

Jack Pine *Warbler*

THE SUMMER ISSUE: The Pileated Woodpeckers of Lincoln Brick Park ■ Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary ■ Safe Passage Great Lakes ■ Manistee, Naturally ■ Feathered Lens: Water Water Everywhere!



Jack Pine Warbler

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Cover Photo ■ Pileated Woodpecker

Photographer: Josh Haas

This shot of a Pileated Woodpecker at Drummond Island, Michigan, was taken late in the evening on September 8, 2011. Because of the slow shutter speed and lack of light, support (a monopod) and patience were necessary to make sure both the camera and the bird were still enough for a sharp image. Camera details: Canon 1D Mark III camera body, 500 mm f4 lens with a 1.4 extender, shutter speed 1/25th, and ISO 640.

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MICHIGAN AUDUBON CONNECTS BIRDS AND PEOPLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH...

...through conservation, education, and research efforts in the state of Michigan. Formed and incorporated in 1904, it 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.

Executive Director's Letter



MY NEIGHBORS THINK I'M WEIRD.

Motivated by record high temperatures in March, I began the process of converting 228 square feet of my front yard—a third of my current lawn area—into a tallgrass micro-prairie. For three years I've been culling periwinkle, English ivy, and honeysuckle from my small green space in East Lansing. I've even been known to uproot a tulip bulb or two. My goal: to make sure that the habitat I maintain has the highest-possible value for wildlife, in addition to providing enough "curb appeal" to keep my neighbors curious, not upset.

Native plants caught my interest when I started my career as the environmental program director for the Dewees Island Property Association in Charleston, South Carolina. Property owners there are restricted to planting only species native to the Carolina coastal plain—a unique element of the community's covenants. Then landscape ecologist Karl Ohlandt became my mentor (and eventually my best friend) and taught me the importance of maintaining a native landscape.

I've been digesting books on native plants for the past six years, and it doesn't hurt that the Michigan Audubon bookstore is just outside my office door. And thanks to the Grand Rapids Audubon Club and its partners, I learned even more about the value of native plants during a talk by professor and author Douglas Tallamy. Tallamy is the author of *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*—a compelling read that emphasizes the need for promoting native plants in the suburban landscape.

When I began uprooting the mats of invasive exotic species from the rock garden behind my home, mayapples and ferns began to appear almost immediately. I've since added wild geranium, Canada anemone, and white trillium to my shaded areas and a variety of insect-attracting wildflowers to my precious few sunny spots. I'm eagerly awaiting the first sprouts of green in my project area.

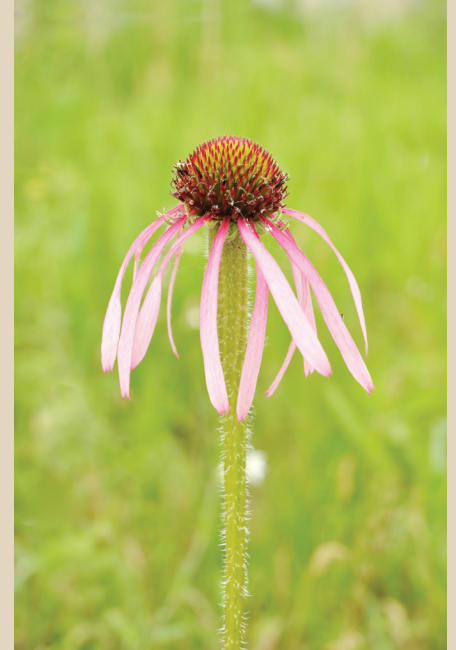
What's most disconcerting to me is how the majority of residential landscapes deprive pollinating insects and butterflies of suitable food sources. In fact, the exotic plants that seem to be most popular may actually be poisoning our arthropods. In turn, this leads to less food for wild birds, making our yards almost literally "no fly zones" for avian insectivores.

It's easy to reverse the trend. I've learned that it's not realistic to convert my yard to a native landscape all at once. I go slowly, learning along the way, and I enjoy shopping the native plant sales each spring. Each season my yard takes on a slightly new look, and I eagerly anticipate the arrival of the insects I most hope to see: bees and butterflies. While I ease my urban yard into a native landscape for wildlife, I hope to capture the interest of my neighbors. If folks ask me a landscape question or two or if they spot a swallowtail butterfly in my yard, then I'll consider my efforts a success.

But they will probably still think I'm weird.

Best regards,

Jonathan E. Lutz, executive director



The pale purple coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*, is a perennial that attracts butterflies and bees to a native garden. © 2009 Mark Herreid.

Warbler guru Jon Dunn reminded our audience at the 2012 Tawas Point Birding Festival that "chance favors the prepared mind." We ask readers to please excuse our lack of preparation when selecting a photograph for the May/June issue. We mistakenly identified our cover bird as a Connecticut Warbler when, in fact, it is a Nashville Warbler. Thank you to those members who brought the error to our attention. —JEL

Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

The largest woodpecker now seen in North America has a length of 15.7–9.3 inches and a wingspan of 26–29.5 inches, nearly the size of an American Crow. While these birds are occasionally seen at suet feeders, their preferred diet is insects—specifically carpenter ants.

The Pileated Woodpeckers of Lincoln Brick Park

BY JOHN BAUMGARTNER

It was early morning on March 26, 2011 that I heard sharp hammering near the northern boundary of Lincoln Brick Park in Clinton County. I rushed ahead to see a male Pileated Woodpecker in the beginning stages of carving out a hole on a tall dead sugar maple. With his tail braced against the nearly smooth trunk and his head swinging back and forth, he landed hard blows to the tree, causing chips to fly in every direction. The sound of the hammering rang through this section of the large woodlot. After a series of heavy strikes, he would stop, bob his head from side to side, rest for a moment, and then resume the action. For some time I had anticipated this moment. I had observed a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers together during the winter, and more recently, I had heard frequent drumming and vocalization. Now the thrill was to watch this action and hear the heavy hammering of this large, iconic woodpecker.

