



KRISTY TAYLOR 2018

## Join Us

### AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING!

#### 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

Michigan Wildflower Farm, located in mid-Michigan, is a working farm open for visitation by appointment only. Michigan Wildflower Farm has been a part of bringing people together with their natural surroundings since 1988.

They are producers of Michigan genotype seeds, but also have projects underway ranging in size from 600 square feet to 132 acres and many in between? The farm specializes in the installation and management of rain gardens, shoreline restorations, detention and retention basins, bioswales, wetland mitigations, CRP and SAFE projects, meadows, prairies and gardens. Projects have included business headquarters, housing developments, libraries, municipal offices and single homes in urban and rural settings throughout Michigan.

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

Every year in the fall, I feel as if I am trying to pack in so much and this year has been no different. There have been so many great bird events, field trips, and sightings this fall and migration is not even over yet. I have enjoyed seeing many of you out there birding and supporting the bird community.

When this happens I am reminded how wonderful it is that as CAAS members, we do what we do, namely, support bird research and conservation on the local level and build the birding community! So keep it up and I hope to see you all out there birding and enjoying this fall.

- Parks Marion

## EASY WAYS TO HELP BIRDS THIS FALL

As our last leaves fall and our winter birds return to the area, there are a number of ways you can help birds get what they need all winter long.

1. Clean those feeders and get the suet ready. Our winter visitors are very prepared for the ice and snow but simply cleaning our feeders and having them full before a storm can help our guests conserve precious energy searching out additional food. Suet provides a high fat option and is a popular choice for woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees.

2. Leave stalks standing. Wild Ones, Red Cedar Chapter recommends leaving native perennial stalks standing all winter. The seeds and overwintering insects in this stubble help provide food for birds. Bees also use the hollow stems to raise their young.

3. Leave the Leaves! The Xerces Society notes that besides providing the right plants and protecting your garden from

pesticides, one of next most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need in the form of fall leaves and standing dead plant material.

The vast majority of butterflies and moths overwinter in the landscape as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis or adult. All in all, what is good for the bugs is good for the birds!

If you have an easy way to help birds this winter, please let us know on our Facebook page.



# 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.

## 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.

## December 29 – Eaton Rapids

### Christmas Bird Count

If the East Lansing Bird Count doesn't fit into your schedule, take time to get out and help with another local count in Eaton Rapids.

## January 3 – 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

## February 7 – Prairie Restoration

Explore the changing and fascinating restoration of native prairie.

**Presenter - Linnea Rowse**,  
Conservation Program Coordinator for Michigan Audubon.

## March 7 – Hope for Black Terns

Hear about the Black Tern population at Saint Clair Flats and Wigwam Bay.

**Presenter - Erin Rowan**,  
the Audubon Great Lakes and MI DNR's new MI Birds Program Associate

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)

# BUNKER ROAD FIELD TRIP REVIEW

After an amazing night at CraneFest watching thousands of sandhill cranes land at the Big Marsh Lake in Bellevue, I hit the trail at the Bunker Road Nature preserve with a few other brave birders. It was quite chilly, but the sun was out and the preserve looked beautiful.

We started our walk along the prairie section headed along the west side of the property. A few field sparrows, song sparrows and red-winged blackbirds greeted us as we made our way through the tall grass. A couple of warblers were also spotted in this area, including a yellow-rumped warbler and a common yellowthroat.

Canada Geese who had spent the night on the wetland continually sped off overhead to their daytime foraging destinations. We counted over 150 as they left the security of the preserve to get their daily fill.

The most surprising find of the day was a yellow-billed cuckoo, which was spotted in a tree between the two prairie sections and flew off toward the wood line.

Here is our complete species list from the trip.

## 24 total species

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Sandhill Crane  
Killdeer  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
American Kestrel  
Eastern Phoebe  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
American Goldfinch  
Field Sparrow  
American Tree Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brown-headed cowbird  
Common Yellowthroat  
Yellow-rumped Warbler

We hope you are able to join us at our next field trip! If you have any spots you would like to suggest, please email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com).

