

Jack Pine *Warbler*

SPRING: Kirtland's Warblers Remain Conservation Reliant ▪ Aerial Insectivores in Michigan
WPBO Needs Your Help ▪ World Migratory Bird Day ▪ Baker Sanctuary to Add Native Garden
Michigan Birds and Natural History ▪ 2020 Board Elections ▪ Michigan Audubon Photography Contest



Jack Pine Warbler

CONTACT US

By mail:

2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200
Okemos, MI 48864

By visiting:

2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200
Okemos, MI 48864

By Phone:

517-580-7364
Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-5 PM

STAFF

Heather Good

Executive Director
hgood@michiganaudubon.org

Lindsay Cain

Education Coordinator
lcain@michiganaudubon.org

Linnea Rowse

Conservation Program Coordinator
lrowse@michiganaudubon.org

Liz Throckmorton

Operations Manager
ethrockmorton@michiganaudubon.org

Molly Keenan

Communications & Marketing Coordinator
mkeenam@michiganaudubon.org

Sarah Pooler

Development Manager
spooler@michiganaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Brasie (chair), Diane Dupuis
(vice chair), Natasha Koss (secretary),
Derrick Kooistra (treasurer), Rich Bailhe,
Mike Bishop, Rosann Kovalcik, Roger
Rittenhouse

COPY EDITOR & PRODUCTION

Molly Keenan

Communications & Marketing Coordinator
mkeenam@michiganaudubon.org

ADVERTISING

Guidelines available on request.

PRINTING

Jack Pine Warbler (ISSN 0021-3845)
is published four times per year and
is received by all Michigan Audubon
members. It is printed by:

RiverRun Press
600 Shoppers Lane
Parchment, MI 49004
www.riverrunpress.com



Printed on recycled
paper made from 100%
post-consumer waste.

Member of
EarthShare
Michigan



Cover Photo ■ Barn Swallow
Photographer: Richard Bagdasarian

Dr. Richard Bagdasarian is a dentist from Wixom, Mich., who spends time as an amateur nature photographer, a great hobby that gets him outdoors enjoying nature. Richard likes to frequent places like Kensington Metropark, Robert Long Park, Lyon Oaks, and Proud Lake to capture images of birds that live in Michigan (or migrate through our great state). His Barn Swallow photo was taken handheld with a Nikon D500 and a 70-200 F2.8 Nikon lens with a shutter speed of 1/2500 sec.

Thank you to Richard Bagdasarian for submitting this wonderful image for the 2019 *Jack Pine Warbler* cover photo contest. If you have photographs you would like considered for inclusion in future issues of the *Jack Pine Warbler*, please contact Communications & Marketing Coordinator Molly Keenan at mkeenam@michiganaudubon.org or (517) 580-7364.

Contents

Features

2-3

Kirtland's Warblers Remain
Conservation Reliant

4-5

Aerial Insectivores in
Michigan

Columns

6

WPBO Needs Your Help

7

World Migratory Bird Day

8-9

Baker Sanctuary to Add
Native Garden & Species
Highlights

11

Michigan Audubon
Photography Contest

Departments

1

From the Executive Director

10

Michigan Birds and Natural
History

11

2020 Board Elections

12-13

Thank You Donors

14

Welcome New Members



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 4,000 acres of land within 18 sanctuaries as habitat for birds and other wildlife. More than 30 chapters of Michigan Audubon focus on local conservation issues and provide educational programs within their communities. Contributions to Michigan Audubon are tax-deductible.

Visit MichiganAudubon.org for more updates, and follow Michigan Audubon on social media.



From the Executive Director

Dear friends,

These uncertain times in response to COVID-19 have been disorienting and confusing, with some comfort perhaps in acknowledging just how not-alone any of us are in this process. This uncertainty has urged us to look harder for silver linings. We've been presented with the opportunity to pause our way of life, to test our adaptability and our flexibility. We've been challenged to model the impressive, time-tested adaptability of bird species like the American Crow, the Peregrine Falcon, and the Common Loon. We would be hard-pressed to find a species that hasn't, in some way, adapted to human overpopulation, disturbance, and habitat loss over time.

This time of global caution and high seclusion has encouraged us to connect in creative ways with our large, innovative brains and to humbly lean on nature for what it offers us — a connection with birds. The symbiotic relationship between birds and people, when approached with coexistence and conservation in mind, can offer us a lot more than we bargained for. My hope for you and yours is that you've found ways to include birds in this state of the temporary new-normal. I find myself appreciating the trio of chickadees at my feeder just a little bit longer, smiling at the Turkey Vultures gathering above the field, and feeling the simple gratitude for the access I have to birds and nature.

Another consistent, positive message has been to spend more time in nature. Many groups and organizations, from small, local conservation NGOs to the CDC and World Health Organization, have placed repeated emphasis on the importance of getting outside and into nature as much as possible. Even if this is encouraged largely for physical exercise and health benefits, we are bound to get much more from what's around us outside, especially as we welcome the bright, balmy season of spring. The birds offer comfort, inspiration, connection to the natural world and to one another. Promoting this connection with and through birds is our organization's underlying mission. Our team has been working remotely to offer as many opportunities for education and conservation activities you and your family can do at home to keep yourself connected, learning, and celebrating birds.

For many people who are informed and invested in bird conservation, our awareness of spring migration and our dedication to birds overall has not changed. Most people I connect with throughout the organization consider caring about birds a part of their lifestyle — whether they travel for bird-inspired reasons, feed birds regularly, give to bird conservation organizations, monitor nest boxes throughout the season, or simply value birds for their ecological role and importance. I trust this continues to be the case, and I invite you to share your stories with me of how you remain connected to birds at hgood@michiganaudubon.org.

Thankfully, we were able to situate our core spring migration monitoring staff at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory before the shelter-in-place order took effect. We are happy to report to you, our supporters and community, that the waterbird and hawk counts, as well as owl banding, will take place this spring. Because of the cancelation of Spring Fling and travel restrictions, you may not be able to visit WPBO during the

spring migration season.

