

# Jack Pine *Warbler*

SPRING: The Fall and Rise of the Great Lakes Piping Plover ■ Motus Tower Dedicated in Memory of Linda Jo Klemens  
■ Invasive Plants in Nurseries ■ Citizen Science and Youth Education ■ Thank You, Donors



# 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 a.m.-5 p.m.

## STAFF

### Heather Good

Executive Director  
hgood@michiganaudubon.org

### Lindsay Cain

Education Coordinator  
lcain@michiganaudubon.org

### Linnea Rowse

Conservation Program Coordinator  
lrowse@michiganaudubon.org

### Molly Keenan

Communications & Marketing Coordinator  
mkeen@michiganaudubon.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Brasie (co-chair), Natasha Koss  
(co-chair), Rich Bailhe (secretary),  
Mike Bishop, Diane Dupuis, Derrick Kooistra,  
Rosann Kovalick

## COPY EDITOR

### Molly Keenan

Communications & Marketing Coordinator  
mkeen@michiganaudubon.org

## PRODUCTION

RiverRun Press

## 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 ■ Red-winged Blackbird Photographer: Marilyn Keigley

Marilyn Keigley is a retired professor from Ferris State University and enjoys nature photography, especially birds and snow crystals. This Red-winged Blackbird was photographed by the Rogue River Dam in downtown Rockford, Mich.

This photo was submitted as part of the 2017 JPW Cover Photo Contest. You can find information on how to submit work to the 2019 JPW Cover Photo Contest on page 7 of this issue.

# Contents

## Features

2-3

The Fall and Rise  
of the Great Lakes  
Piping Plover

4-6

Motus Tower Dedicated  
in Memory of  
Linda Jo Klemens

## Columns

8-9

Invasive Plants in  
Nurseries — What to  
Avoid and Why

10-11

Citizen Science  
and Youth Education

11

Campers Wanted for  
Michigan Young  
Birders Camp

## Departments

1

Executive Director

7

2019 JPW Cover  
Photo Contest

12-13

Thank You for Supporting  
Michigan Audubon

14

New Members

14

Save the Dates



## 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. 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](http://MichiganAudubon.org) for more updates, and follow  
MichiganAudubon on social media*



# From the Executive Director

## National Audubon Society, Michigan Audubon, and my local Audubon chapter — what's the difference?

I am asked this question often, and it's usually when folks are wondering where they should put their donation dollars or what group they should "join". Truthfully, for the work and commitment to birds and habitat that all these levels maintain, I'd say an ideal scene would be to join at every level you can. The world needs all the help it can get, and this absolutely includes our bird populations and habitats. That being said, I hope I can offer some clarity about what the different levels are and do and how we all are connected to John James Audubon, the American ornithologist, naturalist, painter, and 'father' — if you will — of bird field guides.

Founded in 1904, Michigan Audubon is a year older than the first formation of what is now known as National Audubon Society. In fact, the very first established Audubon Society in the United States was in Massachusetts in 1896. (This independent organization is still going strong with programs and nature preserves throughout the state; if you find yourself traveling through this state, be sure to pay their sites a visit!). Several states followed suit in order to protect birds and lands under their jurisdiction, and in 1905, these state societies formed an organization called the National Association of Audubon Societies. In 1940, the National Association officially incorporated under its present organizational identity, the National Audubon Society.

Michigan Audubon's history of preserving and managing bird sanctuaries throughout the state was already well-established, as was the organization itself, and its board of directors made the decision to remain an independent institution. We continue to operate as an independently-managed organization today with collaborative connections to projects and programs that impact the bird populations in the Great Lakes state.

Our statewide chapters were initially conceived with the intention of establishing local, committed stewards for these bird sanctuaries. There are a few chapters that, to this day, remain steadfast in their stewardship activities of Michigan Audubon-owned bird sanctuaries, such as Jackson Audubon Society and their exemplary care and land management support of the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary (a gorgeous place to visit, bird, enjoy an impressive vista, and admire all the good

work of the Haehnle Committee volunteers!).

Over time, various local Audubon chapters developed a schedule of events and programs to better engage their communities with birds, conservation, citizen science, and the like. No two chapters are alike in what they do, how often they meet, etc., but all support and extend our mission of conservation, education, and research at the local level in order to connect birds and people for the benefit of both.

Because many folks want the opportunity to attend educational programs and bird walks in their backyard, so to speak, they are inspired to join their local Audubon chapter. I encourage you to learn more about your local chapter if you aren't already involved; if it's right for you, you'll find there are engaging volunteer opportunities, engaging walks and talks that are bird- and environment-centric, great networking opportunities with like-minded people, and sometimes, the chance to participate in advocacy campaigns related to local policy issues. You can learn more at <https://www.michiganaudubon.org/about-us/chapters/>.

With all the demand for support and involvement, it's hard to know where to put your name and your dollars. And, the birds need all the help they can get. I am proud of the work this organization does with its grassroots history and on-the-ground efforts in Michigan as the state's oldest conservation organization. You wouldn't be reading this if you aren't an active member of Michigan Audubon, so thank you for putting your name behind our mission and our continued work. Your membership, your support in whatever form that takes — is part of how we continue our true-to-mission legacy.



