



# the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON  
FEBRUARY 2018

KRISTY TAYLOR 2016

## Join Us

### AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING!

Thursday, February 1st, join us at our monthly meeting to hear from Kelsey Graham, Post-doctoral Research Associate for the Michigan State University Department of Entomology.



Dr. Graham will provide an introduction to Michigan bee diversity, and tips for identifying major groups of pollinators found in your garden. She will also present a brief overview of some of the ongoing bee research at Michigan State University.



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

Birders are a curious lot, and many have additional hobbies to chase and list other critters. Often, these animals are also of the winged variety. I know many birders who also observe or photograph butterflies, odonates (dragonflies and damselflies), and—increasingly—bees. The number of species of bees in the state stretches well beyond the introduced European honeybee. Our February program will introduce you to the great diversity of the native bees of Michigan.

And speaking of things that fly, time has a way of sneaking up on us sometimes. If you haven't yet renewed your CAAS membership for 2017-18, now would be a good time. Your membership supports the programs and speakers we enjoy throughout the year as well as other educational projects that the club undertakes. Remember that you can now pay online from our website, send your renewal through the mail, or bring your dues to the next membership meeting.

Good birding (and bee-ing),  
Barb Hosler

## MICHIGAN YOUNG BIRDERS CAMP

In an effort to connect young people with the diverse bird communities of the Great Lakes Region, Michigan Audubon, in partnership with Alma College, Chippewa Nature Center, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be holding the first Great Lakes Young Birders Camp in 2018.

and includes travel to several birding hotspots in the mid-Michigan region, as well as expert guest speakers from around the state. Each day will focus on an overarching topic that will provide participants a complete birding and conservation understanding.

The inaugural camp will be based out of Alma College. It aims to promote the development of young birders who will be the next generation of birders, scientists, and conservation-minded citizens. Through experiences that develop expertise in avian natural history, foster connections with their birding peers, and highlight careers in bird conservation and ornithology, participants will receive a foundation upon which they can successfully grow their passion for the natural world. Camp will run from June 24-28, 2018, for 16 high school students,

The goal of this camp is to connect not only young birders to each other but to connect them to the resources they need to become the next generation of conservationists. The success and reach of this camp will not be possible without the support of sponsors, whose generous tax-deductible donations will ensure that we can maintain an affordable tuition rate for our campers and offer need-based scholarships throughout the Great Lakes region.

For more information, contact Education Coordinator Lindsay Cain<sup>1</sup> at [lcain@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:lcain@michiganaudubon.org) or (517) 580-7364.

# 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.

### March 1 - Kestrels in Cherry Orchards Presenter : Dr. Catherine Lindell, MSU

Lindell will discuss her research on American Kestrels effects on cherry orchard pests.

### April 5 - Birds of a Feather Presenter : Bob Tarte

Tarte is a birder and author of numerous books about birds and other animals. He writes with humor about his experiences caring for animals and his journey to becoming a birder.

### May 3 - Birds and Soundscapes Presenter : Dr. Sharon Gill, WMU

Based at Western Michigan University, Dr. Sharon Gill studies behavioral ecology, ornithology and sound ecology. She will speak on the topic of soundscapes and how they affect bird populations.

### June 7 - Member Photo Show and Ice Cream Social

Enjoy time with the CAAS while members share their favorite photos from the year. Please submit an image to the newsletter for publication as well.

*Do you have an event to share?*

Email us at - [caasCallNote@gmail.com](mailto:caasCallNote@gmail.com)  
or share it on our Facebook page -  
[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

## CAAS SPRING VOLUNTEERS

Although the weather outside is cold and wintery, we have already started planning spring field trips! If you are interested in leading a field trip this spring, or have an idea for an outing or destination, please let us know at our next meeting, or by emailing [parks.marion@gmail.com](mailto:parks.marion@gmail.com)

We are also looking for leaders for our weekly bird walks at Fenner Nature Center each Saturday in April and May.

# ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMICS & MI WATERS

It's safe to say that most people in Michigan understand that our water resources are valuable. Lakes and rivers conjure images of incredible natural beauty and summon visceral memories of family and community for the people of this state. They also support Michigan's top industries including shipping, agriculture, technology, manufacturing, recreation, and tourism.

