

Jack Pine *Warbler*

SUMMER: Birders as Conservationists ■ Why the Sandhill Crane is Not a Suitable Game Species
Educational Program Bird by Bird Takes Flight ■ Aerial Insectivores: Populations in Rapid Decline
Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Spring Reports: Owl Banding, Waterbird Count, Hawk Count, and More



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. 9AM-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
mkeen@michiganaudubon.org

Sarah Pooler

Development Manager
spooler@michiganaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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 ■ Canada Warbler

Photographer: Josh Haas

Congratulations to Josh Haas who is one of our 2019 *Jack Pine Warbler* Cover Photo Contest winners! Josh is the president of Battle Creek Brigham Audubon and co-owner of Glances at Nature Photography and Birding Tours. Both have expanded his love for teaching others and sharing what he loves about the natural world. Josh's passion in all things birds can be seen in his bird photography and his DVD "Hawks on the Wing," an innovative new way to learn hawk ID in flight. To view more of Josh's photography and teaching tools, visit www.glancesatnature.com and www.hawksonthewing.com.

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 mkeen@michiganaudubon.org or (517) 580-7364.

Contents

Features

2-3

Birders as Conservationists

4-5

Why the Sandhill Crane is Not a Suitable Game Species

8-9

Aerial Insectivores: Populations in Rapid Decline

Columns

6

Bird by Bird Takes Flight

7

In Memory of Gerald J. Ziarno

10-13

WPBO Field Reports

- Field Ornithologist
- Hawk Count
- Waterbird Count
- Owl Banding

Departments

1

Executive Director Letter

7

Special Thanks: Tawas Point Birding Festival

14

New Members

14

Special Thanks: Cerulean Warbler Weekend



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 for more updates, and follow MichiganAudubon on social media



From the Executive Director

Honoring our Volunteers

Spring and summer are bright and busy months for birds in Michigan, which means birders and the staff of Michigan Audubon are out in the thick of it, leading walks and organizing events, talks, tours, and educational efforts to spread the good word about what we can do to protect and appreciate birds and their habitats. One of my favorite events of the season is one that kicks off the field season at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory: our annual Spring Fling. Held on the last weekend of April and touted as really what is an undersell of migration, this was my fourth time attending the event as well as the 40th anniversary of WPBO.

2018 was the first year we began acknowledging two individuals at Spring Fling whose exemplary volunteer service had been long-standing, influential, and supportive of Michigan Audubon's mission of connecting birds and people for the benefit of both through conservation, education, and research. Our volunteer achievement award is named after Dr. Alec R. Lindsay, former board chair of Michigan Audubon and long-time volunteer whose service has consistently soared above the normal standards of volunteerism, both in terms of generosity and expertise. Dr. Lindsay's contributions have undoubtedly made a tremendous difference for the organization and for ornithological research. Alec Lindsay was the first recipient of our volunteer achievement award that was subsequently named after him (and yes, he is still living!).

In 2018, we also honored John Baumgartner. Since its inception in 1979, John has been highly and consistently invested in Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. His personal commitment to WPBO is impressive, touching, and steadfast. John's delightful, helpful nature, his enthusiasm for Michigan Audubon and WPBO, his values-based, lifelong dedication to birds and conservation, and his exemplary volunteerism more than earned him the recognition of a volunteer achievement award.



This past April, two more individuals were presented with the Alec R. Lindsay Volunteer Achievement Award — two very dedicated volunteers who have been walking the walk and talking the talk for birds and their habitats for over thirty years: Joe Kaplan and Louie Dombroski. These individuals have demonstrated over time how individual investment of time and energy, in conjunction with a values-based commitment to the birds and their habitats, makes an impactful difference that we continue to be grateful for. I invite you to read more about Joe and Louie on our website, michiganaudubon.org, where I've written a blog post that details the myriad ways these award recipients have shared their skills, passion, mentorship, expertise, and care that benefit and demonstrate the power of individual activism to us all.

It goes without saying (but is absolutely essential to say) that we not only rely on donations to fund our work, but also upon people, on our network, and on our community. Thank you to all of you who give of your personal resources, who speak up for conservation and the needs of native birds in a changing world. And thank you for continuing to be a part of Michigan Audubon!

For the birds,


Heather L. Good, Executive Director

Louie Dombroski, pictured left, landed his first field ornithology job in 1988, when he became waterbird counter at Whitefish Point. He received the Alec R. Lindsay Volunteer Achievement Award in 2019.

Birders as Conservationists

BY KIRBY ADAMS

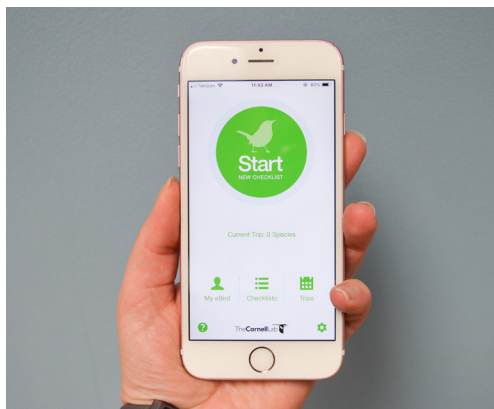
It's often lamented that birders, especially those who obsessively keep lists, contribute little to nothing to bird conservation. However, most birders are indeed contributing to conservation, often through multiple avenues. That said, every birder can always do more, and should certainly welcome more ways to support conservation. After all, lists of birds are difficult to accumulate if there are fewer and fewer birds to find every year. There are four simple ways that every birder can be a conservationist today. Most birders are already doing at least one or two of these, but the steps can always be increased in scale and scope.



Be an Ambassador

Perhaps the most lasting impact a birder can have for conservation is to be an ambassador for birding and conversation at every opportunity. When you're in the field looking for that American Golden-Plover and some folks walk past and ask what you're looking for, you have a few options. You can say "birds" and make it clear you're engrossed and not up for a conversation, you could give a technical description of shorebird status and distribution that makes the people regret they asked you anything, or you could let your excitement about plovers shine. Tell them these birds were at Cape Horn a few weeks ago, almost in sight of Antarctica, and now

they're headed almost to the North Pole. Pull a quarter out of your pocket and explain that Golden-crowned Kinglets bouncing around on this December morning weigh as much as that coin and managed to survive a sub-freezing night. Take your binoculars and get them into the hands of anyone who walks past, especially kids. The future of conservation rests with our children and engaging an ever-increasing diversity of people with nature. You know how wonderful birds are, but they might not. Give them the wonder. And don't forget to explain how important the habitat right in front of you is. They'll remember when it comes time to vote for someone who wants to protect it.