If you visit wpbo.org, you can see live updates of sighting records through our Dunkadoo app. We hope that sharing this data in a user-friendly and immediate way, as well as keeping our blog posts regular and accompanied by photos, will keep you informed and connected during migration. If you have an affinity for our WPBO site and program, consider making a donation to keep this program functioning year-round. We rely on our donors' and members' support to sustain the work that we feel is essential to supporting migratory birds.

Lastly, I wanted to share that we are circulating this issue of the *Jack Pine Warbler* electronically, which is an adaptation we've made in response to public health concerns. We are distributing this magazine widely, inviting more people to connect, read our content, and be a part of our work and community. Please share your PDF of this issue freely!



Heather L. Good, Executive Director

In response to Gov. Whitmer's executive order this past March, and in an effort to support COVID-19 prevention measures statewide, the 2020 Spring Fling event at WPBO was, unfortunately, canceled.

Spring itself, however, has not been canceled, nor has the migration of birds. Michigan Audubon was able to secure field staff for the spring before the executive order enforcement to ensure the hawk and waterbird counts — as well as the owl banding program — continue without compromising the safety of our field staff.

Consistency of this work and collection of data is pivotal for continued research contributions from observations made and data collected from WPBO.

Spring Fling is among our most beloved events, and we are so sorry that cancelation was required this year. At this time, we encourage you to stay connected with and support WPBO in the following ways:

- Give. See page 6 for more information on how your financial support can help the programs of WPBO to continue.
- Stay tuned to wpbo.org/blogs to follow current happenings at the Point.
- Share with us your photos of WPBO and Spring Flings past. Email photographs for our archives to birds@michiganaudubon.org.

Kirtland's Warblers Remain Conservation Reliant

BY WILLIAM RAPAI

In a matter of days, Kirtland's Warblers will be returning to their summer breeding grounds in northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario.

This year will be like every other year since the Kirtland's Warblers decided the jack pine forests met their nesting needs thousands of years ago: The males will arrive, establish a territory, and start singing. Soon the females will come, and the birds will pair up. They'll build their nests on the ground underneath the overlapping branches of young jack pine trees, breed, and raise their young before returning to The Bahamas for the winter.

But for us humans, something will have changed. It's only a symbolic change, but it's an important one: This will be the first full year that the Kirtland's Warbler has been off the Endangered Species Act list since it was placed on the inaugural list in 1967 along with the Grizzly Bear, Bald Eagle, and Gray Wolf (formerly the Timber Wolf), among others.

The Grizzly Bear, Bald Eagle, and Gray Wolf were removed from the Endangered Species Act list years ago, and now we can proudly add the Kirtland's Warbler to the list of species that are considered recovered. But there's one significant difference between the Kirtland's Warbler and those other species: The warbler is the first and only conservation-reliant species to be removed from the Endangered Species Act list.

"Conservation reliant" is a relatively new phrase in the world of conservation. It was coined by J. Michael Scott, a biology professor at the University of Idaho and the author or co-author of several books, including the recently published "Shepherding Nature: The Challenge of Conservation Reliance". Scott first used the term formally in an article describing a new model for endangered species recovery published in 2005 in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.

The Kirtland's Warbler may be the perfect example of Scott's concept. The recovery of the Kirtland's Warbler depended on human intervention — government agencies and stakeholders organizing and conducting on-the-ground conservation efforts to create nesting habitat through a regular cycle of tree harvesting and replanting. And now, to prevent the warbler from crashing right back on to the Endangered Species Act list, humans will need to continue to perform

conservation work for as far as we can see into the future.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have all signed documents committing those agencies to perform ongoing conservation work on behalf of the Kirtland's Warbler. As before, the MDNR and the Forest Service will identify tracts of mature trees for harvest, and then put those tracts out for bid. Timber companies buy the trees from the two agencies and then sell the harvested wood to processors who make the timber into lumber, pressboard, mulch, pellets to be burned for heat, and pulp for paper. Unfortunately, the jack pine is not a high-value tree, and receipts from timber sales are less than what it takes to replant the forest after harvest.

Historically, breeding habitat was created by fires that would regularly sweep across the landscape. The northern Michigan outwash plains ecosystem is fire-dependent, and everything in it is built to burn. Even the jack pines are adapted to fire; their seeds are sealed inside cones that open from the intense heat of a wildfire.

But as more humans moved into the northern woods in the early 20th century, we began to squelch wildfires, extinguishing them before they could create large areas of young jack pine the Kirtland's Warbler wants for breeding habitat. Extinguishing wildfires was great for protecting human lives and property, but it also allowed jack pine forests to mature to an age where they were no longer useful to Kirtland's Warblers. The warbler's population recovered only after humans began to harvest and replant large forest tracts.

And this is where professor Scott's vision comes in.

Scott argues that the number of endangered species requiring specific continuing management actions is going to increase because of the continuing loss of habitat, increasing impacts of invasive species, and human behaviors that prevent ecosystems from functioning naturally — particularly those that are fire-dependent.

The goal, Scott argues, is to develop "recovery management agreements" that ensure continuing management following delisting. These agreements are

written to facilitate shared management responsibilities between federal and state wildlife agencies, local and tribal governments, and other stakeholders that have the capacity to perform the required conservation work. Scott's vision is now being pursued by the Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team.

Michigan Audubon and its members deserve to take a bit of a victory lap for their efforts in helping prevent the extinction of the Kirtland's Warbler. Michigan Audubon was in the room when the Kirtland's Warbler Advisory Committee was formed in November 1971 and was instrumental in creating the plans that made Kirtland's Warbler recovery a model for endangered species nationwide. Five years later, those plans were incorporated into an Endangered Species Act recovery plan that led directly to the warbler's delisting last year. Today, Michigan Audubon is at the table at each meeting of the Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team.

Despite years of teamwork and collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals, there's one impediment to Kirtland's Warbler conservation that should not surprise anyone. That is, of course, finding the money to pay for the continuing conservation work. The Endangered Species Act mandates post-delisting funding that pays for some conservation and monitoring efforts. Knowing

that federal money will be cut off soon, the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance is working with the American Bird Conservancy and other partners to build an endowment that will continue to fund conservation work and research.