The Great Lakes represent a \$3 trillion economic powerhouse for the region. Often, there is unnecessary tension between the cultural, environmental, and economic values of water. It is important to recognize the social, community, and ecological benefits we derive from our natural landscapes; it is also important to recognize economic value as an important piece of a healthy system.

People want to live, work, and play in places that are vibrant and beautiful. In many cases, we can see that commitment to maintaining a clean environment that people enjoy is not a barrier, but a driver of local economies. Consider, for example, the value of recreation activities. Economic data collected through a large-scale community engagement process by the Huron River Watershed Council indicates that the recreational amenities of the river draw more than \$29 million in direct spending to the region annually. Local businesses benefit from the increased patronage, which leads to higher local employment.

Another example can be found in a 2015 study of the effects of changes in water quality on Lake Erie beachfront property. The study found that improving water clarity increased individual housing values by \$21.54/centimeter. Aggregated, this led to benefits of \$221-\$2,379 per beach. This increased value represents more than just economic gain; it also shows how environmental restoration can turn a region into a more desirable place to live.

On a broader scale, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coastal accounting program estimates that Michigan's maritime economy accounts for 59,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion in revenue each year. Sectors range from marine transportation and construction to recreation and tourism. This thriving economy

depends on the quality of the state's water resources. Protecting, restoring, and enhancing these resources can open new opportunities for growth and preserve those that already exist. In fact, a 2007 Brookings Institute report estimated that full implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, a multi-state effort that generated a comprehensive plan to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, would generate \$80-\$100 billion in benefits. These benefits would derive from wide variety of sectors, including augmentation of commercial fishing, recreation, tourism and property values, as well as avoidance of pollution and flood related damages. Furthermore, these gains are inherently place-based. Investing in our natural resources produces real economic returns, and these returns accrue to the individuals and areas that made the investment.

This kind of upward momentum can set off a chain reaction; people flow into the region, drawn by its vibrant waterfronts, and soon a connection between person and place begins to grow. The influx of people creates demand, which launches new business and creates new jobs. Increasing economic opportunity encourages the people already enchanted by the region's stunning water resources to make their homes there, and the area develops a self-propagating pull that attracts both young and old. Michigan's water-based economy already supports and sustains thousands of residents, but it is still full of untapped potential. Studies suggest that further investments in coastal wetlands and dunes could attract thousands more tourists.

Michigan is a hub of manufacturing and shipping expertise, and new technological skills could sustainably enhance this industry. Its water-rich location could also make Michigan a hub for innovative water technology.

The lakes and rivers that make Michigan great are also part of a vibrant economy. As Michigan looks ahead to a new economic climate and changing global economy, the Great Lakes represent an opportunity to grow by looking to our roots. Michigan's future is still blue.

*From the 2017 State of the Great Lakes Report. By: Christina Pastoria, Economic Analyst, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes*

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

The 2017 East Lansing Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 16, 2017. There were 52 participants, the most since 2005. They had to contend with temperatures in the mid-20s and several inches of snow on the ground, including some that had freshly fallen.

58 species were tallied, which is right at the ten year average for this count (58.5), but below the average of the last five years (61). 22,663 birds were counted, which was well above the five and ten year averages for the count (17,934/18659). That was the highest total for this count since 2005.

There were no species discovered which were new for this count. However, a Northern Bobwhite that was ticked by Bruce Mortimer in his yard was the first of that species seen since 1991. There were no new high counts for any species, although there were a few ties of previous high counts. (See the following species list.) The 7004 American Crows counted was the second highest total for that species. That number was achieved largely by Clara Bratton and her diligent crew carefully counting the birds departing the west Lansing roost. On the other end of the spectrum, the count for Mallards was the lowest since at least 1981.

The top ten species were:

- 1) American Crow
- 2) Canada Goose
- 3) European Starling
- 4) Rock Pigeon
- 5) House Sparrow
- 6) Mallard
- 7) Black-capped Chickadee
- 8) American Goldfinch
- 9) Dark-eyed Junco
- 10) Blue Jay.

A big thanks to Sam and Liz Febba for hosting the compilation dinner and to Tom Wheeler for this report and compiling the CBC results.

The count for next year will be held Saturday December 15, 2018.