Heather L. Good  
Executive Director



## HAPPY 40<sup>th</sup>, WPBO!

2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. We are so pleased to continue sharing and utilizing this Important Bird Area and program site with an outstanding history, an impressive data set, and people who've remained connected to and supportive of this place, its meaning, and its work. I hope you will join us for Spring Fling this year, an annual celebration of Spring migration at Whitefish Point, where we come together to celebrate this history and the birds that keep us connected. I want to say a very heartfelt, far-reaching thank you to all the past, present (and future!) supporters, board members, field staff, and volunteers of WPBO who have invested such a labor of love for birds and their protection at Whitefish Point over the past 40 years.



# The Fall and Rise of the Great Lakes Piping

BY VINCE CAVALIERI

Piping Plover once occurred on sandy beaches of all five Great Lakes, in all of the U.S. States that touch them as well as in the Canadian province of Ontario. Turn of the century naturalists in Illinois and Michigan described them as a “very common summer resident along the lakeshore” and “found everywhere along the shores of the Great Lakes during summer.” Even as late as 1927, there were an estimated 100 pairs on Long Point in Ontario. As the twentieth century progressed, however, the birds disappeared from location after location. Gone from Ohio in the 1930s, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois and Indiana in the 1950s, and from Ontario in the 1970s. By the 1980s, the birds were all but extirpated from the region, with the last viable population represented by less than 20 pairs hanging on at some remote beaches in Northern Michigan. Once estimated to number hundreds of pairs, the distinctive peep-lo call of the Piping Plover was a hair’s breadth away from being silenced forever on Great Lakes shorelines. The birds had disappeared for a variety of reasons, chief among them shoreline development, an increase in the population of their predator species, and an increase in the use of their nesting habitat for human recreation.

In 1986, the Great Lakes population of Piping Plover was listed as endangered on the U.S. Endangered Species List. This led to increased interest in the birds as well as increased study, more money for conservation efforts, and, importantly, viable recovery actions. Some of these actions include limited beach closures, predator exclosures that are placed on every nest, plover monitors that help protect the nesting areas and interact with the public, and a salvage captive rearing program in which eggs from abandoned nests are incubated, hatched, and raised in captivity and then the young plovers are released back into the wild. A diverse partnership of federal and state agencies, university



The distinctive bands help to identify a male Piping Plover in the Muskegon area.

researchers, non-government agencies, Great Lakes tribes, and private citizens rallied around the plovers. As researchers and managers improved these methods over the years, the population slowly began to respond. After being under 20 pairs for over a decade, the population rose above 20 pairs in 1995, 30 pairs in 1999, and then quickly rose above 50 pairs in 2002. The population reached 70 pairs in 2009 but then dropped rapidly in 2010 and 2011, falling to 55 pairs. The reasons for this decline are likely increased predation on adult plovers by Merlin (whose population expanded rapidly in the region around this time) and a colder than

A Piping Plover sits on its nest in Oscoda.



# g Plover



Piping Plover nests are located on all five Great Lakes.

normal winter in 2010-2011 that reduced the survival rate of young plovers.

In recent years, funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has helped biologists increase the intensity of conservation efforts. This has helped combat the rising threats from predators, as well as ease some of the pressure from growing human visitation at many plover nesting beaches. The population rebounded once again and then stabilized, with an average population size over the last five years of 73 pairs, nearing the halfway mark of the 150-pair goal that is part of the species' recovery plan. In 2017, the population reached a record high since the listing of 76 pairs but a relatively poor breeding season coupled with another harsh winter resulted in the population dropping to 67 pairs in 2018. During the summer of 2018, the birds bounced back, fledging 124 chicks in the wild plus an additional 10 chicks coming from the salvage captive rearing program. With 134 young plovers making the long migration flight south, the two chicks fledged per pair average of 2018 marked the best breeding season in the last five years.

While increasing population levels and better productivity are important recovery milestones, the most exciting development for the Great Lakes piping plover population over the past few years has been range expansion. After the low point in the 1980s, plovers slowly began to recolonize former breeding locations. In 2007, they started breeding again at locations on the Lake Huron coast in Ontario. For most of the next decade, the range stayed about the same, with most

nesting occurring in northern Michigan and a handful of sites in Wisconsin and Ontario. In 2016 that began to change, as locations were recolonized in Michigan and Wisconsin thanks to habitat restoration efforts. That year also saw nesting expand to Lake Ontario with several new sites in the province of Ontario and two sites in New York. Two pairs of plovers also bred in Illinois. The biggest milestone of all occurred in 2017 when two pairs nested at Presque Isle State Park in Pennsylvania. This was the first time the birds had nested on the shores of Lake Erie since 1977 and, with those nests, it was the first time Piping Plover were breeding on the shores of all five Great Lakes since 1955. This success was sustained in 2018 with Piping Plover once again nesting along all five Great Lakes in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ontario. Much remains to be done and the plovers are not out of danger yet, but the ringing peep-lo of the Piping Plover can be heard on all of our Great Lakes once more.



Vince Cavalieri is originally from Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula. A lifelong birder, Vince has worked with numerous research projects focusing on birds of conservation concern including Mountain Plover, Trumpeter Swan, Cerulean Warbler, and Kirtland's Warbler. Vince works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an endangered species biologist and lead biologist for the Great Lakes Piping Plover Recovery Program.



