



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
NOVEMBER 2017

KRISTY TAYLOR 2015

Join Us

AT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING!

Thursday, November 2nd, join us to hear from **Scott Hicks, the Field Supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Michigan Ecological Services Field Office**, who will discuss how the agency works with the wind industry to address potential wildlife concerns. Michigan is home to over 1,000 utility-scale wind turbines, helping to meet the State's initial 10% renewable energy standard. New wind development will be needed to help meet the 2016 standard of 15% renewable energy by 2021. Scott will discuss bird and bat impacts from wind energy and measures the industry is implementing in Michigan to address those concerns.

The Michigan Ecological Services Field Office implements endangered species, environmental contaminants, and other habitat conservation programs in Michigan. Prior to arriving in East Lansing in 2011, Scott was the Deputy Field Supervisor for the Service's field office in Wyoming. He has also worked in the Service's Headquarters office in the international and endangered species programs as a biologist and as the Endangered Species Listing Branch Chief. Scott previously worked for the National Park Service.

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

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, November is the time we all start thinking about turkeys. But rather than the domestic fowl that will be sitting on my plate soon enough, I've been contemplating the Wild Turkey and its incredible comeback in Michigan. Due to habitat loss and unregulated hunting, the Wild Turkey had disappeared from the state by 1900. Reintroduction efforts began in 1919, but it took four attempts before birds were successfully established in southern Michigan in the 1980s. Those southern flocks were later used to build populations in the northern part of the state. Today, the Wild Turkey

can be found in most counties in Michigan.

One of the earlier reintroduction efforts involved bringing in turkeys from Pennsylvania in 1954. Those birds were released at Allegan State Game Area, which is the location of our November field trip. Rick Brigham will once again be guiding us around the Allegan area (see page 4 for details). I can't guarantee what we'll see (including Wild Turkeys), but this field trip has been known for finding some unexpected birds. I hope you'll be able to join us!

Good birding,
Barb Hosler

SAFE PASSAGE GREAT LAKES

Each spring, neo-tropical migratory birds leave their winter feeding grounds and fly north to summer breeding sites. Each fall, when the young outgrow their nest and insect populations dwindle, the birds return to warmer climates where food is more abundant. Many of these species migrate at night. Tragically, many of these birds do not complete their journey due to a simple man-made issue: we left the lights on. Michigan Audubon, in partnership with the Detroit Audubon Society, are encouraging a pledge for business and homeowners to help reduce the danger by turning out lights at night. Here are a few simple steps they recommend to make your home a little safer.

- Turn off unnecessary exterior lights or pull shades at night.
- Turn off unnecessary lighting in lobbies or atriums.
- Turn off decorative landscaping lighting.
- In office buildings, turn off lighting on the outside perimeter offices and use only interior office lights if needed. If lighting must be left on, use curtains to block light from escaping.
- For late-night workers, use task lighting where possible.
- Add proper decals and window treatments that deter daytime bird strikes.

To learn more about Safe Passage Great Lakes, visit www.michiganaudubon.com

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 7:30 p.m. with announcements and bird sightings followed by the program.

November 2 – Role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Wind Energy Planning

Have you wondered about the true effects of wind energy developments on our bird and bat populations?

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. Please contact Tom Wheeker at tom.wheeker@gmail.com or 517-628-3843 for more information.

December 30 - Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count

This count will take place in Eaton Rapids and is also organized into regional groups. Please contact Tom Wheeker at 517-628-3843 for more information.

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

BUNKER ROAD NATURE PRESERVE

Last month, after a great find by Dave Pavlik, a migrating Nelson's Sparrow drew birders from around the state to a beautiful preserve in our backyard. The Bunker Road Nature Preserve is located in Mason, and is managed by the Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy (MMLC).

President of the MMLC, Paul Kindel, presented a quick overview of the property at the October CAAS meeting and extended an invitation to get out and enjoy all that Bunker has to offer.

The property is located about five miles south west of Mason at 4349 Bunker Road.

In the last two years, the property has added a parking area, beautiful sign, a few brand new benches built by a local Boy Scout Eagle candidate and a system of trails maintained by a neighboring home owner.

In addition to a wetland restoration project in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the MMLC is also working to restore the prairie habitat with a controlled burn last spring and actively eradicating invasive species.

Bunker Preserve has a wonderful combination of open and wooded wetlands, upland prairie, and more densely wooded areas.

The goal of MMLC is to make the Bunker Preserve into a user and wildlife friendly place for learning, enjoyment and relaxation.

A full listing of properties managed by the Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy can be found on their webpage - www.midmilandcons.org



CALL NOTE

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20th of the month.

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capitalareaaudubon.org
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ENGAGING YOUTH IN BIRDING

In mid-October, Michigan Audubon hosted a workshop to promote youth involvement in birding and shared ways to encourage young people's encounters with birds.

