



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
OCTOBER 2017

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Join Us

AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING!

Thursday, October 5th, Join us to hear from Callie Gesmundo and Zak Pohlen, about their **Gorongosa National Park** project.

Both graduates from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, Gesmundo and Pohlen are contract field biologists. They travel throughout the US, and internationally, to work on various avian research projects. Zak currently works for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Anchorage, Regional Office, for Migratory Bird Management. Callie is currently the bander and site coordinator at Burke Lake Banding Station, here in Bath, MI.

Located in central Mozambique, Gorongosa National Park is famous for once supporting the densest wildlife populations in all of Africa. Wrecked by a 13-year civil war, the park was abandoned and many species of wildlife were extirpated, while others were forever changed by the violence. Now, with the financial support and government approval of a US based foundation, Gorongosa is rebounding from the turmoil. In an effort to better understand and restore Gorongosa, we were hired to implement park-wide avian surveys, document avian diversity in remote and unexplored areas, and advise and train aspiring Mozambican ornithologists.

The meeting will begin with refreshments at 7:00p.m. The program will begin at 7:30p.m. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

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.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Fall Migration!
The early autumn wave of shorebirds and warblers may have washed through already, but there's still quite a few species yet to come. Sandhill crane numbers will continue to build through October and then start to taper off at the end of November. Migrating waterfowl will move through our area starting in October and extending into the early part of the winter.

This is the kind of information you can track in eBird for any area you choose (although some areas will be more data-rich than others). By going to "Bar Charts" under the "Explore Data" tab, you can find out what birds to expect

throughout the year in a region or location. This is a great tool for planning a trip or as something to keep one's self occupied as the daylight starts getting shorter. And if you're in need of more exotic birding locales to fantasize about this winter, then you should come to the October program by Callie Gesmundo and Zak Pohlen! They will be regaling us with tales of their avian work and travels through Mozambique (see the left sidebar for more information).

Good birding,
Barb Hosler

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

If you love feeding birds in your backyard, consider joining Project FeederWatch this winter.

Project FeederWatch is a winter long survey of the birds visiting your feeder. You can observe at different times during the winter and submit your observations to the Cornell Lab.

Kits include an identification poster, survey instructions and a handbook. The survey starts November 11th, but backyard birds can be counted until April 6th.

This is great activity for families,

and can be given as a gift. To learn more or purchase your kit, visit feederwatch.org



UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

CAAS Monthly Meetings

Talks are held the first Thursday of each month at Fenner Nature Center. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meetings begin at 7:30p.m. with announcements and bird sightings followed by the program.

October 5 – Birding Adventures in Mozambique

The diversity and beauty of a birding adventure in Mozambique.
Presenters: Callie Gesmundo & Zak Pohlen

November 2 – Wind Energy, Bats and Birds

Have you wondered about the true effects of wind energy developments on our bird and bat populations? Learn more at our November meeting!

Presenter: Scott Hicks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

December 7 – Kirtland's Warbler Update

The recovery of the Kirtland's Warbler has met and exceeded the conservation goals. What is next for the rarest warbler in the world?

Presenter: Dave Ewert, Kirtland's Warbler Alliance

December 16 - East Lansing Christmas Bird Count

Get out and enjoy some winter birding by participating in National Audubon's annual Christmas bird count! Groups will survey areas in Greater Lansing and report findings at a dinner following the count.

January 4 – Experiences of a Life Long Birder

Presenter: Jon Allan, MDEQ

February 1 - Native Bees

Presenter: Kelsey Graham, MSU

Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caasCallNote@gmail.com
or share it on our facebook page -
[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

CAPITAL AREA BIRDING LOCATIONS

The greater Lansing area is host to many different birding locations including varied habitats such as lakes, lowland woods, marshes, rolling farmlands, abandoned fields, prairie, deciduous woods, ponds, rivers and much more.

If you are looking for a new spot to check out, now is great time. Fall migration brings flocks of waterfowl and tiny warblers through the Central-Michigan area now through mid October. Here are a few suggestions to get you started.