Be a Citizen Scientist

Most of us will never be ornithologists for myriad reasons, but that doesn't mean we can't contribute to the scientific study of birds. Both the longest-lasting and most wide-ranging citizen science projects in history involve birds, and you can easily contribute to both. Christmas Bird Counts have been going on continuously for more than a century, providing invaluable data to ornithologists tracking status and distribution of bird populations over the years. Then we have eBird, a child of the internet age that allows you to enter every single bird sighting you make into a collective database that can — and does! — inform conservation decisions around the world. These projects, including the Great Backyard Bird Count, welcome birders of

every skill level. When you hear a Wood Thrush singing in your local woodlot, you possess data that no one else in the world has: the species of bird, that it was singing, that it was in that location, and that it was there at that particular time. You can smile to yourself at how beautiful the song is, or you can do that AND submit those data to eBird where they become part of a larger database. No one else could make that particular contribution but you!



Write a Check

At least one prominent birder likes to write a check every time he gets a lifer. Whether it's a state park, a wildlife preserve, a person's backyard, a farmer's hedgerow, or a nature preserve, he donates as a thank you for protecting the habitat that allowed him to see that special bird. There are endless outlets for conservation charity, but the beauty of the lifer check method is that it keeps that money local to the bird. National organizations do fabulous work, but it's often your regional land grant conservation organization or a county park system that steps up with grassroots donations to protect pockets of natural habitat. Those areas are often birding

hotspots or destined to become such. Donating money is the most obvious method of contributing to conservation, and the one birders are most often accused of neglecting. Make a donation of any size today and tell the recipient you're doing it because you're a birder and you want to help the birds.



Plant Some Flowers

You can combine all of these — ambassadorship, citizen science, and conservation giving — in your backyard if you make it a bird-friendly habitat. Providing water, reducing or eliminating pesticide use, keeping your cats indoors, and planting native plants goes a long way toward making your yard a bird sanctuary. While regional trends in habitat loss get most of the attention, it's often overlooked how valuable a network of nature-friendly properties in a developed area can be. A patch of native wildflowers with a couple viburnum shrubs and a small oak tree in a tiny lot is a migrant oasis. When a flock of warblers, vireos, and thrushes ends a nightly migration over your neighborhood, that patch of

welcoming vegetation, ideally with some water too, can be a literal lifesaver. If nothing but sterile lawns lie below, the weary and desperate birds might begin searching further and run into a building, a hungry cat, or a tree sprayed with toxic pesticide. The bigger the habitat, the better, but tiny havens are still havens.

The beauty of these four steps is that anyone can engage in all of them. Even if you can only put some spare change in the jar at the nature center and put a hanging birdbath on your urban apartment balcony, you're contributing. The scale doesn't matter. It all adds up in the conservation game and with every positive action you take, both birds and birders win.



Kirby Adams (kirby.adams@gmail.com) writes the birding column for the online travel blog, National Parks Traveler. Kirby lives in Eaton Rapids.

Why the Sandhill Crane is Not a Suitable Game Species

BY HEATHER GOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A photograph of a Sandhill Crane standing in a shallow, marshy wetland. The crane has a long, slender neck, a long, dark beak, and a distinctive reddish-brown patch on its forehead. Its body is covered in brown and tan feathers. It is standing on one leg in the water, with its reflection visible. The background is a soft-focus view of the wetland with green grasses and water.

Over the past few years, wildlife enthusiasts, birdwatchers, and conservationists in Michigan have taken a strong stance against proposals to designate two federally-protected migratory birds as game species in the state of Michigan: the Sandhill Crane and Mourning Dove. Michigan Audubon has taken an active role in not only opposing these proposals but also in ensuring the voices of our members and supporters — and the application of sound scientific research, policies, and practices — are represented to our legislators. Needless to say, these proposals did not reflect a clear, responsible understanding about what makes a species suitable for game designation versus what an avian species requires for long-term sustainability, including continued protection from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This is exactly the case with the Sandhill Crane, a species that is ultimately not suited to be hunted.

Due to a tone shift under Governor Whitmer's leadership — one that seems to value both biological and ecological sciences as vital components of wildlife management — the good news for the moment is that these two species will continue receiving federal protection as migratory birds and not be designated as game in Michigan. Even so, it is important to demystify false claims and the overall misunderstanding about the population of Sandhill Crane in Michigan, what hunting them would do to their numbers, and how this knowledge is greatly missing from the overarching conversation. What we saw with these proposals in both 2017 and 2019 was an alarming amount of misinformation circulated about the Sandhill Crane; information that, if it had led to these proposals passing, would put this species at great and potentially irrevocable risk.

Population & Breeding Ecology

An important consideration for Sandhill Crane is their breeding ecology; adults are very long-lived with pairs remaining together long term, require a lot of habitat to support breeding, and raise very few young that survive to fledging. Furthermore, successful pairs migrate with their young to wintering areas in the southern states, stopping along their migration route at well-known staging areas. Given these facts, it would be difficult — if not impossible — to persevere as a local breeding population if they were subjected to hunting. A loss of an adult would most certainly impact the viability of the bound pair and their ecology of migrating with young along their ancestral migration routes. In fact, 100 years ago, cranes were almost extirpated from Michigan because of exploration. Their recovery began in 1916 with the passage of the MBTA but cranes did not recover their former range in Michigan for another 80 years — when a single pair finally returned to Isle Royale in 1996.

Not only must current population numbers be estimated with confidence, but we need to understand how those numbers have fluctuated over time and what has caused those fluctuations in order to really understand this species' population dynamics. We are nowhere near this level of data-driven readiness or confidence with the eastern population of Sandhill Crane. This was a large part of the frustration felt by wildlife biologists and ecologists on this issue. Wildlife biologist and U.P. resident Joe Kaplan commented on the potential designation of the Sandhill Crane as a game species, stating "Sandhill Cranes, unlike other game species, just don't express the population dynamics that can tolerate harvest — a principle that has governed conservation and hunting for the past century. Localized crop damage aside, this species deserves full protection as a cherished member of Michigan's non-game migratory birds."

The number of Sandhill Crane seen in Michigan may appear to be increasing, but it is difficult to differentiate Michigan (resident) populations from those that are migrating — a crucial element that demands further research and understanding. Sandhill Crane is also a bird species with a clutch size that can range from 1-3. This is quite different from the clutch size of Wild Turkey, which tends to average around 11-12. The high clutch size for Wild Turkey is one of the primary reasons why their

diminished populations are able to rebound so quickly. Even if a Sandhill Crane is able to produce a clutch size of three, it is highly unlikely that all would reach an age suitable for further reproduction. Some Sandhill Crane won't even begin to reproduce until the age of seven. If Sandhill Crane became a game species and fell below the minimum viable population as a result, the detrimental effects would be long-lasting and would run the risk of endangerment.

