



FAI CHAN 2016



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 DECEMBER MEETING!

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*.

As noted on his website, Allen Chartier has been interested in science and nature since he was 5 years old, and began birdwatching when he was 11. Since they married in 1979, he and his wife have been on birding trips to 28 countries, and have birded in all 50 U.S. states. Chartier has also been a photographer since 1979 and switched over to digital in 2005.

He got his start as a bird bander in 1997 and as a hummingbird bander since 2000 when he began the Great Lakes HummerNet research project. Chartier is the co-editor of "A Birder's Guide to Michigan" published by the ABA, and has been a contributing author for various recent projects with National Geographic including "Complete Birds of North America", "Complete Birds of the World", and "Handheld 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.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

With the excitement of fall migration all but gone it might make a birder feel a little blue. However, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is just around the corner and we have great programs lined up every month to keep you engaged. For me especially the CBC is a very exciting endeavor. I love to think about how all around the world thousands of people are going out birding to benefit science and conservation. You can participate

wherever you are and Lansing is no different! Maybe you already participate in the count and have for many years or maybe this is your first time. I hope that all the veterans to the CBC will consider bringing along new birders on their count. More eyes mean higher numbers! The CBC is one of the longest running data sets on winter bird populations and I like being a part of that. I hope you will to!
- Parks Marion

BIRDING WITH A BOOK

If you would rather cozy up than venture out this winter, we have some great reads to keep your love of nature and thirst for birding alive from the comfort of your couch.

The Feather Thief, by Kirk Wallace Johnson explores the motivation behind one of the greatest natural history heists of the century. It reads like a true crime thriller and will leave you both entertained and frustrated by the end.

Birding Without Borders, by Noah Strycker, explores his amazing journey to see as many birds as possible in one calendar year. Strycker shares the joys of the birding community and the hardships encountered reaching remote and sometimes dangerous areas to spot the next bird for his year list. This book will give you adventure and laughs from his humorous writing style and truthful storytelling. If you like this book, great additional reading

would include *The Big Year*, by Mark Obmascik, sharing the stories of three top birders all seeking a big year in the ABA area or Neil Hayward's, *Lost Among the Birds*, his story of healing and purpose through his big year.

Odd Birds, by Ian Harding, shares a Hollywood take on getting out into nature and the stories of his upbringing and adventures in the American west.

The Capital Area District Library has many titles available to read online or reserve at your local branch. The online services also offer many birding documentaries and programs available for free to CADL card holders.

If you have a book to recommend, we would love to hear about it on our Facebook page, facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon.

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 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

April 4 – Birds and Soundscapes

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.

April 6, 13, 20, 27 (Saturday mornings) Spring Migration Bird Walks

May 3 – Woodcocks

Based at Western Michigan University, **Al Stewart**, upland game bird specialist with the DNR will share his expertise on the woodcock with a presentation followed by an outing into the field at Fenner to search for mating woodcocks to witness their display.

EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, the Capital Area Audubon Society will sponsor its 71st consecutive Christmas Bird Count. This is one of the oldest Christmas Counts in Michigan. We need all the eyes that we can get out into the field. A few hours in the morning is all that is necessary (although you can go longer if you wish.) Participation is open to people of **all skill levels**. Anyone who wants to help is welcome. **You do not have to be a member of Capital Area Audubon.**

The count circle is divided into different areas, each with its own leader. A larger map of the areas can be found on the CAAS website www.capitalareaaudubon.org.

The CBC Tally and Dinner will be hosted by Sam and Liz Febba following the count on Saturday. There will be chicken salad croissant sandwiches. If you are able to bring a salad, veggie or dessert to share, that will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Liz Febba at 517-646-0240 or lizandsam@att.net with any questions about the count dinner.

Food will be served at 6:00 p.m., but feel free to come sooner. We hope to start the tally promptly at 7:00. The Febba's house is located at 9950 Donegal Drive, Dimondale, MI.

A list of Area Leaders is below. Pick an Area and give the Leader a call. If you can't decide, or if you just want to help where it's needed most, call Barb Hosler at 517-281-6595.