## SPECIES LIST

6442d Canada Goose (4179/3522)  
 2s Wood Duck (1/irreg)  
 3d American Black Duck (3/5)  
 646d Mallard (1389/1160)  
 6u Hooded Merganser (32/17)  
 4uT Red-breasted Merganser (irreg/irreg)  
 7u Common Merganser (5/4)  
 1u Northern Bobwhite (----/----)  
 99d Wild Turkey (77/98)  
 1u Pied-billed Grebe (irreg/irreg)  
 2d Great Blue Heron (2/2)  
 2d Sharp-shinned Hawk (2/2)  
 15u Cooper's Hawk (9/11)  
 1s Accipiter Species

2u Northern Harrier (irreg/irreg)  
 2d Bald Eagle (2/1)  
 35d Red-tailed Hawk (26/29)  
 4uT Rough-legged Hawk (irreg/irreg)  
 3u Buteo species  
 719d Rock Pigeon (627/681)  
 324d Mourning Dove (240/287)  
 13u Ring-billed Gull (237/119)  
 1u Gull species  
 1d Eastern Screech Owl (4/3)  
 1u Barred Owl (irreg/irreg)  
 3u Owl species  
 3d Belted Kingfisher (2/3)  
 110u Red-bellied Woodpecker (76/71)  
 151u Downy Woodpecker (130/133)  
 31d Hairy Woodpecker (17/21)  
 29d Northern Flicker (16/16)  
 10uT Pileated Woodpecker (6/4)  
 3s American Kestrel (3/4)  
 3uT Peregrine Falcon (1/2)  
 386u Blue Jay (217/238)  
 7004u American Crow (5021/4176)  
 46u Horned Lark (8/18)  
 575d Black-capped Chickadee (480/546)  
 86d Tufted Titmouse (74/86)  
 5d Red-breasted Nuthatch (11/13)  
 190u White-breasted Nuthatch (144/140)  
 15u Brown Creeper (13/17)  
 1s Winter Wren (1/1)  
 7s Carolina Wren (9/8)  
 1d Golden-crowned Kinglet (9/6)  
 82d Eastern Bluebird (49/47)  
 2d American Robin (76/59)  
 2748u European Starling (1578/1925)  
 302u Cedar Waxwing (200/366)  
 7u Lapland Longspur (irreg/irreg)  
 73u Snow Bunting (21/142)  
 3u Yellow-rumped Warbler (ireg/irreg)  
 172d American Tree Sparrow (185/178)  
 451u Dark-eyed Junco (418/392)  
 3d White-throated Sparrow (15/13)  
 8s Song Sparrow (10/8)  
 338d Northern Cardinal (333/387)  
 1u Red-winged Blackbird (irreg/irreg)  
 14u Purple Finch (irreg/4)  
 233 House Finch (215/229)  
 525u American Goldfinch (376/430)  
 704d House Sparrow (725/861)

KEY: The number in front of the species name is the 2017 total. **R**=record total.

**T**=tied old record. **u**=up from 2016.

**d**=down from 2016. **s**=same as 2016.

**Irreg**=not seen in at least 3 of the last 5 years or 6 of the last 10 years. ----- = not seen in the five or ten year period.

Following the species name is the average for the species for the preceding 5 and 10 years.

SEEN IN 2017 BUT NOT IN 2016: Red-breasted Merganser; Northern Bobwhite; Pied-billed Grebe; Northern Harrier; Ring-billed gull; Barred Owl; Horned Lark; Lapland Longspur; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Purple Finch; Red-winged Blackbird

SEEN IN 2016 BUT NOT IN 2017: Ring-necked Duck; Ruddy Duck; Great Horned Owl; Northern Shrike; Hermit Thrush; Gray Catbird; Ovenbird; Fox Sparrow; Pine Siskin; Common Grackle.

# EATON RAPIDS CBC RESULTS

The Eaton Rapids Count was conducted on December 30, 2017. It was the tenth year the count was conducted as a "national" count, which means that the results are reported to the National Audubon Society and included in the Christmas count data base. The weather was less than ideal. Temperatures hovered between 10 and 14 degrees and, while it did not seriously snow during the time that the count was being conducted, there were several inches of snow on the ground and the roads were slippery.

Only 2593 birds were seen, less than half of the average for this count (5233). Nevertheless, the 40 species seen was slightly above the count average of 38. Two species new to this count were seen: Common Merganser and Brown-headed Cowbird. Two other species had new highs for the count: Horned Lark and American Tree Sparrow.

