

Jack Pine *Warbler*

SPRING: Flying Through Dark Skies ▪ AuSable Valley Audubon Celebrates Golden Anniversary
Birdathon 2022 at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory ▪ Black Birders Week "Soaring to Greater Heights" in 2022
Now Accepting Submissions for 2022 Michigan Audubon Photography Awards ▪ Community Spotlight: Brant Georgia



Jack Pine Warbler

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Cover Photo ■ Hermit Thrush Photographer: Jan Lewis

During a spring migration workshop, Jan Lewis captured this moment with a Hermit Thrush in the Eastern Upper Peninsula near Cedarville and Pickford. The bird displayed for approximately 20 minutes in the spruce tree, flapping his wings, stamping his feet, and singing. Jan is a hobbyist nature photographer based in West Michigan. She enjoys being outdoors and capturing flowers, landscapes, and wildlife images. After a trip to Costa Rica in 2014, birds became a focus and now take center stage — she particularly enjoys photographing her backyard birds. Jan is active in her local Audubon chapter and camera club and has taken awards in numerous photography competitions.

Thank you to Jan Lewis for submitting this image to the 2021 Michigan Audubon Photography Awards, which earned her an honorable mention. 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 mkeenan@michiganaudubon.org or (517) 580-7364.

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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. Organized in 1904 and formally incorporated in 1905, 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.



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From the Board Chair

Greetings, Michigan Audubon Members!

Please allow me to introduce myself. I have been a member of Michigan Audubon's Board of Directors for over 16 years and now sit in the position of Board Chair. I am honored to be in this position for a number of reasons. First, my father, Jack Lapinski, sat in this same chair from 2006 to 2009, and my family have been lifelong members of both Michigan and Jackson Audubon. As a young girl, I remember trailing along behind my mom, Nancy Lapinski, at the Kate Palmer Wildlife Sanctuary, pulling garlic mustard and watching intently for the majestic Sandhill Crane to fly over. I appreciate being in this position as Michigan Audubon embarks on an exciting time to reflect, refresh, and reboot.

This year, MA will look to our past, present, and future with a fresh set of eyes. A thorough examination of our organizational infrastructure is underway, and a new strategic plan is being developed to propel MA forward, building on the growing needs for MA's three pillars: conservation, education, and research. This process will include a national search for a permanent President and CEO, and we are reviewing interim President and CEO candidates right now. To accomplish all of this, we have hired the McMillion Group, a strategy consulting firm, to help guide our transition and make Michigan Audubon better than ever.

As a supporter of Michigan Audubon, I see you as an important part of this process, whether you have been a member most of your life or are new to our organization. I welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and comments about ways we can make Michigan Audubon the best it can be. Feel free to reach out to me at board@michiganaudubon.org.

On the programmatic side, there are a few updates.

Seasonal staff at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory are back at their posts for another season! Rich Couse and Allison Vilag have returned to count hawks and waterbirds, respectively. Chris Neri and Nova Mackentley are back banding owls, and Alec Olivier will return to watch over our beloved Piping Plovers. The Kirtland's Warbler Tours run May 28 through June 30 in Grayling, and Cerulean Warbler Tours run May 9–22 in Barry County. Finally, the Michigan Young Birders Network is in full swing as well. In fact, we are seeking young birders to attend the in-person Michigan Young Birders Camp in June. We encourage young birders and naturalists of all skill levels to participate — curiosity and enthusiasm will make it a fun week for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. Applications are due May 1, 2022, and there are scholarships available!

Lastly, I thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the organization. Together we are creating a brighter future for Michigan's oldest conservation organization. I'm so excited!

Sincerely,



Natasha Koss
Board Chair



Flying Through Dark Skies

BY SUSAN B. ELBIN, NYC AUDUBON SCIENTIST EMERITA

Twice a year, in spring and fall, we are witness to an extraordinary biological marvel: bird migration. For birds, migration is the seasonal journey to and from breeding and non-breeding (wintering) grounds. We only see part of it — most migration occurs over our heads in the night skies. Migratory birds, like warblers and hummingbirds, are passing through Michigan on their way north or south. This stopover is an important part in the life of a bird that needs quick access to food, water, and protection as it refuels for the journey.

Our early understanding of migration was based on technology of the times: banded bird resightings or observations of birds flying across the face of a full moon. Recent advances in science and technology have improved our understanding of migration. By equipping migrating birds with radio or satellite transmitters, using highly sensitive pressure zone microphones to record birds calling overhead, or deciphering weather surveillance radar images for birds, scientists have been able to study bird migration in detail, observing and analyzing movements of individual birds during flight.

