



FAI CHAN 2015

## Join Us

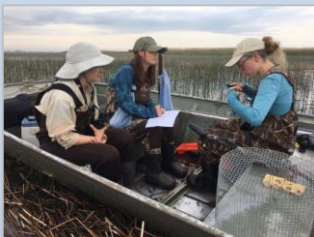
### AT OUR MARCH MEETING!

#### March 7 – Hope for Black Terns in Michigan

Hear about the Black Tern population at Saint Clair Flats and Wigwam Bay from Presenter **Erin Rowan**.

Erin is Audubon Great Lakes and MI DNR's new MI Birds Program Associate, working to bring game and non-game conservation groups together for the benefit of Michigan bird conservation on the whole.

Erin previously worked with Detroit Audubon as their Research Coordinator and Office Administrator, responsible for coordinating community science projects such as bird-building-collision monitoring efforts, vacant lot restoration point counts, metropark grassland bird surveys, and Black Tern population monitoring efforts at Saint Clair Flats and Wigwam Bay. As a member, and now Secretary of the Metro Detroit Nature Network, Erin was a lead author of the Urban Bird Treaty Agenda for the City of Detroit.



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

Spring is in the air! Oops, no those are snowflakes! Ah well it may not fully be spring yet but March brings us the Vernal Equinox on the 20th. So as the sun returns there is some hope of nice days returning along with the migratory birds.

This also means we have just a little longer to enjoy our year round residents while they are here. Hopefully, some of you got to participate in the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#), a project to track our resident species. As the spring migrants begin to arrive it is easy to forget those resident species for the flashier migrants coming back from the tropics.

So as you continue to huddle inside avoiding the cold, or walk your favorite park wishing the snow and ice was melting away, take a minute to look around and

appreciate the subtle beauty of our Black-capped Chickadee, the stunning colors of American Goldfinch and Northern Cardinals, or the wonderful patterning of a Downy Woodpecker. It might be harder to appreciate these common birds in a month or two when all the migrants return!

I also want to add a message of deep gratitude to two of our board members who are stepping down at this time: Ed Merz and Donald Dickman. Each of them is stepping down earlier than expected for personal reasons and we are really sad to see them go! We appreciate all the work you have done for our organization and wish you the best with your other endeavors. Thanks Ed and Don!

- Parks Marion

## EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS COUNT REVIEW

On December 15, 2018, 57 people participated in the East Lansing Christmas Bird Count. Sixty-one species were tallied, which is slightly above the five-year average for this count (58.8). A total of 12,081 birds was counted, which is well below the five- and ten-year averages for the count (18,315/17,310). No species new for the count were discovered. However, Eddie and Scott Hicks found a marsh wren at Corey Marsh. This is only the second time this species has been seen on the count (first was in 1986). New highs were observed for Sandhill Crane (140) and Carolina Wren (25).

On the other end of the spectrum, the count for American Crow was the lowest since 2006. The top ten species for 2018 were:

- 1) Canada Goose
- 2) European Starling
- 3) House Sparrow
- 4) Rock Pigeon
- 5) Mallard
- 6) American Crow
- 7) Black-capped Chickadee
- 8) American Goldfinch
- 9) Blue Jay
- 10) Dark-eyed Junco.

A huge thanks to Sam and Liz Febba for hosting the compilation dinner again this year.

# 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.

### 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.

### Spring Migration Bird Walks at Fenner Saturday Mornings -

April 6, 13, 20, 27 - 9am  
May 4, 11, 18, 25 - 8am

### May 2 – 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.

### June 6 – Member Slideshow and Ice Cream Social

Enjoy time with the CAAS while members share their favorite photos from the year. Please submit an image to the newsletter for publication as well.

## 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)

**In addition to our monthly meetings, our memberships help support area organizations including Fenner Nature Center, Michigan State Bird Observatory, Burke Lake Banding Station, Corey Ecological Research Station, Capital City Bird Sanctuary and the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory.**

## SAFELY FEED BIRD DURING BAITING BANS

In 2018, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources banned the baiting and feeding of deer in numerous counties to help slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.

On January 31, 2019, the MDNR expanded the [ban to include the entire Lower Peninsula](#).

As many bird enthusiasts know, it's not always just our feathered friends flocking to bird feeders causing some feeding stations to come under heat with this ban.

Under the baiting ban, you should not put out *any* "substance composed of grains, minerals, salt, fruit, vegetables, hay or any other food material, whether natural or manufactured, which may lure, entice or attract deer."

At first glance, it may sound like you can't put out any bird food, however, you can as long as you are doing your due diligence to keep the deer away.

The following tips from Michigan Audubon will help you enjoy feeding birds legally while protecting Michigan's deer:

- Use feeders that make it difficult or impossible for deer to access the feed. Tube feeders, hopper-style feeders, and cage-style suet feeders all provide minimal access to deer, but still allow cardinals, woodpeckers, chickadees, and goldfinches to visit. Platform and fly-through feeders provide easy access to deer and other large animals and are not recommended.
- Use feeds that are less attractive to deer, but still enjoyed by your favorite backyard birds! Thistle seed, suet, and hummingbird nectar are much less likely to attract deer than whole or cracked corn, black oil sunflower seeds, and other seeds usually found in commonly-available bird seed mixes.
- Only put out the amount of feed birds will eat in one day. Empty feeders are less attractive to deer.
- Place feed and feeders in locations that are less accessible to deer. Deer can reach feeders up to about 5 feet off the ground or a packed snow surface. Place feeders at least 6 feet off the ground or snow surface to prevent deer from accessing feed.