Policy

We don't live in a bubble. What we do for or to our bird populations in Michigan impacts the whole. It goes without saying, then, that any Michigan policy will directly affect the Sandhill Crane species throughout the eastern population region. It was not long ago that the policy, or lack thereof, brought the U.S. Wild Turkey populations to numbers that were at risk of never recovering. However, through the implementation of sound policy developed through the understanding of their behaviors and demographics, their numbers have rebounded in such a way that allows them to be hunted here in Michigan on a yearly basis. Fortunately, Wild Turkey have proven to be a resilient species that have the ability to repopulate despite the high number of licenses approved each year. The same potentiality, however, cannot be implied for Sandhill Crane.

Habitat Loss

The primary habitats best suited for the Sandhill Crane are diminishing at unprecedented rates with the further expansion of human populations and agricultural developments. Preserving these wetlands would be another key factor, if not the primary one, as to whether the Sandhill Crane would be able to repopulate following a hunting season. We must ask ourselves what wildlife management looks like when, due to the impacts of humans, their habitat is shrinking, changing, or flat-out disappearing. Sandhill Crane spend most of their lives in freshwater wetlands, including marshes, wet grasslands, and river basins. Along with these natural habitats diminishing in Michigan and throughout the United States, these habitats are also shifting due to climate change. By directly impacting habitats, we indirectly impact bird behaviors, migratory patterns, and conservation efforts. What would be a more suitable bill for wildlife management? Wetland conservation that preserves and celebrates two vulnerable, wildly-treasured, unique elements that rely on us for intelligent, consistent stewardship: our wetlands and our cranes.



Sandhill Crane with adopted gosling.
Photo by Ron Conigliaro



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 and as an independent rehabilitator of raptors before beginning her tenure as executive director in early 2016.

Bird by Bird Takes Flight

BY LINDSAY CAIN, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

We've just wrapped up our pilot year of Bird by Bird in David Pruden's fifth-grade classroom at Kinawa Middle School in Okemos, Michigan. Bird by Bird, started by a Michigan native in Idaho 10 years ago, works to connect birds with classrooms and classrooms with birds. As the facilitator for this classroom, I visited them once every three to four weeks. During these visits, we talked about birds and conservation and did some bird-related activities and crafts.

We set up a window feeding station, and students were able to observe and identify birds from their classroom. Each time I visited, they had more to share with me about what they were seeing and what they were learning. We discussed topics like migration, nesting strategies, window collisions, bird feeding, and the Turkey Vulture.

Turkey Vulture reside on the top of my list of favorite birds. They provide such an excellent ecosystem service by eating carrion, and they have the perfect "gross" factor for engaging kids. After discussing many Turkey Vulture facts, we made our version of vulture vomit (slime made with glue and borax). I'm happy to say that at our last meeting, several of the students proclaimed that Turkey Vulture are their new favorite bird!

Among other new favorite birds was the Killdeer. The students in Mr. Pruden's class found a Killdeer nest and were able to witness the infamous broken wing display and note the nest, or lack thereof, and egg size and shape.

Mr. Pruden has also been working with the Michigan Bluebird Society and has a nestbox trail set up on the school's property. Students were able to experience nests of House Wren, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, and Wild Turkey.



Although Bird by Bird begins in the classroom, it inspires students to pay more attention to their surroundings when they are outside.

Many students expressed that they were noticing birds more and more in their daily lives. Some took action to help prevent bird window collisions at their homes and others began feeding the birds in their backyards.

Through observations and inquiries, students learned to identify many different types of backyard birds including Black-capped Chickadee, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Tree Swallow.

My last Bird by Bird visit of the year was for Bird Olympics. Students competed at five different stations to compare their skills to those of birds with specific adaptations. Through the process, many students concluded that they would not be able to cut it as birds.

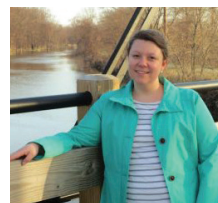


Students were able to check their "wingspan" (above) and test how many times they could flap their wings in ten seconds (below) to see how they would fare in the avian world.



We are excited to expand the Bird by Bird program in Michigan next school year to more schools across the state. We're currently looking for volunteer facilitators to visit classrooms once a month or so. We're also looking for teachers who would be willing to participate with their class.

Interested parties should contact Lindsay Cain at lcain@michiganaudubon.org or 517-580-7364.



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.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Tawas Point Birding Festival!

Thank you to our sponsors:

Eastern Whip-poor-will \$1,000+
DTE Foundation

Bald Eagle \$500
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council

Kirtland's Warbler \$250
Bill Roth
Mooney's Ben Franklin
Neiman's Family Market
Oscoda Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Scofield Real Estate LLC
Stephenson & Company, PC
Tawas Bay Big Boy and Northwoods Steakhouse
Thunder Bay Audubon Society

Trumpeter Swan \$100
Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union
Arnold Leriche
Barnacle Bill's
Big Bob's Restaurant & Pizzeria
Camp Inn Lodge
Cathy's Hallmark
East Tawas City Park
Gingerich Feed & Implements, Inc.
Hsing's Garden Chinese Restaurant
McDonald's of Tawas
Michigan Ducks Unlimited
Mr. Jack's Sports Bar & Grill
Peggy Ridgway
Pine River VanEtten Lake Watershed
Plainfield Township
Rainbow Gardens
Tawas Bay Insurance Agency
Tawas Do-It Best Hardware & Lumber
Tri-County Agency, Inc.
Village Chocolatier
Whitetail Cafe
Wojahn Floor Covering, Inc.

Scarlet Tanager \$50
Bernard Building Center
Branham's Jewelry Store
Brew Krew
Colvin's Plumbing & Heating
Feminist Bird Club Michigan
Freel's Market
G's Pizzeria
Holistic Pampered Pets
Huron Community Bank
Jeffrey Chadwick, O.D., P.C.
John L. Lesneski, DDS
Kathy Jane's Boutique
Kirtland's Warbler Audubon Society
Klenow's Market
O'Connor's
Susan and Ed Davis
Tawas Bay Art Gallery

Thank you to our speakers and guides: Sam Burckhardt, Rick Couse, Matt Hegwood, Scott Jennex, Em Kemnitz, Moira Maus, Chris Mensing, Elliot Nelson, Eric O'Neil, Rachael Pierce, Peggy Ridgway, Kristy Taylor, and Mary Trombley.