During flight, some species maintain contact with each other by emitting night flight calls. These high-pitched notes of short duration function to keep the group together and synchronized in flight. We have learned that many more species migrate during the night than previously thought. There are advantages to flying at night. Migrating birds expend energy for flight, and the night air provides a cooler, more humid atmosphere than the day. Air currents are more stable, and (aerial) predators are few during the night. Some migrants will fly the entire journey without stopping. Other species will stop along the way, foraging during the daylight hours to replenish their energy reserves. But flying at night can be a challenge. Unable to use visual landmarks or cues from the sun to navigate, nocturnal migrants rely mainly on the constellations, the moon, the earth's magnetic field, and prevailing winds to guide them in the right direction.

Migration is not easy; not every bird survives the journey. Approximately half of the birds hatched in the spring will not return in the fall. Poor health, disease, lack of stamina, savvy predators, and unfavorable weather impact a bird's ability to survive migration. Since the mid-20th century, consequences of climate change and land-use changes have begun to impact the quality of stopover habitats. Moreover, the benefits of migration outweigh the risk to those individuals who survive the journey.

Although mortality is a natural part of life, the number of birds in the U.S. has declined dramatically since the 1970s and is far lower than expected from natural causes. Rosenberg et al. (2019) published a sobering report in the journal *Science*, documenting the decline. Why is this happening? In addition to the multiple threats already mentioned, birds are at risk from interactions with the built environment: e.g., cell towers, power lines, wind turbines, and reflective or transparent glass in buildings. In addition to being a physical barrier, many of these manufactured structures are illuminated by artificial light at night (ALAN) and create a sensory barrier as well.

Problems with ALAN and nocturnal migrants are not new. In the early 1900s, lighthouse keepers would often find scores of bird carcasses on the ground, especially after a foggy night. Airport ceilometers had the same effect, causing mass mortality on foggy nights during fall and spring. But the world is becoming brighter and brighter. Artificial light at night has increased by 6% annually from 1947 to 2000 (Cinzano and Elvidge 2003).



The Tribute in Light in New York City is monitored to make sure birds don't get "trapped" in its beams while migrating at night.

Photo by tatslow | Flickr CC

When birds encounter artificial light at night during migration, the light can overwhelm the natural cues they rely on. Different frequencies of light (colors) interfere with a bird's ability to visualize the earth's magnetic map. On nights with low cloud cover blotting out the constellations; on nights with little to no moonlight; on nights where building towers are illuminated with colorful lights; in areas where light beams are projected skyward — these conditions are all problematic for birds migrating at night. Artificial light does not kill birds directly, although an occasional bird may crash into a building or the ground. Birds become disoriented and may fly in the wrong direction. More frequently, light will pull birds off course, wasting their energy on unexpected detours, and cause them to land in inappropriate places — like neighborhood sidewalks.

Our research and monitoring at NYC Audubon have helped to understand further how ALAN affects airborne birds' behavior during their fall migration south. Every Sept. 11, New York City honors the memory of those who perished or were injured in the 2001 World Trade Towers attack. Two beams comprising 88 7,000-watt xenon lights are projected skyward from the rooftop of a parking garage in lower Manhattan. Made possible by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and Michael Ahearn Production Services, the Tribute in Light is poignant and inspirational. Light gradually appears as the sky darkens on the night of the 11th. The beams glow throughout the night, fading as the sun rises in the morning of the twelfth.

Since its inception, NYC Audubon staff and volunteers have been monitoring the beams of light, looking for birds "trapped" in the beams during their fall migration.

NYC Audubon scientists can authorize turning off the lights if migratory birds are in crisis, allowing the birds to move away before the lights are turned back on. In 2017, Van Doren and others (including myself) published the results from many years of observations and radar analysis. We were able to show that the strong beams of light directly affected the behavior of migratory birds flying that night. Even when the stars shone brightly, birds were attracted to beams from up to 7.5 miles away. They slowed their flight, changed direction, and vocalized more frequently. All these activities used precious energy that the birds had stored for their migration. As soon as the lights were extinguished, the birds resumed their original flight behavior. Turning out the lights was a simple and immediate solution and has certainly saved the lives of thousands of birds over the years. More of a challenge is to have the entire city go dark for bird migration. To experience the amazing effect of darkness over a larger area, visit one of Michigan's seven designated Dark Skies parks. "Lights Out" programs provide many useful suggestions for building owners and homeowners, from turning out unnecessary exterior lights, lowering shades at night, turning off decorative lighting, to using task lighting rather than overhead lighting. (Find more details at michiganaudubon.org/bfc/safe-passage-great-lakes.)