AREA 1 - Rich Yarsevich:
517-242-3104

AREA 2 - Eddie Hicks:
517-256-0035

AREA 3 - Barb Hosler:
517- 281-6595

AREA 4 Parks Marion & Alexia Whitcomb: 423-956-0534

AREA 5 - Ron Eggleston:
517-394-1372

AREA 6 - John Baumgartner:
517-627-5211

AREA 7 - Jim McGrath:
517-525-9247

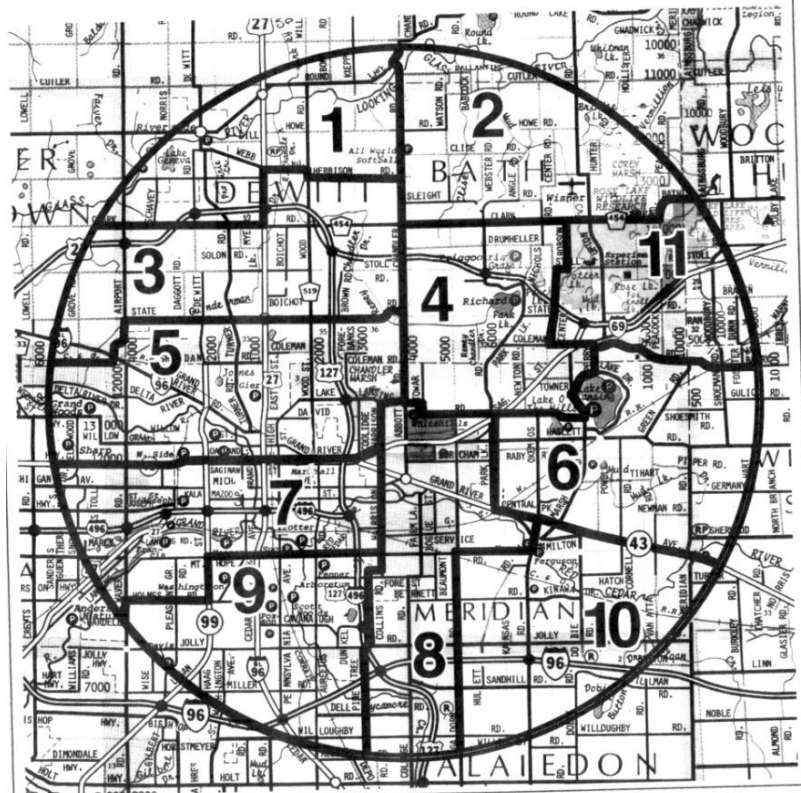
AREA 8 - Jim Hewitt:
517-337-8409

AREA 9 - Clara Bratton:
517-339-0271

AREA 10 - Lee & Roger Laylin:
517-349-3249

AREA 11 - JB McCombs:
517-641-8049

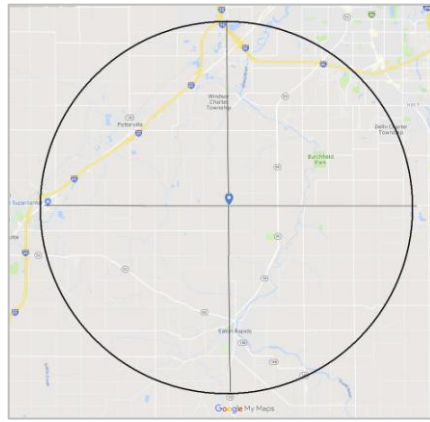
CAAS Christmas Count



EATON RAPIDS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 2018 Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count will be conducted on Saturday, December 29, 2018. The center of the count circle is the intersection of Columbia and Canal Roads in Eaton County. The circle includes Eaton Rapids, Potterville, Dimondale and the State Secondary Complex in Eaton County as well as a portion of southwestern Ingham county. Much of the count circle is rural.

This count is much more loosely organized than the East Lansing count. If you think that you would like to participate, call Tom Wheeker at 517-628-3843.



MICHIGAN AUDUBON WINTER BIRDING

Are you anxious to see a Canada Jay? Hoping to check the Northern Hawk Owl off your list? Then join Michigan Audubon and their skilled birding guide on a birding tour of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. This caravan adventure will start at Sault Ste. Marie then progress through Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. The trip is available on two separate weekends, January 19-20th, or February 9-10th, 2019.

The trip is limited to 12 participants and will fill up fast. The fee for the trip is \$100 for Michigan Audubon members and \$125 for non-members. The trip fee **does not include meals or lodging.**

This trip is rated **EASY** – most travel is by car caravan. Foot travel on gravel or paved roadways; the biggest challenge would be that the roads may be snow covered or slippery. Duration of foot travel of less than a mile at a time. Participants need to be able to withstand cold temperatures for periods of 30 minutes.

No membership or renewal fees are included with event tickets. If you would like to join Michigan Audubon and register for this event as a member, please visit <https://www.michiganaudubon.org/get-involved/membership/>. Once you've purchased your membership, you may register for this event as a member.

