



KRISTY TAYLOR 2017

the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
SEPTEMBER 2019

Join Us

AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

September 5 – Pollinators

Hear from Fenner Nature Center Program Manager, Jenny Mensch, about the many ways Fenner is helping the monarch population and educating the greater Lansing region about the conservation of monarchs and other pollinators. In 2017, Fenner constructed an exhibit to raise awareness about pollinator conservation through the raising and rearing of monarch butterflies - the Monarch House. Since then, more than 300 butterflies have been reared, checked for parasites, tagged, and released.

Mensch received her Master's in Environmental Education at Southern Oregon University in 2012 following an undergraduate degree in Conservation and Environmental Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Through her work at Fenner, she has shared her passion for inclusion and access in urban nature settings and has focused her efforts on experiential learning for people of all ages.

FALL MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

During the renovation at Fenner, we will be meeting at the **Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos, MI 48864**. This is the same building as Michigan Audubon.

The meeting will begin with refreshments at 7:00p.m. followed by the program at 7:30.

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 another beautiful Michigan summer comes to an end, and our new program season begins, fall migrants are busily preparing for their long, and often times perilous, journeys south.

This fall, in addition to filling our feeders, I would like to encourage our members to think of ways you can help these amazing voyagers by adding something new to your landscape or protecting our night time migrants.

Planting native plants can help provide valuable pit stops along the way for songbirds to rest and refuel before heading south. Fall is the perfect time to plant wildflower seeds or prepare an area to be planted in the spring.

Turning off lights at night and treating reflective windows can help prevent collisions. Keeping cats indoors reduces the risk of

predation and if a bird is stunned by hitting a window, it has a better chance at recovery if our furry friends are kept indoors.

This fall I would love to see many of our members at one of our migration bird walks at Fenner Nature Center, volunteering with Capital Area Audubon's backpack program or attending a festival to learn more about the birds we love.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve with CAAS and look forward to a wonderful and informative year of programs! As our outgoing President, Parks Marion, pursues his Masters at Western Michigan University, I would like to sincerely thank him for all of his hard work and leadership last year and for continuing to serve with our board as this year's Vice President.

- Kristy Taylor

LANSING'S FAVORITE FALCONS

The BWL Eckert Power Station was host to three peregrine falcon chicks this summer. The chicks were born to mom, April, an unbanded female, and dad, Tornado, who was born in Muskegon at the Consumers Energy B.C. Cobb Plant. This is the second year this pair have successfully had a clutch.

Since 2004, the BWL has hosted a nesting site atop the Eckert Power Station for endangered peregrine falcons. To date, over 50 eggs have been laid. The peregrine falcon remains on Michigan's endangered species list.

The peregrine falcon is renowned for its speed, reaching over 200mph during its characteristic hunting high speed dive, making it the fastest member of the animal kingdom. The public can watch a 24-hour live stream inside the falcon nest at - www.lbw1.com/community/falconcam



UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

Saturday Morning Fall Migration Bird Walks - September 7, 14, 21, 28

See what's new each week at **Fenner Nature Center** and get some help with those confusing fall warblers from experienced birder **Bob Kingsbury**. Walks start at **9:00 a.m.**

October 3 – Investigating the Winter Nocturnal Nest Box use of the Black-crested Titmouse

Speaker - Christina Farrell

Are nest boxes important to birds outside of the breeding season? Join us as we hear from Christina Farrell about her research into the use of nest boxes as overnight roosting sites for Black-crested Titmice.

November 7 – Bald Eagles in the Great Lakes as Biomonitors

Speaker - Jim Sikarskie DVM,

Sikarskie was born in the UP and has spent much of his career researching the effects of DDT on Eagles. He has spent 44 years as an educator at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and is a Professor Emeritus. He also worked at Potter Park Zoo for over 30 years as the Zoo and Wildlife Vet.

December 5 – Bluebirds

Speaker - Gene Wasserman

Join local bluebird expert Gene Wasserman as he shares how to get started as a bluebird landlord and how to help Bluebirds succeed in your area.

Programs this fall will be held the first Thursday of each month at the

**Michigan Nature Association
Education Room at 2310 Science
Parkway, Okemos, MI 48864.**

Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.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.