Rose Lake Wildlife Area in Clinton County

Rose Lake is a state wildlife research area of 3,646 acres of moderately rolling farmland, abandoned fields, oak and lowland woods, and marsh. The extensive wooded area east of the Peacock Road parking area, through which runs Vermilion Creek, is perhaps the best area location for a wide variety of warblers including the less-common Golden-winged, Cerulean, and Hooded. Good for wildflowers too. Hunting is allowed in season.

Meridian Riverfront Natural Area and Harris Nature Center in Ingham County

Situated along the south bank of the Red Cedar River, Eastgate Park, Harris Nature Center, and Legg Park together comprise 200 acres of beech maple woods, upland fields, and floodplain forest. Six miles of trails wind through this linear preserve located on either side of Van Atta Road. A good location for spring and fall neo-tropical migrants.

Riverbend Natural Area in Ingham County

Riverbend Natural Area in Delhi Township is connected by trail to Burchfield Park or accessed directly off of Nichols Road. Four miles of color-coded loop trails edge the Grand River and also

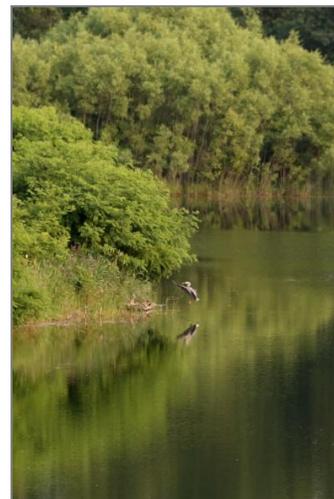
penetrate into woods and shrubby field habitat where Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Eastern Bluebird nest.

Lincoln Brick Park in Eaton County

Lincoln Brick Park is located on the Grand River north and west of the city of Grand Ledge. The Park gets its name from a brick factory that was located on this site. Ruins and remnants of the factory are visible among the secondary growth of poplar and aspen and large cottonwood trees. The park has more than 1 mile of frontage on the Grand River, which at this point flows mostly north. A building housing a nature center and meeting room is located on the road entering the park. To the north and west of the center there is a 9 acre prairie and adjacent to it on the south is the start of a small sugar maple plantation. North of the prairie the Park extends through mixed secondary habitat to a creek which is the Park boundary and which meanders down to the Grand River.

150 Species have been recorded at the Park including Golden Eagle and Long Eared Owl. 47 species are known to have nested in the Park. Pileated Woodpeckers have nested there every year since 2004.

A full listing is available on the CAAS Website. capitalareaaudubon.org/birding-locations/



CALL NOTE

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20th of the month.

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EXCITING SIGHTINGS

In September a few exciting sightings were reported in the area.

- At our September meeting members reported seeing a Common Gallinule, Sora, an adult Red Headed Woodpecker with juveniles and many other great birds in the area.

- A large Chimney Swift roost in East Lansing was located during a Swift Night Out hosted by Michigan Audubon and reported by Kristy Taylor.

- On September 15th, a Common Gallinule and an Olive-sided Flycatcher were observed on the Inter-Urban Pathway in Haslett.

These sightings were reported at our meeting or on Ebird.com or with the Ebird App.

*Do you have an exciting sighting to share?
Email us at - caasCallNote@gmail.com*

or share it on our facebook page - facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon

Thank You!

A huge thank you to **Madeline Merz** for supplying the wonderful snack at our September meeting, and to **Bob Kingsbury** for leading the fall migration bird walks!

Big thanks to Fai Chan for allowing the CAAS to use his beautiful images on our header, website and Facebook page. To submit an image for publication, please email Kristy Taylor at caasCallNote@gmail.com

MI BIRDS AND GREAT LAKES AUDUBON

Looking for more ways to learn about Michigan birds and the partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Audubon Great Lakes? Check out the new MI Birds page on Facebook.

Hunters and birders share a common interest in conservation but don't often cross paths. MI Birds is an effort to bridge the divide, bringing together all wildlife enthusiasts to better understand, engage with, and conserve Michigan's birds, wildlife, and public lands.