Artificial light is one part of the problem. The other part is buildings and glass. How are ALAN and glass threatening bird populations? Intense beams of light or broadscale light pollution draw the birds into the area. Reflective glass kills or stuns them. Simply stated, birds do not know that glass is a solid barrier. They do not know the difference between a tree reflected in a pane of glass and the tree itself. My colleague, Christine Sheppard at the American Bird Conservancy, says, "Birds don't understand architecture." Think about it: Birds evolved about 100 million years ago, but the process to make large panes of smooth glass was only invented in the 1950s!

Monitoring data collected by my team at NYC Audubon confirms the issue. We estimate that about 243,000 birds die each year in New York City alone. In 2014, Scott Loss and colleagues analyzed bird/window collision datasets from across the country, estimating that 500 million to 1 billion birds die each year in the U.S. because of collisions with glass. This degree of mortality is a population-level conservation issue. The good news: collision risk can be reduced. By using less reflective glass, and/or adding fritted or etched or ultraviolet patterns, glass can be made more visible to birds. One building we were tracking in Manhattan, the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, was the biggest bird killer that we monitored. After replacing the building envelope with bird-safe glass, they reduced collisions by more than 90%.

Homeowners can use a temporary exterior treatment to make their windows more visible to birds. (I don't wash my windows! That helps.). Exterior blinds, screens, or zen wind curtains work, too. Fixing buildings is not as simple as flipping a switch, but

it can be done. (For more information about bird-friendly glass, visit The American Bird Conservancy website [Glass Collisions: Preventing Bird Window Strikes | ABC](http://GlassCollisions.org) (abcbirds.org))

The good news is, there are solutions.

Some cities or communities have voluntary policies. Others, like Ann Arbor, have enacted lighting ordinances. NYC has bird-safe building legislation. Lighting and bird-friendly glass are both addressed in the LEED (Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design) standards of the U.S. Green Building Council.

In the meantime, there are steps you can take today to save birds right now.

- Turn off exterior lights at night, especially during migration. Lights Out campaigns provide immediate solutions to the problem of ALAN. These programs are most effective when large numbers of buildings commit to the program. The added benefit is, turning out the lights saves money.
- Use bird-friendly glass or window treatments that birds can see.
- Become an advocate for Lights Out. Get involved in your local Audubon chapter. Learn more about dark sky initiatives through the International Dark Skies Association.

There is a lot to do, and it can be done — must be done.



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Susan Elbin, Ph.D., is scientist emerita at NYC Audubon, having retired as Director of Conservation and Science in December 2019, where her research focused on urban ecology — conservation of migratory landbirds and migratory and nesting waterbirds. She has been active in the field of avian ecology, within the U.S. and internationally, for more than 40 years. After retiring, Susan moved to Grand Ledge, Mich. where she continues to be a consultant on bird-friendly building design, has participated in USFWS Sandhill Crane surveys and has given guest lectures for Michigan State and Michigan Audubon. She has recently become captivated by a Turkey Vulture roost off of M-100 that has been active for more than 20 years.



World Migratory Bird Day

"Dim the Lights for Birds at Night!"

May 14

Year after year, hundreds of events celebrate World Migratory Bird Day across the globe. Every event is unique and as diverse and creative as the people and organizations involved. This year the theme is "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night."

WMBD events occur in all corners of the world and involve and inspire thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds. There are no limits on creativity! Past activities and awareness-raising events have included birdwatching tours, online educational workshops and exhibitions, webinars, festivals, and painting competitions, which have been organized at schools, parks, town halls, education centers, and nature reserves.

Visit worldmigratorybirdday.org to learn more about this year's theme, find events in your area, or register an event of your own.



AuSable Valley Audubon Celebrates Golden Anniversary

BY MAGGIE BERCH, AUSABLE VALLEY AUDUBON VOLUNTEER

Fifty exciting years have passed since AuSable Valley Audubon organized in 1972! It goes to show that time really does fly when you're having fun — especially when you're birding.

