



FAI CHAN 2015

# Join Us

## AT OUR MAY MEETING!

### June 6 – Member Slideshow, Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting.

Enjoy time with the CAAS while members share their favorite photos from the year.

Please email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com) to sign up to present. Please bring along a USB of your images to participate.

Members in attendance will also vote to approve the new applicants to the Board. Biographies are available on page 2 of our newsletter.

CAAS is also still in need of a chapter Historian. If you would be interested in serving, please contact a member of the Board.

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

As we approach summer and spring migration winds down, I know that that the members of CAAS are not at loose ends. I am so impressed with all the ways that our membership is involved with doing good work in our community and how you take advantage of all the that our community has to offer. Every time I hear about other organizations you support, other trips you take, other events you attend it makes me glad to know that our birding community is connected. I hope that as you go out and interact with other groups you spread the word about our organization and our events and

meetings so that next fall there are even more smiling faces at our meetings. I am so pleased anytime I recognize one of you when I am out birding or at other events around town.

We are headed into our summer break but there is much still happening in the bird world through the summer. Even though the Call Note takes a short two month hiatus be sure to watch our Facebook page for events and happenings of interest in the area. Finally, I want to say thank you to all of you for your ongoing support of our organization.

- Parks Marion

## CAAS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The Capital Area Audubon Society offered a number of education outreach opportunities in the 2018-19 program year.

At Party for the Planet at the Potter Park Zoo, CAAS Members offered a bird scavenger hunt to participants and helped children create a reusable bag using a t-shirt donated by our members.



second graders highlighting the relationships between birds and trees. Students learned about Michigan birds and filled out a worksheet asking them to draw trees to fit the needs of different of birds!



Lastly, our backpack program is still going strong with a number of schools around the Lansing area participating. Backpacks include binoculars, field guides and a nature journal for scientific observation. Thank you to all our members for supporting these programs and encouraging the next generation's love for nature!

We were also asked to participate in the Arbor Day Celebration by presenting to eight groups of 20

# UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

## August 3 – Michigan Wildflower Farm Fieldtrip!

11770 Cutler Rd., Portland, MI

Enjoy a beautiful bird walk at the Michigan Wildflower Farm Saturday August 3rd. The walk will begin at 9am and coffee, tea, juice and snacks will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is limited, so email Kristy at caascallnote@gmail.com or call 517-980-4600 to sign up.



## CAAS Monthly Meetings 2019-2020 Programs will begin September 5, 2019

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.

If you have a speaker suggestion or a topic you would like presented, please email caascallnote@gmail.com or let a board member know at our next meeting.

# 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)

# MI WILDFLOWER FARM FIELD TRIP

Join CAAS Members at a special bird walk and tour of the Michigan Wildflower Farm in Portland, MI.

Michigan Wildflower Farm is a producer of native Michigan wildflower and grass seed. Producing plants are from foundation seed collected in Michigan, most within one hundred fifty air miles from the farm in Ionia County. The species collected were present before European settlement and insofar as it is possible

to document, from sites which have not had plant materials introduced from other areas.

Owner, Ester Durnwald, will offer a tour of the farm followed by a bird walk around the grounds. Registration is limited and light snacks and coffee will be included. Full event details and sign up information is available on the left.

For more information on the Wildflower Farm, visit [www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com](http://www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com).

# FENNER SPRING BIRD WALKS

-by Kristy Taylor

Fenner Spring Bird Walks were a great success in 2019! Walks hosted from 15-20 participants each week and counted a total of 66 different species; 17 more than the spring walks in 2018!

## 2019 Fenner Nature Center Spring Bird Walk Species List -

1. Canada Goose
2. Red-winged Blackbird
3. Turkey Vulture
4. Barred Owl
5. Northern Cardinal
6. Red-bellied Woodpecker
7. Tufted Titmouse
8. American Goldfinch
9. Eastern Phoebe
10. Downy Woodpecker
11. Cooper's Hawk (Nesting!)
12. Brown-headed Cowbird
13. Blue Jay
14. Red-breasted Nuthatch
15. White-breasted Nuthatch
16. Mallard
17. American Robin
18. Fox Sparrow
19. Black-capped Chickadee
20. Golden-crowned Kinglet
21. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
22. Song Sparrow
23. Eastern Towhee
24. Sandhill Crane
25. Red-tailed Hawk
26. Eastern Bluebird
27. Dark-eyed Junco
28. Field Sparrow
29. American Crow
30. American Tree Sparrow
31. Northern Flicker
32. Mourning Dove
33. House Sparrow
34. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
35. Yellow-rumped Warbler
36. White-throated Sparrow
37. Cedar Waxwing
38. Brown Creeper
39. Hermit Thrush
40. Great Blue Heron
41. Wood Duck
42. Broad-winged Hawk
43. Tree Swallow
44. Chipping Sparrow
45. House Wren
46. Wild Turkey
47. Baltimore Oriole
48. Carolina Wren
49. Wood Thrush
50. Black-throated Blue Warbler
51. Gray Catbird
52. White-crowned Sparrow
53. Black-and-white Warbler
54. Blue-headed Vireo
55. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
56. Pileated Woodpecker
57. Ovenbird
58. Cape May Warbler
59. Palm Warbler
60. Yellow Warbler
61. Ring-billed Gull
62. American Redstart
63. Black-throated Green Warbler
64. Swainson's Thrush
65. Eastern Kingbird
66. Nashville Warbler
- 

