



# the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON  
MAY 2018

FAI CHAN 2016

## Join Us

### AT OUR MAY MEETING!

**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.

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.

### CAAS SILENT AUCTION

At our May meeting we will have on display a wood clock hand-made by Paul Fink, donated to the CAAS by Lee Laylin. Please consider a silent bid on the sign-up sheet at the May meeting. The winner will be announced after the meeting. All funds go to the CAAS budget.



*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

It looks as if spring might actually be on its way finally (knock on wood), and so we can expect that great flush of spring migrants that entertain us for too short of a time as they head farther north to their breeding grounds. Bird song will again fill the air although I have to say that I seem to strain a little harder than I used to in order to hear some of those notes. Since I'm certain that has nothing to do with aging, I blame it on the loud world in which we live. But in all seriousness, the ambient noises to which we have become accustomed do affect us and the natural world, including the birds around us.

Our May speaker will be talking on this topic of how sounds in our surroundings—the soundscape—affect birds and their ability to communicate. This is of importance not only for birders but for anyone concerned about the health of our environment.

Also, don't forget that our spring bird walks at Fenner will continue every Saturday morning through May 19 and shift to 8:00 am in May. Hope to see you on the trails!

Good birding,  
Barb Hosler

## SPRING MIGRATION IS UNDERWAY

This spring, before joining that early morning bird walk, take a look at the real-time migration forecasts by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at [birdcast.info](http://birdcast.info).

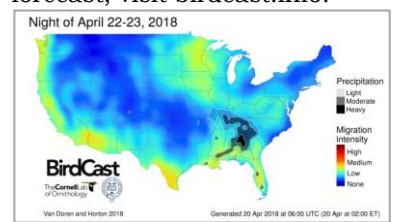
The migration maps forecast the bird movement for the week as well as live migration maps showing the intensity and direction of nighttime movement across the United States.

Using the US Weather Surveillance Radar Network, BirdCast can show the migration intensity, the direction of the birds and the predicted movement for the following days. This technology can help you predict if a morning walk will be heavy with new visitors, or if there will be little change from the previous day. In addition to providing birders with valuable migration information, the forecasts are helping those

monitoring window strikes and urban light reduction programs to advise buildings when to make adjustments to best protect the migrating bird population.

Research is also underway to use the forecasts to help avoid potential collisions with wind turbines by predicting high migration and turning off turbines during those times.

For more information and the current forecast, visit [birdcast.info](http://birdcast.info).

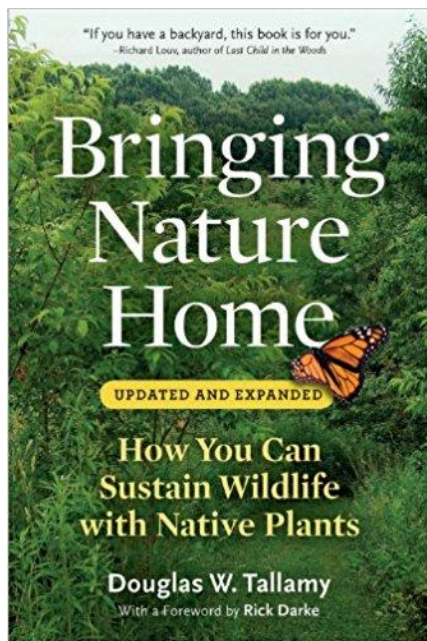


BirdCast forecast for the night of April 22

# CELEBRATE SPRING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Spring has finally arrived and now is the time to clean up the yard and make our birds and pollinators happy by planting native species.

The Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter hosted a screening of the documentary, "Hometown Habitat" on April 18th. The film promoted changing the way we landscape our lawns to promote native species and provide the greatest benefit to wildlife.



Based on the book, "Bringing Nature Home," by Douglas W. Tallamy, the documentary explores many ways we can use our neighborhoods to benefit nature instead of creating areas of grass and alien ornamentals with little to no value to wildlife. Planting an oak tree can help support over 500 species of butterflies and moths. Birds collect these caterpillars to feed their young!

As a part of the Bird-Friendly Communities program, Michigan Audubon has developed two beautiful guides for helping Michigan residents support our birds through native plantings.