They explore all of Michigan's bird species, conveying interesting facts, sharing observations and experiences from the field, and bringing hunters and birders together in conservation.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Bird Count - Volunteer to help count birds in the count circle! The areas are broken down into 12 groups. Contact Tom Wheeler at 517-628-3843 to find an area that will work for you.

Michigan Audubon is looking for volunteers to help at their office, at the Capital Area Bird Sanctuary and for their upcoming signature event, CraneFest. Please check their website at - www.michiganaudubon.org/get-involved/volunteer/ for more information.

Fenner Nature Center is looking for peelers and stirrers for their Apple Butter Festival and especially during field trips October 9-13th. Hours will be from 8:30am-12pm. Please visit their website at www.mynaturecenter.org to sign up or call 517-483-4224 to sign up.

ENGAGING YOUNG BIRDERS WORKSHOP

Interested in engaging the next generation of birders and conservationists? Join Michigan Audubon's Lindsay Cain for an introduction to engaging young birders. Educators, parents, grandparents, chapter members, and other volunteers will all benefit from these tips and tools for introducing birds and bird-related conservation to youth of all ages. From species-specific activities to general bird-related resources, these skills can be used in formal educational settings and at informal meetings and events. Come learn some new ways to engage youth in this area and share ideas and activities that have worked for you!

This workshop is free, but registering in advance is appreciated.
www.michiganaudubon.org/calendar/engaging-young-birders-workshop/



CAAS FIELD TRIP

Meet fellow members and explore our great state at one of the Capital Area Audubon Field Trips.

This October new CAAS Board members Parks Marion and Alexia Witcombe will lead a walk at Legg Park on Saturday October 7th beginning at 8:30am. The walk will start at the parking lot and will last around two hours. We would love to see you there!

October 7
8:30 - 10:30am
Legg Park
3900 Van Atta Rd.
Okemos, MI 48864

Sign up for this trip by emailing Parks Marion at - parks.marion@gmail.com or let us know on our Facebook event page!

MEMBERSHIP

Members of CAAS enjoy 10 monthly programs per year on a variety of natural history topics, guided field trips, a monthly newsletter, and the satisfaction of supporting initiatives to interest young people in birds and nature.

Membership Categories

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Contributing	\$30.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Donor	\$100.00

For a membership form, please visit our website at capitalareaaudubon.org Make your check payable to CAAS and mail to:
Capital Area Audubon Society
P.O. Box 22065, Lansing, MI 48909
(or bring to a meeting)

Online registration and payment is now available as well!
capitalareaaudubon.org/membership



MICHIGAN FALL EVENTS

October 14-15 - Howell Nature Center Photography Workshops

Learn inside tips from professional photographer Steve Gettle on all aspects of the best ways to photograph birds of prey at the Howell Nature Center. For more information, including registration and pricing, visit <http://howellnaturecenter.org/special-events/photography-workshops/> or call 517-546-0249

October 14-15 - Cranefest Baker Sanctuary - Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area

22300 15 Mile Rd., Bellevue, MI
Enjoy the spectacle of thousands of cranes flying into Baker Sanctuary, a brief pit stop on their way to warmer wintering grounds. Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars, video cameras, spotting scopes and cameras to record the event. Bring a lawn chair or blanket as limited seating is available.

In addition to the cranes and fall colors, the Festival features art work, guided nature walks, crafts, a large selection of nature and wildlife books, picnic areas, food concessions and much more. Live hawks, falcons and owls will also be on display.

www.cranefest.org

October 14-15- Fenner Nature Center Apple Butter Festival

2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave, Lansing, MI
The festival runs Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Join in the tradition of coming together with family, friends and neighbors to celebrate the fall harvest.

Local musicians will provide hours of live music. Area "Celebrity Stirrers" will be on hand to help stir the apple butter and local mascots will be attending. There will be a pumpkin patch and pumpkin carving contest. In the Visitor Center, the Fenner Explore Store will be open to help people find unique nature-related gifts. Local artisans will demonstrate lace making, pottery throwing, basket weaving and more. *The festival is free to the public.*
\$5 Suggested Parking Donation