Originally known as Iosco Audubon Society, this Michigan Audubon chapter was officially renamed in 2008, and now averages 85 individual members residing in Iosco and Alcona counties.

AuSable Valley Audubon has served both members and surrounding communities through a variety of activities over the past 50 years including:



- AuSable River Dams designated as Important Birding Areas in 2006
- Tawas Point Birding Festival established in 2006 and reorganized as Tawas Point Migration in 2018
- Kirtland's Warbler Tours offered in Oscoda and Tawas areas
- Built six viewing platforms at Tawas Point State Park in 2000 with Michigan Sea Grant
- Public birding seminars held covering a variety of subjects
- Trumpeter Swan Seasonal Population Surveys conducted along the AuSable River Corridor for Consumers Energy and Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird
- Published the brochure "The Trumpeter Swans of the AuSable River" with Consumers Energy in 2007
- The column "Bird's Eye View" published periodically in three area newspapers
- Bluebird house building workshops held with schools and the general public
- Annual promotion of the Great Backyard Bird Count through workshops and special seminars
- Participation in the Christmas Bird Count in the Tawas and Oscoda areas
- Creation of the 145-mile Sunrise Coast Birding Trail with Thunder Bay Audubon and Straits Area Audubon Society
- Organized yearly Sandhill Crane counts during fall migration
- Participated in Michigan Piping Plover watch
- Created a wildflower brochure listing over 300 plants in the local area
- Planted oak and pine trees at various locations in Tawas Point State Park to replace those lost to storms or other natural causes
- Promoted bird awareness with Alcona Elementary School's 2nd grade by purchasing Michigan Birding Field Guide Books in 2019
- Osprey and waterfowl documenting and monitoring
- "Trumpeter Swans: A Conservation Success" featured in the annual "HYDRO REPORTER," an annual publication by Consumers Energy, in 2020
- Participated in MDOT "Adopt-A-Highway" program along M-55
- Beginning assistance with Alabaster Township Lake Huron Preserve



Maggie Berch grew to love nature and, in particular, the AuSable River in Alcona County, where she spent many of her summers as a child. In 2001 she returned to Northern Michigan, where she became an active member of AuSable Valley Audubon and her church community. She enjoys quilting, kayaking, and nature photography, often contributing photos to local newspapers.



Volunteers participate in the "Adopt-A-Highway" program along M-55.



A viewing platform built at Tawas Point State Park in conjunction with Michigan Sea Grant in 2000.



Volunteers plant a tree at Tawas Point State Park to replace those lost in storms and to other natural causes.



A Great Horned Owl chick.



Trumpeter Swans.
Photo by Phil Odum

Now Accepting Submissions for 2022 Michigan Audubon Photography Awards

Michigan Audubon is seeking entries to the 2022 Michigan Audubon Photography Awards that showcase the numerous birds that make up the avian world in our state. We are excited to see the stunning images you have captured during your outdoor adventures in Michigan, from raptors to warblers to dabbling ducks.

The contest is open to all photographers, amateur and professional, and includes youth and adult categories to compete in. Winners of each category and three honorable mentions will be announced on July 1, 2022.

Michigan Audubon requests that all photographers follow ethical practices when photographing birds and other wildlife. For more information, please review Audubon's Guide to Ethical Bird Photography.

Division Categories

Adult: You must be 18 years of age or older at the time of submission

Youth: You must be 13 to 17 years of age at the time of submission

Prizes

The winners' photos will be featured in the *Jack Pine Warbler* and on the Michigan Audubon website. The winners and those awarded honorable mentions will have the opportunity to do a week-long Michigan Audubon Instagram takeover to share their photography with thousands of followers.

Photographers can enter up to three images for the contest through our online submission form. Please read the full rules before submitting photographs. **Submissions will be accepted through June 15, 2022.**

For a full list of rules and to learn how to submit your photographs, please visit michiganaudubon.org/2022-michigan-audubon-photography-awards-accepting-submissions/.

If you have questions, email Communications & Marketing Coordinator Molly Keenan at mkeenana@michiganaudubon.org.



Norther Cardinal by Steve Jessmore.
Steve earned an honorable mention in the
2021 Michigan Audubon Photography Awards.



Birdathon 2022 at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

YOU PLEDGE. WE COUNT. BIRDS THRIVE.

Our skilled team of bird counters and volunteers at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory will set out on a mission to count as many bird species as possible in one day on May 28, 2022, as part of an annual fundraising event supporting the amazing work happening at WPBO! In 2021, a whopping 152 species were counted and the event brought in \$6,826.65! Let's hope this year is just as successful.