# Motus Tower Dedicated in Memory of Linda Jo Klemens

BY HEATHER GOOD, MICHIGAN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I was first approached by the Thunder Bay Audubon Society's board about offering a donation in memory of their devoted, long-time president, Linda Jo Klemens, the first idea they brought to the table was a memorial gift that would go towards the cost of a Snowy Owl transmitter. These solar powered GPS-GSM transmitters made by Cellular Tracking Technologies cost nearly \$3,000 a piece. They record locations in three dimensions (latitude, longitude, and altitude) at programmable intervals as short as every 30 seconds, providing unmatched detail on the movements of Snowy Owls, 24 hours a day. Truly, the collaborative work of conservationists, scientists, and organizations — particularly Project SNOWstorm — has proven worthwhile in gathering more data about Snowies and in better meeting their needs, particularly as they face the serious impacts of climate change.

However, the cost for one transmitter alone made this path a limiting one. As we continued to explore options, I was aware of the pressing need for funding something very tangible and long-term that would have a direct impact on bird conservation and research: a Motus tower at WPBO. The idea of sponsoring the purchase of a transmitter for a Snowy Owl in Linda's memory was wonderful, and this research is undoubtedly important, but the possibility of moving an on-loan Motus tower from our spring owl banders' home in Paradise, Mich., to the base of our owl banding operations at the Owl's Roost at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory seemed a very fitting and long-lasting memorial for a person who was so invested and committed to birds.

Thunder Bay Audubon Society's board of directors liked the idea as well, and Michigan Audubon matched their gift in order to make the Motus tower's permanent move to WPBO happen. There are many people to thank here; it turns out, it takes a village to raise a Motus tower. Suffice to say, the work was completed through collaboration, tenacity, and a true investment in this technology

and what it means to put WPBO formally on the map of the international Motus network. Even the cement base of the tower pays homage to owls, as stones were arranged in the shape of two owl silhouettes. A plaque that dedicates the tower to Linda's memory was shared on Sunday and will be affixed to the side of the building so that visitors to the Point can witness Linda's impact on bird conservation.

Chris Neri, our fall Field Ornithologist, also spoke at the event, sharing the backstory behind the loaning of the tower. In 2017, David Brinker, Project Owl-net cofounder, visited WPBO to install the on-loan Motus tower at its then-temporary home, which also happens to be the

home of our spring owl banders, Chris Neri and Nova Mackentley. Dave also brought with him nine Project Owl-net nanotags for the banders to put on Saw-whet Owls. If you're familiar with WPBO's owl banding history and the research that's been possible through long-term banding of these owls, you know this species is one of particular interest. Apart from meeting our monitoring and research

interests (birds), our participation in the Motus Tower network allows other researchers to consistently follow and understand the movement patterns of other small animals — from birds to bats to large insects.

When I pulled into the parking lot at Whitefish Point on Sunday, October 7, there were already a few dozen people gathered around the bird feeding area and the Motus tower itself. While we waited, the trees and grounds near the feeding area outside the Owl's Roost were busy with the activity of White-crowned Sparrows, Pine Siskins, and — of course — Black-capped Chickadees.

Several photographs of Linda lined a table at the event — photos of her pointing out birds to children, photos of her with birds, photos of Linda birding. Linda was, through and through, a bird lover and not only for their beauty and for what birds mean to or gave to her personally, but for birds in and of themselves. She struck me as a natural



*continued on page 6*



# About Linda Jo Klemens

Growing up in the forests and fields surrounding Hubbard Lake, Linda Jo Klemens was an avid conservationist from her earliest days. Nurtured by her family, she spent many days with sisters and friends exploring the woods, wetlands, and big lake together.

Linda was active in the Thunder Bay Audubon Chapter for most of her adult life, serving as the President for the past twelve years. She was led into the Audubon by her mother, Violet Snyder, and grandmother, Beatrice Gerow, who were founding members of the chapter. Linda shaped the chapter's schedule to ensure that it always had exciting programs, frequent events, and top-notch special guests. She also worked hard to reach groups across the community including churches, schools, service organizations, and others in order to share her knowledge and passion. Linda was known as an excellent guide, excelled at birding by ear and had especially keen eyesight. Many friends and her entire family have stories of being on a drive when she would suddenly blurt out, "Stop! Back up. There is a (species) on a bush back there." Sure enough, upon backing up to investigate, there would be a bird that everyone else had looked past sitting exactly where she said it was located.

She relished combining her love of travel with bird watching. Together with Craig, her husband of fifty years, she traveled across the United States spotting shorebirds, migratory birds, endangered birds, regional species and reported rare sightings. Whether they were spending a week at Bosque del Apache in New Mexico or a day stalking Red-cockaded Woodpecker in a North Carolina pine forest, they were happiest afield with their binoculars. During two trips to Europe, they birdwatched across Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland balancing history, sightseeing and all manner of local beauty. Another trip to Alaska was a mix of cruising and driving an RV across the state while stopping to gaze and admire the giant landscapes and Alaskan birds. Finally, a week in Costa Rica spent mostly at remote parks with a personal guide allowed them to see over one hundred-thirty tropical species in the rainforests. They were planning another adventure to Hawaii for three weeks of birding right up to her hospitalization.

Linda was also active with the Alcona Historical Society, the Alpena First United Methodist Church, Lady Learners and Extension of Hubbard Lake and the Hubbard Lake Sportsmen's Association.

