



Join Us

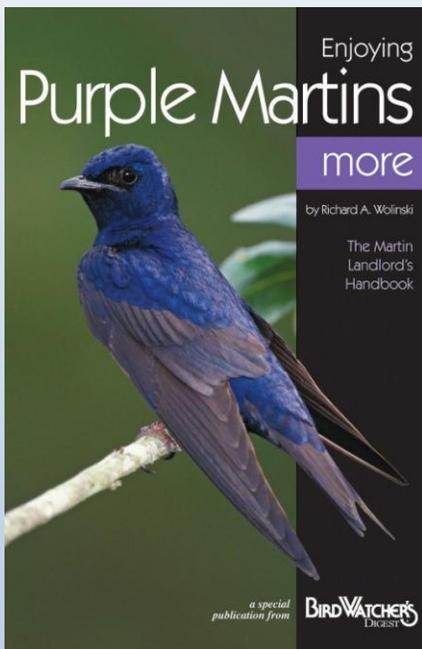
AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING!

October 4 – Enjoying and Attracting Purple Martins

Purple Martins are the only bird species in the eastern half of the US entirely depend on humans for their nesting cavities. Learn how to attract and care for these amazing aerial insectivores.

Presenter: Richard Wolinski,

Author of *Enjoying Purple Martins, The Martin Landlord's Handbook* will share his experience attracting and caring for these social and fascinating birds.



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 OUR PRESIDENT

The equinox has just past and with it the official start of fall. The birds didn't wait for anyone to start putting out pumpkins or for the first leaves to change; they are migrating now and it's leading to some excellent bird watching. Saturday mornings at Fenner have turned up many great birds, thanks again to Bob Kingsbury for leading the fall bird walks and being a stellar guide.

On the topic of bird walks, we are looking for anyone who might be interested in hosting field trips this year. Last year, we organized trips to Allegan State Game Area, Muskegon Wastewater Facility, and the Voorhees Sanctuary to name a few. If anyone has suggestions for trips or, even better, would like to lead a trip, please let us know.

To document activities like field trips, CAAS has traditionally had a historian. The historian helps maintain records and recall past endeavors of CAAS. In my experience, the historian has also offered the board guidance and assistance as they try to carry out the mission of our organization. This year, our long-serving historian, Jim Hewitt, is stepping down. Thank you, Jim, for your work over the past five years and your dedication to CAAS. If anyone has interest in taking on the role of historian please let me know.

I hope everyone continues to enjoy the amazing birds and the beautiful fall weather.

- Parks Marion

COREY MARSH OPEN HOUSE

Jen Owen, Director of the Burke Lake Banding Station would like to invite the CAAS out to the now official Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center.

Everyone will have the opportunity to see the birds up close and in the hand. Attendees will learn about the ongoing research at the station and about the habitat and ecology of these amazing birds. It is a unique chance to learn from real science professionals and experience the natural world from a different perspective.

Saturday October 6th, members are invited to attend a bird walk and open house. It will be an opportunity to see the site, view bird banding, and go birding.

The CAAS bird walk will begin at 9:00 and banding to follow.

The Research Center is located near the BULA station at 9422 Herbison Rd, Laingsburg, MI.

Please contact Parks Marion with any questions or visit the BULA Facebook page.



UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

Fall Migration Bird Walks

Our final walk of the season will take place on September 29 at 9:00a.m. We will meet in the Fenner parking lot.

Bunker Preserve Bird Walk

Sunday, October 14th at 8:00a.m. Join the CAAS for a field trip to the Bunker Road Nature Preserve at 4349 Bunker Rd, Mason, MI.

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.

November 1 – Incorporating Native Plants Into Your Landscape

Have you wondered how to give birds and butterflies more opportunities for success in the urban environment? Esther will discuss incorporating native plants into your current landscape.

Presenter: Esther Durnwald,
Michigan Wildflower Farm,
Portland, MI

December 6 – Hummingbirds

Our December meeting will feature Hummingbird expert Allen Chartier as he shares his experiences banding hummingbirds for over 18 years.

Presenter: Allen Chartier, The Michigan Hummingbird Guy and co-editor of *A Birder's Guide to Michigan*.

December 15 - 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 1 – Maple River State Game Area Restoration Project

Learn about the five-year restoration project for the Maple River State Game Area just north of Lansing.

