

Jack Pine *Warbler*

THE SPRING BIRDING ISSUE: Michigan's Mysterious Migrating Owls ■ Nongame Wildlife Program ■ Spring Wildflowers
■ 2014 Tawas Point Birding Festival ■ Birder's Photographic Year in Review



Jack Pine Warbler

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Cover Photo ■ Long-eared Owl

Photographer: Chris Reinhold | rubicon8@telus.net

One day, while taking a drive to a place I normally shoot many hawks and eagles, I came across this Long-eared Owl perched on a fence post. I had heard a number of screeches coming from the area where the owl was hanging out and hunting, so I figured it had a family of young owls, which it did (four of them). I kept going back day after day; I think the owl finally got used to me because I was able to get close enough to capture this shot and many others (find them at www.wildartphotography.ca). This image was taken at 1/100 sec at f6.3, 500mm focal length, ISO 400 using a stabilized lens and Tripod. Gear was a Canon 7D and Sigma 150-500mm lens.

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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.



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Executive Director's Letter



MICHIGAN BIRDERS: WE PAY TO PLAY

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will begin generating revenue under a new structure for fishing and hunting licenses on March 1, 2014. According to the agency, “the new license structure will create better recreational opportunities, improve habitat, and help preserve and promote Michigan’s fishing, hunting, and trapping heritage throughout the state.” The Michigan United Conservation Clubs—the lead interest group that pushed for the license restructuring—adds that the change will “provide greater access to world-class recreational opportunities . . . and increase education and outreach.” The new license fee structure will benefit birders, even though many within our community will never buy a fishing or hunting license. But we are not free-loaders.

Birders pay into the same system as hunters and fishers, the same one that provides public access, improves habitat, and increases education and outreach. We may not have a specific “bird watching license,” but thousands of Michigan birders and visiting birders will pay for permits, plates, and stamps that accomplish the same or similar results as license sales. Here are three ways birders contribute:

- Michigan birders support the protection of Michigan’s endangered, threatened, and nongame wildlife by purchasing wildlife habitat vehicle license plates, which feature an image of the Common Loon.
- Michigan birders protect natural resources found within state parklands by opting-in for the state’s Recreation Passport when purchasing or renewing a vehicle registration.
- Michigan birders contribute to wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System when they buy a Federal Duck Stamp.



Rusty Blackbirds are one of North America’s most rapidly declining species. The population has plunged an estimated 85-99% over the past 40 years and scientists are puzzled as to what the cause is (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). © Steve Byland/123RF

Still, birders’ lack of identity as a “pay to play” user group may be contributing to the lack of attention Michigan’s nongame birds receive from the MDNR (the endangered Kirtland’s Warbler being a major exception).

In this issue, journalist Howard Meyerson tackles this question: What happened to Michigan’s nongame wildlife program? Once highly visible, the 30th anniversary of the MDNR’s Nongame Wildlife Program came and went with little to no fanfare in 2013. The Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative, once championed and led by the department, is now shouldered by nonprofit organizations such as Michigan Audubon and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Birders need to call for more leadership from our state’s natural resource agency for the sake of protecting all bird species, not just the ones pursued by hunters.

I would welcome the opportunity to hear from you about keeping nongame birds at the forefront of natural resource management in Michigan. Later this month, I will be chairing the Michigan Bird Conservation Workshop, which takes

place March 20–22 in Tustin, Michigan (www.mibci.org). The last Saturday in April, I will be attending the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory’s annual Spring Fling celebration of migration (April 25–27 in Paradise; see www.wpbo.org). Drop me a line or pull me aside if you will be attending one of these events. I want your input about what Michigan Audubon should be doing to get the attention of our state’s natural resource agency.

We’re entering an exciting four-month stretch for birding in the Great Lakes State. Michigan Audubon wants to hear your stories, see your photographs, and ideally, meet you out on the birding trail this spring. Feel free to call, email, or touch base with us on social media any time. We promise that a real, live person will pick up the phone, your emails will be returned promptly, and your online posts will get a “like.” In the meantime, happy spring birding!

Best regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jonathan E. Lutz.

Jonathan E. Lutz, executive director

Michigan's Mysterious Migratory Owls

BY KIRBY ADAMS

Birders and scientists alike love to categorize, and the ten owls most likely to be encountered in Michigan divide up fairly evenly into three groups.

The common year-round residents are the most familiar bunch. The Eastern Screech, Great Horned, and Barred Owls are the first ones we all learn, and even a casual nature enthusiast will recognize their calls and faces. In any season, these are the owls you are most likely to encounter.

At the other extreme, we have the nomads from the far north. Every winter brings anticipation to northern Michigan about whether the Great Grays, Northern Hawk-owls, and Boreal Owls might grace us with a visit. Snowy Owls also fit in this group prone to irruption and nomadism. Michigan's had a front-row seat for two major Snowy Owl irruptions in the last three winters.

The last group includes three owls that fall somewhere in between: resident in parts of the state, partially migratory, somewhat nomadic. Our owls with this not-easy-to-define behavior are the Long-eared, Short-eared, and Northern Saw-whet. The Northern Saw-whet is the most truly migratory of the group and arguably the most intensely studied of North America's owls. Project Owl-net, a cooperative and coordinated banding and migration study, has been focusing on saw-whets for two decades. David Brinker from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources launched the program in the mid-1990s and it's been growing ever since, with more banding stations added every year. Michigan has several stations collaborating with Project Owl-net, including the Rogue River Bird Observatory in the fall and Whitefish Point Bird Observatory during both spring and fall migrations.

As more and more data are collected, the picture of Northern Saw-whet Owl migration habits becomes clearer. We've always known they nested in northern Michigan and migrated throughout the state, with October and November being the best time to spot them. With recaptures at banding sites we can now determine where they are headed (not only south, but also east toward the Appalachians). We also now know that adults tend to prefer inland and montane routes, while juveniles stick closer to sea and lakeshores. Adults also migrate earlier, with most of the late fall birds being juveniles.

Finding a Northern Saw-whet isn't easy. Strictly nocturnal, they roost silently and unmoving in the dense branches of



The Short-eared Owl is different from most owl species because it hunts both day and night and is not strictly nocturnal. Common throughout the world this owl is on the Michigan endangered species list due to the lack of large grassland habitat.
© Megan Lorenz

conifers. I've often mused after a walk through a pine woodlot in November how many of them I might have walked under. There could be several in a copse of trees and only hours of searching would uncover them. It's not uncommon to hear of one being discovered in a conifer in the middle of a suburban development, usually announced by a mob of chickadees.

The Short-eared Owl is the oddball of the group. I think of them as the crazy Uncle Larry of the owls. If owls had an office party, the Short-ears would be the ones with lampshades on their heads. They build their own nests, build them on the ground, and have little preference between hunting at night or midday—none of which are common behaviors among owls. I once saw one hovering along the beach at Tiscornia Park in Berrien County on an early afternoon in April. It turned and swooped several feet right above my head before heading off straight into downtown New Buffalo.