A special thank you to AuSable Valley Audubon for their help with this event, including working the welcome table at festival headquarters and crewing the stations at Tawas Point State Park!



In Memory of Gerald "Jerry" J. Ziarno
August 10, 1937 - March 29, 2019

Avid birder, long-time volunteer, and former Whitefish Point Bird Observatory board member, Jerry Ziarno, passed away peacefully on the morning of March 29, 2019, at the Mid-Michigan Hospital Center in Midland after a very brief bout with cancer. Jerry contributed a great deal to Michigan birds, wildlife, and nature. In addition to serving WPBO, Jerry was also on the board of directors for the Chippewa Nature Center, Little Forks Conservancy, and the American Birding Association. He was co-editor of the ABA-published *A Birder's Guide to Michigan*.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Yoshie, of Midland, son Jeff and daughter-in-law Amy of Oakland, Calif., and daughter Marie Catenacci and son-in-law Eric of Highland. He is also survived by his sister Margaret Bailey of Saginaw and brother Raymond Ziarno of Lansing as well as niece Lynne Caldwell of Milford, Conn., and nephews Gregory Bailey of San Rafael, Calif., and Matthew Bailey of Lewisburg, Pa., as well as their children.

Aerial Insectivores: Populations in Rapid Decline

BY LINNEA ROWSE, CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As a whole, birds face threats from multiple angles — habitat loss, free-roaming cats, collisions with windows, pesticides, climate change, and more. When we look at groups of birds using similar habitat types, or with similar life history strategies, we find commonalities. What do Chimney Swift, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Bank Swallow have in common? All rely on flying insects for their diet, though each uses different habitat, and each of these species has declined in population at an alarming pace.

Aerial insectivores, birds who catch their prey (insects) on the wing, include species such as swifts, swallows, and nightjars. Aerial insectivores are extremely sensitive to environmental, habitat, and food resource changes. These bird species are declining at alarming rates, in large part due to insecticides applied at broad scales, which are effectively decimating insect populations. Canada released a recent State of the Birds 2019 Report, which documented a 59% decline in aerial insectivore populations since 1970 — this is mirroring the rapid decline of raptors in the 1950s, which was caused by DDT use. There is hope though — raptors including Bald Eagle and Osprey have recovered remarkably well, because of the conservation efforts of agencies, organizations, and citizens like you.

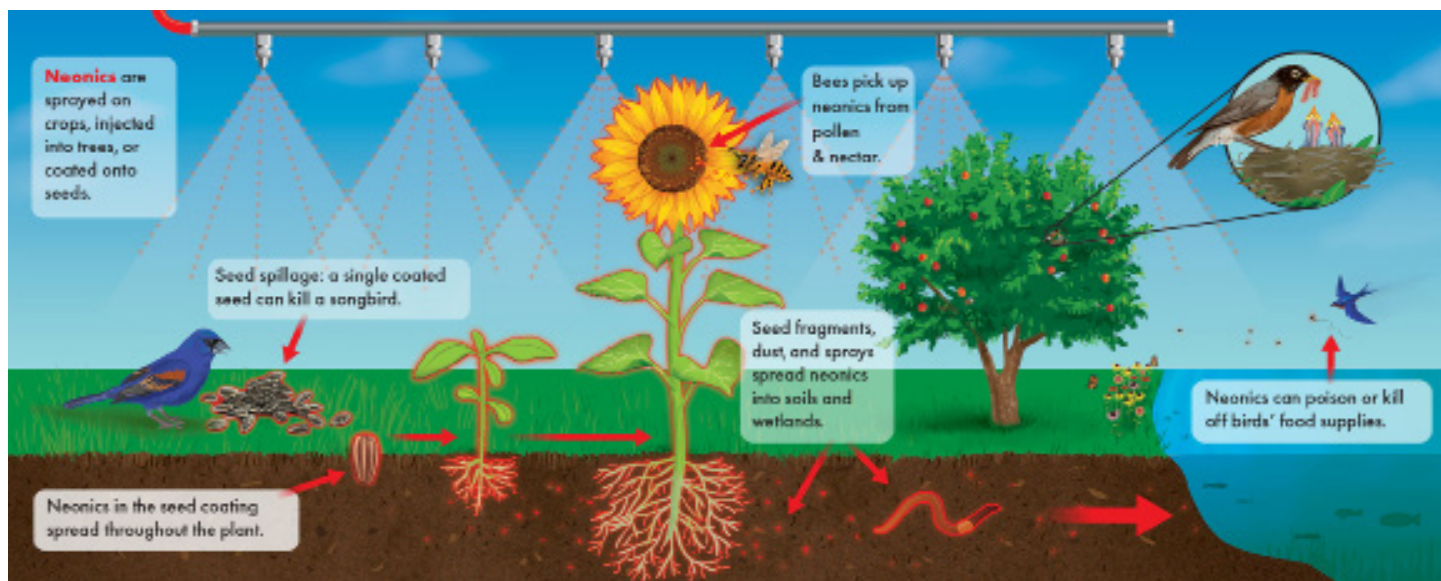
Introduced in the early 1990s and now commonly used, in agriculture (as coatings on crop seeds) and at home (on many purchased plant seedlings, in plant feed products, or in grub or insect killers), synthetic neonicotinoids, “neonics” for short, are lethal to birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, and have very harmful effects even at lower doses. In conventional agriculture in the U.S., neonics are widely used as a seed coating (for example, on corn, soy, cotton, or canola seeds) and are a systemic

pesticide, meaning the chemical is within the plant as it grows from seed to maturity. Seed coatings often spread as a dust while crops are planted, impacting nearby habitat, wetlands, and waterways. If a single treated seed is directly ingested, it can kill a bird. Insects that feed on plants with the systemic neonic treatment are killed by the chemical, including even beneficial pollinators and not just “pest” insects. Non-lethal (but serious) impacts to birds from neonics include impaired migration behavior, reproduction dysfunction, and neurological effects (Eng et al. 2017, Mineau and Palmer 2013).

Not only are insects impacted directly from neonics in the plants (the systemic pesticide), but neonics are also moving into ponds and wetlands through runoff and into groundwater through infiltration. Neonics are very persistent in water, for months or even years, and are impacting aquatic invertebrates, another important component of aerial insectivores’ food chains.