- Placing feeders directly next to windows is safer for birds; they are less likely to hit windows if feeders are within 3 feet of them. Placing feeders close to your home may also deter some deer from feeding at them.

If deer are still attracted to your feeder after following these guidelines, you may need to remove your feeder or take further action to deter deer from your feeding station.

Remember that by making a few small changes you are helping to make Michigan a safer place for all of its wildlife! You can find more information on the baiting and feeding ban at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

*Bird feeding tips were put together by Michigan Audubon and MDNR. Article written by Molly Keenan, provided by Michigan Audubon. For the full article and additional tips, visit [www.michiganaudubon.org/how-to-safely-feed-birds-during-baiting-and-feeding-bans/](http://www.michiganaudubon.org/how-to-safely-feed-birds-during-baiting-and-feeding-bans/)*

## 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

President	Parks Marion
Vice President	Kristy Taylor
Secretary	Alexia Witcombe
Treasurer & Membership	Michael Caterino

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

### 2018-19 CAAS Board of Directors

Michael Caterino  
Eileen Houston  
Parks Marion  
Mike Moquin  
Julia Spalding  
Kristy Taylor  
Alexia Witcombe

**We have two open seats on our board. If you are interested in serving, please email the board.**

[caaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:caaudubon@gmail.com)  
[capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org)  
[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

# SCOTT WOODS UPDATE

In Mid-February, our members became aware of a construction project slated for Scott Woods Park in late 2019 to address an aging sanitary drain.

The Board of CAAS sent a letter to the Mayor of Lansing asking for a review of the project to minimize damage to the trees in the area.

The letter was emailed to our membership and is also included with this month's Call Note.

## MAPLE SYRUP EVENTS IN LANSING

If spring means a welcome to our migrating birds, it also means the return of sweet Maple Syrup! Enjoy the taste for the season at two local events right here in Lansing.

Saturday, March 9th from 11am - 2pm, [Woldumar Nature Center](#) invites you to learn about Michigan Maple Trees! Learn about tree identification and tap a tree on a Naturalist guided hike. They will also offer a craft in the Visitors Center where they will be creating maple sugar candies.

A guided hike will begin at noon sharp. Please dress accordingly for the weather.

Member rate:  
\$2 per person or \$5 per family  
Non-member rate:  
\$4 per person or \$10 per family

## BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY WITH FRANS LANTING

Learn how to photograph birds with renowned National Geographic Photographer Frans Lanting free this month on Creativelive.com.

CreativeLive provides web training for creatives and offers free streaming classes featuring artists and creators from around the world.

Wednesday, March 20th, from 12-7pm Lanting will provide streaming instruction to improve your bird photography. Registration is free for the live class and the course will be available for purchase following the live broadcast.

Frans Lanting has worked with birds around the world and will share specific techniques as well as

The Mayor has not yet responded to our letter but we hope every effort will be taken to minimize the impact on the trees at Scott Woods Park.

We will let you know of any additional developments.

To learn more, please visit the City Pulse article at - [lansingcitypulse.com/article-16957-Are-your-trees-next.html](https://lansingcitypulse.com/article-16957-Are-your-trees-next.html)

Fenner Nature Center also invites everyone to come and explore some of the natural and cultural history surrounding Michigan's own "liquid gold" at the annual [Maple Syrup Festival](#).

The festival offers numerous fun and educational demonstrations and activities for the whole family. Spend the day exploring how sap is turned into sweet treats like syrup, maple crème, and candy.

In Fenner's own sugar bush, experience the history of making maple syrup with hands-on demonstrations throughout the day. During these tours, students and visitors can help Fenner naturalists tap trees and collect sap.

The event is free, and tickets are available for an All-You-Can-Eat pancakes for \$8.

creative ideas to help you make better portraits of birds, capture them in flight, and show birds as part of landscapes and human environments. During the course Frans will share insights about the equipment he favors and some of his favorite places to photograph birds. Want to see your work critiqued by Frans Lanting himself?

A special feature of this course will be a critique of a select group of student photographs. In this curated review, you'll get expert insight into improving your work so you can begin capturing unforgettable images of birds.

To register, or for more information and a list of additional courses, visit [creativelive.com](https://creativelive.com).

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Winter Snowshoe Hikes at Fenner March 1st & 8th - 6am-8pm

Join naturalists for a lantern-guided walk through the snow. No experience is necessary. Tickets are \$8 and available at [mynaturecenter.org](https://mynaturecenter.org).

### Nest Box Workshop with Gene Wasserman March 9th - 9am-12pm

Learn about cavity-dwelling birds in this hands-on workshop! Gene Wasserman will present the basics of being a responsible bluebird "landlord" and how to provide a safe nesting situation. Registered participants will each build one nest box, and will take this home along with a pole and mounting system to install the box, and a House Sparrow deterrent system.