Short-eared Owls are also one of the most widely distributed owls in the world, including several races (perhaps soon to be species) endemic to islands like the Galapagos. As widespread and conspicuous as they are, little is known of their migratory movements. Nomadism in search of food as seasons change is likely what we see in Michigan rather a true migration. Dispersal of juveniles after highly successful breeding summers can also give the impression of a migration. Regardless of where they're going, fall and winter are the best times to spot one in Michigan. They also turn up with some regularity in spring, but are scarce in summer. You

just never know where or when a Short-eared Owl will turn up. They've been known to land on ships in the Pacific Ocean several hundred miles from land, with little to indicate their origin or destination.

In contrast to the non-conformist Short-eareds, the Long-eared Owl is like your other crazy uncle—the reclusive eccentric no one ever sees. They lay their eggs in stick nests left by hawks and other large birds, and tend to hunt and move around nocturnally. During day-time they roost in conifers, normally with their tall, slender frame, aligned near the trunk. This behavior makes them arguably one of the hardest owls to spot in Michigan.

There's little doubt that Long-eared Owls are truly migratory, but the patterns are not well understood. They are found in numbers heading in the right direction at the right time of year, though they are also known to winter extensively within the breeding range. Fall and winter is the Long-eared season in lower Michigan, while they grace the Upper Peninsula with significant sightings in spring. Whitefish Point is a prime spot for multiple Long-eareds on a single spring day. Like their shorter-tufted cousins, they are tough to find anywhere in the summer.

How does one find a Long-eared Owl? Other than going to Whitefish Point in the spring, you approach it as you would

when looking for any other owl—you look for Blue Jays. Keeping an eye out for corvid mobs is the oldest trick in the book for finding perched owls and raptors. A group of jays making a crazy racket in a stand of pines in late winter is always worth an investigation. Most of the time, you'll find a Cooper's Hawk, but on a really lucky day, it might be a Long-eared Owl. Crows are notorious for mobbing Great Horned Owls, but could also devote their attention to a smaller owl.



The Great Grey Owl is the tallest American owl with the largest wingspan. However, it is a very light bird, outweighed by its shorter relatives the Snowy Owl and Great Horned Owl by almost twice as much. © 2012 Daniel Behm Photography

Other tricks involve more tracking skill. Finding owl pellets around the base of a tree can indicate a regular daytime roost (and can also be a fascinating indication of what the owl is eating). Guano wash on a tree trunk is another mark of an owl roost. Of course, the most obvious clue to an owl in the vicinity you'll notice with your ears. As spring approaches, the Long-eared Owls will join the chorus of other calling owls at night.

Images of owls are everywhere these days, from salt shakers to clocks to earrings. Everyone loves owls, but few realize such a diverse bunch of real live owls are all around us. We just need to get out there and find them.

Kirby Adams (kirby.adams@gmail.com) didn't take up birding until his 30's, but he's making up for lost time. He writes the birding column for the online travel blog, National Parks Traveler. Kirby and his wife, Sarah, live in Lansing on breaks between birding trips.

Calendar

March

- 20–22 **MiBCI Workshop**
Tustin
- 22 **WPBO Birding Saginaw Marshes**
Bay City
- 29 **Spring Bluebird Festival**
Traverse City

April

- 25–27 **WPBO's Spring Fling**
Paradise
- 26 **Thornapple Woodpecker Festival**
Middleville

May

- 10 **Migration Count Day**
- 15 **Kirtland's Warbler Tours begin**
Grayling & Mio
- 15–18 **Tawas Point Birding Festival**
Iosco County
- 28–1 **Leelanau Peninsula Birding Festival**
South Lake Leelanau

Cerulean Warbler Weekend will be held June 6–8 in Hastings

Michigan's Nongame Wildlife Program

BY HOWARD MEYERSON

One of Michigan's more important wildlife initiatives, Michigan's Nongame Wildlife Program, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2013. It was a quiet celebration by all accounts, a contrast to its early years when the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) would have trumpeted its successes: reintroduction of peregrine falcons, creation of a statewide wildlife viewing guide, and construction of nesting platforms for ospreys, to name a few.

State wildlife officials contend that nongame work continues for a variety of species. The work is more diffuse and expensive than in the past. Some is focused habitat work for species such as the Kirtland's Warbler. Some is broader grassland work for pheasant restoration, which helps both game and nongame species. Wildlife management, they say, is now accomplished using an ecosystem approach, which benefits all species.

Critics, however, worry about the nongame program's seemingly diminished capacity, the absence of dedicated staffing, a lack of research, and reduced visibility. "I get the sense that the MDNR is challenged when talking about nongame species. They don't have the support that game species do," said Brad Garmon, director of conservation and emerging issues for Michigan Environmental Council. "We want it to be an agency that appeals to birders and non-motorized users too. From our perspective those are things to celebrate, things that will attract people who come to do the Pure Michigan thing."

Amy Derosier, MDNR's wildlife action plan coordinator, acknowledges that things have changed in the 30 years since the state's Nongame Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (NFWTF) was created to fund the program. Little is done to promote it. Research grants were discontinued. Most work today is done on a part-time basis by field staff.

That may change in future years, she said. An internal MDNR nongame work group is examining ways to make the program more effective. The agency's Wildlife Action Plan, a blueprint for work done every year, is being revised to put a finer point on nongame wildlife management goals and outcomes, among other things.



Ospreys are a conservation success story in Michigan due to the ban of pesticide such as DDT and the construction of nesting platforms. © 2013 Martin Holka

"In the last year or so we recognized that we haven't been talking to the public about nongame," Derosier said. "It's important for them to know what we are doing. As we go forward with developing measurable objectives we will be able to talk more about the successes."

The Wildlife Action Plan covers more than 400 species "of greatest conservation need." All but a handful are nongame species. Having a plan makes Michigan eligible to receive federal wildlife grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); the funding comes from offshore oil and gas drilling and is returned to states that put up a 35 percent match.

Michigan's match for federal money comes from the NFWTF, which includes revenues from private donations, accrued interest, and the sale of wildlife habitat license plates, with its iconic loon emblem. That money once provided the sole funding for Michigan's nongame program, which operated on approximately \$600,000 annually before the federal wildlife grant program began in 2001.

Since then, Michigan has received a total of \$20.1 million in federal/state wildlife grants for nongame work, as much as \$2.2 million in a year. But those figures have declined, according to state officials. Michigan received only \$1.3 million in 2012 from the USFWS. Some went to fisheries and state parks for habitat improvement. The MDNR wildlife division received \$817,947 for nongame work, along with roughly \$60,000 in federal endangered species money.

Public support for the nongame program, however, may be dwindling, according to state officials. Trust fund donations and license plate sales have declined in recent years while fund interest rates bounced up and down with the marketplace. Those three sources of money amounted to \$712,500 for nongame work in 2012, according to Ann LeClaire-Mitchell, MDNR's wildlife division program support section supervisor.

