



[capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org)

# The Call Note

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June 2017

Dedicated to creating a greater awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the interrelatedness of all Michigan's wild places and wildlife and the need for stewardship.

## President's Corner

### CAAS is the sum of its volunteers

Capital Area Audubon Society is an organization that runs on the strength of its volunteers. And what a great group of volunteers we have! So many people have given of their time over the last year—those who led field trips, participated in a bird count, brought treats to the meetings, presented a program, maintained our website, or managed our Facebook page. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers!

I would also like to express my appreciation to the CAAS Board of Directors, especially term-limited members, **Debbie Wolf**, **Ann Hancock**, and **Zsa Mahon**. Debbie and Ann have edited our newsletter, the Call Note, for the past several years, and Zsa has coordinated the popular backpack program for local schools. In addition, **Jim Hewitt** has continued to serve as the chapter historian, archiving our activities for posterity. Their tireless efforts make CAAS the super organization it is.

As a reminder, we'll be holding our annual meeting and board elections at the June meeting. We have three terrific folks running for the board vacancies to keep our club humming along.

Good birding,  
**Barb Hosler**

### INSIDE

- Thank yous and farewells
- Osprey program recap
- AOS meeting at MSU
- Warning on plants from big box stores
- Kirby Adams followup to lesser known birding spots (March meeting's program)
- Editorial – a time for action

## June 1 Meeting & Program

### Ice cream social and member photos mark end of year

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. for our last meeting of the year on **Thursday, June 1** as we share ice cream and member photos.

A quick election will take place during our brief business meeting. **Donald Dickman**, **Parks Marion**, and **Alexia Witcombe** are running for the three open board positions. These three candidates were profiled in the May 2017 Call Note--addendum.

If you have bird or nature photos to share with the group, put them on a flash drive, bring them to the meeting, and be ready to use the computer and projector that will be set up to show your photos.



...s, please check in with  
...sler when you arrive and  
...t you know how much  
...are allotted. Time will  
...ending on how many  
...bring photos, but  
...y it's been about five  
...er person.

Know a young person who's interested in birds, or photography? Bring 'em along!

**A huge Thank You** to **Lee & Roger Laylin** for supplying the ice cream for our June social! Also to **Betty Seagull**, **Judy Dunn**, and **Marti Caterino** for the delicious snacks at the May meeting. And belated thanks to **Connie Page** and **Judy Kindel** for snacks at our April meeting.

### Leaders make spring bird walks possible

We are grateful that the following CAAS members stepped up to volunteer to lead one (or more) of our Saturday morning bird walks this spring. If you enjoy these walks, please consider serving as a leader yourself next spring!

- April 1 **Bob Kingsbury**
- April 8 **Bruce Cohen**
- April 15 **Barb Hosler**
- April 22 **Bob Kingsbury**
- April 29 **Clara Bratton**
- May 6 **Bruce Cohen**
- May 13 **Susan Schuur & Jack**
- May 20 **Parks Marion & Alexi**



### Your newsletter editors s

With our second 3-year term on ending in June, we will be stepping the Call Note. We have enjoyed and learned a lot along the way. too.

Thank you to members who made contributing book reviews, poems and articles. You helped improve the quality of the Call Note and your generosity was much appreciated.

Thank you for the trust and support you have given us as your newsletter editors. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve CAAS in this unique way.

Keep on birding, and keep on reading!

**Ann Hancock**  
**Debbie Wolf**



### Osprey Program's success continues

It was heartening for birders to hear confirmation that ospreys in southeast Michigan are doing well. In fact, they are exceeding expectations.



new nesting sites. Males maintain nest identity, returning year after year to the same territory to nest. A male osprey named C09, its banded ID number, was one of the original ospreys transplanted from Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1988.

Nests throughout southeast Michigan are situated on man-made structures, like power line and cell towers, and on platforms specially made for the birds. An osprey will reuse the same nest year after year, embellishing it more each year. Volunteer climbers are thrilled to assist in monitoring efforts.

The Osprey Program, based in southeast Lower Michigan, covers much of the southern Lower Peninsula, including the Lansing area.

## CAAS supports inaugural American Ornithological Society gathering at MSU



### American Ornithology 2017 The Joint Meeting of the American Ornithological Society and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

July 31 – August 5, 2017 – Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Capital Area Audubon Society is a proud sponsor of this event and invites interested mid-Michigan birders to consider attending.

Events include early morning bird walks, symposia, and general session talks, workshops, and much more. Complete information at <http://aossco2017.fw.msu.edu/about-the-conference/>

The deadline for early registration is June 1, and for regular registration June 15.

#### Call Note

Published monthly September through June by the Capital Area Audubon Society  
PO Box 22065, Lansing MI 48909-2206.  
Deadline for submissions: 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Editors:** Ann Hancock & Debbie Wolf

#### 2016-17 CAAS Officers

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Vice President	Doug McWhirter
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## A Caution

by Ann Hancock

Copy of the letter below, put out by president of the Federated Garden thought it would be good to pass

These plants from a big box store, but certain risks accompany this. As the letter below states, some plants may be treated with neonicotinoid pesticide, which may harm bees and other pollinators. Look very carefully before you buy.

