 14-Jan. 15 Christmas Bird Count
Check with your local chapter for exact date and time

January

14-15 Winter birding at the Fox Fields
- Hosted by Whittlesey Point Bird Observatory

Michigan Birds and Natural History

Volume 19 will begin January 2012 and includes five issues. The journal is home to the Michigan bird count, Michigan Christmas bird counts, North American migration counts and the proceedings of the Michigan bird records committee.
Announcements

On the back page of this issue of the Check Your Expiration Date the field guide revisions commence! Changes and additions can be found at www.aou.org. Let Check-List of North American Birds have all the details of these warblers all figured out—oh well. The 52nd supplement to the were done away with! Just when you thought you had those were transferred from one genus to another, and six genera was to reorganize the wood-warbler family tree. Forty species Gallinule. The biggest change that the AOU instituted, though, that the Common Moorhen is now known as the Common the most important of these changes to us Michiganders is The AOU also split a few bird families and renamed a few birds; United States list were sighted in coastal states or states that America to 976. All of the species that were added to the total number of AOU-recognized species for all of North more birds to the United States checklist this year. This brings American Ornithologist’s Union (AOU), the group devoted to the scientific study of birds, has added seven devoted to the scientific study of birds, has added seven announcements that the number of renewal letters that we will need to send out, the number of renewal letters that we will need to send out, moment to renew your membership. Doing so now will reduce renewal early. Used toward bird conservation issues. Thank you in advance for the number of renewal letters that we will need to send out, which in turn will save the organization money that can then be the change. If your membership expiration date is December 31, 2011, please take a moment to renew your membership. Doing so now will reduce the number of renewal letters that we will need to send out, which in turn will save the organization money that can then be used toward bird conservation issues. Thank you in advance for renewing early.

Events

Chickadee Christmas Just Around the Corner

Michigan Audubon hosts a fun little event at the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary in Manistee each December. Now called Chickadee Christmas, the original name of this event was Chocolate Christmas, which came from the fancy chocolate goodies that members of the Manistee Audubon Society made and donated to sell at the event. The event will be held this year on December 5, running from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. There are still chocolate goodies and other items that you can purchase at Chickadee Christmas, but the event also has nature walks and other activities that highlight this beautiful sanctuary on the shores of Lake Michigan. If the cold temperatures don’t suit you, enjoy a cup of coffee inside while watching the birds at the feeders. The manor house will be decked out for the holidays and is a great location to while away the time in a relaxing atmosphere. If you’re looking for field guides or nature-related books to give as gifts this holiday season, the Lake Bluff Nature Gift Store carries many titles to help you with your shopping list.

The Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, a 76-acre property of Michigan Audubon, is located two miles north of Manistee at 2990 Lakeshore Road. The home located on the property of Lake Bluff is operated as a bed-and-breakfast; reservations can be made by calling 231-723-4042. For more information on Lake Bluff or Chickadee Christmas visit Michigan Audubon’s website at www.michiganaudubon.org.

Chickadee Christmas is just one of the activities held during Manistee’s Victorian Strollbade Parade and Old Christmas Weekend, December 1-4. For more information on all the activities taking place in Manistee that weekend, visit the event page at www.visitmanisteechicago.com.

American Ornithologist’s Union Has Been Busy

If you thought you had seen all the birds in the USA, think again. The American Ornithologist’s Union (AOU), the group devoted to the scientific study of birds, has added seven more birds to the United States checklist this year. This brings the total number of AOU-recognized species for all of North America to 976. All of the species that were added to the United States list were sighted in coastal states or states that share the border with Mexico.

The AOU also split a few bird families and renamed a few birds; the most important of these changes to us Michiganders is that the Common Moorhen is now known as the Common Gallinule. The biggest change that the AOU instituted, though, was to reorganize the wood-warbler family tree. Forty species were transferred from one genus to another, and six genera were done away with! Just when you thought you had those were transferred from one genus to another, and six genera was to reorganize the wood-warbler family tree. Forty species

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2012 Event Schedule Set

If you have purchased a 2012 calendar already, you will want to get it out to mark down the following upcoming events.

- Michigan Audubon’s first event of the year will be the Tawas Point Birding Festival, taking place May 17-20 in East Tawas and Oscoda.
- The Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary near Hastings is home to Cerulean Warbler Weekend, which will be June 1-3.
- The Sandhill Crane & Art Festival, CraneFest XVIII, will be held October 13 & 14, 2012 at the Kiwanis Youth Area near Bellevue.
- The last event of the year will be Chickadee Christmas at the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary on December 1.

The date for Migration Celebration, which occurs at Lake Bluff during fall migration, is still up in the air. Michigan Audubon staff is currently evaluating this event and will determine a date soon.

Monthly nature walks are also planned at five of Michigan Audubon’s sanctuaries. A schedule of these walks and other programs will be included in the January/February issue of the Jack Pine Warbler. The sanctuaries where activities are planned are the Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary near Bellaire, Phyllis Haenhle Memorial Sanctuary in Jackson, Hawk Valley Farm in Lansing, Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary in Manistee, and the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary near Hastings.

News

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THANK YOU

CraneFest Sponsors!

Spectators wait for the arrival of the cranes during CraneFest XII. © 2011, John Guergen.
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Information or phone orders 517-886-9144

WINTER MAY BE THE BEST TIME OF YEAR to get children involved in birding. Having them participate in a Christmas bird count will get them excited, and you can purchase them their first field guide as a gift for the holidays. There are currently two excellent choices in field guides written for children:

**Kaufman Field Guide to Advanced Birding**
by Kenn Kaufman
$21.00
The subtitle to this book is *Understanding What You See and Hear*. In this book, birding guru Kenn Kaufman concisely provides the principles of identification to help you in the field. He promises that this book will make the learning process more effective, which, in turn, will make birding more fun.

**Birding Journal: Through the Seasons**
by Vanessa Sorensen
$12.95
Start your 2012 birding off right by keeping a journal of your sightings and escapades. Divided by seasons, the book actually starts with March and runs through February. Each month includes pages to list sightings, note pages, monthly trip listings, and an end-of-the-month sighting list. Hints on different aspects of birding are spread throughout the book, and the artwork is simply beautiful.

**Peterson Field Guides: The Young Birder’s Guide to Birds of Eastern North America**
by Bill Thompson III
$14.95 (flexibound)
A great guide for ages 10–15.

**Wild about Michigan Birds**
by Adele Porter
$17.95
For the younger crowd; this would be a good guide for children aged 7–10.

**Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern Region**
by Don & Lillian Stokes
$24.98 (set of 3 CDs)
This audio field guide includes birdcalls with voice narrative for 372 species of birds of eastern North America. As a bonus, an MP3 CD of songs without the narrative is included for you to use on your MP3 device; also included is a PDF booklet that provides call and song descriptions for all the species.

**Into the Forest: Nature’s Food Chain Game**
$15.95
A fun card game for children and adults in which players eat or get eaten. Cards represent animals and plants that are found in the forest, with each animal card providing a list of predators and prey. The game is made for 2–6 players aged 7 and up.

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By phone, Visa or MasterCard. Phone 517-886-9144.
By mail. Send name, address, phone number, and payment to Michigan Audubon Bookstore, 6011 W. St. Joseph Hwy., Ste. 403, Lansing, MI 48917. Prepayment includes list price + 6% sales tax + $3.75 postage and handling for the first item + $0.85 for each additional item.
By e-mail, Wendy@MichiganAudubon.org.

10% off for all Michigan Audubon members!