The first guide is "Michigan Native Plants for Bird-Friendly Landscapes." It contains lists of native plant options, frequently asked questions about native plantings and resources for further study.

After deciding which plants would work well in your lawn, the second guide, "Michigan Native Garden Design," will help you turn your yard

into a beautiful oasis for humans and wildlife alike. Both guides are available online at the Michigan Audubon page, [www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/bird-friendly-plants/](http://www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/bird-friendly-plants/)

After all the planning is done, there are a number of options for purchasing native plants here in the Lansing area.

Wildtype Nursery, in Mason, offers public plant sale days the last three weekends in May. [www.wildtypeplants.com](http://www.wildtypeplants.com)

Van Atta's Garden Center, in Haslett, is participating in Michigan Audubon's Native Stock program and will have a tag noting local species. [www.vanattas.com](http://www.vanattas.com)

Harris Nature Center will host a Native Plants day on Saturday, May 5th from 9 am to 1 pm featuring plants from Designs By Nature.

BetterFinds Plant sales will take place at the Meridian Township Farmers Market on May 5th and 19th, and June 2nd, 16th and 30th.

Wild Ones, Red Cedar Chapter will offer a nice selection of plants for pollinators at their plant sales Saturday May 12th from 9 am- 3 pm at the Lansing City Market, and again on Saturday May 26th from 8 am - 2 pm at the Meridian Township Farmers Market.

For more information about these plant sales, planting native species and creating a pollinator paradise, visit [www.wildoneslansing.org](http://www.wildoneslansing.org).

Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at Fenner Nature Center. The meetings are free and open to the public. The next meeting on May 16th will feature Bonnie Brit of the Burke Lake Banding Station. She will discuss which wild berries are best for songbirds migrating South in the fall.



## UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

### CAAS Monthly Meetings

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

### 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. The route will be stroller friendly and open to all ages.

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

This May excursion will be led by Bob Kingsbury. Participants will meet at the Coopersville McDonald's at exit 16 off of 96 at 8:30am. The group will then drive to the WW and consolidate vehicles at the small parking area at the south east corner of the property on Swanson Rd by Apple Ave / M46. Please sign up on our Facebook Page, or at our next meeting.

### 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 led by member Jim Hewitt. Michigan Audubon's Voorhees Sanctuary is located in northeast Calhoun County at the junction of O Drive and 24 Mile. We will meet there at 9:00 am on June 9 but those wishing to carpool can meet at the Fenner parking lot (in the NW corner) at 8:00 am. It takes about 45-50 minutes to get to the Sanctuary from Fenner.

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

## 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 12 - MI Audubon - International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

8am-12pm at the Capital City Bird Sanctuary. Free

### Park at Hawk Meadow Park

6160 Delta River Drive, Lansing, MI

8-10 a.m.

## May 13 - Mother's Day at the Kellogg Sanctuary

11 am - 4 pm, Celebrate Mother's Day with a walk at the Sanctuary.

Mothers get in free with their families.

## 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

881 Grovenburg Rd, Holt, MI

8-10 a.m.

## May 16 - Best Berries for Migrating Songbirds

Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter's monthly meeting will feature guest speaker Bonnie Brit of the Burke Lake Banding Station. She will discuss which berries are the best for songbirds migrating south in the fall.

7 - 9 pm, Fenner Nature Center

## May 17-19 - Tawas Point Migration

Birders of all levels are offered a combination of high-quality guided birding opportunities for small groups, coupled with one afternoon of indoor educational sessions. Field trips include walks at Tawas Point State Park and an assortment of carpool destinations in Iosco County. Participants may expect to see a wide selection of birds including Whip-poor-wills, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Trumpeter Swans, and migrating warblers including the Kirtland's Warbler, all found locally. Visit [ausablevalleyaudubon.org](http://ausablevalleyaudubon.org), and use the Migration 2018 tab for complete info. Online registration closes May 13.

## Helping Birds One Dime at a Time

Now through June 30, bring your reusable bags when shopping at Whole Foods Market and help support Michigan Audubon



Participating Locations:

Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Cranbrook, East Lansing, Rochester Hills, West Bloomfield

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## BIRD SAFE WINDOWS

Window collisions are a major threat to birds during migration and throughout the year.