A big thank you to CAAS Member Lou Snow for keeping the species list for this year's walks and to our walk leaders, Parks Marion, Alexia Witcombe, Bruce Cohen, Chris Brown and Kristy Taylor.

CAAS Members Clara Bratton and Bruce Cohen also lead walks at local parks this spring.

If you would be interested in leading a walk, or having a field trip to one of your favorite birding spots, please contact Kristy Taylor at 517-980-4600 or caascallnote@gmail.com.

Fall Migration Walks at Fenner Nature Center will begin Saturday, September 7th at 9am and will run every Saturday in September.

# BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE BIOS

We would like to introduce you to the applicants for our three open CAAS Board positions. Members will vote for the approval of these applicants at our meeting in June. If you have any questions, please notify the board at [caaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:caaudubon@gmail.com).

## **John Baumgartner -**

I am retired and currently living with my wife in Grand Ledge. I currently serve on the Friends of Eaton County Parks and often enjoy walking and birding in Lincoln Brick Park. I've been involved with CAAS for many years and have previously served on the Board. I also have served on the MAS board. One of many things that interest me is working to get other people interested in birding especially young people.

## **Richard Yarsevich -**

Richard is a Life member of the Michigan Audubon Society and has been a Capital Area Audubon Member for the last decade. He is an active volunteer with many local organizations including; the Michigan State University Museum, MSU Bird Observatory (Burke Lake Banding Station and Corey Marsh Ecological Research Station), East Lansing Senior Center (Prime Time) and the Michigan Audubon Society.

## **Sandra Conn -**

I have been a grateful resident of Okemos from 2001 to 2006 and from 2012 to the present. During the first term I worked for MSU first as director of marketing then as assistant VP University Relations. During the gap I lived in Canada serving as VP External Relations and Chief Creative Officer at University of Alberta in Edmonton. When I returned to MSU in 2012, I was a creative /internal marketing officer at large for the president's office and FRIB. In 2015 I retired from MSU to become communications officer for eXtension, an online, distributed unit of USDA Extension and APLU, in a highly specialized group that provides online professional education in digital marketing and other strategies to help Extension professionals foster innovation and communications with their constituencies. My engagement with birding has been mostly in Manistee, Michigan (as well as in my own yard which I'm not sure counts). I have supported the Manistee birding community on winter bird counts and contributed strategic consulting to the Audubon bird sanctuary there in springs and summers. That was a few years back. Now finally really retired. I want to get back into birding activities year-round and expand my skills and engagement. Thank you for your consideration.

Members will vote to approve the candidates at our next meeting on Thursday, June 6th, 2019.

Please contact the Board if you have any questions or concerns at [caaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:caaudubon@gmail.com).

# SUMMER EVENTS

## **Sharonville SGA Guided Tour**

**June 22 - 9am-12pm**

14738 Sharon Valley Road,  
Norvell Township, MI 49240

Join MI Birds and Pheasants Forever to explore the grasslands of Sharonville State Game Area.

This 6,000-acre State Game Area doubles as an Important Bird Area and is home to a healthy grassland community supporting a globally significant population of Henslow's Sparrows along with Grasshopper Sparrows and Eastern Whip-poor-wills, all of which are sensitive Michigan species! Willow Flycatchers, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Ring-necked Pheasants are also common breeders here. We will visit enhancement sites, learn about the partnerships that made each restoration possible, and search for the over 100 breeding birds that call this area home each summer.

Meet at 9am at the parking lot at 14738 Sharon Valley Rd. Please bring your own binoculars if you have them. A few extra pairs of binoculars will be provided, if needed. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes as we will be walking along paved and unpaved trails.

## **Houghton Lake Flats Guided Walk**

**July 13th - 9am-12pm**

Houghton Lake Flats Flooding, Old Hwy 27, Lake Township, MI  
A known breeding location of Osprey and Black Tern, Houghton Lake Flats is also home to over 120 bird species each summer! This State Wildlife Area is a hotspot for breeding and migratory waterfowl, secretive marsh birds, bald eagles, great egrets, and swallows!