And now that the warbler's population is at a level that is considered secure, agencies are starting to experiment with new techniques that will hopefully maintain success but improve efficiency and cut costs. Those experiments will include planting more red pine and extending harvest time. The goal of those two efforts is to increase the value of the timber harvests, which is intended to close the gap between income from timber sales and the cost of replanting. Unfortunately, it may be 60 years before we know if the effort is successful.

Between now and then, however, our on-the-ground conservation work will continue — harvesting and replanting trees year after year — and the Kirtland's Warblers should keep coming back.



William Rapai is interim executive director of the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance. More information is available at kirtlandswarbler.org. Please "like" the organization at facebook.com/Kirtlandswarbleralliance.



Aerial Insectivores in Michigan

BY HEATHER GOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aerial insectivores refers to a guild of swiftly skilled, acrobatic birds that capture insects on the wing, and include whip-poor-wills, nighthawks, swifts, swallows, martins, and flycatchers. Through their predation on flying insects, swallows and swifts can help to control populations of pest insects, such as mosquitoes and agricultural pests (Garrison 1999). We know that swallow colonies, in particular, have either been shrinking or disappearing in our state — not a very different story from the other native aerial insectivores. Bank Swallows, for example, are listed by Partners in Flight to be one of the Common Birds in Steep Decline. Their North American numbers have crashed by an estimated 89% since 1970.

The plight of aerial insectivores is increasingly gaining attention. While biologists remain somewhat unsure about exactly why these species are declining at such a rate, we do know the heavy-hitting explanations for declines include pesticide use on both breeding and wintering grounds, habitat loss, and the negative impacts of global climate change. These birds also face changes in the availability of nest sites, which puts additional stress on their ability to reproduce. Perhaps the biggest, most obvious correlation between startling declines and range contractions for this guild of birds is the prevalence of pesticide use. There remains, however, a pressing need for applied research to fully understand just why this avian group's decline has been so sudden and sharp.

At this point, there hasn't been enough research conducted related to the state of the wintering grounds of individual species of aerial insectivores. Each species may experience more dramatic habitat loss and myriad other potential threats beyond their breeding grounds. "We just don't have a lot of that information about what they actually experience when they migrate," said Pamela Hunt, senior biologist for New Hampshire Audubon. Hunt helped to pilot the Swallow Colony Registry for New Hampshire; a project called Swallow CORE. This project is designed to obtain accurate data related to each species' abundance and distribution in the state.

Michigan Audubon's species-specific bird conservation program has, since 2016, focused chiefly on two aerial insectivore species experiencing the greatest decline in our state: Chimney Swifts and Purple Martins. In digging deeper into larger regional and continental contexts around individual species of this group, I began thinking more about what additional aerial insectivore species need special consideration for conservation in the state of Michigan. Of all swallow species in Michigan, Barn Swallow numbers appear to be decreasing the most. The Barn Swallow has seen a 95% drop in numbers across North America in the last 40 years. While they are, overall, a species of "least concern" in terms of their conservation status, local populations in Michigan are facing sharp, steep declines.

Given Michigan's agricultural history and the notable decline of this species, the Barn Swallow is the newest addition to our aerial insectivore species-specific program.



What You Can Do

Avoid using pesticides and buy organic. “If folks in urban areas cut neonicotinoids (a type of pesticide) out of their plant treatments, that goes a long way” (Newberry 2019).

Help create, maintain, and/or protect habitat. Even if you do not live in an area where you can install, say, a Purple Martin house, or have the ability to monitor a colony species, honoring the basic practices of supporting biodiversity goes a long way for everything within the system — including our delightful, necessary aerial insectivores.

Support biodiversity where you are now. Mow your lawn less frequently or consider converting as much of it to native plants as possible. There are reliable, easy-to-use native plant resources at michiganaudubon.org. Keep those brush piles around, which can support small reptiles with unique habitat needs, such as garter snakes that also feed on insects in your yard.

Help keep the feral cat population as small as possible. Work with your local shelters and humane societies and support them in finding solutions better than TNR programs, which don’t keep cats from disturbing and destroying native wildlife and habitat.

Keep your cat indoors. Cats feed on recently fledged nighthawks and swallows that tend to be on the ground begging for food from their parents. Sadly, domesticated cats remain the number one direct, human-related threat to birds in North America, killing approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone.

Minimize the use of outdoor lights. Light pollution is a huge problem for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Report colony nest sites to Michigan Audubon by emailing birds@michiganaudubon.org.

Be a citizen scientist. You can help scientists study and understand the plight of the aerial insectivores by monitoring their nests for NestWatch, a program of Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

“Be nice to them,” says Pamela Hunt. “They won’t do any harm; in fact, we need them, we need people to care about them, and to let them adapt where they can.”

Understanding the status and implementing conservation efforts on behalf of these colonial birds is central to Michigan Audubon’s mission and work. “There are coordinated efforts of agencies, programs,

and biologists trying to understand — and hopefully stop — these swift declines, but we have a long way to go,” Hunt stated. We are responding to the plight of insects and aerial insectivores together, with insights from the scientific community, proactive advocacy, citizen science contributions, the support of our members, and in applying the programmatic work of our three pillars: conservation, education, and research.

We hope you will join and support us in our concerted, collective effort to combat the plight of aerial insectivores. We know you’re paying attention — you’re noticing fewer birds, fewer Barn Swallows, fewer bats, fewer swifts, etc. It is our responsibility to do what we can to mitigate ecological concerns like this in every way we can access in our minds and lives.

Michigan Audubon continues to provide expertise and resources for those seeking advice about how best to support aerial insectivores in Michigan, including informational pages on our website, michiganaudubon.org.