Only \$596,300 of it was spent that year, along with \$1.3 million in federal money. Some of the trust fund appropriation was held back to buffer the effects of expected cuts the following year. USFWS grant funds have shrunk by five percent a year for the last decade, according to Derosier.

"Every time there is a budget hiccup in DC there is a hiccup for funding at the state level," Derosier said. "It's not dedicated funding like Pittman-Robertson (which funds game species work). We're on the chopping block every year. Although we have a bigger program than in the past, we are doing more habitat recovery work, for species like the Kirtland's Warbler and Karner Blue Butterflies, which is more expensive."

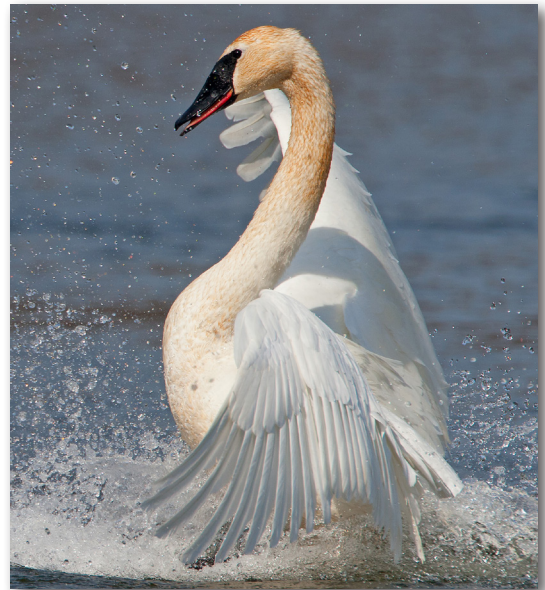
Money for habitat restoration—the mowing, burning and planting needed—doesn't go as far and may not be as eye-catching as reintroducing a colorful species. But it is no less essential, according to wildlife managers. The Mitchell's Satyr butterfly, Massasauga Rattlesnake, and grassland birds such as Bobolinks and Henslow's Sparrows all benefit from the work being done.

"We get a lot of work done for a small budget," Derosier said. "Two million sounds like a lot, but it costs a lot of money to recover a species and it takes a lot of time."

A 2011 national survey by the USFWS found 71.8 million people engage in wildlife watching: bird watching or feeding at home, traveling to see or photograph wildlife, or



Conservation efforts that have helped the Kirtland's Warbler rebound also benefit the Eastern Bluebird, Upland Sandpiper, white-tailed deer, black bear, snowshoe hare and several protected prairie plant species. © 2013 Josh Haas



Once on the brink of extinction, the Trumpeter Swan now numbers around 500 individuals in Michigan due to the efforts of the MDNR and like-minded groups in conjunction with the North American Restoration Plan. © 2010 Josh Haas

managing land to see it. By contrast, 33 million fished and 13.7 million hunted. Wildlife watchers spent \$54.9 billion pursuing that recreation annually, compared to \$41.8 billion spent by anglers and \$33.7 billion spent by hunters. Approximately 48 percent of Michigan's resident population falls into one category or another. The study, called the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Related Recreation, found 39 percent of Michigan residents watched wildlife whereas 21 percent were classified as sportspersons, meaning they hunt and/or fish.

Yet MDNR officials report that nongame work makes up only five percent of the agency's wildlife management budget each year. "It is small by comparison to Pittman-Robertson, which is in the neighborhood of \$12 million to \$13 million," said Doug Reeves, the assistant wildlife chief for MDNR. "The hope was that they would provide similar funding for nongame species as game species, but there is little support for that."

Reeves continued, "From a wildlife perspective the need has not diminished. There are species in need of conservation and we have the responsibility to manage for those things. Whether the demand by the public has diminished is a different question. What we need ahead is continued support—financially, and maybe vocally. The squeaky wheel does tend to get the grease."

Howard Meyerson (howardmeyerson@gmail.com) has been writing about birds, nature, the environment, and outdoor recreation for 30 years. He lives in Grand Rapids. His work appears in a variety of publications.

Warblers & New Waves in Birding

BY WENDY TATAR

May is about migration, and there are few places in the Great Lakes region better than Tawas Point for May birding. Lillian Stokes describes Tawas Point as the place where “warblers drip from the trees,” so it’s appropriate that the keynote speakers for this year’s Tawas Point Birding Festival (TPBF) are the authors of the recent title, *The Warbler Guide*.



Photo courtesy of Princeton University Press.

Co-author Tom Stephenson (top left) is a birding guide and musician who has authored articles that have appeared in both *Birding* and *Bird Watcher's Digest* magazines. Tom's partner-in-crime, Scott Whittle (bottom left), has 20 years of experience as a professional photographer and educator. He once held the Big Year record for New York State (not too shabby in the ultra-competitive world of listing birds). Together *The Warbler Guide* authors have

created what many consider the New Testament of warbler field guides. The story of how and why Stephenson and Whittle composed the book the way they did is fascinating and we can't wait to have them deliver the keynote address on Friday, May 16, at the Tawas Bay Beach Resort.



Photo courtesy of Princeton University Press.

The 2014 edition of TPBF boasts a variety of interactive workshops, including one led by Stephenson and Whittle on their system for identifying and learning bird vocalizations. Additional workshop topics include how to be a Purple Martin landlord, natural history of the Great Lakes Piping Plover, and how to capture beautiful images of birds by digiscoping.

Digiscoping is the process of using your camera or smartphone in conjunction with a telescope to magnify and take photos. This workshop will be instructed by Sharon “Birdchick” Stiteler. Sharon is an international professional speaker, storyteller, National Park Ranger, and runs the popular birding blog, Birdchick.com. Sharon will also be presenting a session on smartphone birding, which will teach new ways to use a smartphone to benefit your birding when you’re in the field.

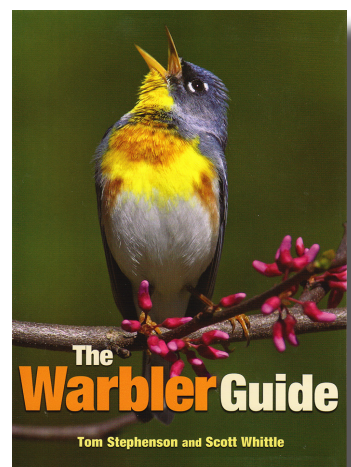


Photo courtesy of Sharon Stiteler.

Sharon lives in Minnesota and started a social birding group there called “Birds and Beers.” Shelley Martinez, a follower of Sharon's blog and a former Michigan Audubon board member who lives in Dearborn, loved the idea of a social birding group that meets monthly for programs at a local pub. So with Sharon's consent, Shelley started her own program, “Birds & Brews.” It meets monthly in Dearborn but on Thursday night during the festival, we will bring “Birds & Brews” to Tawas, hosted by both Sharon and Shelley at a local pub.