Besides her husband Craig, she is survived by son Darren (Molly), daughter, Laura, and five grandchildren: Ellyssa, Abigail, Jakob, Benjamin and Alexandra; and two sisters: Sidney and Alexis.







educator and conservation-oriented birder, as well as someone who couldn't resist offering a nugget of bird ID tips to anyone who would listen. The moving, memorable, often humorous stories from family members and friends demonstrated that entirely.

Linda's husband, Craig, told me the story of how she once found an injured Merlin. Linda quickly located a certified rehabber and the two of them drove it downstate together so the bird could receive necessary medical attention.

After the Merlin was mended and ready for release, the rehabber gave the bird to Linda and instructed her to release it. One of the photos at the dedication was of her releasing that bird; her face held the expression of connection, awe, and pride. It wasn't just because she was holding a bird of prey; it was because she was following through on an act of care, of giving back to birds, that filled her with meaning in that moment.

It was a meaningful experience for me to see the turnout of people at the Point that seemingly winter day in October, to formally dedicate the tower to Linda's memory, to hear stories celebrating her spirit, and to connect birds and people. It is events like these, people like these, who come together with a love of birds and a commitment to their conservation, who come together with intention and care to give back and to do the best they can to be an example.

As I shared with the group on Sunday, I can't think of a more suitable, lasting, impactful memorial gift than a Motus tower at this particular site. Its presence and capacity translates to innumerable potential advances in understanding and protecting wildlife and birds.

Numerous memories were shared about Linda's enthusiasm for birds during the ceremony, many met with laughter and tears, but all told the story of how important of a role birds played in her life. Thank you to everyone who made it possible for her conservation legacy to have a lasting impact at WPBO and for the birds she loved.

## WPBO Motus Tower Dedicated in Memory of Linda Jo Klemens

Members of Thunder Bay Audubon Society, friends, and family remember Linda Jo Klemens as an avid birder, conservationist, and teacher. She was active with the Thunder Bay chapter most of her adult life, serving as president for the last twelve, and especially enjoyed trips to Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. To honor her memory and continue her legacy of helping birds, TBAS and Michigan Audubon gathered contributions to help erect a Motus tower at WPBO.





# The Jack Pine Warbler Cover Photo Contest is Back for 2019!



Bohemian Waxwing © Darlene Friedman

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. Michigan Audubon is committed to continuing this tradition of photographic excellence, and we are on the hunt for outstanding bird photography to grace the cover of the Jack Pine Warbler in 2019. Since we know that a great number of our

If you have a photograph you would like to see on the cover of the JPW, please enter your submission in our 2019 Jack Pine Warbler Cover Photo Contest. To enter, please email up to three digital photo files to Communications & Marketing Coordinator Molly Keenan by June 1, 2019, at [mkeenan@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:mkeenan@michiganaudubon.org).

Photographs may not be larger than 5MB in size and must be submitted in .jpg format. Please be sure to include a caption of what it is, the location where it was taken, the date it was taken and the photographer's name with your submissions. Photographs are permitted to have had minor digital enhancements for cropping, filters, and corrective functions, but images that have been judged to be significantly altered will not be used.

The photographer retains full copyright to his or her images. However, participation in the contest requires the contestant to give Michigan Audubon permission to use the photographs without compensation on the cover of the Jack Pine Warbler well as on other Michigan Audubon websites and social media and printed materials. Michigan Audubon will always include the photographer's name when using a photograph for any purpose.

As always, Michigan Audubon requests that all photographers follow ethical practices when photographing birds and other wildlife.

Blue-winged Teal © Josh Haas



## Tawas Point Birding Festival

May 16-18, 2019

Come to Michigan's Sunrise Coast to enjoy spring birding at its best, attend birding walks and tours, brush up on your bird identification skills, and support conservation efforts in the state of Michigan! The Tawas Point Birding Festival is a Michigan Audubon Signature Event that is supported by the local chapter, AuSable Valley Audubon. Festival participants enjoy some of the best birding in the Great Lakes region; Tawas Point is well known for high concentrations of migrating warblers during May. Species highlights have included Kirtland's Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, numerous raptors, shorebirds, and more. For more information about the festival, including the full schedule and to register, visit [www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org).

# Invasive Plants in Nurseries — What to

BY LINNEA ROWSE, CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As we approach spring, you may be thinking about how to enhance your yard for pollinators, birds, or aesthetically pleasing landscaping, and thus may be planning a trip to your local plant nursery. An uninformed visit to purchase plants may result in unintended harmful consequences – in your backyard, with impacts to our shared environment: alien, invasive plants.

What are invasive plants? Are all non-native plants invasive? Why are native plants better – for the environment, for birds and insects? These are all critical questions, and there is a lot of misleading or confusing information available when planning your garden or purchasing plants. To begin, let's define an invasive plant.

Definition of invasive plant from the USDA: “A plant that is both non-native and able to establish on many sites, grow quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems.”

Simply put, invasive plants are those that are not from here (not their native environment where they co-evolved with herbivores and local conditions), and can spread quickly and disrupt native plant and animal communities. Not all non-native or exotic plants are invasive. However, native plants co-evolved with the populations of insects, pollinators, and birds in their local region, and thus are a functioning part of local ecosystems (which non-native plants are not).

Invasive plants are harmful in that they out-compete native vegetation and provide poor-quality or mismatched food resources for birds, pollinators, and herbivorous insects. Most insects are adapted to lay their eggs on only one or a select few host plant species, and as you may know, butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars) are vital food resources for birds especially during nesting season and migration. Research has documented that invasive plants do not contribute to local biodiversity – which is a key to ecosystem health. In the words of Doug Tallamy, a leading researcher on native plants and interactions between plants, insects, birds, and ecosystem health: “Garden as if life depended on it.”