Presenter: Chad Krumnaue,
DNR Wildlife Technician

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)

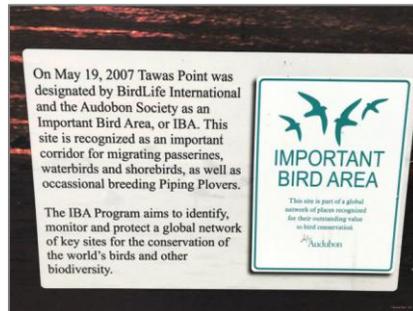
MICHIGAN IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBAs)

Birds depend on a diverse range of habitats, and the threats that confront them are equally varied. Grasslands are being replaced by residential development. Forests disappear through the overharvesting of timber. Badly planned energy development has grim consequences for many bird species and other wildlife.

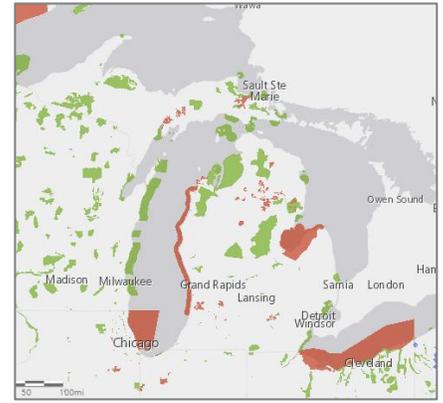
Audubon spearheads an ambitious effort to identify, monitor, and protect the most important places for birds. To date, Audubon has identified more than 2,700 IBAs covering almost 400 million acres of public and private lands in the United States. In Wisconsin alone there are 92 IBAs covering more than 3.2 million acres. The Richard Bong State Recreation Area is one example, recognized for its grassland bird habitat.

Each priority site requires a specific conservation plan. Audubon relies on local stewardship and focuses on engaging individuals, private landowners, local communities, businesses, partner organizations, and government agencies in site conservation.

This approach works. IBA status is now formally factored into state agency land-use planning in a number of states. IBAs are also recognized by major utility grid planners and federal agencies. This conservation approach is both powerful and simple. By identifying and protecting the most important places for birds, we can save species and preserve our natural heritage.



The Michigan Important Bird Areas Program officially began in March 2006 by a coalition of four managing partners: Audubon, Detroit Audubon Society, Kalamazoo Nature Center, and Michigan Audubon Society.



Coordinator Caleb Putnam assembled a technical committee of state officials and bird experts, which devised and applied a rigorous set of criteria. This process has resulted in the identification of 102 IBAs, completed in September of 2010.

Nine of these IBAs are now recognized as globally significant by the national IBA Technical Committee. IBA program coordinator Caleb Putnam is now the vice chair of the Coordinating Council of the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative (MiBCI), and is working to build partnerships resulting in the long-term monitoring and conservation of these sites.

Michigan IBAs by Type

IBA Priority	Number	Acres
Global	10	1,476,674
State	93	3,864,042
Total	103	5,340,716

The IBAs closest to Lansing include the Maple River State Game Area, Rose Lake Wildlife Area, Shiawassee National Wildlife Reserve, Waterloo Recreation Area, Thorn Lake, Otis Sanctuary and the Haehnle Sanctuary in Jackson.

To learn more about IBAs across the United States and the species they support, visit www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas

- this article was compiled from the Audubon website, www.audubon.org

BECOMING A BIRD LANDLORD

As far as available real estate goes, most birds can reliably depend on tree branches, hollowed out natural cavities, buildings, riverbanks, beaches and front porch lights to suitably build a nest and raise a small family. Due to pressures from invasive species and human development, some birds have become almost entirely dependent on human structures to provide a suitable home for their social and dynamic families.

Fall shows off the migration spectacle of one increasingly human-dependent species, the Chimney Swift. These cavity nesters commonly seek out the chimneys of older buildings which are becoming harder and harder to find.

This month at our meeting we will investigate another human-dependent species, the Purple Martin. Richard Wolinski, author of *Enjoying Purple Martins, The Martin Landlord's Handbook*, will share his research and experience about becoming a Purple Martin Landlord and how to help these birds thrive in our urban landscapes.

On page three you can check out the planning guide from the Purple Martin Conservation Associate with housing placement recommendations and some additional tips for starting a colony near you.

For more information, visit michiganaudubon.org/bfc/puma or www.purplemartin.org.