This is the ninth year for TPBF. Creating the festival program is a year-round task that starts with Michigan Audubon's mission: bringing birds and people together for the benefit of both. Our mission is always at the forefront of what we do at Michigan Audubon and we attempt to find keynote, session, and workshop presenters and topics to emphasize it.

The work that Stephenson and Whittle have done on *The Warbler Guide* will impress even the biggest skeptic. The reviews of this book have been fantastic (see a review in volume 91, issue 1) including “this



book really does break new ground with the way it looks at bird identification and the presentation of information.” Presenting birders with the latest information and tools out there is helping to change the face of birding (just look at the younger faces that are turning up out in the field) and encourages in-depth learning about species. Stiteler’s presentations emphasize new tools in a fun way to advance birders’ knowledge with new technologies. Birders are not just ticking another species off the list now, but are becoming the citizen scientists that are needed to provide the species information that researchers can use. In the long run it is our hope that this information leads to habitat conservation which will benefit all species, not just birds.

With new knowledge and a fresh set of new technology birding skills, we encourage you to consider the post-

festival birding tour that will directly benefit avian research. Upper Peninsula birding guide Skye Haas will meet tour participants at Whitefish Point the evening of Sunday, May 18. The first guided activity will be scanning Lake Superior in hopes of spotting a White-winged Scoter or Red-throated Loon. If owls are still in migration, the group will spend the last hour of daylight observing the birds rise out of the pines at dusk to fly over the lake on their journeys north. The group will reassemble on Monday morning to bird Whitefish Point and hotspots in the Paradise area. A portion of the tour’s proceeds will be donated to support the bird monitoring efforts of Michigan Audubon’s affiliate, the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory.

Wendy Tatar (wendy@michiganaudubon.org) is Michigan Audubon’s program coordinator.

What's **New** at the 2014 Tawas Point **Birding** Festival

BY WENDY TATAR

We’ve highlighted new activities that our guest speakers will be providing, but there are many other activities new to the Festival this year.

Birding tours are highlight by new destinations. The Highbanks Trail is a linear trail that follows a high bluff overlooking the AuSable River valley. The panoramic views on the trail are unparalleled and it is great habitat for many bird species of the hardwood forest. Another new destination is located south of East Tawas. This bus tour will take you to the mouth of the Au Gres River where you can scan the rocky shore for migrating shorebirds and the waters of Saginaw Bay for waterfowl. The tour will also visit the Pressprich Nature Preserve, one of the Lake Huron coastal preserves owned by the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. This 48-acre property hosts wetlands and floodplain forest which attract migrating wood warblers.

On Thursday participants can join the Big Green Iosco County Birding Tour led by photographer and extreme birder Josh Haas for a 32-mile birding bike tour. In 2013, Josh aimed to set a species record for Barry County and to do it with as little impact on the environment as possible—he did it completely by bike. One of our afternoon sessions will have Josh telling us about his accomplishment.

On Saturday afternoon members of Young Birders Clubs will be presenting birding sessions at Tawas Point State Park. Come be impressed by what this new generation of birders are up to.

Festival registration is now open at www.tawasbirdfest.com. The complete activity schedule can also be found there. We hope to see you in East Tawas, May 15–18.

Past President Honored

Our heartiest congratulations go out to Peggy Ridgway. The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy recently presented Peggy with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her continued bird conservation work. Peggy was the driving force that got the Tawas Point Birding Festival started in 2006 and continues her work as the local arrangements chair for the event. She was President of Michigan Audubon 2004–2006.



Peggy Ridgway is looking at over wintering Trumpeter Swans on the AuSable River. © 2006 Cory Gildersleeve, photo courtesy of Oscoda Press.

A Fine Kettle of Hawks

2013 Mackinac Straits Hawk Watch

BY STEVE BAKER

The northbound spring migration of raptors over Mackinaw City has been known to local residents for decades. In 2004, an organized Hawk Watch was conducted and valuable baseline data collected. This effort was repeated in 2012 with volunteer observers, and the results were reported by Ed Pike (*Michigan Birds and Natural History*, Volume 20, Number 4). In the spring of 2013, another all-volunteer effort further documented that the tip of the mitt is a significant concentration point for migrating raptors. The two observation locations west of Mackinaw City were chosen for their proximity to open fields, which provide broad sky views and the potential for thermal generation. Volunteer counters (Steve Baker, Don Mittlestat, Ed Pike) and assistant counters (Bev and Jack Kirby, Donna Mittlestat) surveyed from March 15 to May 10 whenever weather permitted. The count was sponsored by the Straits Area Audubon Society and the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society; many members followed the daily counts at HawkCount.org, where season results can be viewed.

As with every hawk watch project, the Mackinac Straits Hawk Watch has its unique character. In 2013, an effort was made to encourage visitors, and everyone was welcomed with hawk ID brochures and information on the local Audubon chapters. Stumps became stools, and lawn chairs, scopes, and warmly clad birders clustered in the field, prepared to tally the wonder of hawk migration. Bird feeders hung from the birches; Bluebird and Kestrel boxes were erected nearby. Many visitors became regulars and worked to improve their observation skills, while some just came to enjoy the spectacle of hawks and eagles circling overhead.



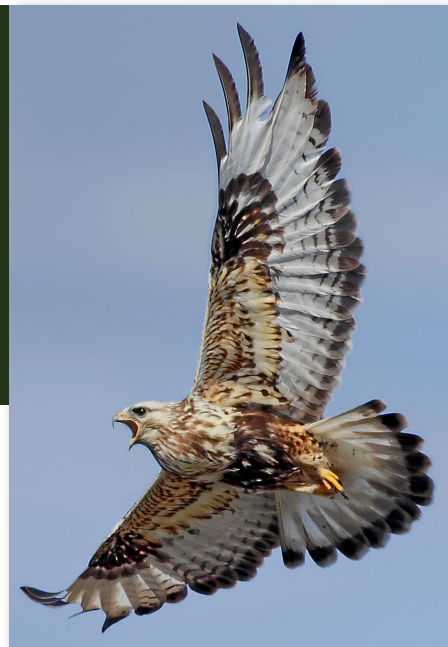
In 2013, the Mackinac Straits Hawk Watch encouraged the public to stop out to the counting area. Everyone was welcomed with hawk ID brochures, and many first-time visitors became regular counters. © 2013 Steve Baker

The Red-tailed Hawk has become the signature species of this hawk count. The season total of 7,578 was the highest of all North American spring observation sites and included 21 of the dark morph western race.