Unfortunately, though the harmful nature of these plants is known, many are still being sold at nurseries. You can make a difference with your dollar: only purchase native plants, not cultivars and not exotics or known invasives. If a nursery does not offer native flowers, shrubs, or trees for purchase, let them know that you are taking your business

elsewhere. When enough of us do this, we can make an impact – eventually, retailers will understand that their customers (that's you!) desire native plants!

## Top species to avoid purchasing

Whether these are the straight invasive species or cultivars, avoid purchasing the following. Note: cultivars, though bred for sterility or their inability to reproduce in nature, may cross-pollinate with the “wild” plant, and often will still be able to spread invasively.

Japanese barberry, *Berberis thunbergii*

Honeysuckle, *Lonicera* spp. (includes species such as amur, Bell's, Morrow's, Tartarian, and Japanese honeysuckles)

Burning Bush (Winged Burning Bush) *Euonymus alatus*

Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*

Common Buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*, or Glossy Buckthorn, *Frangula alnus*

Tropical milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*

Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Spotted knapweed, *Centaurea maculosa*

Autumn olive, *Elaeagnus umbellata*

Multiflora rose, *Rosa multiflora*

Butterfly bush, *Buddleja* sp. (this is different than native Butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, an excellent pollinator plant)

Callery pear / Bradford pear, *Pyrus calleryana*

Chinese privet, *Ligustrum sinense*

Princess tree/royal Paulownia, *Paulownia tomentosa*

Tree of heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*



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](mailto:lrowse@michiganaudubon.org).



# Avoid and Why



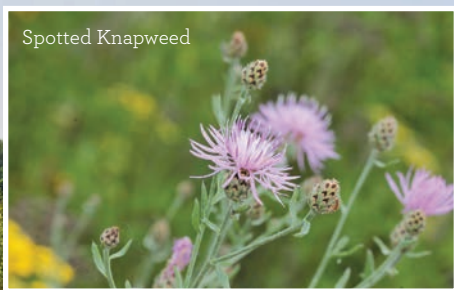
Common Buckthorn



Honeysuckle



Purple Loosestrife



Spotted Knapweed

## Native alternatives and where to purchase

Michigan Audubon's "*Michigan Native Plants for Bird-Friendly Landscapes*" booklet, available as PDF on our website, lists many beneficial native plants which will support birds, pollinators, and insects – all part of ecosystem health.

Our "*Michigan Native Garden Designs for the Birds*" booklet provides ideas for native landscaping on your property.

There are several native-only plant nurseries or seed sources in Michigan; here are a few to start with:

Hidden Savanna Nursery, website: [www.hiddensavanna.com](http://www.hiddensavanna.com). Michigan native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees sold in containers and plugs, specializes in Southwest Michigan genotypes.

Michigan Wildflower Farm, website: [www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com](http://www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com). Michigan native wildflower and grass seed, consultation, installation, and maintenance.

Native Connections, website: [www.nativeconnections.net](http://www.nativeconnections.net). Michigan genotype grass seed, design, consultation, installation, and management.

The Native Plant Nursery, website: [www.nativeplant.com](http://www.nativeplant.com). Michigan native wildflowers, grasses & shrubs; organically grown from locally collected seed.

Wildtype, website: [www.wildtypeplants.com](http://www.wildtypeplants.com). Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses: plugs and small containers. Design, planning, and management of native landscapes.

Many local conservation districts offer native tree and shrub sales annually; some may also provide perennials.

Please contact us if you know of additional native plant nurseries which we may add to a list of resources on our website.

For more information on native and invasive plants, visit our website: <https://www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/bird-friendly-plants/>.

Extensive efforts are taken by Michigan Audubon to eradicate invasive species from sanctuaries, including work on the groves of autumn olive found at Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary.



# CITIZEN SCIENCE AND YOUTH EDUCATION

BY LINDSAY CAIN, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The first group of fifth-grade students that I spoke with last fall reminded me of something I had somehow forgotten along the way. It began when I asked them if scientists could be everywhere. Their response was a resounding “YES!”

I was trying to explain to them the definition of citizen science. However, I had forgotten that we teach our children that anyone can be a scientist. What I meant to ask them was if professional scientists could be everywhere at once, which of course they can't. In my attempt to show the students that even though professional scientists can't be everywhere, data can be collected everywhere — this is citizen science.

Citizen science projects are the perfect, fun avenue to involve people of all ages and skill levels in science and data collection. This is especially true for kids; my interaction with these insightful fifth-graders shows why!

Everyone can participate in citizen science, and there are many projects that birders join in regularly. Many people don't even take on these projects because they're trying to help collect data, but rather just because they like to bird.

On the heels of the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count, we're starting to ramp up for



Photo documentation is a great addition to recording field marks and reporting sightings on eBird. Here, Alex Karakuc hands off this newly banded Common Yellowthroat to Ethan Urban as Daniel Brockman takes a picture.



Make your list and check it twice. Travis Kaye reviews his checklist of birds for the day with the group before entering them into eBird.

FeederWatch and NestWatch seasons. I like to use the ever-present eBird as my go-to citizen science project. The sheer volume of data made available by ordinary observation is captivating.