# WHITING FOREST CANOPY WALK

Whiting Forest in Midland, Michigan has just opened the largest canopy walk of its kind in the nation.

A part of Dow Gardens, Whiting Forest is 54 acres of woodlands, ponds, apple orchard, meadows and a stream. The new walk is 1,400 feet long, and accessible for all ages and abilities. The newly renovated park also features a visitor center, forest trails, playground, cafe and pedestrian bridges.

The Canopy Walk has three arms, each ending at a unique viewing platform. The walk includes views of a forest pond from 25 feet up, a large 25-foot-high cargo net in a grove of spruce trees and an orchard view platform 40 feet high with a glass floor and railings.

This November the forest will be open from 9am - 4:15pm each day. On weekends, reservations are required due to the high volume of visitors. Reservations can be placed online at [www.dowgardens.org](http://www.dowgardens.org) or by calling 1-800-362-4874.



The neighboring Dow Gardens is also open and included in the admission to the Whiting Forest. Last year in December, the garden was host to a Western Tanager!

Although the grand opening is sure to be special, the Canopy Walk may be an exciting place to view the spring warbler migration. If you would be interested in a CAAS trip to the Whiting Forest and Dow Gardens in Midland, MI, please email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com)

# MICHIGAN AUDUBON NATIVE PLANT GUIDE

As part of the Bird-Friendly Communities program, Michigan Audubon offers many online and print resources to help you plan a native garden at your home!

Visit [www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/bird-friendly-plants/](http://www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/bird-friendly-plants/) to discover a list of local native plant providers, a brochure to help you design an attractive native garden that fits your sun and soil options, and a guide to Michigan native plants and invasives. The following is an excerpt from the Michigan Native Plants for Bird-Friendly Landscapes guide. The entire booklet is also available for download.

## Wildflowers

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Light			Moisture			Size	Use by Birds						
			Full	Part	Shade	Dry	Med	Wet		C	F	H	L	N	S	
Hummingbirds	Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	x			x	x		2'-4'							
	Penstemon	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	x	x				x	3'-4'				x	x		
	Woodland phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>		x	x			x	1'				x	x		
Larval host plants	Butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	x					x	1'-3'				x	x	x	
	White snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>		x	x			x	2'-4'					x		
	Woodland sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	x	x				x	3'-5'					x	x	
Seed	Bluestem goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	x	x	x			x	2'-3'							
	Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	x					x	2'-5'					x	x	
	Smooth aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>	x					x	2'-4'					x	x	
Seed	Lanceleaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	x					x	1'-2'							x
	Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	x					x	3'-4'							x
	Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	x	x				x	1'-3'						x	
	Prairie-dock	<i>Silphium terebinthaceum</i>	x					x	4'-10'	x						x

Use by Birds Key: C = Cover; F = Fruit; H = Hummingbirds; L = Larval host; N = Nesting location or material; S = Seed

### Invasive Wildflowers

Remove or avoid planting these species:



Garlic Mustard  
*Alliaria petiolata*



Dame's Rocket  
*Hesperis matronalis*



Japanese Knotweed  
*Polygonum cuspidatum*



Spotted Knapweed  
*Centaurea stoebe*

## Rain garden & Pond Edge

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Light			Moisture			Size	Use by Birds						
			Full	Part	Shade	Dry	Med	Wet		C	F	H	L	N	S	
Hummingbirds	Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	x	x				x	3'-4'				x	x	x	
	Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	x	x				x	2'-5'				x			
	Marsh blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	x					x	3'-4'				x			x
Larval host plants	Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	x	x				x	2'-4'				x			
	Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	x	x				x	3'-5'				x	x	x	
	New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	x					x	3'-6'					x	x	
Seed	Tussock sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	x					x	2'-4'	x			x	x	x	
	Joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	x	x				x	4'-5'				x			x
	Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	x	x				x	3'-5'				x			x
	Southern blue flag	<i>Iris virginica</i>	x	x				x	2'-3'				x			
	Riddell's goldenrod	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	x					x	2'-4'					x	x	
Seed	Fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	x	x				x	2'-3'	x			x	x	x	
	Dark green bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	x					x	3'-5'						x	x