Thanks to the truly intrepid birders who participated. Next year's count will likely be **December 29, 2018.**

Canada Goose	497
Mallard	89
Common Goldeneye	9
Common Merganser	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1
Wild Turkey	97
Great Blue Heron	1
Northern Harrier	1
Cooper's Hawk	3
Red-tailed Hawk	8
Rough-legged Hawk	2
Rock Pigeon	116
Mourning Dove	82
Eastern Screech-Owl	3
Great Horned Owl	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	11
Downy Woodpecker	36
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Northern Flicker	1
American Kestrel	1
Blue Jay	46
American Crow	369
Horned Lark	46
Black-capped Chickadee	100
Tufted Titmouse	28
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	30
Brown Creeper	3
Carolina Wren	3
Eastern Bluebird	10
European Starling	101
Cedar Waxwing	4
American Tree Sparrow	242
Dark-eyed Junco	193
Song Sparrow	1
Northern Cardinal	88
Brown-headed Cowbird	17
House Finch	92
American Goldfinch	152
House Sparrow	102

## CALL NOTE

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

### 2017-2018 CAAS Officers

President	Barb Hosler
Vice President	Parks Marion
Secretary	Alexia Witcombe
Treasurer	Michael Caterino

Membership	Ed Merz
Editor & Facebook	Kristy Taylor
Publicity & Hospitality	Eileen Houston
Field Trip Coordinator	Parks Marion
Program Coordinator	Don Dickmann
Historian	Jim Hewitt

### 2017-18 CAAS Board of Directors

Michael Caterino  
Sue Davis  
Don Dickmann  
Barb Hosler  
Eileen Houston  
Ed Merz  
Parks Marion  
Connie Page  
Alexia Witcombe

[caaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:caaudubon@gmail.com)  
[capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org)  
[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

## EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Snowy Owl was recorded on Williamston Road, a few miles south of 96 by a number of birders on January 6.

- Also on January 6th, Keegan Nature Park was host to a Goldeneye Roost, a Northern Shoveler, a White-winged Scoter and a Double-crested Cormorant.

- On January 13th, a Short-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl were identified at the East Dansville Road Fields.

- Visit the Common Goldeneye Roost  
Each evening around sunset, hundreds of Goldeneye fly in groups to land on the river at Keegan Nature Park in Lansing and begin their courtship displays. A couple of notes on the roost from Kirby Adams.  
1. Goldeneye spook easily, so you can't creep up on the floating roost. There's a stomped out spot where birders stand to watch without spooking any ducks.  
2. There's very little parking there and homes along the other side of the street, so it's courteous to carpool and not muck up that quiet street with cars. Make people happy to have a nature park for a neighbor, not annoyed by it!

*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](mailto:caasCallNote@gmail.com)*

*or share it on our facebook page - [facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)*

# Thank You!

A huge thank you to **Marti Caterino and Debbie Wolf** for supplying the wonderful snacks at our January meeting.

## YEAR OF THE BIRD

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has joined with National Geographic, National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and more than 100 organizations to declare 2018 the Year of the Bird. Coinciding with the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's ratification, it's a great moment to pledge to do one thing per month to help birds. To kick off the year, They have collected six resolutions to help you bird your world in 2018.

Visit [www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird](http://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird) for more information and to pledge to help make our world better for birds in 2018. They will send out monthly suggestions and articles about the birds we all love.

## MICHIGAN WINTER EVENTS

**WPBO's SPRING FLING (APRIL 28-29th)  
REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 2, 2018**

This year will mark the 30th Annual Spring Fling: WPBO's Celebration of Bird Migration when members and their guests "migrate" to Paradise, Michigan and the Whitefish Point area to visit with old friends, both human and avian. Many activities are being planned for another refreshing weekend of birding experiences. Tickets go on sale beginning February 2, 2018. Each year we have been thrilled to see this event grow. Questions may be directed to [events@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:events@michiganaudubon.org)  
[wpbo.org/events/spring-fling/](http://wpbo.org/events/spring-fling/)

## 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](http://capitalareaaudubon.org) or pick one up at our next meeting.

**Online registration and payment is now available at [capitalareaaudubon.org/membership](http://capitalareaaudubon.org/membership)**