The male, distinguished by a full red crest and a red mustache mark (black in the female), was working about 40 feet up on this dead tree, which was tilted slightly off center. The tear drop-shaped hole on which he was working was on its underside, perhaps chosen to limit the amount of rain that could enter the cavity. It would be another three or four weeks before he and his mate would carve out a nest that would be 12-18 inches deep and 6-9 inches wide at the bottom. I have learned that not every hole started ends up being the nest site. One year, at least four holes were initially opened before there was a finished nest. However, this year, this spot would be the nest site.

For the past eight years I have monitored the nesting activity of these spectacular woodpeckers in Lincoln Brick Park, which is part of the Eaton County park system, even though this section extends into Clinton County. The woodpeckers seem to like this particular area for constructing their nest. In this woodlot, there are lots of mature trees and dead stubs, and there is a small stream flowing through a wide ravine down to the Grand River. Year after year, they have excavated a new nest here. Because of this fidelity to a nesting area, I look forward to finding their new cavity each spring.

The nesting season usually begins in late March or early April when the birds find a suitable tree and excavate a cavity. Once that is completed, egg laying begins. It is difficult to determine the exact time when this starts. However, since the incubation period and the hatching time are known, one can count backwards from the day of fledging to estimate when egg laying has occurred. This is usually between the last week in April and the first two weeks in May, depending on weather or completion of the nest construction.

After the clutch of two to four eggs is laid, there are approximately 16-18 days of incubation shared by both parents. The male usually incubates during the night and takes a few turns during the day. After

the young hatch, another 28 days pass before they leave the nest. During the time the young are in the nest, both parents share in the feeding, which is done by regurgitation.

About a week before fledging, the young begin to stick their heads out of the hole, looking around and calling for food. Since they have head patterns that resemble that of the adults, the gender of the young is easily distinguishable. At the right time and under the persistent urging of the parents, the young leave the nest with a wobbling flight and an uncertain landing. Yet in an amazingly short time, they become skilled flyers and are easily able to hitch up or down a branch high in a tree.

Once they leave the nest, I have found that it is difficult to track their movements in the dense canopy. This is true even though they usually stay as a family group within the confines of the parents' territory. I have found as many as four individuals in a loose family grouping in late August. This would be just before the young disperse and venture out to find their own territory.

Over the years there have been challenges for the pair to complete a successful nesting cycle. One year, for whatever reason, they abandoned the nest in the middle of the cycle. Another time, a storm snapped off the snag they had chosen and destroyed the nest. One time, the wind broke off the top of a snag but did not damage the cavity. On two occasions I've witnessed aggressive attacks on fox squirrels who unsuccessfully attempted to take over the cavity. This year the eggs were infertile; after a very long incubation, the male removed the eggs from the nest. In the eight years I observed them, the pair has reared eight young, two years fledging two, one year fledging one, and another year three.

On that early morning back in March as I was watching the male work, the female flew in. The male stopped hammering and slipped away. Then the female carefully



A Pileated Woodpecker feeding its young. © 2012 Steve Byland.

inspected the area surrounding the tree as well as the beginning of the hole, as if checking on the suitability of the tree. After a moment, she started chiseling away, cleaning up some of the rough spots and clearing out the debris that gathered inside the entrance. For her, it was the start of another season; for me, another year of enjoyment in watching and waiting.

John Baumgartner is a retired UCC clergy person who developed an interest in the natural world—especially birds—in early childhood. Over the years he has served as president of two Audubon chapters, was part of the organizing group for Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, and served on that board for over ten years. He currently serves on the board of Michigan Audubon. John can be reached at jeb1015@comcast.net.

A Changing Landscape at Lake Bluff

BY TOM FUNKE

The process of planning habitat restoration and enhancement projects at Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary is always interesting, especially given the wealth of history at the property and its past uses. The sanctuary has been an orchard, has housed a horse stable, and is still a recognized botanical garden with several state champion trees. And if you take your habitat enhancement project plans and mix in a little climatology, like Lake Michigan's effect on the bluff and how the climate only allows specific plant and animal species to thrive there, you might realize that habitat work at Lake Bluff is not only interesting, but can be challenging as well.

Before European settlement, the area was hemlock-beech-maple forest right up to the bluff, and this forested habitat still persists on the east side of the property. Along and between the road and the Lake Michigan shore is a mix of human-influenced habitats, many of which have had plantings that are now considered invasive, giving us challenges today.

The area around the house on the property is best described as a botanical garden, with trees and shrubs from all over the world. To the north on both sides of the road are open fields, one of which was recently cleared of multiflora rose. To the south there are two open areas separated with a tree line that once was home to a state champion cottonwood.

Usually we strive to return these habitats to their pre-settlement conditions, which would have been the aforementioned forests. However, these open fields offer us an opportunity to attract migrating and nesting birds using native grasses and fruit-bearing shrubs—an opportunity we're going to take advantage of.

We've already made significant progress in restoring the habitat at Lake Bluff. Rich and Deb Krieger, resident managers at the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, have done an incredible job mobilizing volunteers and resources to attack invasive species at the sanctuary at every opportunity. Invasive autumn olive, spotted knapweed, multiflora rose, barberry, and brome grass have been pulled, cut, and herbicidally destroyed in the fields and areas around the manor house. Invasive phragmites has been discovered in a low area in the woods and has been aggressively treated the past couple of years to prevent it from spreading.

