

LASTY TAYLOR 2017

## Join Us

### AT OUR JANUARY MEETING!

#### 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.

The Maple River Project goal is to improve the habitat at the SGA to benefit a variety of wildlife species and to improve the waterfowl and pheasant hunting opportunities for mid-Michigan hunters.

The Maple River SGA is host to many migratory species and has become a hotspot on eBird due to the variety of species that are regularly reported. This includes nesting Prothonotary Warbler, Bald Eagle and Osprey.

**Presenter: Chad Krumnauer,**  
DNR Wildlife Technician



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

I want to start off by saying thanks and well done to everyone who participated in the Christmas Bird Count. It has been great to hear what has turned up this year in all the area counts. Every year I have joined a count I have had a fun adventure and this year was no different. Hopefully you also enjoyed birding for this international and long running research effort.

Because it is the holiday time of year I am thinking about family

and friends. This year our daughter went on her first CBC and then gathered with great people at the count dinner. Finding ways to connect friends and family to our hobbies like birding can be so rewarding. I hope that this holiday season you and your family and friends will have a chance to enjoy birds or the natural world in a way that is meaningful be it watching birds at a feeder, going for a walk, reading a book of natural history, or watching a nature documentary.

## EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Saturday, December 15th, groups of birders hit the streets to count as many birds as possible in the East Lansing Christmas Bird Count circle.

This year the weather was nice, and the river was open although the lakes and still water in the area were all covered with ice. There were a number of exciting sightings including an Eastern Towhee at Fenner Nature Center, a Marsh Wren and few others. Full details will be provided in our February newsletter.



A big thank you to **Sam and Liz Febba** for hosting the wonderful compilation dinner.

## EATON RAPIDS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

If you missed our East Lansing Christmas Count, there is still time to take part in the 2018 Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count! This count is much more loosely organized and 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, Pottersville,

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.

If you think that you would like to participate, call Tom Wheeker at 517-628-3843.

# 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.

## February 7 – Michigan Audubon's Bird Friendly Communities Program

Learn more about the exciting opportunities offered by the Bird Friendly Community Program and hear updates from the past year of conservation and education from Michigan Audubon.

**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.

# MEMBERSHIP

Support community programs with your CAAS Membership.

## 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)

# OLDEST WILD SEABIRD LAYS ANOTHER EGG

The world's oldest known wild seabird has laid another egg. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the Laysan Albatross named Wisdom appeared at her nest site at Midway Atoll National Wildlife refuge last month. Wisdom, thought to be 68 years old, and her mate return to the same site on Midway Atoll each year. Laysan albatrosses lay one egg and raise one chick per year.

According to the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Reserve website, the story of a Laysan albatross named Wisdom, began to unfold in 2002 when a miraculously-timed sighting of a band number on an albatross was documented by bird biologist Chandler Robbins. Due to the U.S. bird banding program rigors and meticulous tracking process, the number was traceable to a bird banded on Midway, December 10, 1956. But wait, the story gets better. The data sheet indicated Chandler Robbins (40 years-old at the time) gave Wisdom her first band in 1956. When Robbins returned to Midway in 2002 he had indeed re-sighted the same bird he wrapped his arms around 46 years earlier to attach a band.

Fast forward five years to 2006 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) staff emailed Robbins to inquire about an approximate location of the bird Robbins banded. Albatross have strong nest site fidelity instincts. When they reach breeding age they return to their home turf to find a mate and nest on the same remote island where they were reared as a chick and later become fixated on their own waterfront nest site location. Robbins relayed the information to Midway Atoll that the bird was nesting in area behind the old Navy Bravo Barracks. Shortly afterward, the bird was sighted by FWS volunteers. Later that day, Refuge Biologist John Klavitter returned to the site and removed the metal band that Robbins had given her in 2002 to make room for the new red Z333 band so biologists could easily monitor her over time.

Inspired by New Zealand's "Grandma" who at time was the oldest known albatross in the world. Klavitter appropriately named Midway's oldest albatross, Wisdom, realizing that this ancient and magnificent albatross required a name that would honor her. Klavitter added the name in the 2006 report.