This is where you come in! Because our work is 100% donor-funded, Birdathon provides all of our supporters with an opportunity to make a significant impact on our work by making a pledge or direct donation to Birdathon (even after the event). Any amount is helpful, but have some fun with it and consider letting your donation or pledge be inspired by a per-species amount.

If you would like to take a more personal approach and inspire others to donate to Birdathon, you can create your very own fundraising page for Birdathon. This is a fantastic way to share your passion for Michigan birds with your friends and family and encourage their support of WPBO. Creating your fundraising page is quick and easy and will help us reach our goal of \$7,500.

When you donate to Birdathon, you will receive the 2022 Birdathon Species List following the event. You can make your donation to Birdathon 2022 online at any time, by visiting wpbo.org/birdathon or by mailing a check to Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos, MI 48864 (please include Birdathon in the memo).

Thank you so much to everyone who supports the work being done at WPBO!



Sanderlings at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory.
Photo by Victor Chen



Tawas Point Migration May 13–15, 2022

Tawas Point, located on the Northeast Michigan shore of Lake Huron, is a natural birding hotspot in the spring as migrating birds follow the shoreline to summer nesting habitats. Participants of Tawas Point Migration will find friendly and helpful local birders available at various key areas in Tawas Point State Park to interact one-on-one with and answer questions about local amenities, other nearby hotspots, and bird identification.

Registration is available at the Tawas Point Lighthouse area (pre-registration is not available). Local birding guides will be available at multiple stations throughout Tawas Point (free to all) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Discussions and updating of bird sighting lists will take place on Friday and Saturday at noon and 5 p.m. No Kirtland's Warbler tours will be offered this year.

Go to www.ausablevalleyaudubon.org or visit the AuSable Valley Audubon Facebook page for further information about the event.

Save the Dates!

WPBO Spring Raptor Count | March 15–May 31
 WPBO Spring Owl Banding | March 15–May 31
 WPBO Spring Waterbird Count | April 15–May 31
 Cerulean Warbler Tours | May 9–22
 Tawas Point Migration | May 13–15
 World Migratory Bird Day | May 14
 Birdathon 2022 | May 28
 Kirtland's Warbler Tours | May 28–June 30
 #BlackBirdersWeek | May 29–June 4
 Michigan Young Birders Camp | June 26–July 1
 WPBO Summer Owl Banding | July 1–Aug. 25
 WPBO Fall Waterbird Count | Aug. 15–Nov. 15
 WPBO Fall Owl Banding | Sept. 15–Oct. 31

Black Birders Week is "Soaring to Greater Heights" in 2022

Black Birders Week returns from May 29 to June 4 for learning and connection. With a theme of "Soaring to Greater Heights," the aim is to celebrate and highlight birding as a lifelong learning journey enjoyed by Black cultures across the diaspora.

Each day of Black Birders Week features a different theme and hashtag for people to engage in on social media and beyond.

May 29 | #BlackInNature

Kick-off the week with the annual #BlackInNature Networking Event. Introduce yourself and meet other Black birders, outdoor lovers, and naturalists.

May 30 | #InTheNest

Monday's events are about getting started in birding. How did you first get interested in birds? What is your earliest birding memory or spark bird? Who took you under their wing? If you've been at it for a while, how are you a mentor to someone else?

May 31 | #LearningToTakeFlight

Tuesday's events feature activities surrounding your birding identity and when you felt comfortable enough to call yourself a birder? What is your birding story? What were your first steps into birding on your own?

June 1 | #DayOfRoost

Did you know that birds choose where, when, and how to roost carefully? The day's theme is about mental health, prioritizing, and choosing when to rest.

June 2 | #FlyingTheCoop

Thursday's theme is about change. When is it time to pivot and "Fly The Coop"? What motivated you to take the leap and go after your passion? What's something you've always wanted to try or challenge yourself with? Learning bird songs, bird banding, traveling to see more birds, bird-focused career change, research?

June 3 | #AsTheCrowFlies

This idiom refers to a path or direction. On June 3, discussions of the paths paved and relationships different cultures across the diaspora have with birds and how that has shaped your birding journey are welcomed.

June 4 | #LifeLongJourney

Saturday highlights how birding is a lifelong journey and the various activities you can participate in according to your age group. There will also be a focus on intergenerational learning and how birding can connect your family.