To complement the aggressive removal of invasive plants, some areas with little or no foot traffic around the manor house have been "returned to nature"—we simply don't mow the grass in those areas. It is amazing to see what wildflowers will spring up if they're left to grow instead of being mowed.



Lake Bluff is now at the point where we can start planting native species in these open fields. A private contractor will be planting big and little bluestem along with Indian grass in the field north of the manor house. After the grasses are established, we hope to incorporate wildflowers and up to a hundred bushes or shrubs, perhaps as early as next year. Volunteers will help prepare the land by removing dead wood, transplanting some shrubs, and cutting grass. The end result will be quality habitat that also provides a stopover site for migrating birds to rest.

Rich and Deb also have asked neighboring landowners if they can remove invasive species from their property. This is a smart, proactive approach, as most of these invasive plants make their way to the area via wind or bird droppings. Removing invasive species and identifying their sources helps with the long-term management of Lake Bluff.



Mowing is used as a management tool to thicken and promote the growth of native grasses and forbs. © Tom Funke.



Brush piles are created to provide additional habitat for birds, reptiles, and mammals. © 2012 Tom Funke.

“ We have a small corps of regular volunteers that assist with office duties, lawn mowing, and various grounds-keeping projects. These individuals have been helping for years and have accumulated impressive numbers of volunteer hours. We are indebted to them for their assistance. ”

—Rich Krieger, resident sanctuary manager

In taking a “big picture” view of habitat work, we note that the Kriegers have worked very hard to incorporate the botanical garden around the manor house with the native habitats being restored in the sanctuary. We will measure our success with this restoration project by tracking the number of species and amounts of birds utilizing these newly enhanced habitats over time, which, like all habitat work at Lake Bluff, will be not only interesting, but challenging as well.

Tom Funke is the conservation director for Michigan Audubon and the resident manager at the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary. He can be reached via e-mail at TFunke@MichiganAudubon.org.

LAKE BLUFF BIRD SANCTUARY

NATIVE PLANTS BEING PLANTED

- big bluestem
- little bluestem
- Indian grass
- switchgrass
- bottlebrush grass
- rudbeckia
- coneflower species
- swamp butterfly bush
- sunflower varieties
- Michigan lily
- mixed seeding for native pollinators
- Virginia bluebell
- shrubby cinquefoil
- mayapple
- ramps
- foamflower
- anise hyssop
- cardinal flower
- Solomon seal
- bloodroot
- swamp buttercup

INVASIVE PLANTS BEING REMOVED

- reed canary grass
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Japanese barberry
- common reed
- multiflora rose
- autumn olive
- spotted knapweed
- garlic mustard
- Canada thistle



Michigan Lily.
© 2012 Michigan Audubon.

Safe Passage Great Lakes: Will You Help Save Birds?

BY ROB DUCHENE & ROCHELLE BREITENBACH

Early in 2006, the issue of dead birds found on the sidewalks below tall buildings in Detroit was brought to the attention of Detroit Audubon, and we were determined to come up with a remedy. That was the beginning of Safe Passage Great Lakes.

After doing some research and learning about Toronto's Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) and Chicago's "Lights Out Chicago," we learned about the dangers of illuminated manmade structures during the bird migration seasons. With that information, we set out to identify and persuade downtown building managers to turn off the lights in buildings five stories and above during spring and fall migration. The Building Owners and Managers Association of Metropolitan Detroit (BOMA) was instrumental in getting the Safe Passage Great Lakes (SPGL) message to many building owners.

Soon Ford Motor Company, DTE Energy, and General Motors issued a "lights out" policy, and BOMA started sending seasonal reminder e-mails to its members. We requested and received resolutions of support from Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties. Our program went statewide when former Governor Granholm issued a proclamation designating March 15–May 31 and August 15–October 31 as "Safe Passage Great Lakes Days," urging residents to turn off lights from 11 PM until 5 AM. Governor Snyder has continued to honor this designation.

A May 2011 tour of downtown Detroit after 11 PM showed 23 of 28 buildings to be largely in compliance. Not surprisingly, one hospital was aglow, though two casinos were darker than expected. Our initial successes were gratifying, but identifying all of the tall buildings has been time consuming. Thanks to new software, however, we expect to finish identifying all of the tall buildings in the Detroit area within the year.

Similar to the fatality of birds due to lights in metro Detroit, there is a significant loss of birds to collisions with glass. Large buildings, small structures, glass corridors, solariums, greenhouses, and house windows kill millions of birds annually. Research has shown that birds do not see clear glass. When birds look at windows, they see reflections of sky, trees, shrubbery, or water, so they fly into the windows at full speed and usually suffer concussions and cranial bleeding. If a bird collides with a window, there is a less than 50 percent chance that it will survive, even though it may appear to recover and fly away. It is estimated that the average home's windows kill between one and ten birds per year. Even one collision annually per home represents hundreds of millions of bird fatalities nationwide.

These deaths are preventable. Our website, DetroitAudubon.org, has an "ABC Bird Collisions Solutions" PDF for homeowners to download in the site's "Conservation" section. Exterior films, such as Collide Escape, are visible to birds and can be applied to the outer surfaces of existing large, small, commercial, and residential buildings. These films are very effective at reducing collisions and last for many years.



The Hermit Thrush is among dozens of species affected by disorienting lights left on during migration. © 2012 Bob Devlin.

New building construction holds many answers to reducing bird/glass collisions. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program has raised awareness in the architectural community of sustainable, attractive, and functional design that is also safer for birds. Glass companies have developed UV patterned glass and fritted or patterned laminated glass, which is visible to birds. SPGL has held introductory programs for architecture firms and schools to raise awareness of these valuable options. Several other organizations have produced bird-friendly building guideline booklets.

