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# the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON  
APRIL 2018

*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.*

## Join Us

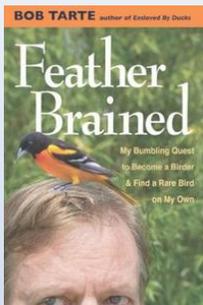
### AT OUR APRIL MEETING!

#### 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.

He will be talking about his latest book, "Feather Brained - My Bumbling Quest to Become a Birder and Find a Rare Bird on My Own".



Tarte's other titles include -  
Enslaved by Ducks  
Fowl Weather  
Kitty Cornered  
for more information, visit [www.bobtarte.com](http://www.bobtarte.com)

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.

#### April 5 - eBird Workshop 6-7pm

Prior to our next meeting, join fellow members for a brief introduction of eBird! Get set up and get birding!

**SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION ON Page 2.**

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

March has been resisting letting go of its grip on winter, but spring will arrive eventually. And with the arrival of spring comes Capital Area Audubon's spring birding events! Saturday morning bird walks at Fenner Nature Center will begin on April 7 and continue through May 19. We are currently looking for volunteers to lead these walks.

We're also actively recruiting nominations to serve on the CAAS board of directors. This is a great way to get more involved with the group and help steer the club into the future. Plus, you get the satisfaction of contributing to our all-volunteer organization! Please see a board member for more details.

Enjoy the spring birding,  
Barb Hosler

## NESTWATCH BIRD SURVEYS

If you enjoy keeping tabs on the growing bird families in your neighborhood, why not turn your observations in to NestWatch and contribute to a growing database used to help researchers understand and study birds.

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds. This includes when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive.



The database provides rich information about the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of

climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas and the introduction of non-native plants.

Participating in NestWatch is easy! Simply follow the directions on [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org) to become a certified NestWatcher, find a bird nest, or occupied nest box, visit the nest every 3-4 days and record what you see. Observations can be submitted online or recorded via an app in real time.

NestWatch also provides tools to help you discover the nests built by common breeding birds in your area.

For more information or to sign up, visit - [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org)



Mourning Dove Nest Attempt 2017.

# MSU SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Michigan State University will again host two weeks of science exploration including speakers, special activities, local tours, events in Detroit and Grand Rapids and an Expo Zone featuring hands on activities and demonstrations for all ages.

The Burke Lake Banding Station will demonstrate how research is conducted on wild bird populations. During demonstrations, visitors are able to view the entire process of bird banding, from capture and extraction to banding and releasing. If you have not had the chance to get out to their location in Bath, this is a great opportunity to see what they do a little closer to home. Banding Demonstrations will take place on Friday April 6th and Saturday April 7th from 8-10 a.m. at the South West corner of Farm Lane and Trowbridge Road on the MSU Campus.



MSU Science Fest Burke Lake Demo 2017

The Festival will also offer tours of the 4-H Children's Garden Butterfly Exhibit, the MSU Bug House and the Vet-A-Visit at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

Many local parks will offer events in conjunction with the Festival.

Baker Woodlot will feature a tour highlighting 'The dirty little secrets of Trees' on Saturday April 14th from 2-2:30 and again from 3-3:30 p.m. This event is geared for ages 8 and up.

Woldumar Nature Center will host an evening around the campfire to learn about nocturnal animals and guide a moonlit hike to look for owls! This event is open house style beginning at 6:30 p.m. At 9:00 p.m. MSU Chemist, Dr. Amy Pollock will talk about chemical reactions and will offer a campfire light show. This event is open to all ages and there is no admission fee.

Harris Nature Center invites the public to an open house on Sunday, April 15th from 12-4p.m. Activity sheets will be available to guide exploration. This event is open to all ages.

Many other tours, workshops and speakers are featured during this two week-long event. To view more of the demonstrations available, visit <http://sciencefestival.msu.edu/Event/Featured/4>

On April 15th, from 6-7:30 p.m., Dublin Square in East Lansing will host a round table discussion about Citizen Science. Speakers from the MSU Community will come together to describe how scientists use scientific networks and citizen science to collect and analyze data on butterflies, mammals, gardens and more.

One of the biggest days for the Festival is Expo Day on Saturday, April 7th from 10-4pm.

The Early Childhood Zone will be held in the Molecular Plant Sciences Building and is full of hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity, wonder and discovery for children 7 years and younger.

The Campus Expo Zone is held in the Biomedical Sciences Building, Chemistry Building and the Planetarium. Learn about astronomy, microbiology, veterinary medicine, the relationship between art and science and much more!