Kettles of dozens of Red-tailed Hawks are common, with occasional kettles of hundreds occurring at peak migration in early- to mid-April. Swainson's Hawks were photographed and identified for the first time in 2013 (four) and Black Vultures (two) are becoming expected at this site (five in 2012). The Broad-winged Hawk total of 10,356 is certainly low because the count was concluded on May 10, prior to the bulk of the immatures movement. Significant single-day totals were Red-shouldered Hawk (33 on March 29), Bald Eagle (32 on April 14), Red-tailed Hawk (1,751 on April 17), Golden Eagle (19 on April 10), and Broad-winged Hawk (2,081 on April 27).

April 27 was a banner day as a large raptor migration coincided with a turnout of 22 visitors on the first pleasant weather day of the spring. A total of 3,311 raptors of 14 species were counted, highlighted by the first Swainson's Hawk for this location, 763 Red-tailed Hawks, 2,081 Broad-winged Hawks (including the first-ever dark morph), and a White Pelican soaring with a mixed kettle of raptors. The 2014 survey will be conducted by the newly formed Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch, with a paid counter if funding permits. To contribute a tax-deductible donation, make checks payable to Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch and mail to Kathy Bricker, MSRW, 4483 E. Dotski Road, Cheboygen, MI 49721. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the author.

For 30 years, Steve Baker (steveandsuebaker@gmail.com) has been birding the Mackinac Straits region from his Indian River base. A retired veterinarian, he is also interested in ferns, native orchids, and photography, and is slowly learning about Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies).



Ninety Rough-legged Hawks were counted during the 2013 season. © 2013 Daniel Behm Photography

Mackinac Straits Hawk Watch Totals

March 15–May 10, 2013

Total individuals
22,488

Total raptor species
17

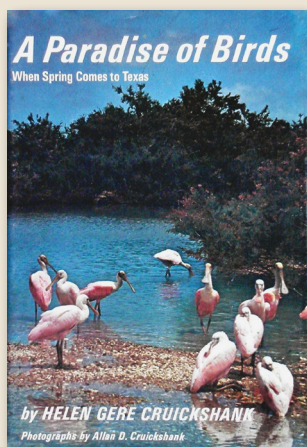
Book Review

Used Books Help Birds

BY WENDY TATAR



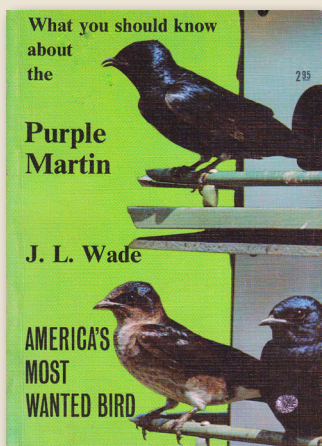
Michigan Audubon often receives donations of gently used birding and nature-related books. The following short reviews are on three of the out-of-print and rare books we have received recently.



A Paradise of Birds: When Spring Comes to Texas, by Helen Gere Cruickshank, 1968 first edition library book, hardcover but without dust jacket, good condition. **\$5.00**

Who doesn't want to bird Texas in spring? Cruickshank starts this book with a great map indicating the location of the numerous Audubon sanctuaries and the state and national parks that are birding hotspots in this state. The author's easy-to-read style takes the reader on an

extraordinary journey as Cruickshank and her husband (photographer of the black-and-white photos) spend March 21 to June 20 birding Texas. This is a great book for anyone planning a trip to Texas; although the book is 45 years old, it shouldn't be difficult to find current information on the Internet to supplement it.

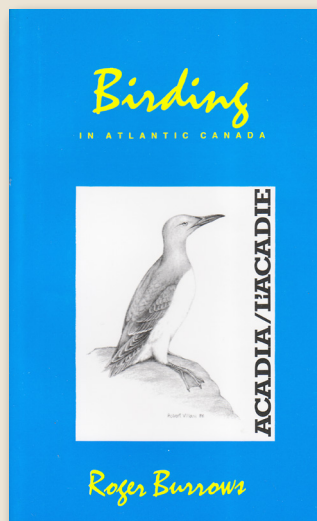


What You Should Know about the Purple Martin, by J. L. Wade, 1971 revised edition library book, third printing, paperback, good condition. **\$2.50**

For anyone interested in becoming a Purple Martin "landlord" you should first study the species and its habitat preferences. Wade provides all the information you need to get started and to care for the birds once a colony has been established. A complete natural history of the species is included. Many

photos accompany the text and will make you realize just how endangered this bird has become since the writing of this book (original publication 1966).

If you are interested in becoming a landlord for Purple Martins a workshop will be presented as part of the 2014 Tawas Point Birding Festival. Instructor Penny Briscoe has been caring for Purple Martins for over 25 years and she will teach you the tips and tricks to being a successful martin landlord.



Birding in Atlantic Canada, Volume 3: Acadia, by Roger Burrows, 1992 first edition, paperback, like new condition. **\$8.00**

Who doesn't want to add an Atlantic Puffin to their list? The Atlantic shore of Canada is home to some incredible sea birds. This book is the third of a three-volume account of the birding hotspots of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (Canadian provinces that touch the Atlantic Ocean) and breaks the provinces into 22 areas. An index to all the

sites mentioned makes negotiating the volume easier when looking for a specific location. It's written in the same style as the ABA Birdfinding Guides.

For over three decades, the Michigan Audubon Bookstore has been a fixture for Michigan's community of bird and nature enthusiasts, traveling to many chapter meetings, festivals, and conferences around the state. Today it's possible to shop the Michigan Audubon Bookstore by mail, by phone, in person, and online (www.michiganaudubonstore.com).

The bookstore's next major appearance will be at the Tawas Point Birding Festival in Iosco County, May 15-18. You can visit the bookstore anytime at Michigan Audubon's state office, at 6380 Drumheller Road in Bath. Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., though we suggest calling ahead (517-641-4277) to make sure that someone is on site to assist with your bookstore shopping needs.

Michigan Audubon holds a used book sale each year during the month of August. If you have used-books or periodicals that relate to birds or natural history, please consider donating them to Michigan Audubon. The sale of your gently used books guarantees that they will continue to be read and loved. The proceeds from used book sales help support Michigan Audubon's education and outreach programs. To donate books or to purchase the titles mentioned above, please contact Wendy Tatar at wendy@michiganaudubon.org or 517-641-4277.

Wendy Tatar (wendy@michiganaudubon.org) is Michigan Audubon's program coordinator.

Chapter Spotlight

Oakland Audubon Society

BY MALLORY KING



The Oakland Audubon Society (OAS) is a vibrant, active chapter based in southeast Michigan. The chapter was established in 1958 and strives to provide access to the natural world, promote interest in birds and native wildlife, and advocate for the preservation of wildlife habitats in Michigan.

"The society has really shifted a lot in the last five years," according to Ed Lewandowski, OAS's field trip officer. The society started focusing on increasing advertisement through social media platforms, improving the quality and quantity of field trips, adding competitive birding events, and helping to kick-start their new young birders program, the Oakland Owlets (featured in the 2013 July-August *JPW* issue).