Safe Passage Great Lakes expansion plans over the next 2–5 years include training volunteers to monitor downtown buildings and pick up dead and injured birds, developing more partnerships with staff at architecture firms and schools as well as builders, and using marketing and media to increase public awareness of the danger bright night skies and glass hold for birds. SPGL has been featured on local radio and will soon be featured on TV weather reports.

An estimated 1.5–2 billion migratory birds die each year from (in order of frequency) habitat loss, collisions with buildings, power lines, hunting, house cats, collisions with vehicles, indirect pesticide poisoning, collisions with communication towers, and, increasingly, wind turbines. Safe Passage Great Lakes calls upon urban and rural birders all over Michigan to join us in taking action to help maintain populations of the birds we all enjoy. We would like to share what we've learned. To attend a monthly SPGL meeting or to get some help starting SPGL in your city, contact Fred Charbonneau, the SPGL coordinator, at JFCharbo@juno.com, or call the Detroit Audubon office at 248-354-5804 and leave a message for Fred.

Rob Duchene is a member of the Detroit Audubon Safe Passage team. He can be reached at RobDuchene@gmail.com. Rochelle Breitenbach initiated and continues to work with the Michigan-based Safe Passage Great Lakes program. She can be reached at RABreitenbach@att.net.

SAFE PASSAGE RESOURCES ONLINE

Communication towers are also a serious threat to migrating birds. According to research published in April 2012, scientists at the University of Southern California have extrapolated numbers of migratory bird deaths to be near 7 million birds annually. The cause—once again, lights—and the solution are included in the report. This link is one of many reporting on this research and their results:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/04/120425193056.htm>

www.FLAP.org | www.ABCBirdtape.org | www.DetroitAudubon.org

Book Review

An Eagle Named Freedom: My True Story of a Remarkable Friendship

BY JEFF GUIDRY
(HARPER COLLINS PUBLISHERS, 2011. 224 PP.)
REVIEWED BY SARAH C. JACKSON

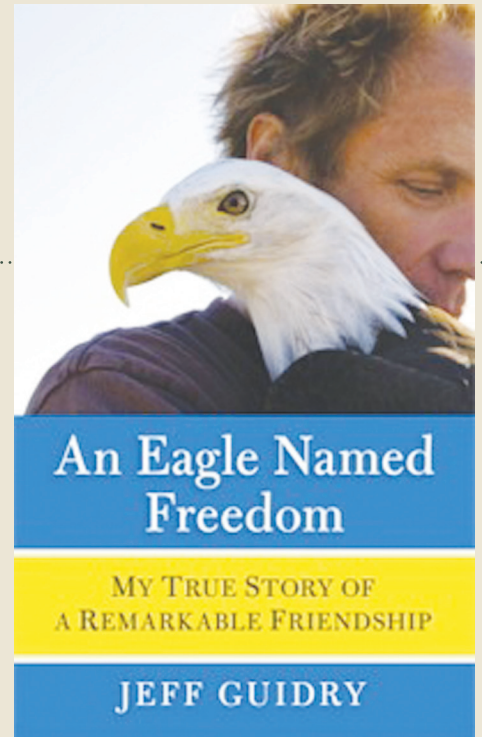
An *Eagle Named Freedom: My True Story of a Remarkable Friendship* is the touching, emotional true story of Jeff Guidry's bond with a Bald Eagle named Freedom. Some of you may be familiar with this story already, as this book had its beginning with an e-mail that Guidry sent off to a friend with his and Freedom's story. That e-mail was forwarded to millions of people around the world. I was one of the thousands of people Guidry mentions in the opening of his book who e-mailed him to thank him for sharing his story, and I'm glad I've now had the chance to read the full version.

Guidry's story began when Freedom was brought into the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center as an emaciated fledgling with two broken wings. Guidry's connection with Freedom was forged, if not instantaneously, during the long process of caring for Freedom and encouraging her to fight for her life. Once she recovered, Guidry began the slow process of glove-training her, and their bond grew stronger as time went on. In 2000, Guidry was diagnosed with stage 3 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and began

the fight for his own life. During his trials, Freedom was always there, physically and mentally; Guidry took walks with her at Sarvey when he could, and Freedom visited him in his dreams to help him fight the cancer.

The story also revolves around Guidry's volunteer work with the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, a place where he has cared for and interacted with many wild animals. His stories about Sarvey are touching, heartbreaking, and humorous. There is also a section with pictures of Freedom, Guidry, various animal residents of Sarvey, and Sarvey volunteers, which is a nice addition—my only criticism being that they put all eight pages of photos in the middle of a random chapter.

Guidry doesn't hold back when talking about his experiences, and his writing is easily accessible, which makes the emotional impact of his story that much more powerful. Though the book touches on many tough issues such as terminal illness, death, the mistreatment of wild animals, and humankind's disconnect with the natural world, the underlying



\$14.99
Available at local
booksellers

sentiment is always one of hope. This is a great book for anyone who loves animals and wants to read a true story that highlights the spiritual connection humans share with all living creatures.

Sarah C Jackson (SarCJackson@gmail.com) is the editorial assistant for *Dress: The Journal for the Costume Society of America*.



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MichiganAudubon.org.



Websitings

Manistee, Naturally

BY ALYSON GINES

Birds are nesting, flowers are blooming, baby animals are being born—summer is in full swing in Michigan. One place that captures the best of these summer activities is Manistee County (1) on Lake Michigan. This place features hiking trails, bird watching, biking, and much more.

One of the biggest draws to Manistee is the natural beauty of Lake Michigan. With over 1.25 miles of waterfront spread throughout three beaches, Manistee provides a great place to stroll along in the sand, soak in some of the sun's rays, and enjoy the water, whether you seek the sound of the waves or a refreshing swim. One beach in particular, the Man-Made Lake beach, is accessed by a natural plank walkway that runs through a small but pretty forest. A boardwalk that runs parallel to all three beaches provides fishing piers, historical markers for the area, and telescopes that scan far on the water's horizon.