Neonics impact native pollinators, such as butterflies and bees — these beneficial insects are not only critical to pollinating our food crops, but also to pollinating the wildflowers, native trees, and shrubs that birds depend on. You can make a difference, with both your food purchasing choices (buy organic when possible), and at home — when planting, choose plants or seeds labeled not treated with neonics, and avoid spraying pesticides.

The decline of aerial insectivores is a major issue and is closely tied to pesticides in the environment. Is it possible to turn this decline around? Perhaps, and hopefully yes, but only with major changes to our currently accepted ways of insect pest management (excessively applying pesticides to our food crops, and inadvertently spreading those chemicals irreversibly into the environment).



Infographic provided by American Bird Conservancy www.abcbirds.org

Examples of aerial insectivore species in decline:

Population trends are from the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Watch List species are those with a high risk of extinction unless there are significant conservation actions to turn around their decline and reduce threats.

- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Declined by more than 1% per year (1966–2015), with a cumulative decline of 46%.
- Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*
Listed in the 2014 State of the Birds Report as a “Common Bird in Steep Decline”. Overall decline of 89% since 1966, by more than 5% per year.
- Chimney Swift* *Chaetura pelagica*
Decline of about 2.5% per year between 1966 and 2015, with a cumulative decline of 72%.
- Purple Martin* *Progne subis*
Declined by almost 1% per year between 1966 and 2015, with a cumulative population decline of 37%.
- Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus*
Listed on the 2016 State of North America’s Birds’ Watch List. Decline of about 3% per year from 1966 to 2015, with a cumulative decline of 75%.
- Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*
Listed in the 2014 State of the Birds Report as a “Common Bird in Steep Decline”. Decline of about 2% per year (1966–2015), with a cumulative decline of 61%.

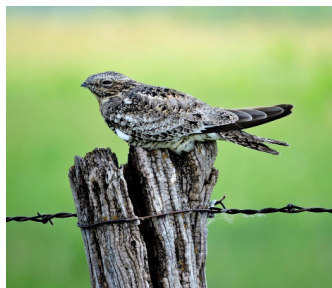
*Note: Chimney Swift and Purple Martin are two focal species for Michigan Audubon’s Mi Bird-friendly Communities program; both are highly dependent on humans for their nesting and roosting sites, and both are aerial insectivores in decline. Visit <https://www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/> for more information.



Barn Swallow © Karl Zuzarte



Purple Martin © Josh Haas



Common Nighthawk © Richard Stebbins



Chimney Swift © Euan Reid

References:

Eng, M. L., Stutchbury, B. J., & Morrissey, C. A. (2017). Imidacloprid and chlorpyrifos insecticides impair migratory ability in a seed-eating songbird. *Scientific Reports*, 7(1). <https://rdcu.be/bGJUk>

Mineau, P., & Palmer, C. (2013). The Impact of the Nation’s Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds (Publication). American Bird Conservancy. https://3pktan2l5dp043gw5f49lvhc-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Neonic_FINAL.pdf

North American Bird Conservation Initiative Canada. 2019. The State of Canada’s Birds, 2019. Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa, Canada. 12 pages. www.stateofcanadasbirds.org

Partners in Flight (2019). Avian Conservation Assessment Database, version 2019. <http://pif.birdconservancy.org/ACAD>.

Rosenberg, K.V., Pashley, D., Andres, B., Blancher, P. J., Butcher, G.S., Hunter, W.C., Mehlman, D., Panjabi, A.O., Parr, M., Wallace, G., and Wiedenfeld, D. (2014). The State of the Birds 2014 Watch List. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Committee. Washington, D.C.

Sauer, J. R., Niven, D. K., Hines, J. E., Ziolkowski, D. J., Jr, Pardieck, K. L., Fallon, J. E., and Link, W. A. (2017). The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2015. Version 2.07.2017. USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Additional reading and viewing:

Information about pesticides that many people use at home in their yards or gardens, and how neonics can impact birds: <https://abcbirds.org/program/pesticides/home-and-garden/>

Short video on neonic’s impacts to birds: <https://youtu.be/FAYbMDVaAi8>

North American Bird Conservation Initiative, State of the Birds reports: <http://nabci-us.org/how-we-work/state-of-the-birds/>

The State of Canada’s Birds, 2019: www.stateofcanadasbirds.org



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.

Spring Visitors to Whitefish Point

BY CHARLOTTE CATALANO, WPBO SPRING FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST

Figuratively speaking, there were days where the field staff were seemingly the only living things at the Point. Sitting in the hawk shack for hours on end with a wind chill below 20°F, winds over 25 mph whipping snow against the hut, and only seeing two American Crow was definitely my hardest day.

The hard and slow days were tempered by days of great diversity and numbers. Common Redpoll kept us company in the early season with 1,090 counted. Flocks of sparrows from fox to white-throated and chipping graced the tip in numbers, many stopping by the feeders to refuel and others singing vibrantly from the woods. American Pipit put on a great showing with over 800 counted for the season from the waterbird shack, 218 of which were seen on May 15. Close to 2,000 Black-capped Chickadee were seen, the greater majority being migrants. Blue Jay made their yearly en masse appearance with multiple days seeing nearly 1,000 jays filling the sky. All the usual suspects in regard to warblers showed themselves this year, flitting about the trees and the grounds, with Yellow-rumped Warbler the most numerous at nearly 600 records. Perhaps the cold weather lasting longer this spring kept the insects the other species depended on at bay, leading the yellow-rumpeds to stand out in numbers.

Throughout the latter half of April, thousands of Sandhill Crane filled the sky. Two days in particular saw over 2,000 cranes soaring overhead, their rattling call audible from every crevice at Whitefish Point as they made their way north and out across the lake.



Lazuli Bunting © Chris Neri

sighting one for the record books. The bird continued to display at the feeders for a number of days to the delight of many onlookers.

A Loggerhead Shrike seen on April 29 and 30 claims the second place for most unusual bird observed at the Point this year. The sighting is only the fourth record of a loggerhead for the observatory. A state endangered species in Michigan, Loggerhead Shrike inhabit open grasslands, prairies, and pastures. Beginning in the 1960s, the bird species declined dramatically for a variety of reasons most prominently associated with pesticides, changes in farming practices, and loss of habitat to development and vegetation succession. Since then, the shrikes sporadically breed in the state with some years passing by without a confirmed breeding pair.