They provided wonderful examples of bird lists, scavenger hunts, group and classroom activities and suggestions about how to prepare a youth bird bag or backpack.

If you are looking to engage youth in birding here are a few simple ideas! Start small. Backyard birds and programs like FeederWatch, NestWatch can encourage children to encounter birds close to home and they can connect no matter what the weather or time of year. For children more into tech than nature, there are a number of easy to use and fantastic sites and apps available. The Merlin Bird ID App helps children identify and learn more about birds through simple

questions about the bird they spotted and gives suggestions for possible species.

[Bird Song Hero](#), by The Cornell Lab, is a web based song learning game for all ages. It features over 50 bird songs and allows you to match the bird to the song at a beginner and advanced level.

[Wherethebirdsare.com](#) allows children to view an animated bird visiting a feeder and identify it based on a few choices. The species and frequency of the bird are linked to actual data from the viewers location, so children will learn to identify birds they will see at their own feeders.

Michigan Audubon is also aiming to build the Michigan Young Birders Club and needs adult volunteers to help. If you are interested, please contact Lindsay Cain at lcain@michiganaudubon.org.

EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- September 28th a Nelson's Sparrow was reported at the Bunker Road Nature Preserve. A Clay Colored Sparrow was also spotted there on October 1st and most recently a LeConte's Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow were reported on October 22nd.
- The Common Gallinule juveniles and adult were still around the Inter-Urban Pathway in Haslett as well as a singing Brown Creeper.
- October 8th Greg Smith spotted a White Eyed Vireo at Fenner Nature Center.

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 **Sam Febba and Mickey Burns** for supplying the wonderful snacks at our October meeting!

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center in Eaton Rapids is looking for volunteers to help feed and care for rehab animals. Additional help is needed with cleaning enclosures, food preparation, and hand feeding baby animals. Please visit wildsidemi.wordpress.com/volunteering for more information or call 517-663-6153.

CAAS HISTORICAL FLASHBACK

Twenty years ago this fall it was announced in the *Call Note* that CAAS is now "on the World Wide Web."

In 1997 member Pat McConeghy created a "homepage" with information about our organization which included birding trip reports, Christmas count data, spring migrant arrival dates, and the CAAS Hotline number.

For those members who were computer-savvy at that time (or who even had a computer) this page could be found at:
<http://pilot.msu.edu/user/mcconegh/caas>.

The CAAS Hotline was a local phone number to call to receive information on bird sightings.

The Board approved \$300 to set up the phone service and \$200 to operate it for one year in January, 1988. It became available in May of that year (# 484-2150).

Initially, sightings were reported to Lee Laylin or Roger Hoopingarner who then updated the recorded message. In 1992 Ted Black assumed that responsibility and sightings were reported to him or to Fenner Arboretum.

The Hotline had a good run but by 2005 it was little used and the Board voted to discontinue it at their July meeting, saving \$26 per month.

In that same year of 2005, the homepage set up by Pat McConeghy was both outdated and not maintained. Member Erik Enbody, a student at East Lansing High School, volunteered to set up a new website which he would maintain. The Board agreed to his offer and moved to make Erik the Webmaster. Erik, with knowledge of both birds and computers, also proposed a Listserv, which would allow bird sightings of interest to be reported via email and sent immediately and automatically to all subscribers.

Thanks to Erik both the new website (capitalareaaudubon.org) and the Listserv became operational in 2006 and CAAS more fully engaged with the

rapidly changing computer environment. The homepage and the Hotline became vestiges of the previous era of communications.

~Jim Hewitt, CAAS Historian

*Visit us now online at
www.capitalareaaudubon.org*



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 28-29, November 4-5 & 11-12 -

Sandhill Crane Viewing 4-7pm
Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area
22300 15 Mile Road, Bellevue, MI 49021

Additional Crane Viewing is available at the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Audubon Sanctuary in Jackson Michigan. For directions, visit www.haehnlesanctuary.org.

CAAS FIELD TRIP

November 12
Douglas Beach Park
3099 Lakeshore Dr., Douglas, MI 49406
8:30 - 10:30am

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

On Sunday, November 12th, we will meet with Rick Brigham for a bird walk on Douglas Beach in Allegan, Michigan.

The walk will meet at the Douglas Beach parking lot, 3099 Lakeshore Dr., Douglas, MI 49406, at 8:00am.

To register for this trip, sign up at our next meeting or email Parks Marion at parks.marion@gmail.com. There is also an Event on our Facebook page featuring up to date information and another way to sign up.

If you would like to carpool, we will meet at the W. Grand River Park and Ride near the Flying J truck stop at 5:45am and will leave at 6:00am.

We would love to see you there!

Additional Field Trips are listed in our 2017-2018 Program and Trip Guide.