Manistee also offers a great place for kayaking or canoeing (2). If you're a beginner, the Big Manistee River's gentle current is perfect for a leisurely afternoon of paddling or even tubing. Rope swings and sand bars are frequent, allowing for breaks between rowing. For a more challenging route, the Pine River is quick and full of white water. It is Manistee's fastest flowing river, and should be tackled only by those with experience.

Another great route to travel is M-22—on a bike. Through the late summer and into fall, you could spot wild turkeys, deer, horses, and cows. Apple fields, old schoolhouses, and hills covered in oak, aspen, evergreen, and maple trees can also be seen when biking this trail.

Aside from these activities, Manistee also contains a 76-acre plot originally designed as an arboretum, now called the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary (3). Today it is home to Bald Eagles, shorebirds, and migrating warblers. It also hosts California redwoods, ginkgos, a giant sequoia, and a sycamore. Open from dawn to dusk, entry is free to visitors who want to admire the birds or explore the surrounding habitat.

The annual birding festival closest to Manistee is the Leelanau Peninsula BirdFest (4), usually held in June. Over one hundred species of birds—many of the same species that can be seen at Lake Bluff—can be seen as they migrate up the Lake Michigan shoreline. The festival also offers the opportunity to observe nesting Caspian Terns and Great Lakes Piping Plovers. The festival features keynote speeches about local bird conservation efforts, as well as updates on current population trends. BirdFest includes guided excursions to the bird-rich Otter Creek and Fulton Park. The birding is complemented by the rich cultural heritage of the region; the festival is hosted by the Fountain Point Resort, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

One final special place to explore in Manistee County is the Arcadia Marsh Preserve (5). It is one of about fifteen remaining coastal marshes located along Lake Michigan. This marsh is one of the most productive ecosystems in the world and is home to over 150 different species of birds—17 of which have been declared endangered or threatened. Visiting a preserve like this is particularly special because it is estimated that over 80% of the original Great Lakes marshes have been destroyed.

Whether you want to see these valued marshes and birds, kayak, or bike, Manistee is just the reason you've been looking for to spend time outside. Now get out there and enjoy that summer sunshine!

Alyson Gines is currently a senior studying professional writing at Michigan State University. She can be reached at GinesAly@msu.edu.

Visit These Sites:

- (1) <http://www.manisteemi.gov/>
- (2) <http://www.manistee-cvb.com/outdoors%20pages/water-river-adventure>
- (3) <http://www.michiganadubon.org/conservation/sanctuaries/bluff.html>
- (4) <http://www.mibirdfest.com/>
- (5) <http://www.gtrlc.org/preserve/arcadia-marsh-nature-preserve/>



Manistee's North Pier offers birders a vantage point for viewing waterfowl and other species. © 2012 Henryk Sadura.

Volunteer Spotlight

REDHEAD DESIGN STUDIO

Two great things happened at Michigan Audubon during the first half of 2009. First, the organization adopted an updated logo, featuring a contemporary take on the iconic Kirtland's Warbler. Second, the Michigan Audubon member magazine, the *Jack Pine Warbler*, received a complete design overhaul. Both changes helped signify that things were changing—and continue to change—at the state's longest-active conservation organization. In this issue, we'd like to show our gratitude to the staff at the Lansing-based Redhead Design Studio for designing and facilitating both of these changes to Michigan Audubon—and they did it at no cost to us.

Michigan Audubon has benefited greatly from its association with "The Reds." Designer Amy Moore was the first to work with the staff to design and select a new logo, which today brands everything from our t-shirts to sanctuary signs to webpages. Without hesitation, we chose the handsome interpretation of the Kirtland's Warbler, complete with its distinctive white eye-ring. The excitement of our re-branding continued with issue 3 of volume 86 of the *Jack Pine Warbler*, which featured photographer Frode Jacobsen's beautiful image of a Cerulean Warbler—the first to grace the cover of the "JPW."

After three years and nearly 20 issues of Michigan Audubon's leading publication, RDS is moving on to other projects. Sadly, issue 4 of volume 89 will be their last, but we are confident that our organization and this superb Lansing design studio will continue on for years to come. As we search for a new designer, don't expect too much change from the current aesthetic of the *JPW*. We plan to maintain the same look-and-feel that Redhead brought us three years ago, thanks to the design team's foresight in providing all of the design templates in a nice, tidy package.

Please join us in expressing our heartfelt appreciation for the substantial contributions of Amy Moore and the wonderful design team at Redhead Design Studio in Lansing.



.....
Redhead Design Studio

We Welcome New Michigan Audubon Members

WE THANK YOU—our newest members as well as our renewing members—for your support of Michigan Audubon's bird conservation efforts. Please remember to check your magazine's expiration date and renew early. If you share your *Jack Pine Warbler* with friends, family, and neighbors, please encourage them to use the enclosed remittance envelope to join you in your support of Michigan Audubon. Members moving or changing to a seasonal residence should contact the office by phone, post, or e-mail so that we can update your address in our database.

David Barroso
Lyris Barroso
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Beauchene
Zachary Branigan
Dean and Rita Brubacher
Eli Burch
Abigail Ertel
Kayne Ferrier

Roy and Patti Gagnon
Kathleen Galea
Austin and Garrit Garcia
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Feathered Lens



Green frog. © 2012 Josh Haas.

Water Water Everywhere!

BY JOSH HAAS

There are an infinite number of scenes and subjects to photograph in nature. While the principles of exposure always hold true, the possibilities of composition, technique, and personal style are endless. Water seems to only enhance the number of different ways we can shoot, which can sometimes be overwhelming. Here are some non-technical tips to make photographing birds around water a little easier.