The OAS has set a goal to provide its members with at least two birding trips a month. The society has traditional trips every year all over the state and additional trips at just about any birding spot imaginable.

This March, Lewandowski will lead the traditional Oakland County Duck Trip; participants will be looking for first-arrival waterfowl and shorebirds. "We shoot for getting gulls, scoters, and grebes, which can be challenging in Oakland County," says Lewandowski. This trip usually produces sightings of around 50-60 species. A brand new trip hosted by OAS this year will occur April 27 at the Wetzel State Recreation Area in Macomb County. This is an area that is not well birded but is home to an abundance of species, many hard to observe in the area. "We'll be looking for the Clay-colored Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Bobolink, and many Warbler species," says Lewandowski, who is also leading the trip.

The Oakland Owlets—another initiative that OAS took in 2013—has been met with great success. Young birders from

Contact information

Website: www.oaklandaudubon.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Oakland-Audubon-Society/236317909761539

Twitter: @OaklandAudubon

Meeting Information:

Next meetings: March 11, 2014 and April 8, 2014

Time: 7:30PM

Location: 1589 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI (room 132)

across the state came out to participate in events and trips. In partnership with the OAS, the Owlets have added even more events for 2014. Join the Oakland Owlets on March 29 at the Red Oaks Nature Center in Madison Heights for Nature Journaling. They will be teaching young birders how to identify birds in the field, how to recognize good bird habitats, and how to expand their bird behavior knowledge.

Besides adding many new birding trips and a Young Birders Club, the OAS also worked with the Michigan DNR this past year to offer an Owl Prowl at Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, which had the largest group of participants (over 120) ever to attend the event.

The society also recently teamed up with the Chrysler Group, performing bird counts at the Chrysler World HQ and Technical Center in Auburn Hills, to help the company protect its wildlife and improve the habitat at its headquarters. The bird surveys performed by the OAS helped the facility obtain its first-ever, "Wildlife at Work" certification from the national Wildlife Habitat Council.

The OAS is always looking for new ideas for birding trips, competitions, community involvement projects, or any other bird-related topic. "It is our goal to educate and entertain our members," says Don Burlett, OAS's president. "If you have any ideas for a new activity, drop me a line. Of course, we can always use your help to conduct these activities."

The next time you are birding in southeastern Michigan, make it a point to connect with the Oakland Audubon Society, because together a growing community can accomplish more.



Oakland Audubon Society members on a trip to Belle Isle in November 2012 with the Detroit Skyline in the background. The group saw an abundance of ducks that day, including a Gadwall, Redhead, and Canvasback. © 2012 Janet M. Hug

Mallory King is Michigan Audubon's marketing and communications coordinator, reach her at mallory@michiganaudubon.org.

Spring Wildflowers

Ephemeral: n. anything short-lived

BY TOM FUNKE

The only thing “short-lived” about our spring ephemerals is the time it takes to flower. For some, such as the Bloodroot, it could be a few hours to a few days. Others may last a few weeks. Ephemerals use this adaptive strategy for living in deciduous forests that are mostly shady, beating their competition by getting an early start.

Our deciduous woodland wildflowers show their flowers well before the trees start leafing out. By the time the forest canopy has filled in, spring ephemerals have pollinated and are losing their flowers, giving way to late spring and early summer flowers that can tolerate partial to complete shade.

But what do ephemerals have to do with birds? Quite a bit, actually.

Ephemerals are an early spring source of food for bees, flies, ants, and other insects. These insects forage on the flowers, seeds, and nectar, and in turn become food for . . . you guessed it . . . birds.

Ants have a symbiotic relationship with ephemerals. Seeds produced by many ephemerals produce fatty external accessories called elaiosomes. These elaiosomes attract ants that will carry the seeds back to their nests to feed their young. Once the elaiosomes are eaten, the remaining seed germinates, now in a new location thanks to the ants. This process is called myrmecochory.

The first ephemerals bloom in southern Michigan in early April, and as spring marches northward, it takes several weeks before the ephemerals in the Upper Peninsula start to bloom.

Enough talk about the birds and the bees. What are some of these flowers?

The quintessential spring ephemerals, for someone with a southern beech-maple forest bias like me, would be Giant Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), Trout-lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Spring Beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*), Cut-leaved Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), Dutchman’s Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadensis*), Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), and Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*). Some less-common ephemerals include Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Sharp-leaved Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), and Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*).

Over in the oak-hickory forest, look for Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), Round-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica americana*), and Pink Lady-slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). In the northern Lower and the Upper Peninsulas, there are Clintonia (*Clintonia borealis*), Canada Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), and Northern Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).



The most common species of trillium in Michigan is *Trillium grandiflorum* or the Large-flowered Trillium. © 2009 Danny Barron

Some spring ephemerals found statewide in a wider variety of forests include Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), and Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*). And don’t forget the wetland swamp ephemerals such as Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and White Trout-lily (*Erythronium albidum*).

Because of their beauty, these flowers are frequently picked. In addition, high deer populations will decimate them as they are very tasty. Of course, it’s best that humans leave all of these plants alone.

Tom Funke (tfunke@michiganaudubon.org) is Michigan Audubon’s conservation director and resident manager at the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary.

Find spring wildflowers at our Sanctuaries!

Michigan Audubon bird sanctuaries with great spring ephemeral viewing opportunities include:

- Kate Palmer Sanctuary (Jackson)
- Harris Sanctuary (Plainwell)
- Warner Sanctuary (Hastings)
- Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary (Manistee)
- Voorhees (Olivet)
- Brockway Mountain Sanctuary (Copper Harbor)

In the field, we recommend *Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide* to identify plants to genus, then use Voss’s *Michigan Flora* to identify species. These books are available in our bookstore.

Photographic Big Year in Review

BY DAVID PAVLIK

Multiple individuals across the U.S. dedicated their 2013 birding year to raising donations and awareness in order to increase conservation efforts worldwide. I started a photographic big year to benefit the American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) work with endangered birds in Hawaii. I set what I thought was an ambitious goal of photographing 500 bird species in the ABA area. I had no idea what type of support I might get for this project.

My year started with some winter birding in the Upper Peninsula, where I photographed the Northern Hawk Owl, Snowy Owl, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and Hoary Redpoll.

At the end of January, I moved south to Florida for my job working with Brown-headed Nuthatches. I birded from northern Florida down to the Everglades and up to the Panhandle. This was a highly successful time, and I picked up some great birds, including Western Spindalis, La Sagra's Flycatcher, many shorebirds, herons, gulls, terns, and wintering passerines. Sticking around Florida until early May meant I hit peak migration in the Panhandle and before going back to Michigan I had already photographed 300 species of birds.

After Florida, I had a few weeks before I needed to head out west for my summer field job. I couldn't help myself, and I used my frequent flyer miles to catch a flight to Alaska to attend the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. This turned out to be hugely successful, and I photographed some tough birds including Yellow-billed Loon, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Arctic Tern, Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelet, Pacific Golden-Plover, Eurasian Wigeon, and Aleutian Tern.