Michigan Audubon, in cooperation with Michigan State University and volunteers in the Capital Area are undertaking a research survey to see which buildings in the area could pose a threat to migrating songbirds.

Although larger glass buildings and clear glass walkways pose a major threat to birds, windows in our homes can become bird killers as well.

Birds visiting feeders can flush quickly and hit the windows of our homes, or view the reflections of forests and trees as a safe spot to fly. Birds can become stunned and make easy prey for roaming cats, pets and other predators. They can also hit the window with enough force to break bones, cause internal injuries and even death.

If you happen to have a bird strike your window, or find a stunned bird, Michigan Audubon recommends the following steps.

- If you can remain with the bird for awhile, gently pick up the bird and place it in a breathable paper bag or small box with a lid or towel on top. Place the bag/box in a quiet, dark place. Check on the bird after it has had a chance to rest and recover, perhaps 15 minutes. If the bird is alert, gently move the bag/box outside and slowly open the top to allow the bird to fly away on its own.

- Do not try to feed injured or baby birds any food or liquid.

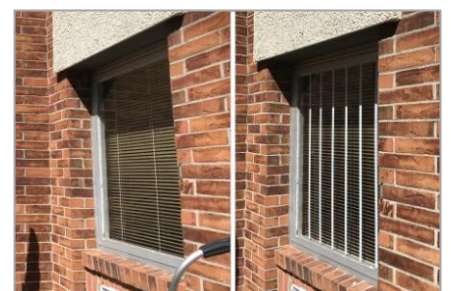
- If the bird is unable to fly away after a few hours, please call a local wild bird rehabilitator:

<http://www.michigandnr.com/dlr/>

There are many simple solutions to help homeowners make our invisible windows visible to songbirds and help prevent the window collisions all together.

A quick and inexpensive way to make your window bird safe is to use a bar of soap and add stripes of soapy film four inches or less apart, vertically, on the outside of the window. Washable window paint or chalk can also work using stripes or designs as long as the designs are close together. These will not last long, but can be a quick fix during migration.

There are many different products to help homeowners modify dangerous windows in a more permanent way. BirdTape or CollidEscape can be applied in strips on the outside of the window and are long lasting and affordable. Please check out [www.abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass](http://www.abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass) or [www.birdsavers.com](http://www.birdsavers.com) for DIY instructions and links to purchasing window products.



Wilcox Elementary School with CollidEscape.

## CALL NOTE

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PO Box 22065, Lansing MI 48909.  
Deadline for submissions:  
20th of the month.

### 2017-2018 CAAS Officers

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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 April a few exciting sightings were reported in the area.

- A Whooping Crane has been recorded in Jackson County on the north side of Stoney Lake near Stoney Lake Road and Taylor Field Road.
- An Iceland Gull, Greater Black-backed Gull and Glaucous Gull were spotted on Lake Lansing on April 17th. On April 18th, A Little Gull was reported on Lake Lansing along with hundreds of other visiting gulls including an Iceland Gull (Thayer's).
- Fenner Nature Center was the host of an American Bittern spotted near the bird blind on the pond a number of times in April.
- Loons were reported on Lake Lansing and Round Lake.
- A Short-eared Owl was seen on April 22nd on Cattle Road at MSU.
- The Spring Bird walks have spotted 20-30 species per walk this year. Come on out and help us add to the list!

*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)*

# Thank You!

A huge thank you to **Jim Hewitt and Kristy Taylor** for supplying the wonderful snacks at our March meeting.

Congratulations to the Silent Auction Winner, **Deb Wolf**, and to **Ed Merz** for the beautiful painting. Thank you for your generous donations to Capital Area Audubon Society.

## MEMBER SLIDESHOW AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

At our June meeting, we invite our members to share a few of their favorite photographs from the year at our Member Photo Show and Ice Cream Social. Feel free to share those rare sightings, favorite feeder visitors or shots from a great trip!

If you know a young person who is interested in birds, or photography please bring them along!

Please prepare about 5 minutes and email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com) to let us know you would like to share. Images should be on a flash drive. The laptop will be set up and ready to go.

A quick election will take place during our brief business prior to the member show. **Mike Moquin, Julia Spalding and Kristy Taylor** are running for the three open board positions. These three candidates will be profiled in the June Call Note.



## 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.**