Since 2016, Michigan Audubon’s aerial insectivore conservation program, with the assistance of our statewide conservation volunteer corps, has accomplished the following:

- Monitoring of 48 Chimney Swift roost sites.
- Installation of five additional Chimney Swift towers (to encourage nesting and roosting).
- Mapping of 100 current and historic Purple Martin colony locations.
- Installation, monitoring, and maintenance of 10 Purple Martin colonies.
- Monitoring of nest box trails at Michigan Audubon bird sanctuaries.
- Outreach/education presentations offered to numerous local Michigan Audubon chapter meetings and community group meetings (i.e., birding clubs, nature centers, libraries, churches, schools, etc.).

References

Garrison, B. 1999. Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), version 2.0. Pages 1–20 in A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, editors. Birds of North America. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.

Newberry, G. 2019. Supporting aerial insectivores. A feathered reptile, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Available: <https://gretchennewberry.wordpress.com/2019/01/01/supporting-aerial-insectivores/>.



Heather was a member of Michigan Audubon’s Board of Directors, studied at the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment, and volunteered with birds of prey at the Leslie Science and Nature Center as an independent rehabilitator of raptors before beginning her tenure as executive director in 2016.

WPBO Needs Your Help

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (WPBO) was established in 1979 to document and study migratory bird populations and their habitats in the Great Lakes region. WPBO is a program of Michigan Audubon as well as a globally-recognized Important Bird Area. The Point provides valuable, concentrated habitat for migrating birds in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which means not only excellent birdwatching but also invaluable opportunities for Michigan Audubon to conduct valuable research, education, and conservation programs.

Given the complications related to COVID-19, the WPBO program critically needs donor support. The WPBO program is 100% donor-funded, and your donation will go directly to sustaining this critical, multi-faceted program and the vital work conducted at this North American migration hotspot.

Results from our research, outreach, and conservation efforts directly benefit birds using Whitefish Point, but the impact of your support extends far beyond our state of Michigan.

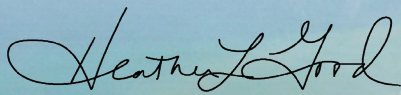
With your contribution, we will:

- gather critical data to inform habitat and species management decisions;
- collaborate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore critical jack pine forest and wooded dune and swale habitats;
- protect and maintain Piping Plover habitat and monitor nesting sites;
- find creative, impactful ways to “bring” the Point to people through live sighting updates, as well as outreach and education that is accessible via the internet, given the governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order in place to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Your support will help us continue monitoring waterbirds and hawks, as well as continue our owl banding program without interruption throughout this crisis and the year ahead.

From all of us at Michigan Audubon, and on behalf of the birds these funds directly support, **thank you for your contribution at this critical time.**

Sincerely,



Heather Good
Executive Director



Long-eared Owls, such as this one, are banded each season along with Northern Saw-whet Owls, Boreal Owls, and more at WPBO. This research is critical to understanding migration patterns among these raptors.



World Migratory Bird Day

BY LINDSAY CAIN, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) began in 1993 as an educational campaign created by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Since then, Environment for the Americas (the IMBD host organization) has joined forces with two other international organizations to create World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), which brings attention to and celebrates bird migration. It is officially celebrated the second Saturday in May in the United States and Canada. Each year this bird day celebrates and highlights a different bird conservation issue.

This year's slogan is Birds Connect Our World. This campaign will focus on tracking technologies used by researchers to learn about migratory routes and flight patterns, and will additionally highlight the hazards faced by birds while on their journey. These yearly topics concentrate the campaign on different migration issues while also helping to implement conservation actions that will aid migratory birds along their way.

The method of banding and tracking birds significantly increases the amount of information we have available about migratory patterns and pathways. It also gives us insight into differences in migratory journeys among species. Tracking technology can also help us to learn more about winter grounds for our breeding birds.

Even with as much conservation work as we can do in Michigan and the United States for birds, we need to acknowledge that it needs to be done in their migratory destinations as well. Because birds migrate, our birds also belong to folks in different parts of the world. We're lucky in that we get a lot of birds during the breeding season. This means bright, vibrant plumage and beautiful songs. However, conservation of their wintering grounds is equally important to keeping our bird populations where they need to be.

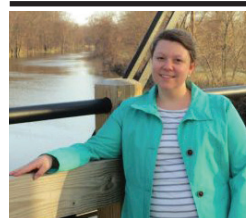
Not only do we need to be concerned with winter grounds, but also the stops along their migratory journey. Migration hazards are abundant, and tracking our birds can help us better understand the trials and tribulations birds face throughout their migration in both spring and fall. Inclement weather, diminishing stopover sites, and predators — combined with the sheer amount of energy migration takes — are all enormous problems for birds. Additional hazards include power lines, wind turbines, windows/buildings, and cats.

Although there are things that we can all individually do to help with some of these migration hazards, tracking migration can help us to make more informed decisions as a community and society to protect the birds.

Tracking technology tools, such as transmitters, have expanded our knowledge base beyond that of simple bird banding. With bands, we can track where birds have been based on when they're captured. More technology-based tracking systems, such as geolocators, can inform us about the routes and ranges of individual species.

In light of the current situation with COVID-19, a variety of WMBD activities are shifting to online events and resources. With schools closed and parents scrambling to fill the void, many of these activities can be an excellent option for learning about birds and experiencing nature while adhering to current restrictions. Although we are practicing social distancing, we can still get out and experience nature and birds. Now is a great time to learn more about birds and bird identification. Birds can help bring us together.

The more we know, the better we can take care of our birds because birds do connect us all. To learn more about this year's World Migratory Bird Day focus and to find local events, visit migratorybirdday.org. Also, check our website, michiganaudubon.org, for educational resources and blog posts that relate to this and previous years' topics.



Lindsay Cain is Michigan Audubon's education coordinator. If you are interested in learning more about our events, workshops, presentations, or event sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lindsay at 517.580.7364 or lcain@michiganaudubon.org.

WMBD Highlight Species: Purple Martins

Purple Martins are one of the focal species of the World Migratory Bird Day 2020. These colony nesters are long-distance migrants. Data suggests that they are leisurely migrants that fly only during the day and forage as they go. Purple Martins are known to form huge roosts in late summer as they start their migratory journey. Purple Martins are also one of the focal species of Michigan Audubon's Mi Bird-Friendly Communities program. Find out more about this species at michiganaudubon.org.



