



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
SEPTEMBER 2018

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Join Us

AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

September 6 - Hawk ID

Join us for our first meeting of the fall and hone your hawk identification skills with Kevin Arnold. Arnold is the Southern District Interpretive Supervisor for the Huron-Clinton Metroparks overseeing the Lake Erie Marshlands Museum and the Oakwoods Nature Center. He is a naturalist, historian, and avid outdoorsman who uses his experiences to shape and build stories both natural and historical.

Kevin will be sharing his "HawkID 1" program which he conducts very year at Hawkfest, a celebration focusing on birds of prey and the annual fall hawk migration over Lake Erie Metropark.

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 NEW PRESIDENT

Greetings, first I want to say thank you to the board for encouraging me to take on the role of president. I am excited to help continue the good work of this organization in this new role. I also want to say thank you to Barb, our outgoing president, for all the time and energy she has given over her years in service to the Capital Area Audubon Society.

For the last few days I have noticed the signs of fall all around: ripening apples, cooler evenings, and migrating birds! It is an exciting time of year for bird enthusiasts to see what species are passing through on their annual trip south.

This is also the time of year to think about renewing your membership. Your membership with CAAS goes not just to supporting our programming but also to supporting the

organizations in our area that do important work with birds and nature, including Burke Lake Banding Station and Fenner Nature Center. We renew membership on a "school year" calendar with the new membership period beginning in September and running through August of the following year. Thank you to all our members for continuing to support CAAS. Last year there was some confusion with dues and when to renew and we extend an apology to anyone who was impacted. The board has been working hard to make sure we don't have problems in the future.

The board has also been working to plan our upcoming meetings and events this year and I am really excited about some of the things we have in the works! This year's flock of programs is shaping up to be great. Let's hope the migrating flocks are just as good! - Parks Marion

INATURALIST

If you ever find yourself staring at a bird you just can't quite identify, don't worry! You are not alone and there are plenty of apps to help. Merlin Bird ID and the Audubon app can both walk you through a quick series of questions to help narrow down the possibilities and guide you to the most probable id.

But what if you are curious about a bug? Or a plant, butterfly, mammal or other living thing? There is help! The app iNaturalist is a fantastic way to help you figure out if the little bee bugging your picnic is a native species or just needs to buzz off.

The steps are simple and the app is very easy to use. First, set up a free account and login at inaturalist.org or download the app. Next, make an observation by snapping a quick picture of your curiosity and clicking the suggestions. Many times you will see the ID suggestions listed, but even if the app cannot id your item, go ahead and post it in a broader category, like butterflies. The crowd-based system will allow other users and naturalists from around the globe help you make a positive ID while you help contribute to citizen science. For more information, visit www.inaturalist.org

UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

Fall Migration Bird Walks

Saturdays in September, join a CAAS bird walk at Fenner Nature Center. Walks will begin at 9:00a.m. at the parking lot. Walks take place on September 8, 15, 22, 29.

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.

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

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.

*Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caasCallNote@gmail.com
or share it on our facebook page -
facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon*

BURKE LAKE BANDING OPEN FOR FALL

Burke Lake Banding Station (BULA) has opened for the fall banding season. Visitors are welcome anytime banding is in session. Banding will be cancelled in rain, snow, freezing temperatures, or when winds are greater than 15mph.

The Station has stated that their overall goal is to integrate avian research, the training of current and future wildlife professionals, and the education of people of all ages in the mid-Michigan region, while showcasing the diversity of wildlife inhabiting one of mid-Michigan's most diverse wildlife research areas.



In addition to the ongoing research conducted by BULA, the station encourages visitors of all ages to enjoy the station. They connect with kids from K-12 schools, summer camps and 4-H groups providing a hands-on, exciting opportunity to connect with nature.

Children are encouraged to ask questions and are given the opportunity to release a bird from their hands. Visitors of all ages will love getting to view the birds up close

and discovering which fall migrants have made an appearance that morning! BULA regularly updates their Facebook page with daily updates of the species netted each morning. So far this year they have captured and released over 100 birds including 25 different species!



Thanks to the support of our membership, the Capital Area Audubon Society makes a yearly donation to support the mission of BULA, but if you would like to be more involved you can fill out their online survey for more information or make an additional personal donation online.

This year BULA will be taking on a new property with exciting new potential for the local birding community. Look forward to updates in the near future! For more information, please visit, www.burkelakebanding.com.



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.

Michigan Audubon is looking for volunteers to help at their office, at the Capital Area Bird Sanctuary and for many of their events. They are also looking for those willing to monitor buildings for bird collisions during fall migration. 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.