ABA GUIDE TO GEAR IS NOW AVAILABLE

If you are looking to upgrade your gear this year or searching for the perfect gift for the birder in your life, the American Birding Association's Annual Birder's Guide to Gear is now available online!

In addition to gift and gear suggestions, the guide also gives tips on recording audio with your smart phone, listening to birds of the night, how to select the best camera for your birding adventures and how to properly layer clothing in the cold winter months.

To download your copy of the pdf, visit <http://bg.aba.org/i/1052444-nov-2018>.



AREA EVENTS

Michigan Audubon Holiday Sales

Fridays, November 30- December 21

During the Holiday season Michigan Audubon will offer a different deeply discounted item through their online store.

www.michiganaudubon.org

They will also host an End of the Season Sale November 29-30th from 10 am - 5pm, and December 1, from 10-1pm. They will offer a wide variety of Audubon and WPBO merchandise as well as their remaining stock of books and field guides

2310 Science Parkway, Ste. 200, Okemos

Cocoa in the Cabin

December 8th 11am - 2pm

Gather around the fire in the Moon Cabin and enjoy hot chocolate and historic demonstrations. Then head over to the Visitor Center and create your own ornament or balm wood holiday decor to take home. There will be a suggested donation for crafts, pricing to be determined closer to the event.

Waldumar Nature Center

5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing

Decorate A Tree For Wildlife

December 8 & 15, 10:30-11:30am

Show your love for nature by decorating a tree for wildlife. Participants in this class will learn how animals find their food in winter and make a selection of tasty treats and ornaments that they can take home, or hang on the trees to help our furry and feathered friends get through the cold months ahead. Class is recommended for ages 5-12.

Fenner Nature Center

2020 E Mount Hope Ave, Lansing

Christmas in the Village

December 9, 2-4pm

Join Santa and Friends for an old-fashioned Christmas in the Village. Historic buildings will be open and decorated for the holidays. Volunteers in period dress will share their Christmas traditions from days past. Event is free and family-friendly. Tree lighting at 4pm.

Meridian Historical Village

5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

Wonderland of Lights

November 22 - December 30

Thursdays - Sundays 5-8 pm

Thousands of lights create extraordinary animal exhibits and light displays at Potter Park Zoo's 24th annual Wonderland of Lights.

Potter Park Zoo

1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing

Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caasCallNot e@gm ail.com
or share it on our Facebook page -
facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon

CALL NOTE

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20th of the month.

2018-2019 CAAS Officers

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Vice President	Kristy Taylor
Secretary	Alexia Witcombe
Treasurer	Michael Caterino

Membership	Ed Mez
Editor & Facebook	Kristy Taylor
Publicity & Hospitality	Eileen Houston
Field Trip Coordinator	Mike Moquin
Program Coordinator	Julia Spalding
Historian	Open

2017-18 CAAS Board of Directors

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Don Dickmann
Eileen Houston
Ed Mez
Parks Marion
Mike Moquin
Julia Spalding
Kristy Taylor
Alexia Witcombe

caudubon@gmail.com
capitalareaaudubon.org
facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon

EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- Eastern Towhees have been spotted in Ingham and Clinton Counties.
- A Townsend's Solitaire was reported at the Riverside Cemetery in Alma on November 9th.
- A Grasshopper Sparrow and Baltimore Oriole were spotted in Ingham County on the 8th of November.
- An immature Golden Eagle was reported a few times in early November at the Williamston Township Community Park in Ingham County.
- On November 21st a Great Black-backed Gull and two Long-tailed Ducks were reported to eBird.

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 our November Speaker, Ester Durnwald for sharing with us and to our wonderful members, Clara Bratten, Lee Laylin and Debbie Wolf who provided the snacks in October and November!

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH IRRUPTION YEAR

This fall and winter will be a great time to spot a red-breasted nuthatch right in your backyard.

Smaller and less common to our area, the red-breasted nuthatch can be identified by the black and white striped crown, slate back, black beak and rust colored underside. They are tiny and active and can be very unafraid of humans.

In October, the Audubon website posted an article attributing the irruption this year to a possible food shortage in their Canadian range.

To read more about the irruption, visit www.audubon.org/news/red-breasted-nuthatches-are-invading-northeast-fall

Kenn Kaufman
@KennKaufman

Red-breasted Nuthatch is an irruptive species in eastern North America. Big numbers sometimes flood southward in fall, apparently in years with a poor crop of spruce cones in eastern Canada. 2018 is shaping up to be a huge flight year. #birding

Red-breasted Nuthatch sightings in eBird September 2017

Kenn Kaufman - Kaufman Field Guides

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

Give the gift of Membership!