Whether you're shooting waterbirds, shorebirds, reptiles, or amphibians, the key to capturing great images of wildlife on the water is to **get low**. Lay down at the water's edge with your lens only inches above the shore or water. When you do this, you will notice that your photographs instantly look more professional. The photograph of a green frog is a good example of getting low. For that image, I laid on the ground for only a few minutes in order to grab a shot that is among the most popular with our art show visitors. Technically speaking, there was not much to the shot other than exposing properly and then cropping it for the final version. Sometimes simple is just better.

Another way to get low and be within a short distance of wildlife is to **shoot from a kayak or canoe**. While not quite as low as being on the ground, these small, quiet watercraft can get you closer to the action and yield waterbird shots in full frame, even with smaller lenses. Remember: respecting wildlife is imperative. Don't get so close that your subjects are stressed or separated from their young. Ducks, wading birds, and shorebirds can all be approached carefully in a kayak or canoe, so be adventurous and find some great shots.

Speaking of shorebirds, **try using an inexpensive dish mount** to shoot on the beach without getting sand in your expensive gear. They're easy to make, too—just find an old frying pan, drill a hole in the center, and mount a ball head to it. The homemade mount is lightweight and gets you down to an extremely low level. This dish mount technique was used to shoot the photo of the Black-bellied Plover.



Black-bellied Plover.
© 2012 Josh Haas.

One thing all of these images have in common is the position of the sun. Always know the position of the sun. If you want to take your nature photography to the next level and you're after beautiful images with rich detail, you need to **know that lighting is everything**. The golden light is at its best early in the morning or in the late evening. The Black-bellied Plover image is a good example of sunset light that yields a warm glow on the bird.

Remember that photography isn't always about equipment, and pay attention to details. Common sense and some non-technical know-how can really improve your work without bogging you down with too many technical tips to remember. I like to teach only a few techniques during photo workshops so beginning photographers don't feel overwhelmed. Keep it simple, and remember: get low.

Key Tips:

- (1) Get down as low as possible.
- (2) Hang out around water, which is a magnet for wildlife.
- (3) For front-lit photographs, be sure the sun is behind you.
- (4) Shoot early in the morning and late in the evening for golden light.

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



Young Birders

David Pavlik departs in a helicopter on his way to a work camp in the remote areas of Alaska.
© 2011 David Pavlik.



Shorebird Research on the North Slope

BY DAVID PAVLIK

During the summer of 2011, I found myself once again in the great wilderness of Alaska. In 2008, I worked in Barrow, Alaska as a shorebird researcher for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Now a new shorebird research camp is being formed in the Colville River Delta, approximately 80 miles east of Barrow, and I was taken on as a shorebird crew leader working for the United States Geological Survey.

The camp is established in a very remote area requiring a helicopter to travel in and out of camp, and for all food and gear drop-offs. There are no roads, no electricity, no running water, and we live in a tent for months on end. But what the camp lacks in civilization, it makes up for in wildlife!

The life history of each of these shorebird species is simply astonishing. These birds travel thousands of miles each season to spend only a couple months on the arctic tundra where they breed and rear their young before heading south. The most common shorebirds at our study area are Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dunlin, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, and a lesser number of Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, and Bar-tailed Godwit. Because these species breed far north of the Arctic Circle where no trees or bushes grow, they are forced to breed on the ground, attempting to disappear into their surroundings. With so many shorebirds present, it isn't tough for predators like arctic fox and Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers to find a meal.

Working in a place where the sun never sets (in the summer) allows for plenty of time to conduct research. The most important parts of the research are finding and monitoring shorebird nests and figuring out when the nest was started and when incubation initiates. This allows us to quantify hatch rates among each species. We also color band as many adult birds as possible. By doing this, we can re-sight birds in future years to estimate adult survivorship rates. Two of the Semipalmated Sandpipers banded in the summer of 2011 were re-sighted in fall in Florida! Because each bird has a unique color code, we were able to identify each individual bird and locate where it nested. Other projects include snow surveys, predator surveys, pond level monitoring, and invertebrate sampling. Each data set contributes to a better understanding of the life history of these shorebirds.

With so much still not known about shorebirds, I will be returning again in the summer of 2012 to the Colville River Delta. But I have no complaints. Seeing Spectacled Eiders, Red Phalaropes, and Pacific Loons right outside my tent will never get old.

David Pavlik is a contract biologist and has done bird research in Alaska, California, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, and Michigan. He graduated with a degree in zoology from Northern Michigan University in 2011 and plans to pursue a master's degree in conservation biology or wildlife management. David can be reached at dtpavlik@hotmail.com.

Calendar

July

- 5 **Evening nature walk**
Bengel Wildlife Center, Bath
- 14 **Board of Directors meeting**
Marquette
- 19 **Evening nature walk**
Bengel Wildlife Center, Bath

August

- 2 **Evening nature walk**
Bengel Wildlife Center, Bath
- 3 **Summer Soirée**
Bengel Wildlife Center, Bath
- 16 **Evening nature walk**
Bengel Wildlife Center, Bath
- 17 & 18 **Campout at the Cabin**
Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary, Hastings
- 18 **Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies**
Dahlem Environmental Center, Jackson
- 30 **Evening nature walk**
Bengel Wildlife Center, Bath

September

- 15 **Board of Directors meeting**
Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, Manistee

Announcements

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News

Sanctuary Programs Continue

Monthly nature walks and other programs continue through the summer at Michigan Audubon's sanctuaries. Below is the schedule for the next few months. Remember that the monthly nature walks do not require registration and are free to attend. Themed programs may have a fee and require registration (noted below).