Also of note and another first for WPBO, a Canada lynx was seen as it wandered out of the tree line by the hawk platform. Visitor Bruce Gates captured photographs that we sent to the Michigan Department of



Canada Lynx © Bruce Gates

Natural Resources for species confirmation. At present, there are no known breeding populations in Michigan or anywhere in the Midwest. However, some might remember a young female Canada lynx was caught in the Saginaw area this past winter and later released in Schoolcraft County. While there is no way to verify if this was the same lynx seen at Whitefish Point, the possibility does exist. Much like the birds we get here, the lynx most likely found its way to the shores of Lake Superior and had been following the shoreline since.

One of my personal highlights of the season was catching sight of two Boreal Chickadee on May 6. The songbirds were first detected on Whitefish Point Road, and I initially missed them by minutes. When I made my way back up to the Point, I kept an ear out for the particularly harsh chickadee-dee-dee that only a boreal would make when I heard it. There they were behind the Owl's Roost feeders. I watched the pair for less than two minutes before they flew off with the dozens of other migrating Black-capped Chickadee, but I enjoyed every second I had to view them.

On May 26, WPBO field staff and volunteers led the annual Birdathon fundraiser, a 24-hour period dedicated to documenting as many bird species as possible to raise funds for research efforts at the Point. The event yielded 155 species in the greater Whitefish Point area with highlight species including American White Pelican, Pacific Loon, and Black-backed Woodpecker, all seen at the Point itself. Other notable birds were American Bittern, Cooper's Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, LeConte's Sparrow, and 24 species of warbler. Many of us ended the day late and tired with sore feet but generally invigorated after a solid day of birding to help further WPBO's mission.

Overall it was a great season and I greatly enjoyed my time at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. I have learned a lot, met many great, amazing people from all over, and made a few lifelong friendships along the way.



Charlotte is a Midwest native, hailing from Milwaukee, Wisc. She graduated in 2016 from Northland College. Fieldwork has seen her travel and live across the U.S., from New Mexico for Mexican gray wolves to the great plains of South Dakota for raptors, and many more.

From the Hawk Deck

BY KRISTA BOTTING, WPBO SPRING HAWK COUNTER

The 41st annual diurnal raptor migration count began with about four feet of snow on the ground, with two feet on the hawk deck and the boardwalk alone. Despite the cold and the wind, the hawk count was conducted for a total of 124.12 hours in March, recording a total of 269 individual raptors of eight species. As is typical of the start of WPBO's hawk count season, March this year was dominated by only a few species. Bald Eagle was the most common, with 195 individuals, followed by Golden Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk at 26 and 23 individuals, respectively. Together these three species accounted for 90% of the raptors counted for the month. In order of commonality, the rest of the recorded species were Northern Goshawk (5), Red-shouldered Hawk (4), Sharp-shinned Hawk (2), Peregrine Falcon (2), and Turkey Vulture (1).

Potentially indicative of a large-scale shift in the timing of migration as the climate continues to change, a steady trend exists of an increase in the number of birds counted each March. The overall March average for number of individuals counted is 253. For the past 10-year period the average is 307, 21% higher than the overall average. The 2019 total of 269 individuals, while below the 10-year average, is higher than six of the preceding 10 years and higher than the long-term average.

The season began to get going in mid-April as more species arrived in more significant numbers. A total of 223.5 hours logged puts this April above both the 10-year average of 213.9 hours and the long-term average of 215.9 hours. The month's total of 4,156 raptors this year is well below both the 10-year average of 6,154 and the overall average of 6,748 for the month. The most common species, making up 50% of all individuals, was Sharp-shinned Hawk with 2,083 individuals. Other raptors recorded for the month, in descending order of occurrence, were Red-tailed Hawk (579), Broad-winged Hawk (555), Turkey Vulture (280), Bald Eagle (164), Northern Harrier (153), American Kestrel (106), Rough-legged Hawk (98), Golden Eagle (31), Cooper's Hawk (20), Osprey (19), Red-shouldered Hawk (13), Merlin (12), Northern Goshawk (7), and Peregrine Falcon (4). Michigan Audubon's Spring Fling at the end of April saw a good number of raptors and other migrating species, though high winds that weekend kept the count from being spectacular.



As is commonly the case at WPBO's hawk count, May was the busiest month (both for raptors and for visitors). A total of 4,905 raptors were tallied this May. Like every month and the season in general, this total count is well below the 10-year average of 10,888 individuals. May's hawk migration was dominated by two species which combined for 70% of the month's total: Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawk. Despite this, the total of 1,911 Sharp-shinned Hawk is less than half of both the 10-year and overall average which are 5,935 and 5,659, respectively. The Broad-winged Hawk total of 1,991 is also below both the 10-year and overall averages of 3,532 and 3,840 individuals, respectively.

May's species count included two Swainson's Hawk, an expected though not at all common Western raptor. In addition, the following were recorded in May, in descending order of prevalence: Bald Eagle (287), Turkey Vulture (249), Red-tailed Hawk (125), Northern Harrier (91), American Kestrel (75), Peregrine Falcon (42), Osprey (37), Merlin (33), Golden Eagle (11), Cooper's Hawk (11), Rough-legged Hawk (10), Red-shouldered Hawk (7), and Northern Goshawk (4).

The total number of hours counted this May was 209.92, placing it just below the 10-year and overall averages of 213.5 hours and 217.4 hours, respectively. Throughout the month, a number of hours were lost due to rain or dense fog, which became common at the Point toward the end of the season. There were two days no count was conducted due to constant rain or nearly zero visibility.

The 2019 spring diurnal raptor count resulted in a total of 9,330 raptors comprising 16 species. Overall, this year was below average for birds of all taxa during the official Hawk Count. The season total is 46% lower than the 10-year total average (17,349) and 48% lower than the overall total average (17,997). This year ranks third lowest of all 41 years of official hawk watching at Whitefish Point. Like 29 other years, this 2019 season saw 16 raptor species, with Swainson's Hawk being the least expected and least common. This season saw an unusual amount of rain and more days with north or northwest winds rather than south or southeast winds. The unfavorable weather conditions likely contributed to the low numbers of raptors and non-raptors alike this season.

Thanks to the use of new technology for data collection, this year's full data set was much larger than most previously collected. Dunkadoo software allowed for fast and simple censusing of all birds detected throughout the entirety of the count period, making 2019 the third season in which comprehensive counts of all taxa were consistently conducted. A total of 27,949 individual birds were tallied this season. With only occasional records of non-raptors in prior years' data, mostly from infrequent point counts and rare species records, no trends can yet be discerned from this effort, but a continuation of complete censusing will yield valuable additional data on bird migration at Whitefish Point and has become standard for future seasons.