Each day, more data are added, and a better, more precise picture of the health and distribution of birds as a whole comes into view. We can see where birds are being observed, how their distribution changes over time, and even identify places to go to see a specific species.

When dealing with young people, eBird is a great way to get them excited about possibilities and involvement. It's easy to contribute data to the eBird, and the number of questions that can be asked using the available data is seemingly endless.

Michigan Audubon's pilot Bird by Bird program is ongoing in a local (Lansing-area) fifth-grade classroom, with a bird feeding station viewable from their classroom window. The last time I was there, I got to see the detailed observations the students recorded and submitted to eBird. Apparently, they mistakenly reported a Barn Swallow. Because of the time of year, the sighting was flagged and the teacher in charge was contacted for documentation. He was able to use the notes the students took with their observations to let the reviewer know that it was an Eastern Bluebird.

The teacher also told me about an autistic student who spends most of his day with one-on-one support. The teacher was unable to get him to write about anything until recently when he discovered his love of birds. Not only does he record observations, but he also loves to learn new information about the birds he's seeing using a Michigan Birds field guide.



The active participation of these students in their data collection and contribution to eBird inspires them to keep learning. It helps give them purpose and follow-through in what they're doing and observing. However, it also contributes to a larger data set that may lead to supporting more scientifically-advanced observations and conclusions in the future.

Through these citizen science projects, we can create a new generation of conservationists. It doesn't matter who you are or what you want to be when you grow up; making observations and reporting them is the best way for the average person (of any age!) to help science and create a better future for birds and their habitats.



Chiara Cascardo uses her binoculars to identify birds on the other side of the river at Chippewa Nature Center.



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](mailto:lcain@michiganaudubon.org).

MICHIGAN



YOUNG BIRDERS CAMP

# CAMPERS WANTED

Our Great Lakes Young Birders Camp is returning, with an updated name. Now the Michigan Young Birders Camp, this exciting event will be held June 23-28, 2019!

After a successful inaugural camp in 2018 and to further connect young people with the diverse bird communities of the Great Lakes Region, we look forward to providing 16 high school students with an exciting week at bird camp. Michigan Audubon, in partnership with Alma College, Chippewa Nature Center, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will work to connect young birders with each other and to the resources they need to become the next generation of conservationists.

Camp will be based out of Alma College, centrally located in Michigan, in close proximity to forests, grasslands, wetlands, and even the core breeding range for the rare Kirtland's Warbler. The Michigan Young Birders Camp promotes the development of young birders who will be the next generation of birders, scientists, and conservation-minded citizens. Through experiences that develop expertise in avian natural history, foster connections with their birding peers, and highlight careers in bird conservation and ornithology, participants will receive a foundation upon which they can successfully grow their passion for the natural world.

Current camp cost is \$500 per student and includes lodging, travel during camp, food, and supplies. However, scholarships may be available.

You can find the camper application and more information about the camp at [www.michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders](http://www.michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders).

Contact Education Coordinator Lindsay Cain at [lcain@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:lcain@michiganaudubon.org) or (517) 580-7364 with any questions.

# 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 from December through February 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 2019 Annual Fund, contributed to WPBO, supported educational opportunities for young birders in Michigan, and more. We certainly would not be able to continue our work without the altruistic spirits of people like you.

Elizabeth & David Abood-Carroll  
Donald Angell  
Charles Angus  
Anna Paulina Foundation  
Robert & Catherine Anthony  
Rebecca Antrim  
Alice E. Archambeau  
Deaver D. Armstrong  
John E. Baumgartner  
Bay De Noc Audubon Naturalists Club  
Kathleen & David Beck  
Lisa Benic  
Diane & Mike Bennett  
Sandra Bergstrom  
Deborah Betz  
William Beute  
Elizabeth S. Bishop  
Rev. Karen Blatt  
Ruth Bloomer  
Amy Bolmer  
Louise Bourg  
Mrs. Pete Bowman  
Clara A. Bratton  
Chris Brege  
Doug & Kathy Brehm  
Betsy Briere  
Rick Brigham  
Michael C. Britz  
Sherri Brom  
Constance Brown  
W.R. Burton  
Rosalind E. Byers Lang  
Judith Caldwell  
Ruth Cannon  
Joanne Cantoni  
Thomas & Marilou Capo  
John Carlson  
Sharon Carpenter  
Susan Carpenter  
Shirley Casler  
Anne & John Cauley  
Chappee Rapids Audubon Society  
Thomas Chisholm  
Donald Chrispens  
Karen Clahassey  
Stan Krohmer & Patricia Clark  
Douglas Clary  
Loren & Mary Clifford  
Robert & Sylvia Coffey  
William Collins  
Susan Coopes  
Mary K. Copehagen  
Charlotte Corbett  
Judith Cory