Baker Sanctuary to Add Native Garden

BY LINNEA ROWSE, CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

If you have visited Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary in the past year, you may have noticed some changes occurring. Due to structural damage to the house that used to sit across from the Meadows and Marshland Trail on 15 Mile Road, the house had to come down. Fortunately, this is an excellent opportunity for Michigan Audubon to install an interactive native garden in its place! The garden will feature:

- native plants, including wildflowers, grasses, and sedges;
- educational signage describing plant species, the garden design, and benefits to birds and pollinators;
- accessible pathways so that everyone can explore the garden with ease;
- benches, which will be installed with memorial plaques commemorating donors' loved ones.

Habitat restoration activities continue to occur at Baker Sanctuary as well. This fall and winter, we continued our invasive species removal efforts, focusing on autumn olive in the Meadows and Marshland Trail fields. In early January, we seeded a pollinator-friendly native plant mix over 20 acres of grassland to enhance the plant communities with additional wildflower diversity. Restoration is an ongoing process — to which Michigan Audubon is committed — for the health and function of natural habitats at our bird sanctuaries.

We are excited about the changes this coming year at Baker Sanctuary and we hope you will consider taking part in a workday to help us bring these projects to fruition! To receive more information about volunteer opportunities with Michigan Audubon, visit michiganaudubon.org/get-involved/volunteer.



Once the site of a farmhouse, the newly opened space at the Baker property will be utilized for a native garden with educational signage and benches.



Linnea Rowse is Michigan Audubon's conservation program coordinator. An avid birder who grew up in Minnesota, Linnea enjoys being a part of the conservation community in Michigan. You can contact her at lrowse@michiganaudubon.org.

Baker Sanctuary Species Highlights

As spring approaches, migratory birds are beginning to return north for their breeding season. Many of us are concerned about the decline of bird populations, with 1 in 4 birds gone since the 1970s — a total of 2.9 billion birds lost. This massive decline in bird populations truly highlights the importance of landscapes that can support birds, with appropriate habitat, food resources (think insects and native plants), clean water, and the space they need. Some types of birds are worse off than others, such as aerial insectivores, with a 32% population loss since 1970. Aerial insectivores include species such as Barn Swallows, Chimney Swifts, Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, and more. We can support these birds by growing native plants, which in turn will produce vital insect populations to feed those aerial insectivores and their hungry babies during nesting season!

Keep an eye out for these species at Baker Sanctuary this spring:

Trumpeter Swan
Hooded Merganser
Wood Duck
American Woodcock
Bald Eagle
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Bluebird
American Kestrel
Field Sparrow
Eastern Towhee

In mid to late April and May, watch for a diversity of flycatchers, swallows, warblers, thrushes, tanagers, grosbeaks, vireos, wrens, and many more species!

Michigan Birds and Natural History

Established in 1994, *Michigan Birds and Natural History* has been Michigan Audubon's peer-reviewed journal dedicated to ornithology and the natural history of Michigan.

This publication has been home to many long-running citizen science projects and surveys such as the Michigan Bird Survey, the Michigan Christmas Bird Count, the Michigan Butterfly Survey, the North American Migration Count, and the annual Sandhill Crane census. The journal also includes the actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee.

While the publication has been revered by many, keeping it a sustainable endeavor in recent years has become exceedingly challenging. Historically a volunteer effort, this project has suffered as core volunteers have moved on, and the next generation of birders engage tools like eBird to record their sightings. In addition to the loss of volunteerism to support the journal, subscriptions have been decreasing significantly over time. Paired with feedback from our research advisors and board of directors, these myriad factors have led us to make the difficult decision to formally retire the publication. Michigan Audubon continues expanding and growing in terms of statewide efforts related to our pillars: conservation, education, and research. We work with a number of partners, including the Kalamazoo Nature Center, in support of Michigan's Breeding Bird Atlas.

Like the Breeding Bird Atlas, there are many valuable online citizen science tools available today. We are confident that valuable information and sightings and the interconnectedness of birders will continue to foster relationships as people share information on listservs, apps, websites, and the like. Michigan Audubon will continue to foster and advance avian monitoring and research publications within Michigan and share information through our quarterly member magazine, the *Jack Pine Warbler*, which was the initial home of the journal, as well as our website, and social media presence. Our member magazine remains a home for potential abstracts, stories, articles, and photographs. We encourage you to send submissions to birds@michiganaudubon.org for potential inclusion in our member magazine.

In our earnest attempt to keep this publication alive as long as possible, we have many people to thank and remember for their contributions. **On behalf of the organization and its board of directors, we give a sincere and heartfelt thank you to those long-standing, hard-working volunteers who have contributed independently and collectively to help us sustain this journal over the years.** It has been a tremendous gift of time, energy, and talents, and for that, the organization is indebted. Thank you, also, to those of you who have been subscribers and supporters of the journal!

The organization plans to archive past JPW and MBNH issues into SORA, the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive. Stay tuned to Michigan Audubon's communications, and please continue sharing your sighting stories, abstracts, and photos with us to be considered for publication.

MICHIGAN BIRDS and Natural History

October - December 2018

Volume 25 Number 4



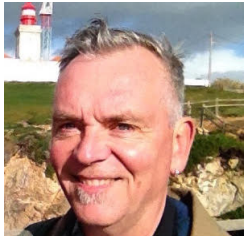
A publication of Michigan Audubon
ISSN 2165-8358

2020 Board Elections

The election for the Michigan Audubon Board of Directors is now open and will be taking place electronically. To vote, you must be a current Michigan Audubon member and you must cast your ballot by April 30, 2020.

To vote in this year's selection, please visit michiganaudubon.org/about-us/board-of-directors/ to access the online ballot. If you are unable to vote online, please contact Communications & Marketing Coordinator Molly Keenan at mkeenan@michiganaudubon.org or (517) 580-7364.