MICHIGAN AUDUBON FALL SEMINARS

This year Michigan Audubon will host monthly seminars at the Audubon office in Okemos. The talks will cover various topics and are free and open to the public. Already this year the topics have included Safe Passage Coordinator, Heidi Trudell, speaking about Bird-Window Collisions, Birding by Ear with Jim McGrath, Invasive Species with Erin Pavloski and much more.

There are still a few opportunities left this year to take part in the series. Monday, September 10th, Audubon will host Rosann Kovalcik, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Grosse Pointe Woods. Kovalcik will cover the basics of creating and caring for a bird friendly backyard and home with a focus on native plants.

In October, the seminar will focus on feeding birds during the winter.

If you enjoy the fall migration spectacle put on by Chimney Swifts, Michigan Audubon will host a "Swift Night Out" at Smith Floral & Greenhouses in Lansing.

This free, family-friendly event features an amazing show at dusk, when hundreds of Chimney Swifts flock together in a tornado-like formation, flying in increasingly tighter circles before dropping into the chimney where they roost for the night.

These urban birds have suffered a steep population decline in recent decades due to loss of habitat, insecticide use, climate change, and more. Information on how you can help this species, including citizen science projects, will be available at the event.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. with the most Chimney Swift activity taking place 15 minutes before and after sunset. Please meet at the Smith Floral & Greenhouses' parking lot at 1124 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing, MI 48910.

If you have any questions, please contact Michigan Audubon Conservation Program Coordinator Linnea Rowse at lrowse@michiganaudubon.org

MICHIGAN HERP ATLAS PROJECT

The next time you are out recording your bird sightings on eBird, consider contributing to the growing database about Michigan's amphibians and reptiles.

Local surveys have been performed in several areas, yet only a few over the long-term. Other than the Michigan Frog and Toad Survey initiated in 1996 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), no statewide survey or monitoring of amphibian or reptile populations has been done.

Recognizing the lack of comprehensive knowledge regarding the distribution and abundance of Michigan's amphibians and reptiles, the DNR began the Michigan Herp Atlas Project in 2004.

Initially most observations came from research projects or from well-studied locations. Currently the DNR seeks to collect observations from anyone with an interest in herps, from scientists to backyard nature lovers. We particularly encourage people to submit observations from

parts of the state where little data has been collected. Both recent and historic observations are encouraged!

Previously, data was submitted to the Herp Atlas on paper cards and was then manually entered. Today anyone can easily enter their data directly into the Atlas on the website.

Please visit www.miherpatlas.org for more information and to find out how you can contribute.



FALL EVENTS

September 15-16 - HawkFest

Lake Erie Marshlands Museum

32481 W. Jefferson, Brownstown, MI

HawkFest is a two-day event for the whole family focusing on birds of prey (eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls) and the annual fall hawk migration over Lake Erie Metropark. Join us for a great weekend of games, crafts, guest speakers, and fun. Live birds of prey will be on hand!

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 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 - caasCallNotie@gmail.com
or share it on our Facebook page -
[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

CALL NOTE

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Alexia Witcombe

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EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This summer a few exciting sightings were reported in the area.

- A Red-Headed Woodpecker had a nest cavity near Holt High School this summer and fledged a couple of young.

- Fall warbler migration has begun! A Chestnut-sided Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler were reported along with a Black-and-white Warbler, a few American Redstarts, a Magnolia Warbler and a few Yellow Warblers at the Capital City Bird Sanctuary on August 19th.

- BirdCast live migration maps and forecasts are now operating for fall. Visit <http://birdcast.info/live-migration-maps/> to see if there will be new migrants visiting your area!

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

CALL FOR CAAS FIELD TRIP IDEAS

We are looking for ideas and leaders for possible CAAS Field Trips this year. If you have a great place you would like to recommend, please email Mike Moquin at mikemoquin@aol.com.

Thank You!

Thanks to **Lee Laylin** for supplying the ice cream and treats at our June Social, and for our members who took the time to prepare images and stories to share with us!

TIME TO JOIN OR RENEW WITH CAAS

Our current membership program year is September, 2018 - August, 2019. Renew now to ensure your support for the Capital Area Audubon monthly meetings, Call Note newsletter and community projects funded with our membership dues.

CAAS makes yearly donations to the Fenner Nature Center, Burke Lake Banding Station, the birding backpack program and more.

Please remember that your CAAS membership is independent of National Audubon and Michigan Audubon, so if you are also members of National and the Michigan chapter (and we hope you are), dues to our own local chapter are separate.

Please renew today. Thank you for your continued support.



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