Jean & Craig Coverdill  
Cynthia Isenhoff & Ken Cramer  
Tamara Crupi  
Joyce Swierbut & William Cunningham  
Paul Cypher  
Adam & Diana Dale  
Alan Damiano  
Elizabeth Dapson  
Kevin & Barbara Davenport  
Laura & Ryan De La Rambelje  
J.H. Deckert  
G. Defillippi  
Larry G. Detter  
Cathy Devendorf  
Lynda Dewitt  
Donald I. Dickmann  
Mary Jane Dockeray  
Micheline Domers  
Amy Donoghue  
Judith Dowbenko  
Margaret M Duncan  
Charles Dwan  
Kathy & John Eisenhardt  
Cindy & Steve Ellis  
Mary & Don Eppelheimer  
Bonny & Ken Eppelheimer  
Sharon J. Erickson  
Roger & Dagmar Eriksson  
Clifton & Barbara Evans  
Valerie Fargo  
Kayne Ferrier  
Barbara Fisher  
John Fleming  
Mary & Jeff Fleming  
Ginger Forsell  
Joan Fortier  
Mary Foster  
Nathan Fowler  
Audrey Fox  
Meda E Francisco  
Terri & Matthew Franzen  
Carl & Virginia Freeman  
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Frock  
Stephen Frykholm  
Paul J. Gambka  
Robert Garcia  
Catherine Giebel  
Sherry Gilbert  
Bill & Sarah Gittlen  
Loretta Gold  
Steven Gondol  
Jean Gramlich  
Thomas D. Gregory  
John & Carol Grossa

Erwin & Elizabeth Gutsell  
Pam Timmons & Perry Haaland  
Patricia Hall  
Diane Hammond  
Richard Hansen  
Elizabeth Hansen  
Jane C. Hardwicke  
Mary Ann Harrington  
Paul & Donna Hayes  
John Heidtke  
Dykstra & Phyllis Heinze  
Larry & Mary Hennessey  
Christopher & Jean Hensick  
Don & Mary Anne Hershberger  
James R. Hewitt  
Jere Hinkle  
Ronald & Joan Hoffman  
Margaret Holtschlag  
Barbara & Frederick Honhart  
Sarah & David Hopkins  
Philip R. Houser  
Eileen Houston  
John Howell  
Amede O. Hungerford  
Richard & Susan Ilka  
Mark Isken  
Jackson Audubon Society  
Mark & Cheryl Jenness  
Nancy Jensen  
Delores J. Johnson  
Alan Jones  
Lawrence Jones  
Elaine Kampmueller  
Jean A. Kasprzyk  
Alan Katz  
Stephen M. Kelley  
Helen Kemp  
Daniel & Betty Kesselring  
Patricia Klos  
Leah R. Knapp  
Elizabeth B. Koch  
Gary Kolesar  
Natasha & Matt Koss  
Holly Kowalske  
Nathan & Cynthia Krupp  
Sandra Kuhn  
Randy Kursinsky  
Molly Lachniet  
Nancy Ladenberger  
Ellis & Nelva Lampart  
Jack Lapinski  
Dave & Chris LaRoe  
David E. Larson  
Glenn B. Latinen



Ruth Carol Olsen Laugal  
 Philippe Laurens  
 Jordan Lawrence  
 Joann Leal  
 Laura Leclear  
 Jim Leitch  
 Ping & Tim Liang  
 Kate Teeter & Alec Lindsay  
 Judy Lindstrom  
 Ray & Nancy Loeschner  
 MR. & Mrs. John P. Lorand  
 Carl Lori  
 Joanne Lowery  
 Patricia Luecke  
 Paul Maracle  
 Linda Marchio  
 John P. Matus  
 John A. Mcaree  
 Ardath Mccall  
 Jean Mccarty  
 James Mccatty  
 Tim & Debbie McGilsky  
 Judy McMullen  
 Phyllis Meek  
 Cathy Miller  
 Debra Miller  
 Alene Miller  
 Robert & Shelagh Miller  
 William & Rosalind Moldwin  
 Alice & David Moore  
 Robert H. Morman  
 Kathleen Hogan Morrison  
 Deb Mosher  
 Cindy Motzenbecker  
 Kevin J. Murphy  
 Jane Murray  
 David Mutchler  
 Jan Nagalski  
 William C. Nash  
 Irmgard E. Neils  
 Gregory Nelson  
 Network For Good  
 Valdis Nodievs  
 Tammy Noiro  
 Michelle & Doug Norton  
 Elsie Orb  
 Shirley Paris  
 Michael & Donna Parr  
 Howard W. Patch  
 Margaret Patulski  
 Patricia Perkins  
 Till & Bernice Peters  
 Donna Philiben  
 Jim Pickens  
 Janice Porter  
 Mark Powell  
 Mary Predebon  
 Ann & Ira Purchis  
 Shirley Pyle  
 Ward Randol  
 Charlyss Ray  
 Rachel Y. Reams  
 Thomas Reichard  
 Roger & Anne Reinhold  
 Joan L. Richards  
 Jessica Roberts  
 John Roberts  
 Rockford Garden Club