Krista grew up in Ionia and is a recent graduate of Alma College with a degree in Biology. She caught the birding bug during high school while participating in an owl prowl with family friends and has continued working toward a lifetime of raptor research ever since.

Slow Start to Waterbird Season

BY ALISON VILAG, WPBO SPRING WATERBIRD COUNTER

During the first week of WPBO's spring waterbird count, spring — and water — were in short supply; for that matter, winter and spring seemed at perpetual loggerheads. At any given moment, it was a tough call as to which season held the upper hand. Then, the Coast Guard icebreaker made passes through a semisolid Lake Superior, leaving a swath of water that was quickly found by migrating dabbling ducks like Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal. Occasionally, when the wind shifted north in these early days, the ice would blow back — and the dabblers would fly south.

The waterbird count, in these early days, was quite slow. Birds were relatively few, visitors fewer. Sometimes, the silence was broken only by the heavy thud of freighter hulls colliding with ice chunks, and my sole companion would be a Northern Shrike, which watched migration with me — albeit for different reasons. (I was there to document migration; it was there to eat migration.) Then, the excitement of seeing the season's first Red-necked Grebe, a species that would later pass by in flocks of up to a hundred, or catching the day's only trio of Common Loon — which at their peak flight on May 5 tallied 658 — warmed. So did my insulated bibs and a diet consisting mostly of spanakopita empanadas, which contain a delightful 1:1 fat to flour ratio.

Soon, though, the birds picked up. While fall migration is longer and more drawn-out (WPBO's fall waterbird count is double the duration of the spring count), spring migration is intense and condensed. These birds are bound for places where summer is fleeting — muskeg lakes and boreal forest and even the tundra. Much must happen in a short window, and the volume of birds passing the Point on the peak flight days testified to this.

One of these banner flights was the evening of May 21. That night, Louie Dombroski and Skye Haas stood with me where the cobbles of Whitefish Point meet Superior. We saw five American White Pelican, the season's first Parasitic Jaeger, Iceland and Little Gulls, and unending streams of scaup (212) and White-winged Scoter (357). It was the Bonaparte's Gull, though, that truly starred. As the light waned, these dainty birds blasted north in dense packs numbering in the hundreds. Their urgency to reach the breeding grounds was mirrored in our scramble to keep their pace. We strained to hear their odd, raspy calls piercing the dusk, then frantically panned to catch the flocks before they were gone into the gloaming. In just a couple hours, we counted 1,804 — just shy of the entire season's total of 1,853. (As the evening count is not standardized, its numbers, while tracked, are kept separate from the daily 8-hour counts.)

Other high-intensity migration days at the waterbird count this season occurred April 20 (1,890 Sandhill Crane), May 22 (1,227 Long-tailed Duck), and, my personal favorite, May 24 (983 Whimbrel, which in a single day beat previous season high count of 958 in 2017).

The overall numbers from the 2019 WPBO spring waterbird count were quite respectable. 33,674 individuals of 65 waterbird species were counted, with the most numerous being Sandhill Crane (7,432), Common Loon (3,680), Long-tailed Duck (3,607), Canada Goose (3,127), Red-breasted Merganser (2,267), Bonaparte's Gull (1,853), White-winged Scoter (1,559), and Whimbrel (1,327). Most species were recorded in average or above-average numbers, with notable below-average exceptions being Green-winged Teal (n=13, avg.=28),

Blue-winged Teal (n=6, avg.=12), Red-throated Loon (n=376, avg.=437), Double-crested Cormorant (n=200, avg.=410), Great Blue Heron (n=25, avg.=59), Spotted Sandpiper (n=3, avg.=28), and Dunlin (n=178, avg.=223).

New season high counts were tallied for Hooded Merganser (29, previously 28 in 2014), Black-bellied Plover (212, previously 148 in 2012), and Semipalmated Plover (227, previously 164, in 2017). While still well below the seasonal average of 5,380, it was nice to end the season with 3,680 Common Loon. This represents the highest count of this species since 2004's 4,489.

Less-common waterbird species observed during the 2019 spring count include six American White Pelican and the count's fifth-ever Great Egret on May 5, Long-billed Dowitcher (one on May 9), Upland Sandpiper and Marbled Godwit (single birds on May 24), and a total of six Parasitic Jaeger from the last third of May.

The evening waterbird count was quite spectacular this year, establishing all sorts of unrealistic expectations for future editions. Besides the phenomenal flight the evening of May 21, we were graced with the season's only Hudsonian Godwit (two on May 14) and Franklin's Gull (one on May 25), compliments of the night flight. Additionally, the Pacific Loon was first detected on the evening count of May 24 and was subsequently observed the evening of May 25, and during the standardized count on May 26. This evening count is entirely contingent on counter conviction but can be quite rewarding. During the 2019 season, I conducted it on five occasions, tallying 3,046 waterbirds of 40 species.

While not a focus of the waterbird count, we do attempt to enter all species of birds into Dunkadoo when conditions allow. In 2019, this netted 19,832 birds of 107 non-waterbird species. The most numerous of these were Blue Jay (6,369), Broad-winged Hawk (1,935), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1,576), Common Grackle (1,462), Red-winged Blackbird (1,069), American Pipit (809), American Robin (701), Black-capped Chickadee (505), Red-tailed Hawk (487), and Turkey Vulture (455). WPBO's fourth record of Loggerhead Shrike, observed on April 29, was the most interesting non-waterbird seen from the count this season.

Whitefish Point has always been a magical place for me. During my first visit in 2001, I watched a Great Gray Owl illuminate in the swing of the lighthouse beam and that sighting influenced the direction of my life. I consider it a high honor to have been the waterbird counter — and to have had the opportunity to, for six weeks, exist mostly for the purpose of documenting a migration. I'm convinced there's no better way to start a day than watching a Lake Superior sunrise while listening to loon feet pattering on the water's surface.



Whimbrel © Alison Vilag



The pursuit of birds has taken Alison to exotic places and gigs closer afield her Great Lakes upbringing including Michigan Audubon's Kirtland's Warbler tours. She has a strong affinity for Michigan's Upper Peninsula and, in particular, Whitefish Point.

Spring Owl Banding: Mixed Results from a Unique Year

BY CHRIS NERI, WPBO LEAD OWL BANDER

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory's spring owl banding season is conducted annually from March 15 – May 31. This spring we banded a total of 492 owls; 363 Northern Saw-whet, two Boreal, 122 Long-eared, and five Barred. We also caught 33 Northern Saw-whet that were previously banded. Although we did not band any this spring, Great Gray, Great Horned, and Snowy Owls were all observed during the season. In addition to the owls, three American Woodcock, one Wilson's Snipe, and two Eastern Whip-poor-will were also captured this season.