Black Birders Week is organized by Black AF In STEM. You can learn more about this organization and the event at blackafinstem.com.

Community Spotlight: Brant Georgia

MICHIGAN YOUNG BIRDERS NETWORK

Met Brant Georgia, contributor to the Michigan Young Birders Network and recent high school graduate.

How did you first get interested in birds and birding?

I first became interested in birds four or five years ago when I adopted a pair of budgies. By studying their physiology, I became fascinated with the novel strategies they had developed to survive. Soon after, I began studying birds as a whole, and I was absolutely captivated by the diversity and uniqueness displayed by them. After my budgies, I also began keeping domestic pigeons and mallards.

My interests were originally contained to aviculture and bird husbandry rather than watching wild birds, but soon after, my family moved onto a beautiful plot of woodland beside a river. It was there that I gained an appreciation not just for birds but for the natural world surrounding us. Cottonwood trees towered above, with woodpeckers flicking through their limbs and groundhogs barreling around their roots. I now have a keen interest in acquainting myself with each member — animal, plant, and fungi — of my local environment.



As an accomplished artist, what's your favorite part about painting birds?

I originally started painting birds simply due to a want of a subject for my paintings. Birds happened to be the object of my interest, as well as being aesthetically pleasing and well-liked by the general public. My artwork eventually gained a purpose beyond aesthetics, that being science education. In my illustrations, I often include information about the subject through visual elements, including geographic range maps, sexual dimorphism, ideal habitat, and even number of offspring. I like to think of my artwork as in-depth, aesthetically-pleasing field guides.

Beyond scientific purposes, birds also have a poetic nature to them. Humans have ascribed meanings to certain birds, sometimes even spiritual in nature. I like to explore these themes in my work through color use, spatial placement, and body language of the birds themselves.



You jumped in and took an active role in getting the Michigan Young Birders Network up and running. Tell us a little about your experience. What has been the most rewarding part?

I originally joined the Michigan Young Birders Network on recommendation from a Michigan Audubon member. Having been one of only a few young birders in my area, I was in want of a community that shared similar interests to my own. I very quickly found myself in a group of young naturalists who are not only knowledgeable but supportive and fun as well. I began attending birding events with my peers, which helped me learn about birds much more efficiently while also having fun with friends!

Eventually, I found myself leading MYBN projects in conjunction with other passionate leaders from the network. I am grateful for the platform that MYBN has



given me to further nature education for those of my age group, as well as the educational resources that I have received

as a result of the program. I hope MYBN continues to grow and thrive so others can reap the same experiences that I have.



Where do you still see challenges we need to address when reaching young birders? How do you think we can better encourage young people to get involved in the birding community?

The largest obstacle to reaching youth through nature education is apathy. This is not to say that today's youth are less passionate or inquisitive than those of the past. In fact, the opposite may be true. I think it is more an issue of cultural shifts in terms of academic priorities. Unfortunately, an aptitude for the natural world has descended on that list in favor of other, more utilitarian subjects. An education in the natural sciences is simply not as valued as it once was. I think it is important that we not only reach youth through nature education but also emphasize the importance and benefits of gaining such knowledge. This is doubly true in a world threatened by climate disaster and in a society becoming increasingly detached from our natural roots.

Birding can be a great introductory hobby that can eventually lead youth to become acquainted with their local environment. Through this, young people may find themselves in a better state, both mentally and physically, and they may also find a passion that would fulfill them on a deeper, personal level.



Congratulations on your recent high school graduation. Tell us about what's next for you. How do you plan to keep birds in your life?

I will be attending Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, majoring in biological sciences with a minor in science communication. I hope to engage in studies concerning avian field ecology at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. I would also like to be involved with specimen preparation and preservation at the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates. My dream career would be working in specimen collections in a natural history museum. I think that preserved specimens are great tools for artists, scientists, and educators, and I wish to have a hand in facilitating that. I also hope to continue my artwork and become involved in scientific illustration as a side career.



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.

Jennifer Andre
Mike Baynai
Kelly Boonstra
Thomas Borda
June Broecker
Betsy Carlson
Aaron Carroll
Jim Carter
Theresa Celusta
Lynnette Clemens
Andrea Cook
Enya deFeijter
Cynthia DeGrace
Sarah deGuise
Christine Deming
Sharon Dorrity
Paul & Sheri Ewing
Laura Farkas
Vernon Fauver
Coleen Fortener
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Northern Hawk Owl
Photo by John Fortener