FALL EVENTS

September 30 - American Heritage Festival Woldumar Nature Center, 10am - 4pm
This annual event features a variety of vendors, demonstrators, and performers, all celebrating the history and traditions of the Lansing area. This free event features tours of the Moon Log Cabin, horse-drawn wagon rides, pontoon boat rides on the Grand River, kids crafts, and much more.

October 11 - Shiawassee River Open House
From 6-9pm, get out and explore one of Michigan's Wetland Wonders. Talk with local staff, tour the area and see what the Shiawassee River area has to offer.
225 E. Spruce St., St. Charles, MI

October 13-14 - 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.
The Festival also 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 13-14 - Apple Butter Festival Fenner Nature Center
Fenner's Apple Butter Festival promises to excite the senses with the sights, sounds, and smells of autumn. Visitors will be immersed in nature, while celebrating the harvest season and all of its history, glory and tradition. The festival is truly a community event, with visitors trying their hand at heritage games, using a cross-cut saw, and even helping to stir the apple butter. Local musicians will be serenading visitors and heritage artisans will be demonstrating their works while Pinecrest Percherons tug the farmstead wagon down the trail.

October 17-18 - Great Lakes Restoration Conference, Detroit, MI
Hear from Great Lakes advocates and experts as they discuss the latest science, emerging issues, policy solutions, and environmental justice concerns relevant to the region. Visit www.healthylakes.org to register.

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

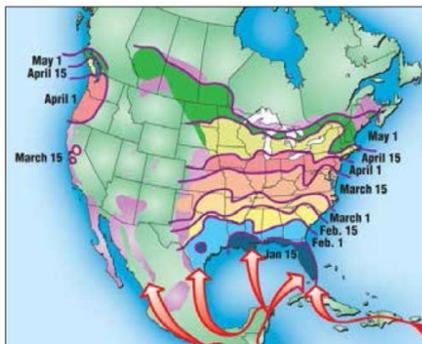
How to Attract Purple Martins

Purple Martins are the only bird species in the eastern half of North America entirely dependent upon human-supplied nesting cavities for reproduction. It can be a challenge to establish a Purple Martin colony, so be patient. The suggestions below will help you succeed.

Educate Yourself. Learn everything you can about Purple Martins. Talk with other martin landlords and visit the web site (www.purplemartin.org) of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding Purple Martins through landlord education and scientific research. Read the book: "Enjoying Purple Martins More" by Richard Wolinski and/or the "Stokes' Purple Martin Book," by Donald & Lillian Stokes. Join the PMCA and receive the informative *Purple Martin Update* magazine.

Choose the Right Location. (See diagrams) Martins have very specific space requirements. One of the main reasons people fail to attract martins is that they place their martin housing incorrectly. Martin housing should be in the center of the largest open spot available, about 30-120 feet from human housing. Place the housing where you can see it so you can enjoy watching and hearing the martins. There should be no trees within 40 feet, preferably 60 feet, of the housing. In the southern half of their breeding range, martins are less fussy about house placement, so sometimes housing can be within 25 feet of trees and still attract martins. But the farther housing is placed from trees, the better. Housing height should be in the range of 10-17 feet. Don't attach wires to the house or pole, especially if they lead to trees, buildings, or the ground. Predators can use the wires to access the housing.

Put Up Manageable Housing. Your chances for success will be better if your housing is easy to manage. Choose a pole that telescopes, or is equipped with a winch or rope & pulley, and housing that has easy access to the compartments. Houses and gourds should be white, or a light color. White housing attracts martins best and reflects sunlight, keeping nestlings cooler. Cavity floor dimensions should be at least 6" x 6", but larger cavities (7" x 12") are preferred by martins, and offer better protection from predators and rain. Unfortunately, larger compartments are also attractive to European Starlings, but a modification to the entrance hole will minimize starling problems. A round entrance hole of 2-1/8" is preferred by the martins, but they will use a range from 1-3/4" to 2-3/8". Make sure there is adequate ventilation and drainage in each nest cavity. Many houses can be improved if need be. Add insulation to the attic, remodel interiors to offer double-size compartments, and add porch dividers to houses with shared porches. Dividers help keep males from claiming extra compartments, and can double occupancy rates. They also keep nestlings from wandering to other compartments where they can get lost and die, or steal food from younger nestlings, causing them to starve.