Come join us as we learn about Audubon Great Lakes' and MI DNR's work monitoring black terns and osprey across the state while we search for them up-close! We will meet at 9am at the wildlife viewing station off of Old-Hwy-27. From the viewing platform, the group will walk to the dikes ¼ mile down the road, which offer great wildlife viewing opportunities of an osprey nesting platform and the marsh! Please bring your own binoculars or a spotting scope, if you have them.

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)

## 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	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)

# WHITING FOREST BIRDING FESTIVAL

After recently opening the nation's longest canopy walk, soaring to 40 feet above the ground, the Whiting Forest at Dow Gardens in Midland Michigan offers a unique bird's eye view during migration. This year, the Whiting Forest will host their inaugural Birding Festival.

During the three-day event, attendees will learn from more than 20 distinguished conservationists, researchers, photographers, naturalists, and environmental educators. Over 30 dynamic sessions will be offered on topics such as Kirtland's Warbler Conservation, raptor identification, and birding by ear. The capstone of the festival is keynote speaker, David Allen Sibley, presenting *The Art of Identification*. Sibley is the author and illustrator of the series of successful guides to nature that bear his name,

including *The New York Times* bestseller *The Sibley Guide to Birds*.

Festival field trips will include a Dow Gardens Golf Cart Tour, Banding Demonstration and Bird Walk at the Chippewa Nature Center, and trips to the Navanquing Point Wildlife Area, Pine Haven Recreation Area and Albert Szok Preserve, Saginaw Bay Coastal Wetlands, a river cruise on the Tall Ship Appledore, and a Towhees and Tombstones walk at local cemeteries.

The festival also offers many workshops including painting, nature writing, nature photography and much more.

For the full schedule and more information, visit -

[www.dowgardens.org/whiting-forest-birding-festival](http://www.dowgardens.org/whiting-forest-birding-festival)

Early Bird Registration is available until July 10th!

## EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Prothonotary Warbler was spotted at the Capital City Bird Sanctuary on May 16th by Thomas Gass.

- Muskrat Lake SGA in Clinton County had nine Forster's Terns visit on May 20th. Mary Pratt also reported a Black Tern at the Maple River SGA on the same day.

- The Dansville SGA, in Ingham County hosted a Cerulean Warbler on May 19th. Cole and Vince Cavaliere reported a singing male on Seven Gables Road.

- A Peregrine Falcon was reported on the MSU Campus on May 14th by James Harding.

- Jessica Parling reported Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings and a Red Headed Woodpecker visiting her backyard near the Thornapple River on May 17th.

*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 May Speaker, Al Stewart, Michigan DNR Upland Game Specialist for sharing with us and to our wonderful members who provided the snacks in May and the Ice Cream for our June Social!

## AREA EVENTS

### Kirtland's Warbler Festival

**Saturday, June 1, 6:30am-4pm**

606 Lake Street, Roscommon, MI  
An educational celebration of the Kirtland's Warbler, its habitat and the communities located in the jack pine ecosystem.

[www.kirtlandswarblerfestival.org](http://www.kirtlandswarblerfestival.org)

### Michigan Audubon Seminar Series

**Second Monday of the Month**

2310 Science Parkway, Okemos

Featured speakers and topics vary month to month. More information can be found at -

[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)

### Aldo Leopold Festival

**May 30 - June 2**

**Les Cheneaux Islands, MI**

Activities include paddling and hiking excursions, wildflower tours, birding trips, talks about "the birds and the bees," and more! Come experience the woods and water that formed Leopold's early impressions of the natural world as we honor the mark he made on conservation and the environment. Many more details, links, history and a fabulous collection of Aldo Leopold Foundation images are at the Aldo Leopold Festival web site:

[www.aldoleopoldfestival.com](http://www.aldoleopoldfestival.com)

### Cerulean Warbler Weekend

**May 31st - June 2nd**

Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary, Hastings, MI

A unique birding and educational opportunity, Cerulean Warbler

Weekend features guided bird walks,

educational opportunities, and

outdoor experiences. For the full

schedule and more information, visit -

[www.michiganaudubon.org/news-events/signature-events/cerulean-warbler-weekend/](http://www.michiganaudubon.org/news-events/signature-events/cerulean-warbler-weekend/)

### Guided Birding Tour - Allegan State Game Area

**June 15, 9am - 12pm**

Join MI Birds and partners from

National Wild Turkey Federation and Pheasants Forever as they explore the

woodlands and grasslands of Allegan State Game Area. Registration is

required. Visit -

[www.facebook.com/pg/MIbirdspage/events/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/MIbirdspage/events/) to register and for additional event information.

*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)*