## CAAS SILENT AUCTION

At our April meeting we will have on display a donated watercolor print of two Sandhill Crane in flight donated by Ed Merz. Please consider a silent bid on the sign-up sheet at the next meeting, after which the winner will be announced. This is a limited edition signed and numbered print. All funds go to the CAAS budget. The print is double matted and placed in a handmade cedar frame constructed of recycled fence slats and protected with UV glass. The painting is based on a photograph taken by the artist on April 01, 2017- Looking Glass River.



# UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

## CAAS Monthly Meetings

Talks are held the first Thursday of each month at Fenner Nature Center.

### April 5 - eBird Workshop - 6pm

Join fellow members an hour before our monthly meeting for a hands on workshop using the eBird program. Create a login, learn to record your sightings and use eBird to plan a birding trip!

### Spring Bird Walks at Fenner

#### April 7, 14, 21, 28 - 9a.m.

CAAS member lead walks begin at the Fenner parking lot and are free and open to the public.

### 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.

### Spring Bird Walks at Fenner

#### May 5, 12, 19 - 8 a.m.

CAAS member lead walks begin at the Fenner parking lot and are free and open to the public.

### May 5 - 9a.m. Family Bird Walk

CAAS member Kristy Taylor and her two children will lead a spring bird walk focused on families and children. This walk will begin at the Fenner parking lot and is free and open to the public.

### May 20 - Muskegon Waste Water Treatment Field Trip

This May excursion will be lead by Bob Kingsbury. Carpool and additional trip information will be available soon.

### 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.

### June 9 - Voorhees Sanctuary Field Trip

Join CAAS members on a field trip to the Voorhees Sanctuary to possibly glimpse a Cerulean Warbler! This trip will be lead by member Jim Hewitt. Carpool and additional trip information will be available in May.

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)

# LOCAL BIRDING EVENTS

## **April 6 & 7 - Burke Lake Banding Demo at the MSU Science Festival**

The Burke Lake Banding Station will demonstrate how their research is conducted on wild bird populations. Visitors will have the opportunity to release a wild bird from their hand. Free and open to all ages.

**MSU - SW Corner of Farm Lane and Trowbridge Road  
8 - 10 a.m.**

## **April 9 - Birding 101 with Dea Armstrong**

Michigan Audubon's monthly speaker series will host Birding 101 to share the basics of beginning birdwatching. Free

**Michigan Audubon  
2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200,  
Okemos, MI  
7-8 p.m.**

## **April 17 - MI Audubon Tuesday Trek**

Michigan Audubon will offer spring bird walks this spring. Free

**Lewis Landscape Arboretum, MSU  
8-10 a.m.**

## **April 24 - MI Audubon Tuesday Trek**

Michigan Audubon will offer spring bird walks this spring. Bird watchers of all skill levels and ages are welcome. Free

**Woldumar Nature Center  
5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing, MI  
8-10 a.m.**

## **April 24 - Spring Bluebird Festival**

This event is free and open to the public. It will feature educational exhibits, programs and products that help bluebird 'landlords'. For more information visit [www.michiganbluebirds.org](http://www.michiganbluebirds.org)

**Washtenaw Community College  
Morris Lawrence Building  
4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, MI  
9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.**

## **May 1- MI Audubon Tuesday Trek**

Michigan Audubon will offer spring bird walks this spring. Bird watchers of all skill levels and ages are welcome. Free

**Capital City Bird Sanctuary  
Park at Hawk Meadow Park  
6160 Delta River Drive, Lansing, MI  
8-10 a.m.**

## **May 8 - MI Audubon Tuesday Trek**

Michigan Audubon will offer spring bird walks this spring. Bird watchers of all skill levels and ages are welcome. Free

**Potter Park Zoo - Lansing River Trail  
1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, MI  
8-10 a.m.**

## **May 15- MI Audubon Tuesday Trek**

Michigan Audubon will offer spring bird walks this spring. Bird watchers of all skill levels and ages are welcome. Free

**Burchfield County Park**

# CAAS HISTORICAL FLASHBACK

Thirty years ago in the spring of 1988 Capital Area Audubon Society had 182 dues-paying members. The price of an individual membership was \$6 and family memberships were \$10.

On the Call Note calendar Monday morning bird walks at Fenner Arboretum were starting up on April 4 at 7:30 a.m. On April 12 Tuesday evening bird walks led by Bill Staples were scheduled to begin at 6:15 p.m. in the MSU parking lot at the corner of Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. And on May 7 Clara Bratton was scheduled to lead a "Wildflowers and Warblers" walk at Riverbend Natural Area.