Use by Birds Key: C = Cover; F = Fruit; H = Hummingbirds; L = Larval host; N = Nesting location or material; S = Seed

### Invasive Wetland Species

Remove or avoid planting these species:



Flowering Rush  
*Butomus umbellatus*



European Swamp Thistle  
*Cirsium palustre*



Purple Loosestrife  
*Lythrum salicaria*



Narrow-leaved Cat-tail  
*Typha angustifolia*

# 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 for the East Lansing and Eaton Rapids counts.

Next month a full list of area leaders and a map of each area will be included in the Call Note. Please email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com) for more details or to be connected with a group!

# AREA EVENTS

## Sandhill Crane Viewing in Bellevue November 3 & 4, 4-7pm and November 10 & 11, 4-7pm

Experience hundreds of Sandhill Cranes flying in to Big Marsh Lake as they prepare for migration. The best viewing time is from 5 p.m. to dusk but can change as sunset gets earlier. Crane viewing is free, but public viewing may be cancelled based on the weather.

## Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area 22300 15 Mile Road, Bellevue

## Conservation Cafe, Conserving Nature's Stage November 1, 12-1 pm or November 30, 12-1 pm

Join the Nature Conservancy in Michigan for a complimentary lunch and lecture discussing the way climate change is impacting habitats and shifting home ranges for plants and animals across the globe. Drs. Kim Hall and Doug Pearsall will share about the most resilient lands in the Great Lakes and how we can invest in these sites to provide optimal habitat for a changing world.

**November 1 - Ann Arbor City Club,  
1830 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor  
November 30 - The Iroquois Club  
43248 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills  
Register online at  
<https://fs29.formsite.com/7DR5Va/form4/index.html>**

## Run-A-Munk 5k/10k Woldumar Nature Center

**November 4, 9:30-12pm**  
Join trail runners, hikers and nature enthusiasts from all over Michigan at the 11th annual Woldumar Nature Association race. For more information and registration, visit, <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/MI/Lansing/RUNAMunk>  
**5739 Old Lansing Rd, Lansing**

## Critter Holiday at Harris Nature Center November 11, 2 pm

The whole family can connect with nature by creating edible treats for the birds and squirrels during this hands-on nature discovery program.  
**3998 VanAtta Rd, Okemos  
\$3 per person or \$7 per family**

## Howl at the Moon, Guided Night Walk Harris Nature Center November 16, 7-8 pm

Enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the nighttime woods. Dogs are allowed on a non-retractable leash and flashlights are welcome. Walk is approximately 3 miles.  
**3998 VanAtta Rd, Okemos  
\$3 per person**

Do you have an event to share?  
Email us at - [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com)  
or share it on our Facebook page -

# 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.

## 2018-2019 CAAS Officers

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## 2017-18 CAAS Board of Directors

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# EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Black-and-white Warbler and American Redstart were located at the Beal Botanical Garden on October 10th.
- The Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center (the new property managed by the Burke Lake Banding Station) has been active this fall and since March already has 136 species recoded on eBird. This fall Green-winged Teal, Broad-winged Hawks, over 500 American Robins and around 5,000 Red Winged Blackbirds were reported.
- A Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Cackling Goose were reported at the Bunker Nature Preserve.
- A Ruby-throated Hummingbird has stuck around and was spotted as late as October 20th in Clinton County.

*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://facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

# Thank You!

Thanks to author **Richard Wolinski** for sharing with us and to our wonderful members who provided the snack!

# EXPLORE AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA

Did you know that the Audubon Society now offers the complete species profiles and paintings featured in John James Audubon's *Birds of America*.

Each of the 435 species portraits are available to download in high resolution. The collection is provided courtesy of the John James Audubon Center at Mill Gro in Audubon Pennsylvania and the Montgomery County Audubon Collection

To view these beautiful works of art, visit [www.audubon.org/birds-of-america](http://www.audubon.org/birds-of-america)



# 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](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)**