July

- | | |
|----|--|
| 7 | Baker Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |
| 14 | Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |
| 21 | Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |
| 28 | Learn about dunes at Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary
10:00 AM (fee for nonmembers) |

August

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 4 | Baker Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |
| 11 | Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |
| 17 & 18 | Campout at Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary
(fee and registration required) |
| 18 | Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |

September

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Baker Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |
| 2 | Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary
fall shorebird migration walk
8:00 AM |
| 6 | Baker Sanctuary evening wildflower walk
6:30 PM (fee for non-members) |
| 8 | Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |
| 15 | Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary guided nature walk
9:00 AM |

Events

Campout at the Cabin

The Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary is a truly wonderful place, and the cabin there offers members a chance to get away from the maddening crowd. This summer we're going to attempt something new at the Otis: Friday night on August 17, we are going to hold a campout. You must reserve a spot, as there is a limited number of campsites for tents (sorry, no RVs).

The cabin will be used by Michigan Audubon staff and naturalists who are participating. We've got some great night programming scheduled (think moths and meteors) with the obligatory campfire, and in the morning we will take a nature walk on the sanctuary trails. It will be time for migrating fall warblers to start moving! Camp will break before lunch.

Participants need to provide their own camping equipment and food. The campout fee will be \$10 per person, with children 12 and under free. You must be a Michigan Audubon member to participate. Visit the Michigan Audubon website to reserve your spot in the campout. With limited space available, we anticipate that this activity will fill fast.

Thursday Evenings at the Bengal

The staff at Michigan Audubon has been keeping track of the species seen at the Bengal Wildlife Center since our arrival in January, and we're racking up a good list. The nature trails here at the office take you through woods, prairie, and wetland, so there are many things to be seen. While the trails are open dawn to dusk for an "on your own" hike, if you'd like to have a guided hike to help you with identification of flora and fauna, Michigan Audubon is providing that opportunity on Thursday evenings this summer. On the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of July and August, a staff member or volunteer naturalist will lead hikes around the property beginning at 7:00 PM. You'll want to bring your binoculars and field guides (or better yet, buy a new one here), and wear good walking shoes. Hikes will be cancelled in the event of rain.

Summer Picnic Soirée

It's the middle of summer, work is done for the week, and you're looking for something fun and relaxing to do on Friday night. We have just what you ordered: a summer evening on the lawn overlooking Priggooris Lake! On August 3, Michigan Audubon is hosting a picnic beginning at 5:30 PM at the Bengal Wildlife Center, followed by an evening nature program. Picnic table space is limited, so bring lawn chairs or blankets for sitting on the ground in addition to your picnic dinner—Michigan Audubon will provide the beverages. After enjoying good food and conversation with fellow nature lovers, attendees may join others for a guided walk on the nature trail. The indoor program featuring Jim Hewitt will begin at 7:30. This Michigan Audubon volunteer combined his love for plants, birds, and nature with his passion for history and biking to create a unique program: *Ingham County Rural: A Township Tour through the Seasons*. Jim spent a year biking through the townships that make up Ingham, taking photographs of nature and historic barns. He's added history together with his beautiful images to tell the story of a county. Even if you're not from or familiar with Ingham County, you will enjoy the entertaining program Jim has put together.

Tickets for the event are \$10 per adult, and children 18 and under are free. To register for the picnic and program, go to Michigan Audubon's website at michiganaudubon.org. Registration must be received by July 31 in order for an attendee to participate. If you can't get online, call our office to register at 517-641-4277. We hope you'll join us for a relaxing and entertaining Friday night.



Tawas Point Birding Festival Special Thanks

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL Tawas Point Birding Festival is now in the bag. This event continues to grow and flourish due to the cooperative efforts of many people, organizations, and businesses. Michigan Audubon would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in supporting this gem of a birding event. Its success would not be possible without them!

Event Partners

AuSable Valley Audubon
U.S. Forest Service,
Huron-Manistee
National Forest
Tawas Point State Park,
Michigan DNR

Event Sponsors

Kirtland's Warbler level—\$1,000

Carroll Broadcasting Inc.

Bald Eagle level—\$500

Bay Inn of Tawas City
Charity Island Boat Cruise
Neiman's Family Market
Oscoda Area Convention
& Visitors Bureau
Oscoda Area EMS
Subway of Oscoda

Trumpeter Swan level—\$250

Mooney's Ben Franklin
Tawas Bay Beach Resort
Tawas Bay Big Boy
Tawas Bay Tourist & Convention
Bureau
Tawas Hardware, Inc.
Vanguard USA

Cape May Warbler level—\$100

Bay Party Store/Holy Smoke
Tobacco & Cigar Shoppe
Cathy's Hallmark
Hsing's Garden Chinese Restaurant
Mr. Jack's Sports Bar & Grill
O'Connor's
Oscoda AuSable Chamber
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Plainfield Township

Princeton University Press
Stovall Products
Tawas Bay Insurance Agency
Thunder Bay Audubon Society
Village Chocolatier
Walmart—Tawas City

Baltimore Oriole level—\$75

Hale Insurance Agency
Huron House Bed & Breakfast
Jen & Ed Gravlin
Klenow's Market
McDonald's of Tawas & Oscoda
Nordic Sports

American Redstart level—\$50

Barnacle Bill's
Bernard Building Center, Inc.
Branham's Jewelry
CPH of West Branch, Inc.
Dean Arbour Chevrolet Cadillac &
Dean Arbour Ford of Tawas
G's Pizzeria & Deli of Oscoda
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Kirtland's Warbler Audubon Society
Los Cuatro Amigos
North Country Signs & Shirts
Precious Petals by Jamie
Richie's New York Pizza & Deli
Scofield Real Estate
Sunrise Side Snapshots
Sunrise Surplus
Tawas Bay Art Council & Gallery
The Victorian Café
Tim Knapp State Farm Insurance
Whitetail Café

Other contributors

Northland Beach Cottages
Kathy Jane's Boutique
West Side Body Shop Inc.
Ed Cole

Hummingbird Gardens Still Open to Public

The Hummingbird Festival has again been cancelled due to issues beyond the organizing committee's control. However, the hummingbird gardens located at the River Lake Inn in Colon are still open to visit. The owners of the restaurant will have hummingbird banders Allen Chartier and Brenda Keith come out sometime toward the end of July to band birds like they did at the festival. To find out exactly when the banders will be on hand, contact the River Lake Inn at 269-432-2626. The restaurant is located at 767 Ralston Rd, Colon, MI 49040.

Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies

There is a great family event that the Michigan Audubon Bookstore participates in that we'd like to let you know about. It is called Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies, and it is operated by the Dahlem Nature Conservancy at the Dahlem Center in Jackson. The event has live birds of prey, hummingbird banding (morning only), butterfly tagging, hikes, workshops, and lots of children's craft activities. Besides the Michigan Audubon Bookstore, vendors include sellers of native plants, bird seed, birdhouses, and bird feeders. Best of all, the event is free! This year, the event is scheduled for Saturday August 18 from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM. To find out more about the event, visit the website of the Dahlem Center at dahlemcenter.org/birds-blooms--butterflies.html.

Volunteers

AuSable Valley Audubon

Ed Cole
Carole Cooper
Ed & Susan Davis
Sue Duncan & Larry VanWagoner
Roger Eriksson
Ed & Jen Gravlin
David & Ruth Golm
Judy Hauca
Matt Hegwood
Jean Howard
Bob & Emily Kemnitz
Carol LaFramboise
Judy LaPorte
Delynn Lovelace
Bonnie McCauley
Jay & Deb Middaugh-Flanagan
Linda Munson
Arno Poerner
Carl Racchini
Peggy Ridgeway
Mary Scislowicz
Gary & Donette Spickerman
Kathleen Swindlehurst
Eugenia Ulrich
Denise & William Willis
Ed & Mary Ann Wojahn

Michigan Audubon

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John Baumgartner
Lynn Bitterman
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Greg Bodker
Terry Hewlett
Harry Hussey
Scott Jennex
Natasha Koss
Shelley Martinez
Ed & Madeline Merz
Greg Nelson
Caleb Putnam
Carolyn Rourke
Alison Vilag
Richard Yarsevich
Jerry Ziarno

Baltimore Checkerspot.
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Dated Material

Michigan Audubon Bookstore

Your purchase from the bookstore supports Michigan Audubon's educational programs.

Information or phone orders **517-641-4277**



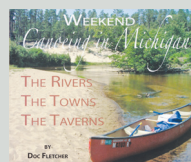
Grandparents Michigan Style: Places To Go & Wisdom To Share

by Mike Link & Kate Crowley

\$17.95

This book contains information on over 65 attractions and activities to do in our great state. For each activity and location, the authors suggest appropriate ages for children and note the best time of the year to visit. There is also contact information provided so you can get additional

details and website addresses for other interesting activities located nearby. This is a good resource for parents as well as grandparents.

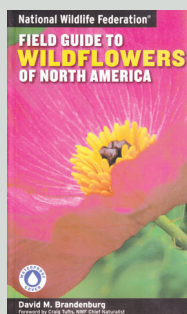


Weekend Canoeing in Michigan: The Rivers, The Towns, The Taverns

by Doc Fletcher

\$17.95

The author is well-known to paddle enthusiasts and has several books on the market. This one is dedicated to two-day trips you can take whether you own your own vessel or not. Rivers that do not have a livery on them are not included in this book. Each chapter covers a different river and includes the trip's degree of difficulty, a trip outline that includes estimated time, information on towns that the river passes through, and suggestions of taverns to grab a bite at once you're back on land.

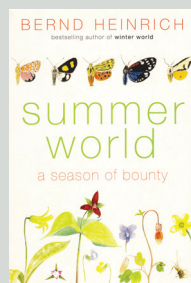


National Wildlife Federation's Field Guide to Wildflowers of North America

by David M. Brandenburg

\$19.95

Bound in a waterproof cover, this is an essential field guide for those who travel throughout the United States and Canada. The guide includes a color-coded section for finding a particular flower when you're not sure of what it is. Range maps and similar plant information is listed for all native species. Introduced species are listed in their own section of the book, which doesn't include range maps.

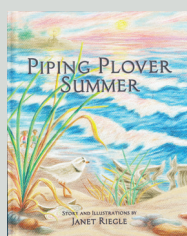


Summer World

by Bernd Heinrich

\$26.99 (hardcover)

This book was reviewed in the July/August 2010 *Jack Pine Warbler* by John Gannon, who encouraged members to "read this book to enhance your own exploring and discovering." This book is a companion to the author's other book, *Winter World*; yet, it stands on its own, too. Enhanced with the author's own sketches, this book will open your eyes to the nature around you.



Piping Plover Summer

by Janet Riegle

\$18.98 (hardcover) \$12.95 (soft cover)

A beautifully illustrated children's book that tells the tale of Chad and Melody, a pair of Great Lakes Piping Plovers trying their best to find a summer home and have a family. A good book to read to children, as well as a suitable read for the average 8-year-old.

10% off for all Michigan Audubon members!

Order by phone, mail, or e-mail

By phone. Visa or MasterCard. Phone 517-641-4277.

By mail. Send name, address, phone number, and payment to Michigan Audubon Bookstore, PO Box 15249, Lansing, MI 48901. Prepayment includes list price + 6% sales tax + \$3.75 postage and handling for the first item + \$.85 for each additional item.

By e-mail. Wendy@MichiganAudubon.org.