As is often the case, the spring owl banding season produced a mix of results. In the end, some results fell short of our expectations, whereas others exceeded them. The total of 363 Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO) banded was lower than what we were hoping for. Conversely, relative to the number of new NSWO, the 33 encounters (previously banded owls) was an unexpectedly high number. Of the 33 encounters, 10 were banded at WPBO in previous years and 23 were from other banding sites. The large number of NSWO we banded here in spring and summer of 2017 accounted for seven of the 10 recaptures of our own birds. Five of these 10 were originally banded in spring 2017, and two were from that summer, including one that was originally banded as a juvenile. We have received data back on 22 of the 23 NSWO we recaptured from other sites. There were no big surprises in that regard this spring, with eight from Wisconsin, seven from Ontario, six from Michigan, and one from Minnesota. The oldest recapture this season was one that was banded at WPBO in fall 2015 and was six years old when it was recaptured this spring.



Recaptured Northern Saw-whet Owl © Chris Neri

effectively produced the opposite results. Banding 122 LEOW in a down year was as good of a result as we could have hoped for. However, we did not recapture a single LEOW this spring. Long-eared Owl are notorious for the low number of recaptures they generate at migratory sites. In the last three years alone, over 1,000 LEOW have been banded at WPBO, yet only one of those has been recaptured here in the last year.

The low number of LEOW recaptures we have experienced recently at WPBO is naturally disappointing. However, it undeniably adds to the mystique of these amazing owls. It is rewarding to be working with a species that we still have so much to learn about. It also makes every recapture that we get,

and every report that we receive from the Bird Banding Lab, that much more exciting. Although we have recently had very limited success with recaptures here at the Point, we have received a couple of interesting reports from other locations in the last few years. One LEOW that we banded in spring 2016 was found in Eastland, Texas, during the winter of 2016. This is not unheard of for LEOW; both Minnesota and Montana have had recoveries of LEOW in northern Mexico, but this is the furthest south one of our LEOW has been documented. Another LEOW that we banded as a juvenile in the summer of 2017 was recaptured a



Wilson's Snipe (left) and American Woodcock (right) © Chris Neri

couple of months later along the Ontario/Quebec border at Hilliardton Marsh, Ontario. Hilliardton Marsh is approximately 300 miles to our ENE, so this young LEOW traveled into Canada after passing through the Point in the summer. How far north did it travel before reaching Hilliardton Marsh on its first fall migration? We don't know, but it was interesting to find out that it was recaptured at a site that is further north than WPBO a couple of months after we had banded it as a juvenile in the summer. Hopefully, our recent success with LEOW will continue and eventually start yielding more recaptures.

Each season at the Point comes with its inherent challenges, provides new experiences, and produces unique rewards. The snow cover in the banding area was unusually variable this spring. By mid-April, the net lanes were a mix of flooded trails and areas with 4-foot snow drifts. Each net run during this period required both knee boots to get through the water, and snowshoes to cross the deep drifts. Conditions in the woods remained very wet through the end of the season, but thankfully it was also a cool May, which delayed the mosquito hatch until after the season had ended. This spring's Wilson's Snipe was the first that we have personally banded here, and possibly the first for the spring owl banding. Adding to the enjoyment of that experience were the excited responses from waterbird counter Alison Vilag and volunteer Alec Olivier, who were visiting the owl banding that night, when we came back with both the Snipe and an American Woodcock. Working with the owls at WPBO is always amazing and we feel incredibly fortunate for every season we get to spend sharing the night with them. We thank all of you who support the owl research at WPBO; it simply would not be possible without you.



Chris Neri arrived at WPBO in 1999. Chris has been fortunate to spend seasons at some of the premier raptor sites around the country, working on some great research projects, but as he reports, "Nothing has captured me the way the owl migration at Whitefish Point has."



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.

Dianne Arble
Sylvia Atsalis
David Batch
Thomas Beachy
William & June Belski
David & Deb Berndt
Jill Bickford
Joyce Bolinger
Linda Boyd
Marilyn Brose
Linda & David Buege
Barbara Bulko
Shaun Cabral
Edie Clark
Lillian Coblenz
Richard D'Ascenzo
Kent DesJardins
Cynthia Dobrez
Sandra Domine
Amy Feeney
Zvi Flanders
Adeline Ford
David Fortin
Elizabeth Frank
Paula A. Gills
Debra Glen
Jennifer Gordon
Ellen Gratch
Carol Haasch

Robert Hill
Gary Hoffmaster
Lauri & Tom Holmes
Cynthia Homan
Molly Horan
Anne Horn
Richard Hughes
Cat Jackson
Bonnie Jahn
Bill Kamman
David Kane
Daniel Kapela
Diana Kern
Rosemary King
Bud & Kris Kipka
Daniel Leep-McKee
Jeannine Lorenger
Rob Lyerla
Catherine McNaughton
Miranda Miley
Betty Miller
Robert Moll
David Moore
David Murray
Tori & Michael Myers
Jo Anne Normile
Nihad Al Nouri
Frances O'Neill
John Overman

Anita Parks
Stephanie Patil
Donna Perkins
Rebecca Rafferty
Mark Remington
Kim Root
Travis Rosenberry
James Sanders
Barbara Saxena
Constance Scott
Karen Simpson
Karen Sitts
Janet Sjoquist
Tommy Skinner
Therese Smallwood
Sandra A Smith
Steven Snyder
Elizabeth Teliczan
Calista Temple
Carol & Gordon Terry
Maureen Thalmann
Pamela Thorne
Sally VanMeter
Nancy Victorson
Michael West
Nicholas Williams
Tom Willson
Kim Winchell
Catherine & Bill Zielinski

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 or (517) 580-7364. Thank you!

Special Thanks: Cerulean Warbler Weekend

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Cerulean Warbler Weekend 2019! We had a wonderful experience that would not have been possible without the support of volunteers and sponsors!

A special thank you to our volunteer guides John Chenault, Josh Haas, Agnes Karas, Anne Klein, Doug Klein, Maeve Klein, Derrick Kooistra, Steve Minard, and Sarah Nelson. Thank you to our keynote speaker Dr. Fred VanDyke.

Save the Dates!

WPBO Summer Owl Banding
July 1 – Aug. 25

WPBO Fall Waterbird Count
Aug. 15 – Nov. 15

WPBO Fall Owl Banding
Sept. 15 – Oct. 31

CraneFest
Oct. 12 – 13