Candidates for Michigan Audubon Board of Directors



Sam Burckhardt was born in Switzerland in 1957 and studied cultural anthropology at the University of Zurich. From an early age, he had a keen interest in birds and nature. In 1982, Sam came to Chicago where he served on the board of the Chicago Ornithological Society for several years and led many field trips for various organizations. In 2011, he purchased a property in East Tawas where he befriended local birders and became a member of the AuSable Valley Audubon. As such, he has led field trips for AVA, the Tawas Point Birding Festival, and the Midwest Birding Symposium. He takes a particular interest in the Kirtland's Warbler, and became a member of the Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team. In 2018 and 2019 he participated in Nathan Cooper's study on Brown-headed Cowbird parasitization of Kirtland's Warbler nests.



Heidi Grether retired in 2018 and is enjoying her passion for birding after a successful career in both the public and private sectors where she held leadership positions in crisis response and environmental regulation. She has served on numerous boards and committees and is currently a member of the Environmental Law and Policy Center's Michigan Advisory Council. A mid-Michigan native, her interest in birds was fostered during childhood by her parents. As a lifelong birder, she had hoped to celebrate her 40th year birding the Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, this spring. Heidi lives in Williamston and in her spare time, she enjoys being outside, traveling, cooking, and working in her gardens while watching the antics of the nesting Green Herons.

Full bios for the candidates can be found at michiganaudubon.org.

Michigan Audubon Photography Awards

Formerly known as the *Jack Pine Warbler* Cover Photo Contest, the Michigan Audubon Photography Awards is a revamped photography extravaganza featuring new categories and increased ways for your photographs to help raise awareness about birds and the habitats they depend on in the state of Michigan.

In addition to the JPW Cover Photo category, we have established a new Youth category so that our budding photographers of the natural world from ages 13 through 17 can compete amongst their peers. We have also added a Volunteering for Birds category to showcase how people can take action for birds in their communities and backyards throughout Michigan.

Over the years, the *Jack Pine Warbler*, Michigan Audubon's quarterly membership magazine, has featured the work of a host of amazing photographers from across the Great Lakes and abroad.

You must enter your submission in our 2020 Michigan Audubon Photography Awards by June 1, 2020. For more information and to learn how to submit photos, please visit michiganaudubon.org/2020-photo-contest.



Joe Povenz's photo of Tree Swallows "chatting" graced the cover of the *Jack Pine Warbler* after he submitted it to the 2017 photo contest.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

We are so thankful for the generosity shown by so many of you with your recent end-of-year giving. Donations brought in since December of 2019* have bolstered what Michigan Audubon can do for birds and their habitat throughout the state of Michigan. Thank you to those who gave to the 2020 Annual Fund, contributed to WPBO, supported growth at our sanctuaries, and more. We certainly would not be able to continue our work without the altruistic spirits of people like you.

Carolyn Allen
Donald Angell
Ann & Tom Johnston
Charitable Fund
Robert & Catherine Anthony
Alice E. Archambeau
Walter & Mary Arnold
Diane Arnold
Regula & David Arnosti
Katherine Asuncion
Don W. Atkins
Nancy Auer & Family
Sean Bachman
Gerald Badura
Linda & Tom Baes
Dorothy & Leroy Barnett
H. Thomas Bartlett
John E. Baumgartner
Kathleen & David Beck
Pat Beechem
Lisa Benic
Sandra Bergstrom
Terri Bernsohn
Deborah Betz
William & Kim Birck
Susan Birdsall
Elizabeth S. Bishop
Amy Bolmer
Helen Bonzelaar
Robert A. Borak
John Bornhofen
Cynthia Boschman
Les Bowen
Cynthia Boyer
Beverly Braden
Cathy Bramer
Patricia Brandon
Anne Brasie
Clara A. Bratton
Karen Brown
Robert Bruggema
Patsy Buerkel
Bill Burdett
Don Burton
Elizabeth Calcutt
Mary Jo Canaday
Caroline Cangelosi
Ruth Cannon
Capital Area Audubon Society
Thomas & Marilou Capo
Ney G. Carey
Penny Carpenter
Susan Carpenter
Anne & John Cauley

Jan Cerro
Frank & Janice Chamberlain
Debrah Chamberlain
Edwin Charlton
Carolyn Chekaway
Emmy Lou Cholak
Robert Christensen
Christie Cierlak
Martha Clapsaddle
Douglas Clary
Loren & Mary Clifford
Mary Montgomery Clifford
Sue Closner
Jodi Coalter
Edith Cole
William Collins
Sarah Conner & David Park
William P. Cooke
Judith Cory
Linda Cox
Tom Crosby
Dorothy Cunningham
Timothy Cygeirt
Nancy Daly
Alan Damiano
Jonathan Damon
William & Kathleen Davis
Susan Davis
Rowena Demio
Betty L. Desbiens
Pamela Dewey
Lynda DeWitt
Elaine Dierwa Fischhoff
Jill Dimet
Toby Dolinka
Micheline Domers
Sharon Dorrity
Roberta L. Dow
Philip & Loleta Downs
Julanne Drake
Mary Druke
Jeane Dugan
Duane Dunlap
Marvin & Peggy Dunn
Janice Dyer
John & Katie Dykstra
Marvin Ebbens
Diana K. Ebinger
Mary Edgar
Deborah Edwards-Onoro
Jane Elferdink
Charles Ellinwood
Dan Elliott
Mary & Don Eppelheimer