The rest of my summer was spent in the Great Basin of Nevada and California conducting butterfly surveys. My friend and fellow

Michigan birder Kevin Welsh and I drove to Nevada, making a small detour to southeastern Arizona. We saw most of the Arizona specialties, including Montezuma Quail, Mexican Chickadee, Scott's Oriole, and Elf Owl.

Of course, while in the Great Basin I paid attention to the birds (not just butterflies) and spent my free days chasing them all over California. I even managed to get on two pelagic trips. The highlight of my year came on a pelagic trip out of Monterey Bay when we saw a Hawaiian Petrel. This endangered Hawaiian species is extremely rare in the ABA and was a life bird for just about everyone on board.

Right before my job ended I made the long drive over to the Ruby Mountains. There I found two Himalayan Snowcock, many Black Rosy-Finches with young, Dusky Grouse, and Ferruginous Hawk. At this point, I had surpassed my goal of 500 birds photographed and still had big plans for the rest of the year.

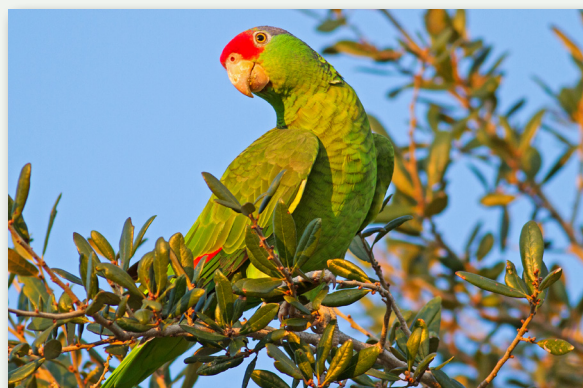
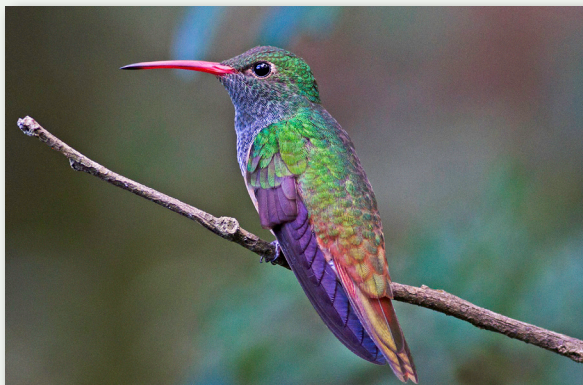
It was mid-August by the time my job ended, and it was time to start grad school at the University of Minnesota. Luckily, there were still plenty of common birds for me to photograph during fall migration in Minnesota. I picked up new birds in Duluth, at Sax-Zim Bog, and in Minneapolis, including Winter Wren, Northern Goshawk, Great Gray Owl, and Philadelphia Vireo.

After my first semester of grad school ended, I booked a flight to south Texas. What better way to end the year than with a winter trip to the Rio Grande Valley? I picked up some Muscovy Duck and Tropical Parula and many of the South Texas specialties such as Green Jay, Great Kiskadee, Common Pauraque, and Audubon's Oriole.

I was incredibly lucky to visit many of the best birding spots in the ABA area and had some great friends to keep me going throughout the year. I was impressed with how many individuals and organizations helped spread the word about my big year, and I am extremely grateful to every one of them. I ended the year with 585 bird species photographed and nearly \$6,000 in donations to the ABC for Hawaiian bird conservation. I can't express enough thanks to everyone who supported this project. It certainly wouldn't have been possible without the wonderful conservation-minded birders in Michigan and beyond.

David Pavlik (dtpavlik@hotmail.com) is currently a graduate student in the conservation biology program at the

University of Minnesota. Since graduating from Northern Michigan University in 2011, David has been working as a contract biologist, which has taken him on adventures across North America.



Top: Buff-bellied Hummingbird taken 12/18/13 at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Brownsville, TX. Middle: Laysan Albatross taken 07/21/13 at Half Moon Bay Pelagic trip, CA. Bottom: Red-crowned Parrot taken 12/18/13 at Oliveira Park, Brownsville, TX. © 2013 David Pavlik

Announcements

Mid-Michigan Banding Station Becomes Long-Term Organization

For the last four years, Michigan State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has operated a banding station within the Rose Lake State Wildlife Area (RLSWA), just northeast of Lansing. Under the direction of Dr. Jen Owen, the Burke Lake Banding Station (BULA) has been a short-term set-up with research as its primary goal. Recently, steps were completed to make this banding station a long-term establishment in the spring of 2014 (see article in January-February *JPW*)

In addition to research, the site will now incorporate educational and outreach programs for people of all ages. The goal of the BULA is "to integrate avian research, the training of current and future wildlife professionals, and the education of all ages in the mid-Michigan region, while showcasing the diversity of wildlife inhabiting one of mid-Michigan's most diverse wildlife research areas."

Although mid-Michigan isn't thought of as a migration corridor, birders in the Lansing area have long known that RLSWA is a great location to spot spring and fall migrating songbirds. BULA provides plenty of evidence for this: the top five species of birds banded in 2013 were Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Magnolia Warbler. Not a bad list, if you think about it.

In order for the banding station to continue to provide educational opportunities, researchers will need to raise money to fund the project. You can buy T-shirts or you can donate to the 501(c)(3) organization's financial stability by going to its website at www.fw.msu.edu/~bula/. You can also follow BULA on Facebook at [facebook.com/BULAbandingstation](https://www.facebook.com/BULAbandingstation).



Zak Pohlen, MSU fisheries & wildlife senior and bird bander, shows Emma (left) and Olivia (right) Williams a Swainson's Thrush captured during fall migration at the Burke Lake Banding Station.
© 2013 David Williams

Injured Falcon Finds New Home

Last spring Allegro, a 14-year-old male Peregrine Falcon, was injured in a possible territory dispute with another falcon. The bird was found in Detroit and taken to the Howell Conference and Nature Center (HCNC) to recuperate. In the fall it was determined that the injury to Allegro's foot was too extensive for the bird to survive on its own. With the approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Allegro has become a permanent resident at HCNC.

According to HCNC director Dana DeBenham, Allegro has bonded with Rocky, HCNC's other Peregrine, and will become part of the nature center's educational programs. Although Allegro is older, the nature center hopes to have him around for a while.

Allegro was part of a mating pair that nested on a high-rise not far from the Detroit River. Let's hope that his mate finds another male to breed with this coming spring.

Welcome New 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. Members moving or changing to a seasonal residence should contact the office by e-mail, post, or phone so that we can update your address in our database.