For more information on Wisdom or the Midway Atoll, visit [www.fws.gov/refuge/Midway\\_Atoll](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Midway_Atoll)

# CALL NOTE

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Deadline for submissions:  
20th of the month.

## 2018-2019 CAAS Officers

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## 2018-19 CAAS Board of Directors

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# KIRTLAND WARBLER ALLIANCE UPDATE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of removing the Kirtland's Warbler from the Endangered Species List. The agency formally requested the change last April and final approval is expected this spring.

To address this change, the Kirtland Warbler alliance just released a winter update on changes to their program and goals for 2019. Their aim is to create a new public/private partnership for endangered species conservation. The new model is necessary because the Kirtland's Warbler is a "conservation reliant," which means we humans must continue to act on its behalf to create suitable nesting habitat and mitigate threats.

In 2019, the Alliance aims to hire an employee to write and administer grants, arrange special events and handle office communications. They will continue to speak to community organizations and nature clubs about the new direction of the organization as well as actively educating members of congress

about conservation goals for the Kirtland's Warbler.

The Alliance will also take on a new role as the watchdog to ensure that state and federal agencies follow through on their commitments to Kirtland's Warbler conservation and to continue to grow an endowment that will provide continuous funding for years to come.

The group also helps to plan and lead two keystone events each year including the Jack Pine Planting Day and the Kirtland's Warbler Home Opener. These events are usually held in May and early June.

To learn more about the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance and their keystone events, visit [www.kirtlandswarbler.org](http://www.kirtlandswarbler.org)



## EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- During the Christmas Bird Count, a Swamp Sparrow, Marsh Wren, Peregrine Falcon and Brown-headed Cowbird were all spotted in Clinton County by Eddie Hicks.

- An Eastern Towhee and Fox Sparrow have been spotted near the feeders at Fenner Nature Center.

*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!

Thanks to our December Speaker, Allen Chartier, The Michigan Hummingbird Guy, for sharing with us and to our wonderful members, Nancy Boyce, Lee Laylin and Madeline Merz who provided the snacks in December!

## AREA EVENTS

### Michigan Audubon 2019 Seminar Series

The second Monday of each month Michigan Audubon will host public seminars highlighting different aspects of birding and conservation. Seminar topics will include birding 101, intermediate birding, pollinators, native plants, ways to reduce avian collisions with communication towers and windows, and much more. For a full list of seminars and dates, visit [www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)

### Detroit River Important Bird Area Winter Waterfowl Count

**January 13, 26 and February 23**

The Detroit River is a globally recognized [Important Bird Area](#), known for its outstanding migrant and wintering waterfowl and water bird concentrations. Early winter surveys have recorded high counts of canvasbacks (79,300), over 1,900 tundra swans, 1,000 American black ducks, 10,000 mallards, 3,500 common mergansers, 40 Forster's terns and 275 common tern nests. Bird Studies Canada began conducting winter waterfowl counts for this Important Bird Area, and Detroit Audubon began covering the U.S. side of the river in 2018. Contact Detroit Audubon's research coordinator, Ava Landgraf, at [alandgraf@detroitaudubon.org](mailto:alandgraf@detroitaudubon.org) for more information on how you can help with this international Important Bird Area winter waterfowl count.

### Climate Watch

**January 15 - February 15**

This Audubon bird count, which occurs in the winter and the summer provides scientists with data on the current distribution of target species, such as the eastern bluebird, white-breasted nuthatch and red-breasted nuthatch. The data then can be used to validate and refine Audubon's Climate Watch models that help predict species range shifts under the effects of climate change. Contact one of the following Climate Watch coordinators in Michigan to learn how and where you can participate: Becky Kuhn (Grand Rapids Audubon Club) at [bexrecky@gmail.com](mailto:bexrecky@gmail.com) or Brian Merlos (Audubon Great Lakes) at [bmerlos@audubon.org](mailto:bmerlos@audubon.org).

*Do you have an event to share?  
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