MI WILDFLOWER FARM FIELD TRIP

This August, CAAS Members visited the Michigan Wildflower Farm in Portland, MI for a special bird walk and tour of the farm.

Owner, Ester Durnwald, shared the inner workings of the farm and a wonderful tour of the flowering native plants. Our group was able to spot a number of birds visiting the wildflowers, including Eastern Bluebirds, a very showy Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinches as well as many caterpillars and butterflies!

For more information on the Wildflower Farm, visit www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com.



EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This Summer a few exciting sightings were reported in the area.

- A Red-necked Phalarope was spotted at the Potterville Sewage Ponds in Eaton, by Marc North.
- A Forster's Tern was reported at Lake Lansing on August 20th by Bruce Cohen.
- Corey Marsh Ecological Research Station had a Trumpeter Swan visit on August 20th.

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](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)*

Thank You!

Thanks to Lee Laylin for providing the Ice Cream for our June Social and to our members who generously shared their fantastic images at our June meeting!

BACKPACK PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Capital Area Audubon 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. The program is in need of a new coordinator that can help follow up with teachers at the end of the year, make sure all the items are in working order, to collect any un-used packs and to find new schools or teachers who would like to participate.

MONARCH WAYSTATION PROGRAM

Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to mountains in central Mexico where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. The monarch migration is truly one of the world's greatest natural wonders yet it is threatened by habitat loss at overwintering grounds

If you would be interested in helping the Board with the Backpack Program or know of a teacher who would like a backpack in the classroom, please contact Kristy Taylor at caascallnote@gmail.com or 517-980-4600.

Thank you to all our members for supporting these programs and encouraging the next generation's love for nature!

in Mexico and throughout breeding areas in the United States and Canada.

Monarch Waystations are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Without milkweeds throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall. Similarly, without nectar from flowers these fall migratory monarch butterflies would be unable to make their long journey to overwintering grounds in Mexico. The need for host plants for larvae and energy sources for adults applies to all monarch and butterfly populations around the world.

To offset the loss of milkweeds and nectar sources, we need to create, conserve, and protect monarch butterfly habitats. You can help by creating "Monarch Waystations" (monarch habitats) in home gardens, at schools, businesses, parks, zoos, nature centers, along roadsides, and on other unused plots of land. Creating a Monarch Waystation can be as simple as adding milkweeds and nectar sources to existing gardens or maintaining natural habitats with milkweeds. No effort is too small to have a positive impact.

To find out more, visit www.monarchwatch.org.

Article provided by Monarch Watch.



FALL EVENTS

MSU Fall Bat Walk September 4th and 5th - 8p.m. Beaumont Tower

Walk along the Red Cedar and enjoy a bioacoustic tour of MSU's Native Bats. At the end of the walk, they will raffle off prizes including a bat box.

Fenner Twilight Treks September 6, 20 and October 4 7:30 - 10 p.m.

Join a Fenner naturalist for a guided hike as the sun is setting. Learn how certain animals are adapted to function during twilight and nighttime, and what animals are hunting, walking or flying around while we are getting ready for bed! This family-friendly program concludes with a campfire and s'mores. Spaces are limited, and registration is required. Tickets are \$3 for Fenner Conservancy Members and \$5 for Non-Members. Visit mynaturecenter.org to register.

American Heritage Festival Woldumar Nature Center September 29 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This annual event features a variety of local vendors, demonstrators and performs all celebrating local history and traditions. This free event includes tours of the log cabin, horse drawn wagon rides, pontoon boat rides on the Grand River, kids crafts and more. For additional information, visit woldumar.org

Michigan Audubon Seminar Series

Chimney Swifts with Linnea Rowse September 9 - 7-8 p.m.

Winter Bird Feeding October 14 - 7-8 p.m.

Digiscoping for Birds with Wayne Pope November 11 - 7-8 p.m.

2310 Science Parkway, Okemos
More information can be found at - www.michiganaudubon.org

Fenner Apple Butter Festival October 19th and 20th 11a.m. - 5p.m.

Celebrate the harvest season and all of its history, glory and tradition. Try your hand at heritage games, enjoy local music, heritage artisans and delicious apple butter.

*Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caascallnote@gmail.com
or share it on our Facebook page -
facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon*

CALL NOTE

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CONSERVATION OR CONSTRUCTION?