The April 7, 1988 program was "Backpacking and Kayaking Alaska's Brooks Range" by Elaine Burgess. At the May meeting Sue Crispin of Michigan Natural Features Inventory was speaking on "Rare Michigan Flora."

Among the bird sightings that spring was a Ruff reported by Bruce Cohen on the MSU ponds on April 23. Also on the MSU ponds were Black Terns reported on May 9.

At the March Board Meeting Treasurer June Mack reported a balance of \$1,003.02. It was announced that Lambton Wildlife of Sarnia, Ontario was seeking to purchase property to protect the last colony of Karner Blue butterflies in Canada. A motion was made and seconded to send a letter of support and a check for \$50. That motion failed. A second motion to send a letter of support was approved. The major expenditures in the CAAS budget were for printing and mailing the Call Note newsletter. Other disbursements in 1988 went to cover the cost of holding potlucks (Bohemians) at All Saints Church, speaker fees, Christmas Count expenses, and support for Junior Audubon.

- .*Jim Hewitt. historian*

## A LITTLE SPRING CLEANING

As our breeding birds return for the summer it's time to clean up and clear out those nest boxes and bird feeders for new visitors.

Over the winter mice can move in to bluebird houses and cause quite a mess. Feeder visits may become a little less frequent as spring blooms and bugs return. Here are a couple of suggestions for our bird spring cleaning.

### **SEED FEEDERS -**

Feeders should be cleaned about every two weeks. For plastic feeders take them down and allow them to soak in a bleach and water formula, about 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. After they have soaked, take a quick scrub of all the surfaces, inside and out, rinse them off and let completely dry before hanging back up.

If you notice any Finches with swollen eyes, take down your feeder immediately and give it a good thorough cleaning and allow a couple of days for birds to disperse before hanging them back up. Finch eye disease can spread through dirty feeders and discouraging them from feeder use for a small time can help deter the spread of the disease.

Remember to rake underneath feeders to remove old seed and droppings.

### **HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS -**

Although our hummingbirds will not return for about a month, now is the time to get your humming bird feeder and supplies back out and ready to go.

Sugar water needs to be changed every 3-5 days to prevent mold and fermentation, and more often during warm weather.

Clean feeders at least once a week with hot water and a bottle brush. Do not use soap or detergent. You can also use the same bleach mixture for hummingbird feeders as well. Make sure to rinse them thoroughly and let them dry before refilling.

### **NEST BOXES -**

Take time to prepare for your new visitors this year by checking your nest boxes for any cracks, mold or moisture getting into the box. You can remove old nests and debris to keep the nest box as bug free as possible.

If a mouse has made your box his winter retreat, clean the boxes by removing nest material and washing with a soap solution. Be sure to wear gloves and a mask.

For more helpful hints, visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org).

## CALL NOTE

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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

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[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

## EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- Spring Birds are back! Grackles, Red-winged Black Birds, Robins, Sandhill Cranes and Killdeer have been spotted in Ingham County. Spring must be on the way.

- Snowy Owls have stuck around well into March. Three separate owls were reported near the Jolly and College intersection. Another Snowy was noted at the Capital City Airport.

- A Long-eared Owl was reported at the Capital City Bird Sanctuary on March 13th by Dave Sandahl.

- Legg Park has a Winter Wren again this year. It was reported on March 12th by Jim Keller.

- A Northern Goshawk was reported on March 18th by David Pavlik at the Williamston Township Community Park.

*These sightings were reported at our meeting, 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://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)*

## CAAS SPRING VOLUNTEERS

We are still looking for leaders for our bird walks on May 12th and 19th. Please sign up at our next meeting or email Parks Marion at [parks.marion@gmail.com](mailto:parks.marion@gmail.com).

# Thank You!

A huge thank you to **Lee Laylin and Clara Bratton and David Austen** for supplying the wonderful snacks at our March meeting.

Also a big thanks to **Don Dickmann** for offering free copies of his book "Michigan Forest Communities" to our members.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We, Roger and Leora (Lee) Laylin have been "Active Birders" since the early 70s. Since reaching the amateur magic life list of 700 species we have made several trips to Costa Rica and have added species to our list so that it now numbers over 1000. Late last spring we finally noticed a hawk nest at the edge of our back yard in the top of the white pine, well after incubation had started. We watched the parents all spring and then on July 11th the young birds fledged. All three are in the one photo although hard to see.

It was interesting that the parents did not attempt to take prey at the feeder during incubation nor did the back yard birds harass the nest. All bets were off after they fledged. We wonder if the parents will return again this Spring, the family has fed off and on all winter.



## 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)  
CALL NOTE MAILING AND EMAIL WILL CEASE THIS MONTH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP.**