Doug Roeser  
 Tom Rooks  
 Stephen Ross  
 Nancy A. Russell  
 Barbara & Gerald Saalfeld  
 Cynthia Sabin  
 Ronald N. Sakowski  
 Habib & Joan Salehi  
 William E. Saul  
 Frederick & Katherine Sawchuk  
 A. Eileen Scamehorn  
 Dr. William C. Scharf  
 Patty & John Schmidt  
 Martie Schneiderman  
 Katelan Schoen  
 Phyllis Schroeder  
 Judith Reinhardt & James Schwantes  
 Mary A. Scoblic  
 Linda Scribner  
 Joseph Sepienza  
 Charlene E. Shillings  
 Sandra Simmons  
 Martin Singer  
 Joyce L. Smith  
 Barbara & James Smith  
 Walter & Betty Stansbury  
 Fred W. Stehr  
 Darrell Stevens  
 Carole Stevens  
 Veronica & Robin Stevenson  
 Ray Stocking  
 Mary Jo Stout  
 Thomas W. Stump  
 Christopher Summers  
 Carol Sundquist  
 Emma Tai  
 Joanne Termaat  
 Witt Thanom  
 Roger Tharp  
 Anne Todd  
 Maureen Tulip  
 Deborah Bayer & Jonathan Tyman  
 Charlene Vanacker  
 Michael Vanderwall  
 Carol J. Vanoveren  
 Joseph Vostrizansky  
 John J. Walhout  
 Margaret Walter  
 Washtenaw Audubon Society  
 Bill & Paula Weiner  
 Whistling Frog Tile  
 John White  
 Dale Kennedy & Doug White  
 Amanda Whited  
 Ruth Wierenga  
 Kathleen Wight  
 Nancy Wilson  
 Kevin Wistrom  
 Kandie Wood  
 Susan E. Woods  
 L. Woods  
 Lynn E. Wright  
 Lynn Yendell  
 Keyli Zehnder  
 Tom Zeneberg  
 Paula Zera  
 Hubert Zernickow  
 Gerald J. Ziarno

## Cerulean Warbler Weekend May 31–June 2, 2019



June is a magical time to visit rural Barry County in southwest Michigan! Frogs drumming, dragonflies buzzing, and Cerulean Warbler singing in habitat. Cerulean Warbler Weekend takes place at Michigan Audubon's Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary. A gem of the area, Otis Sanctuary has 128 acres of rolling fields, mature forest, expansive marshland, a stream, kettle hole marshes, and several springs. Otis Sanctuary is adjacent to the Globally Important Bird Area, Barry State Game Area, which is recognized for providing critical breeding habitat for Cerulean Warbler.

A unique birding and educational opportunity, Cerulean Warbler Weekend features guided bird walks, educational opportunities, and outdoor experiences. Species highlights include Grasshopper Sparrow, Alder, Acadian, and Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireo, Hooded Warbler, and, of course, Cerulean Warbler. For more information and to register, visit [www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org).

Photo: Cerulean Warbler © Daniel Behm



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.

|                   |                   |                   |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mike Adams        | Daniel Hatcher    | Thomas Mittner    | Susan Spratt       |
| Wesley Alexander  | Barry Hill        | Gilbert Patmore   | Stuart Spratt      |
| Christine Baker   | Mark Jackson      | Thomas A. Peeler  | Suzan & Edmond     |
| Lyndsey Bennett   | Pam Jackson       | Brandan Pierce    | Starr              |
| Carolyn J. Blair  | Mark Janeczko     | Kenneth J.        | Lynn Stephenson    |
| Savannah Boerger  | Margaret M. Jaqua | Pirochta          | Kelly L. & Matthew |
| Cynthia Boyer     | Mark Jennings     | Karen Pokora      | Trumble            |
| Meta Bray         | Laurie Johnson    | Richard J.        | Kevin Uhl          |
| Rosalind E. Byers | Renee Justice     | Ponshair          | Bonnie Ulrich      |
| Lang              | John F. Kanitra   | Anthony Puente    | Joseph Ulrich      |
| Jim Cleveland     | Ann I Kennedy     | Laine Putans      | Bonnie D. Vander   |
| Mika Cooper       | Samantha          | Cyndi Radel       | Muellen & Paul     |
| Richard Couse     | Kinnaman          | Jean Redfield     | Laidler            |
| Amy Culver        | Judi Latreille    | Patrick Rothi     | Roberto Viguilla   |
| Bill Dashner      | Susan Leach       | Lauri J. Rowe     | Gayle Wallace      |
| Duane Dunlap      | Carol Lewis       | Phyllis A. Ruth   | Michael Wells      |
| Mimi Elliott      | Tim Lintz         | Matthew Schaut    | Jacqui Wells       |
| Tania Evans       | Bruce Lynn        | Steven J.         | David & Amanda     |
| Meganne Finerty   | Judy Matta        | Schneider         | Whitehouse         |
| Mary Fortier      | Margaret McCatty  | Lynette Schreur   | Renee Wilson       |
| Carol Gagliardi   | Cynthia E.        | Linda J. Schulman | Robert Wittenberg  |
| Kenneth Glynn     | McTavish          | Karen Schwalm     | Jane Wolf          |
| David Groves      | Reggie Mieske     | Gary Sheiko       | Anthony Wright     |
| Sara Harrington   | Sally Miklos      | James A. Sitek    | Dorothy Zahor      |
| James Harrison    | Dorrie Milan      | Diane Smigelski   | Tracy Zeman        |

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 [mkeenana@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:mkeenana@michiganaudubon.org) or (517) 580-7364. Thank you!

## Save the Dates!

### 2019 SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

WPBO Spring Hawk Count  
Mar. 15–May 31

WPBO Spring Owl Banding  
Mar. 15–May 31

WPBO Spring Waterbird Count  
Apr. 15–May 31

Spring Fling  
Apr. 26–28

Backyard Bird Habitat Workshop  
May 11

Tawas Point Birding Festival  
May 16–18

MA Kirtland's Warbler Tours  
May 27–June 30

Cerulean Warbler Weekend  
May 31–June 2

Please check the  
Michigan Audubon website  
for additional events  
and more details as  
they become available.