Bonny & Ken Eppelheimer
Roger & Dagmar Eriksson
Mary Eriksson
Dennis Every
Rhonda & James Fackert
Valerie Fargo
Russell Farrell
Dominick Fenech
Elaine Ferguson
Frank Fishman
John Fleming
Missy & David Foran
Ginger Forsell
Carolyn Fortier
Brenda Foster
Mary Foster
Becky Fox
Dan Fox
Meda E. Francisco
Terri & Matthew Franzen
Christine Frary
Michael Frazier
Carl & Virginia Freeman
Pamela J. French
Daniel J. Furlong
Gabriel's Trumpet Foundation
Dana Garnaat
Sally Garrod
Judy Gaspar
Suzy Gavin
Judith Geary
Jack & Martha Gesmundo
Carol Giancola
Dorald L. Giddings
Catherine Giebel
Larry Giebelhaus
Regina Gigowski
Sherry Gilbert
Dave & Bettyann Gillette
Linda Going
Loretta Gold
Steven Gondol
Jennifer Gould
Jean Gramlich
Grand Traverse Audubon Club
Nancy & Jud Grassmid
Thomas D Gregory
John & Carol Grossa
Barbara Guarnaccia
Anthony Guarnieri
Debbie Habenicht
Elisabeth Hagerman
Thomas M. Haley
Carolyn Haley

Karen & Steve Hamlin
Richard Hansen
Elizabeth Hansen
Dan Hardie
Meg Harding & Stan Halpin
Jeanne Hardt
Dr. & Mrs. George P Harris
John Harville
Douglas & Catherine Hattrem
H.B. Hawk
Daniel Hayes
Paige Heincer
Dykstra & Phyllis Heinze
Larry & Mary Hennessey
Don & Mary Anne Hershberger
Barry Hill
Jere Hinkle
Laverne & Darlene Hoag
Ronald & Joan Hoffman
Elizabeth Hoffmann
Doug & Marie Holem
Susan Hollar
Margaret Holtschlag
Priscilla Homola
Barbara & Frederick Honhart
Sarah & David Hopkins
Charlotte Hosking
Philip R. Houser
William Houston
Eileen Houston
Amede O Hungerford
Betty & Arnold Huntress
Julie A. Hupp
Irish Boat Shop
Cynthia Isenhoff & Ken Cramer
Jackson Audubon Society
Ken Jacobsen
Bernie Jager
Richard Jager
Bonnie Jahn
Carol Janssen
Laura Jaquish
Mark & Cheryl Jenness
Nancy Jensen
Barbara Jensen
Mary Jewell
Roger Jirikovic
John L. Lesneski DDS PLC
Lynn Jones
Lawrence Jones
Margo Jonker
Mark Jordan
David H. Justin
Gay R. Kaashoek

Robert Kabbe
 Paula Kaberline
 Emma Kabzinski
 Elaine Kampmueller
 David Kane
 Steven T. Karpia
 Katherine L. Nohr & John P.
 Eisenhardt Family Foundation
 Alan Katz
 Richard & Brenda Keith
 John & Joanna Kernstock
 Daniel & Betty Kesselring
 Karen Klomparens
 Bruce & Mary Ann Klosner
 Noah Klugman
 Gary Knowlton
 Alan Koivunen
 Gerald D. Kolak
 Jeffrey Kommit
 Kathleen Kortge
 Natasha & Matt Koss
 Rosann Kovalcik
 Kroger
 Nathan & Cynthia Krupp
 Gloria Krys & Andre Rosalik
 Randy Kursinsky
 Dale Kurtz
 Eugene Kwaske
 Lauri & Kevin LaBumbard
 Paula W. LaClaire
 Constance LaHousse
 Estelle J. Lamb
 Ellis & Nelva Lampart
 Jack Lapinski
 Eileen Larsen
 David E. Larson
 Sandra Last
 Glenn B. Latinen
 Ruth Carol Olsen Laugal
 Philippe Laurens
 Michael Layne
 Brian Layzell
 Richard & Kristi Learman
 Jim Leitch
 Donald Levell
 Ping & Tim Liang
 Catherine Lobbestael
 Judith & Wayne Loescher
 Fran S. Lowe
 Kenneth Ludvigsen
 Lawrence & Carol Ludwicki
 Michael J. Lutz
 Ann K. Maddox
 Marcia Maher
 Maria Maki
 Agneta Malmgren
 Paer Malmhagen
 Paul Maracle
 Lois Martin
 Patrick Marutiak
 Carla Masselink
 John P. Matus
 Stephanie Mayer
 David Mayers
 N.D. McAbee
 Karen McCarthy
 Jean & John McCarty
 James McCatty

Mary Grace McFarlane
 Larry McGahey
 Tim & Debbie McGilsky
 Christine & Brian McKim
 Kay McNeal
 Phyllis Meek
 Linda Melville
 Tracey Mersfelder & Bill
 Nichols
 Annette Messinger
 Mary Ann & Roger Meyer
 James Meyer
 Midland Area Community
 Foundation
 Susan Millar
 Judy Millar
 Robert & Shelagh Miller
 Debra Miller
 Cori Miller
 Stephanie & Art Mirrow
 Sharon & Daniel Moore
 Julia Moore
 Mike Moquin & Julia Spaulding
 David Mordis
 Jane Murray
 Linda Musolf
 David Mutchler
 Sharon Myers
 Jan & Felicia Nagalski
 Graydon Nance
 William C. Nash
 Tom Nehil & Gail Walter
 Irmgard E. Neils
 Marlene Nelson
 Diane Newman & Jesse Melcher
 Valdis Nodiev
 Tammy Noiro
 Larry & Sarah Nooden
 Betsy Noren
 Jonathon Norris
 Sandra Nye
 Thomas O'Connell
 Suzanne Ohmit
 Barbara Olson
 Kathleen Opperwall
 Daniel & Christine Osminski
 Bee Otis
 Steve Owsinski
 Carole Pappas
 Michael & Donna Parr
 Margaret Patulski
 Margaret Pestka
 Till & Bernice Peters
 Petoskey Regional Audubon
 Society
 Robert Pettit
 Donna Philiben
 Michael Philips
 Jim Pickens
 Connie Pilcher
 Kimberly Plant
 Marjorie Pochert
 Patricia Podoll
 Edwin H. Poole
 Dawn Pornthanomwong & Witt
 Thanom
 Jackie Pozniak
 Marsha Presser