Registration is \$25 for Michigan Audubon members and \$30 for non-members. To join Michigan Audubon or renew your membership, visit: <https://www.michiganaudubon.org/get-involved/membership/>

### Owl Prowl Campfire at Harris Nature Ctr. March 2nd - 7-8:30pm

Enjoy a campfire while learning about owls, then join a naturalist for a guided owl walk. \$3 per person or \$7 per family.

### Gardening with Native Plants Harris Nature Center March 26 - 7-9pm

Join Vern and Sue Stephens, owners of Designs by Nature, to learn about designing and maintaining a native garden. \$15 per person, to register visit <http://www.meridian.mi.us/visitors/hidden-gems/visit-harris-nature-center>

### Quiet Water Symposium Saturday, March 2, 9am - 5:30pm MSU Pavilion

Attend seminars, expo and workshops to prepare for your next quiet adventure. Build a birdhouse in the Children's Area, check out local vendors, and hear from various presenters throughout the day. Tickets are \$15 for adults, children under 12 are free. More information is available at - [quietwatersociety.org](https://quietwatersociety.org)

*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://facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)*

# MICHIGAN STATE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Some fantastic new changes are happening at the Burke Lake Banding Station this year. Here is a recent update from their Director, Jen Owen.

Thank you for another amazing season of bird banding! Every season we continue to learn and grow. As many of you know, BULA began in 2010 and opened to the public in 2013 with a mission of integrating research, training of future natural resource professionals, and education and outreach for people of all ages – while promoting the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

In that mission, BULA has been wildly successful. We have a phenomenal diversity of birds; capturing over 23,000 birds of 102 species.

We have hired and trained many students who have learned valuable skills in field-based research and science communication. They have taken that knowledge and been successful in obtaining avian research jobs all over the world. Further, we have hosted thousands of visitors over the years, with our largest increase in visitors and hosted groups yet occurring this past year.

While we have called ourselves the Burke Lake Banding Station, the name has not always reflected the breadth of what we do and where we do it.

Therefore, we have decided to create an umbrella organization that encompasses everything we do as the Burke Lake Banding Station, but with a name that is not tied to one location.

With that, we are proud to announce the formation of the Michigan State Bird Observatory (MSBO). As the MSBO, our mission will not change, and we will still operate our primary bird banding at Burke Lake Banding Station. However, we have expanded and MSBO better reflects our overall mission.

The only change is really an increase in our banding and outreach efforts, including hosting programs at the newly-opened Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center (CMERC), which is located just 5 minutes from BULA.

Our bird banding demonstrations will be just some of many events that happen at CMERC, which has a broader mission described in more detail on [their website](#).

It is a very exciting time for us and none of this would have been possible without you, our BULA supporters. We hope you will continue to support and grow with us. Stay tuned for updates and thank you for being a part of our community and sharing your love of birds with us!

- Jen Owen, Associate Professor and Director of BULA/MSBO

# AREA EVENTS

## Field Ornithology Course Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

**Tuesday Lectures from 6-8:30 pm  
March 12 & 26, April 9 & 23, May 7**

**Saturday field trips from 8-11:00 am  
March 16 & 30, April 13 & 27, May 11**  
Join Josh Haas from [Hawks on the Wing](#) for the 12th annual Field Ornithology Course! This engaging, hands-on learning experience will help you learn more about the fascinating world of birds and improve your bird watching and identification skills. Each two-part lecture will include talks from a state or local scientist/expert followed by an identification lesson led by Josh. Field trips visit local birding hot spots and are led by experienced birders. All skill levels are welcome!

**Full Course -  
Members \$150, Non-members \$180  
Lecture Only -  
Members \$75, Non-members \$90  
Field Trips Only -  
Members \$75, Non-members \$90**

## Spring Bluebird Festival Saturday, March 30, 9am - 4:45pm Prince Center at Calvin College Grand Rapids, MI

Attend seminars, expo and workshops. The event is free and open to the public, and will feature educational exhibits, programs, and products that help bluebird "landlords," bluebirds and native cavity nesting birds. Lunch and admissions to the keynote program featuring author Doug Tallamy is \$15. A nest box-building workshop costs \$25. Participants are encouraged to pre-register for either lunch or workshop. For more information, visit - [www.michiganbluebirds.org/springfestival](http://www.michiganbluebirds.org/springfestival)

## WPBO's Spring Fling

**APRIL 28-29th**

**Whitefish Point, Paradise, MI**

Tickets are now on sale for the 31st Annual Spring Fling: WPBO's Celebration of Bird Migration! Questions may be directed to [events@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:events@michiganaudubon.org) [wpbo.org/events/spring-fling/](http://wpbo.org/events/spring-fling/)

*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)*

## EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Long-tailed Duck was spotted at Moores River Park along with a Greater and Lesser Scaup.

- Short-eared Owls were reported just north of the Maple River SGA on February 22nd.

*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 February Speaker, Linnea Rowse, Michigan Audubon Conservation Program Coordinator, for sharing with us and to our wonderful members who provided the snacks in February!