Better yet, support your local nurseries and native plant societies by buying your plants locally! This will reduce your carbon footprint, and you'll be helping the groups trying to spread the word about the benefits of native plants.

### Milkweed Plants

TO: GCFM Board of Directors and Club Presidents  
FROM: Suzanne Bushnell, GCFM President RE: Urgent message from NGC President Sandy Robinson concerning milkweed plants being sold by big box stores

Dear Members,



I just received a message from National Garden Club President Sandy Robinson asking all State Presidents to pass on the following warning. Members in the Deep South Region (specifically the Louisiana Garden Club

Federation) have found that Home Depot stores in their State are selling milkweed plants that have been pretreated with systemic pesticides (neonicotinoids). It only takes a small amount of this product to kill the larvae of migrating Monarch butterflies. The Louisiana members found the notification on a very small tag hidden behind the larger tag that identified the plant as being great to attract butterflies! Louisiana clubs have done a lot to establish Monarch way-stations across the State. So now they're busy getting the word out to NOT buy these plants and are working with master gardeners and government officials to see what can be done to discourage Home Depot (and other outlets) from selling these plants. Please tell your members to be very careful if they see these milkweed plants and to read any label very carefully to make sure they've not been treated with neonicotinoids!

Mimi O'Neill



## Editorial: A time for action

These are challenging times for folks dedicated to birds, the environment, and science – bedrock issues for birders. Yet current political leaders do not agree, with potentially far-reaching consequences for us all. Environmental gains of the past decades are in serious jeopardy.

The logical recourse for citizens concerned by this turn of events is political action.

There are many ways to make your voice heard. Joining national and local groups dedicated to safeguarding the environment supports the strength-in-numbers strategy. There are many to choose from, each with its own distinctive focus, strategies, and character, depending on your priorities and comfort level. Here's a link to some of them:

<http://www.pbs.org/earthonedge/resources2.html>

Another way to channel your opinions to lawmakers is also the most effective: the old-fashioned personal letter to your representative, either handwritten or via email. Lawmakers also pay special attention to the number of personal phone calls they receive on a particular issue.

But how to stay on top of everything?

Some twenty-first century tools are now available to help you keep abreast of legislation important to you, and to connect with other activists. They begin with a smartphone and getting the right app.

Political apps are one of the fastest growing segments of the app market today. One of the most popular is Countable, a practical app that covers legislation and ways to reach out to lawmakers. Since the 2016 election, it has been installed over 600,000 times.

Countable simply aims to hold each lawmaker accountable for their votes. The app will (1) alert you as to what legislation is coming up for a vote, (2) enable you to contact your representative to express your opinion, and (3) let you know how your representative voted on the legislation. It is touted as simple and easy to use.

Another option is the VoteSpotter app, which connects you with both national and state of Michigan officials. The app shows you what your legislators actually did, rather than what they said they would do. It will give you brief, plain-English descriptions of legislative bills, including those related to the environment and habitat protection.

Beyond smartphone apps, a coalition of over 5,800 local groups unite under the banner of The Indivisible Project to fuel progressive grassroots networks across

the country. Using the Indivisible guide, they hold their members of Congress accountable. Their national website is <https://www.indivisibleguide.com/groups-nav>.

In these fast-paced yet uncertain times, those who care about the future of our environment must remain alert and vigilant – and act.

**Ann & Debbie**

## Less traveled birding spots rich in potential

by Kirby Adams

Whitefish Point. Magee Marsh. Anhinga Trail in the Everglades. High Island in Texas. Most birders are at least familiar with the names if they haven't actually birded the iconic hotspots around the country. What I've found to be just as exciting are the undiscovered gems where the birding can be just as good, the crowds not so large, and the locals unused to meeting traveling birders.

In my 20-year quest to see 100 birds in each of the 50 states, I find myself in a lot of odd places. The random county park, campground, or little known refuge can be just what I need to see some good birds while passing through a state. Places like the Pitt Street Causeway in Charleston, S.C., or Cow Creek South Campground in Summit County, Colo. They aren't necessarily on the birding map, but they offer good birds, not to mention the opportunity for a birder to contribute in two other ways.

The first is by entering checklists from those sites at eBird. The citizen-science project is strengthened by having more and more lists, most importantly from locations that lack tons of coverage. Magee Marsh doesn't really need more lists, but Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa might. (There are cerulean warblers all around the visitor center!) Every bit of birding you do matters to science when you use eBird.

Secondly, you get to be an ambassador for birding and conservation. The folks living around Montrose Park in Chicago know birders come there in droves. The people who live near Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia aren't so aware. When you walk into a restaurant and tell them you're there to see birds that thrive on the federally protected refuge it makes them think about the actual financial value of the refuge to the community.

I encourage everyone to take the road less traveled and bird the spots less birded. Enter those lists at eBird and proudly tell everyone you're there to buy local and look at birds. It's a win-win-win for everyone!

**Kirby Adams writes a birding column for the online travel blog, National Parks Traveler. He presented a program on lesser known birding spots at the March 2017 CAAS meeting.**