Tom Abramson	Doris Fitch	Michael and Teresa McGill
Susan Allaben	Terry Fritz	Kelly J. McKay
Tom Almer	Vincent Fusaro	Pamela Menchaca
Louise Anderson	Shirley Goodman	Doris Miller
Margaret Anderson	MaryIn Graham	Jonathan Miller
Rich Ashcroft	Janet Green	Laura Millmore
Charlotte Basso	Thomas D. Gregory	Diane Monnier
Capt. and Mrs. John Bastek	Sandra Grosso	Christine Montney
Roger Beard	Alan Grove	Diane Morand
Bill Newman and Carolyn Beauvais	Charles Guidot	Elizabeth Morrison
Carl Bekofske	Mary Lou Hall	Abbe Mulholland
Michael E. Bishop	Ruth Hall	Sue Munger
Stewart Bolinger	Donna Hamilton	Jill Murphy
Margaret F. Brown	Susan Hamilton	Brian Nolan
Joshua Browne	Summer Hanford	Alec Olivier
Nancy Buck	Stella Hansen	Julie Olsen
Barbara Bunbury	Keith Hartine	Richard Osburn
Timothy Burke	Laura Hazlett	Darryl Parish
Patricia Burroughs	Nancy M. Hedges	Mr. and Mrs. James H. Pim
Elizabeth Califf	Bill Heeschen	Karen Pugh
Thomas and MaryAnn Carey	Kathleen Hodges	Shelley and Richard Pulliam
Edward Carlson	Jacqueline Holdsworth	Jane Purslow
Steve Carlson	Dana A. Howard	Connie Redding
Shirley Casler	Margaret Hugly	Patricia Redding
Jerry Chambers	Michael and Christine Hurt	Joe Ringenberg
Thomas Chisholm	Daniel Jablonski	Cathy Ritch
Justin Shattuck and Kristen Clark	Naoki Kanaboshi	Jessica Roberts
Tom and Margaret Comfort	Jean A. Kasprzyk	Rocky Roll
Bob Conrad	Debbie Kearney	Cyndi Ross
Danielle Conroyd	John and Kay Keck	Linda Rudd
Joseph A. Cook	Susan Kepler	Ruth Sawyers
Linda Coughenour	Gloria Kershaw	Ruth Schmitter
Cheryl Courneya	Edward T. Klunk	Judy Seitz
Andrea Cray	Mr. and Mrs. John Knoppers	Susan Shipman
Linda Damstra	Kathleen I. Kortge	Amber Sitko
Patricia Deventer	Joy D. Koskelin	Linda Steenwyk
Glenn Dickmann	Jon Koster	Kim Thompson
Nancy Dolan	Kerrin and Patrick Kresnak	Christine Valentine
Karen and Owen Douglas	Phyllis Kruse	Mary Vallad
Cindy Drenth	Jim Kulie	Mark and Marlene Vanderhill
Wing Dunham	Dale Kurtz	Spencer Vanderhoof
J. L. Eagle	Diane V. Lange	Stewart Vining
Steve Ellis	Stephen Larzelere-Kellermann	Colleen Vogler
L. Emirick	Diana Little	Susan Wachendorfer
Bob and Cean Eppelheimer	John Lloyd	William E. Wall
Ken and Bonny Eppelheimer	Janice and David Mann	Marjean Watters
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Erickson	Lauren Margraves	Craig W. Weirich
Christine Fines	Charles Martin	Linda Welch
Joan Marie Fisher	Olivier M. Martinon	John Wheeler
	Denneth Matheis Sr.	Roxanne Witcher
	Dennis McCauley	Gwen P. Young
		Patricia Zwiebel

Correction from 2014 Jan/Feb issue, page 8, photo caption: both male and female Yellow-shafted Northern Flickers display a red nape.

Michigan Audubon

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Lansing, MI 48901

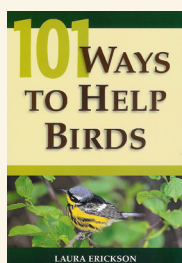
Dated Material

Michigan Audubon Bookstore

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

Every so often Michigan Audubon needs to clear some titles out of the Nature Bookstore. The following books are on sale. Please note that there may be only one copy of each of these titles. To request a title, please call Wendy at 517-641-4277. Member discount does not apply to items on sale.

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

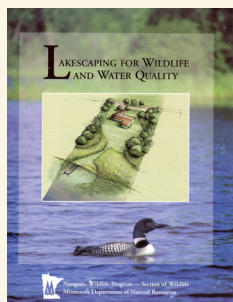


101 Ways to Help Birds

by Laura Erickson

~~\$19.95~~, SALE: \$15.96

Your everyday activities have an enormous impact on the environment and wildlife. The author provides a blueprint for ways you can change your habits around the house, in the yard, at work, and in the wild, which in the long run will benefit birds and improve our environment. Many of the 101 recommendations are easy to do.

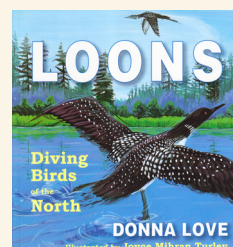


Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality

by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Wildlife Division

~~\$19.95~~, SALE: \$13.96

If you own lakefront property, this book is for you. Learn how to plan and plant a diverse natural lakeshore that will restore wildlife habitat and clean the water. Techniques can be applied to landscaping along rivers, streams, and wetlands.

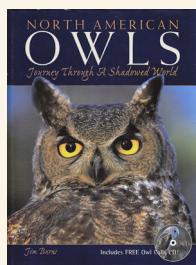


Loons: Diving Birds of the North

By Donna Love

~~\$12.00~~, SALE: \$9.60

A nonfiction, illustrated book for children, this is a fun-filled introduction to this species. It covers natural history, behavior, and many aspects that make this species unique. Activities are listed to provide the opportunity for children to understand how the birds walk, paddle, and float. The book includes an appendix that details the five species of loons found worldwide.

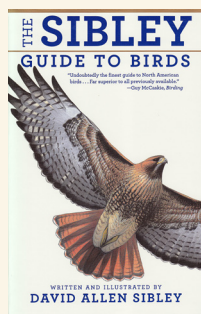


North American Owls: Journey Through a Shadowed World

by Jim Burns

~~\$39.95~~, SALE \$27.96 (hardcover plus CD)

No longer in print, this stunning coffee table book covers all 19 owl species of North America. A chapter is devoted to the natural history of each species, with the CD containing all 19 owl calls. Many incredible photos make this a great owl book for your collection. Additional postage is required to mail this book.



The Sibley Guide to Birds (1st edition)

by David Allen Sibley

~~\$39.95~~, SALE \$27.96

A comprehensive guide to all the birds of North America; many consider this guide the "bird bible." Published in 2000, it's compiled in the old taxonomy, but would still be a great reference book for your home.

Order online, by phone, e-mail, or mail

Online. michiganaudubonstore.com (Discount code: MEMBER13)

By phone. 517-641-4277

By e-mail. Wendy@michiganaudubon.org

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 + \$4.25 postage and handling for the first item + \$.85 for each additional item.

Payment accepted: Visa or MasterCard