Open Housing at the Right Time.

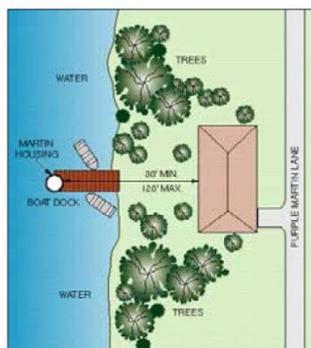
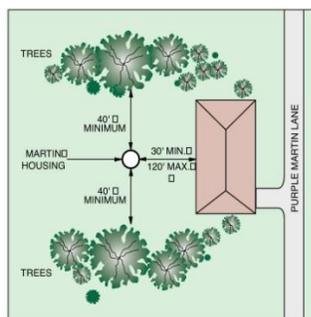
Adult martins are rarely attracted to new breeding sites — they return to the sites where they bred previously. Typically, it is subadult martins (last year's young) that colonize new sites, and they begin arriving about 4 weeks after the first adults in the northern third of the martin's breeding range, 6 weeks after the adults in the middle of the range, and 8 weeks after the adults in the southern third. At uncolonized sites then, opening housing when the "scouts" are due decreases chances of attracting martins by giving House Sparrows and starlings 4-8 weeks to claim the site before the subadult martins arrive. To improve your chances, keep housing closed until it's time for subadults to arrive (see migration-timing map for adults, above left, and add 4, 6, or 8 weeks onto the dates shown, depending on latitude, to determine subadult arrival). At active sites, the first martins usually show up within a week or two of previous years' arrival dates. The strategy at active colony sites is to have your housing ready, but keep it closed until some martins return. Martin migration is a draw-out affair, with birds arriving for 8-12 weeks in the north, 16-20 weeks in the south. Martins can arrive and begin nesting up through the end of June, range-wide, so keep your housing ready; don't close it up, or let other birds use it.

Increase Your Chances. A few things can be done to make your site more attractive to Purple Martins. Offer a combination of houses and gourds. Play a dawn song recording. Add a Purple Martin decoy or two. Place 1-2" of nesting material in the bottom of each compartment.

Don't Close it Too Soon. Don't close the entrances, or take the housing down, until late August, as fledglings will be searching for next year's breeding sites in late summer.

For information on the Purple Martin Conservation Association and receiving the quarterly *Purple Martin Update* magazine, visit the web site, phone, or write.

Purple Martin Conservation Association
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Dr., Ste. 6
Erie, PA 16505 USA
814-833-7656
info@purplemartin.org
www.purplemartin.org



CALL NOTE

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caaudubon@gmail.com
capitalareaaudubon.org
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EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Black Crowned Night Heron has been spotted at the Inter-Urban Pathway in Haslett a number of times in the month of September.

- Live Hawk Watch data is available at Hawk Count.org. On September 19th, the Detroit River Hawk Watch reported 121 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 22,437 Broad-winged Hawks, 126 American Kestrels and a number of other raptors. They also noted 3205 Blue Jays! On the 18th, 700 Monarchs were counted!

Are you taking a birding trip out-of-state or out of the country this winter? We would love to feature a few of your exciting sightings from your trip. Please email caascallnote@gmail.com with a brief overview and a couple of your favorite images from the trip.

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

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

Thank You!

Thanks to **Madeline Merz** for supplying the snacks at our September meeting, and to speaker **Kevin Arnold** for sharing with us!

A very big thank you to CAAS historian **Jim Hewitt**.
He is stepping down after serving for five years.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Bird Count - Volunteer to help count birds in the count circle! The areas are broken down into 12 groups. Leaders and counters are needed.

CAAS is looking for a historian to document our groups activities, and contribute historical information to the Call Note and to the Board. If you are interested in serving, please contact Parks Marion.

Michigan Audubon is looking for volunteers to help with their 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 8-13th. Hours will be from 8:30am-12pm. Please contact 517-483-4224 or visit mynaturecenter.org to sign up.

Wildside Rehabilitation Center is seeking volunteers to work directly with the wild animals, and assist with many other essential tasks. Please visit their website at wildsidemi.wordpress.com/volunteering/ for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of CAAS enjoy 10 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.

SEPTEMBER 2018 - AUGUST 2019

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 or pick one up at our next meeting.

Online registration and payment is now available at capitalareaaudubon.org/membership