Marybeth Pritschet
 Ann & Ira Purchis
 Phil Purdy
 Vedran Radojcic
 Rebecca & Joash Raj
 Ward Randol
 Judy Ann Rau
 Charlyss Ray
 Thomas Reichard
 Helen G. Reinhart
 Mark Remington
 Eileen D. Resch
 Janet Reynolds
 Pary Reza
 Elizabeth Richardson
 RiverRun Press
 Catherine Roberts
 Charles A. Robertson
 Brian Robins
 Jack R. Rogers
 Lindsay Ross
 Margaret Ross
 Jim & JoEllen Rudolph
 Nancy A. Russell
 Joanne & Leonard Sackett
 Frederick & Katherine Sawchuk
 Barbara Saxena
 Joyce Scafe
 A. Eileen Scamehorn
 Carol & Mel Scherpenisse
 Patty & John Schmidt
 Dorothy Schmidt
 Martie Schneiderman
 Barb Schroeder
 Michael & Jacqueline Schultz
 James Schwantes & Judith
 Reinhardt
 Joseph Sepienza
 Linda Settler
 Marsha Shade
 Eugene M. Shatz
 Leeann Shedleski-Holmden
 Kenneth D. Sherburn
 Sandra Shovan
 Leonard Siebert
 Nancy & Gary Siegrist
 Amber Sitko
 Jane & Bruce Smith
 Arthur & Susan Smith
 Daryl & Ella Smith
 Kay Smith
 Marcia Smoke
 Isabel N. Smulkstys
 Tanya Smythe
 Carol Snoek
 Jeff R. Soder
 Ken & Toni Spears
 Walter & Betty Stansbury
 Fred W. Stehr
 Tim Steinberg
 Margaret Steketee
 Carole Stevens
 Susan Stewart
 Nancy Stier
 Muriel E. Straight
 Marcia Stucki
 Carol Ann & John Stuht
 Carol Sundquist

Wayne Svoboda
 Joyce Swierbut & William
 Cunningham
 Emily Z. Tabuteau
 Craig & Judy Taggart
 Bing Tai
 Dianne Tansey
 David C. Tattan
 Lawrence D. Taylor
 Kate Teeter & Alec Lindsay
 Deborah Telles-Palladino
 Julia Teutsch
 Joel Thinnies
 Alan Thomas
 Kurt & Kerry Tiesman
 Don Tinson
 Anne Todd
 Steven Tomashefsky
 Mary & Don Trout
 Kelly & Matthew Trumble
 Linda Truskoski
 Robert & Sally Tubbs
 Ilene & Norm Tyler
 Lawrence & Cynthia Uhrie
 Stephanie Urban
 Carol J. Van Oeveren
 Edward Vanalst
 Patty Vance
 Mark & Marlene Vanderhill
 Kellie VanderMeer
 Michael Vanderwall
 Roberto Viguilla
 Stewart Vining
 R. L. Virgil
 Jolyn Vita
 Robin Wagner
 Stephen Wailes
 John J. Walhout
 Lindy Watson
 Joan & Will Weber
 Dorothy Weber
 Bill & Paula Weiner
 Robert Weise
 Dr. & Mrs. Jerrold Weiss
 Whistling Frog Tile
 Amanda & David Whitehouse
 Karen Wickerham
 Ruth Wierenga
 Paula Wiggins
 Kathleen Wight
 Marilyn K. Williams
 Nancy Wilson
 Kim Wilson
 Kim & Ross Winchell
 Jane Wirth
 Valery Wise
 Roger & Debra Wolf
 Wood Warbler Coffee
 L. Woods
 Susan E. Woods
 Patrick Wright
 Elizabeth York
 Anne Young
 Cathleen Zepelin
 Richard Ziesche



Dated Material

Connecting birds and people for the benefit of both through conservation, education, and research efforts in the state of Michigan.

We Welcome Our Newest Michigan Audubon Members

We would like to thank our newest members as well as our renewing members for your support of Michigan Audubon's efforts to protect birds and their habitat through conservation, education, and research.

Theresa Ando
Michelle Areeda
Dorothy & Leroy
Barnett
Jannet Beers
Martha Mae Blosser
Fred Burger
Judy Byrne
Sheri Carter Merritt
Sharon Dean
Randy Dougherty
Gladys Engelkemier
Michelle Ervin
Beth Gilbert
Kelsey Graham
Phil Harner
Leelyn Johnson
Peter Kanefsky
Bruce & Eva Kline-
Rogers

Amie Kovitvongsa
Cheri LaGrasso
Leesa Lee
Anna Lettang-Visioni
Barbara Levantrosser
Bruce Macdonald
Diane Matheis
Scott & Jane McLeod
Kay McNeal
Jacques Mersereau
James Meyerle
Michael Monaghan
Georganna Monk
Edward G. Nesbitt
Sue Nutt
Paul & Suzanne
Pomnichowski
Ron Prickett
Virginia Rank
Nick Reithel

Janet Reynolds
Robert & Jenny
Rounds
Suzanne M. Ruhlig
Susan & Timothy
Salisbury
Larry Schneider
Gail Shafer
Julie Sheldon
Claudia Sparschu
Janine & Mike
Spencer-Glasson
Glinda & David Starr
Janet Starr
Judith Toth
Charlene Trevino
Arlene Urquhart
Terry Wiseman
Lloyd Wood

Please check the expiration date above your address to ensure that you continue to enjoy the benefits of your Michigan Audubon membership. If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact Communications & Marketing Coordinator Molly Keenan at (517) 580-7364 or mkeenan@michiganaudubon.org. Thank you!



Yellow Warbler © J.A. Mikulich

Mark Your Calendars!

World Migratory Bird Day | May 9
WPBO Birdathon | May TBD
MA Kirtland's Warbler Tours | May 23 – June 30
Michigan Young Birders Camp | June 21 – 26
WPBO Summer Owl Banding | July 1 – Aug. 25
WPBO Fall Waterbird Count | Aug. 15 – Nov. 15
MA Swift Night Out Surveys | Sept. 11 – 13
WPBO Fall Owl Banding | Sept. 15 – Oct. 31
Advanced Birding at WPBO | Sept. 26 – 27

Please check the Michigan Audubon website for the most up-to-date information regarding events as we continue to adapt to developments concerning public health.