Article by Jessi Adler for MSU Today

Imagine your favorite beach filled with thousands of ducks and gulls. Now envision coming back a week later and finding condos being constructed on that spot. This many ducks in one place surely should indicate this spot is exceptionally good for birds and must be protected from development, right? It depends, say Michigan State University researchers.

In a new paper published in *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, scientists show that conservation and construction decisions should rely on multiple approaches to determine waterbird "hotspots," not just on one analysis method as is often done.

"Waterbirds can move far in a short time, and they also are known to aggregate in clusters of hundreds or even thousands," said Elise Zipkin, MSU integrative biologist and study co-author. "Just because there are many birds in a particular location at a particular time, doesn't necessarily mean the location is a hotspot. It is important to distinguish whether that location is used repeatedly by the birds or if it is just a one-off use."

Knowing how many species and individuals use a designated area, and how often, can help determine whether building a housing development, creating a wind farm or establishing a marine sanctuary is the best choice. Yet, the new research found that the most popular methods to determine animal hotspots can produce vastly different conclusions.

"Our research didn't find one method was better than the others, but we did learn that certain methods might be better in some situations than in others, and in fact, the best approach may be to use a combination of methods," Zipkin said. "The more data-driven ways to make a decision, the better."

Allison Sussman, former MSU graduate student and lead author, notes that conservation and management decisions are often long-lasting and should be done carefully with full understanding of the data and methods being used.

The team studied a wide range of Great Lakes waterbirds including loons, ducks, mergansers, gulls and scaup. The bird data were evaluated using four different hotspot analysis methods. Not one produced the same results, though a couple were similar. "The Great Lakes are home to hundreds of bird species and are a phenomenal resource not only ecologically, but recreationally and commercially as well," said Sussman, currently a database and GIS specialist at the U.S. Geological Survey. "If we want to preserve our beaches, shorelines and rivers we need to know which areas are actually hotspots that need conserving. Using the right combination of methods is important to achieve the right outcomes."

While the team studied Great Lakes waterbirds, the goal was to determine which hotspot methods are most appropriate to inform conservation management decisions generally. "The Great Lakes, the Galapagos or the Amazon – it doesn't matter where on Earth you are – conservation is a timely and important topic," Sussman said. "Hopefully our findings can be used to make better management decisions in protecting the planet."

The study was conducted with the Great Lakes Commission, U.S. Geological Survey, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, the Biodiversity Research Institute, the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory and the University of Washington. Funding came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grants program.

For the full original paper, visit - <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/2041-210X.13209>

AREA EVENTS

Fall BioBlitz at Corey Marsh September 14th - 7:30a.m. - 12p.m. 9422 Herbison Rd., Laingsburg

Search for and identify as many birds, trees, fish, insects, aquatic plants, reptiles, amphibians, etc. as you can at Corey Marsh! Anyone is welcome to join throughout the morning. This event will take place rain or shine. Dress for the weather and wear boots if you have them. If you are interested in helping collect data, consider downloading the eBird and/or iNaturalist apps on your phone ahead of time.

Whiting Forest Birding Festival September 19 - 22 Dow Gardens & Whiting Forest Midland, MI and surrounding areas

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.

For the full schedule and more information, visit -

www.dowgardens.org/whiting-forest-birding-festival

CraneFest October 12th-13th - 12pm - Dusk Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area Baker Sanctuary

22300 15 mile Road, Bellevue, MI
Enjoy the spectacle of thousands of cranes flying into Baker Sanctuary, a brief pit stop on their way to warmer wintering grounds. Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars, video cameras, spotting scopes and cameras to record the event. Bring a lawn chair or blanket as limited seating is available.

The Festival also features art work, guided nature walks, crafts, a large selection of nature and wildlife books, picnic areas, food concessions and much more. Live hawks, falcons and owls will also be on display.

www.cranefest.org

Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caasCallNote@gmail.com
or share it on our Facebook page -
facebook.com/capitalareaadubon

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SEPTEMBER 2019 - AUGUST 2020

Membership Categories

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
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For a membership form, please visit our website at capitalareaadubon.org or pick one up at our next meeting.

Online registration and payment is now available at capitalareaadubon.org/membership