



FAI CHAN 2016

Join Us

AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING!

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.

Farrell obtained a B.S. in Geography from Texas State University in Fall 2013 and finished her M.S. in Wildlife Ecology at Texas State in Fall 2018. She is focused on pursuing her passion for bird banding, most recently at the Michigan State Bird Observatory. Her favorite bird is the Common Nighthawk.



FALL MEETING LOCATION

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

This year while working with the Michigan State Bird Observatory, I have been honored to witness the spectacle of migration up close.

Each morning, the banding station opens nets before sunrise. Many times, the sounds of owls and woodcock are just outside the boardwalk. Some mornings bring the usual local visitors, like Gray Catbirds, Common Yellow-throats, American Robins, American Goldfinch and Black-capped Chickadees.

But on those mornings where nighttime songbird migration has been heavy, new visitors abound! I was lucky enough to see 19 different warblers so far this season, including a beautiful Lawrence's Warbler.

The Lawrence's Warbler is a hybrid between the Blue-winged Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler. They exhibit the recessive traits of both parents and have nice bold field marks. Lawrence's Warblers have a very bold, black eye-line, bright yellow head, a black bib and yellow belly.

These amazing little birds, with their colorful, distinctive patterns, remind me of how much I missed out on before I took the deep dive into birding.

Only a few years ago, I had no idea this entire group of birds (warblers) even existed. I would get lucky and have birds like woodpeckers, chickadees and hummingbirds visit my feeders. Or I would see a duck, heron or egret visiting a local pond.

Warblers are a special type of bird you really have to seek out. Now when I am in the woods, out fishing or taking a walk with my kids, I always take my binoculars with me to see what could be passing through.

With all the amazing little warblers at the banding station this season, I was also reminded how special our backyard, winter residents can be!

So to all of our migrating warblers, thanks for dropping by and to our sweet winter visitors and year round residents, thanks for sticking with us and bringing joy even during the toughest season of the year!

- Kristy Taylor



UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

Saturday Morning Fall Migration Bird Walks - September 28

Join us for the last fall bird walk of the year 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.**

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.

Christmas Bird Count - East Lansing Count - December 14 Eaton Rapids Count - December 28

January 7 – 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 7:30p.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.

VEERY METEOROLOGY

Can a Veery predict a severe hurricane season? According to research by Dr. Christopher Heckscher, an associate professor at Delaware State University, yes they can!

This month on the American Birding Association podcast, Dr. Heckscher shared his findings after studying veery breeding habits for almost two decades.

Veery nest in leafy woods in the northern states and southern Canada. During migration, they travel down the eastern United States, migrating at night, and cross the Gulf of Mexico. They spend the winter east of the Andes in South America and may even move north once during the winter prior to spring migration. Along with many other hurdles they face during the journey to their wintering grounds, hitting a storm along the way would be catastrophic for these woodland thrushes.

The timing of the veery nesting season seemingly correlates with a more severe hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico. Months before these birds begin their southerly migration, they somehow can tell the severity of the upcoming storm season enough to change their

breeding time, starting the season early and migrating before the worst of the hurricane season.

When the hurricane season is less severe, veeries extend their breeding season and occasionally raise more than one brood.

Now the hope is to figure out what clues these birds are using to enable us to help predict severe storm seasons in the future.

To read the full report, visit ciberdesu.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/s41598-018-28302-3.pdf

To listen to the podcast, visit <http://blog.aba.org/2019/09/american-birding-podcast-veery-meteorology-with-christopher-heckscher.html>

Or to read Audubon's most recent article about the discovery, visit - <https://www.audubon.org/news/are-these-birds-better-computers-predicting-hurricane-seasons>

EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Kentucky Warbler was spotted at the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center on September 14th and 15th.
- White Pelicans have been reported at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Reserve.
- A Eurasian Collared Dove has been reported at the MSU Farms on College Road north of Jolly for over a week.

These sightings were reported at our last 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 Julia Spalding for providing the snacks for our September meeting and to Jenny Mensch for sharing her vast knowledge of monarchs with us!

MILKWEED COLLECTION

This fall, Fenner needs your help to collect milkweed pods from Ingham, Clinton, Eaton, Ionia and Shiawassee counties for the Mid-Michigan Milkweed Seed Bank. The pods you collect will be dried and emptied of seeds. These seeds will be used for local, state and national conservation projects.

To collect pods, remove the dry, brown pod from the plant. Seeds inside should be dark brown or black. Place the pods in a brown paper bag and write the following data on the bag -

- Name
- Email or Phone Number
- Date Collected
- Location Collected
- Milkweed Species

Milkweed species should be bagged separately. Bags can be dropped off at Fenner Nature Center, Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Office, Sleepy Hollow State Park, or the Ingham, Eaton, Clinton or Shiawassee County Conservation Districts.

For more information or to print a slip from the Fenner website, visit mynaturecenter.org/monarchhouse.

BIRD DECLINES HIT THE HEADLINES

This September, two breakthrough reports are making headlines all over the country. One study, published in the journal *Science*, highlights the negative effects neonicotinoids are having on migrating songbirds.

National Geographic recently featured an environmental article looking at the effects of the world's most widely used insecticides, neonicotinoids.

The study, originally published in *Science*, was written by Margaret Eng, Bridget Stuchbury and Christy Morrissev. Their research exposed the negative effects of the widely used pesticide on songbird weight gain and reduced fat stores. When spring bird migration and spring plantings overlap, migrating songbirds are ingesting pesticide coated seeds.

They discovered that the ingestion of these chemicals led to delayed departure from stopover sites. This could lead to reduced migration survival and decreased reproductive success.

For more information and the full article from *National Geographic*, visit-

www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/09/widely-used-pesticide-makes-birds-lose-weight/

The other recently released study shows the stunning, steep decline of over three billion breeding birds over the last 40 years.

Both stories have received national coverage, but the massive decline in America's bird life has been featured in every major media outlet including; NBC, CBS, MSN, The New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal. Read our article, "Three Billion Birds" on page 4 for more information.

FALL EVENTS

Fenner Twilight Treks

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.

Native Garden Workshop

Woldumar Nature Center

October 12, November 9, January 11 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Learn more about the importance and joy of using native plants in your garden landscapes and view examples in practice in the field at Woldumar Nature Center.

Each session will focus on a theme related to the use of native plants in Michigan gardens. Beginning indoors Christopher Hart of HartScapes will lead a presentation and answer all your questions. The second half of the class will join a Woldumar Naturalist for a guided hike to see examples of native plantings at Woldumar. For additional information, visit woldumar.org

Michigan Audubon Seminar Series -

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. Visit - mynaturecenter.org for details.

*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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Deadline for submissions:
20th of the month.

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CELEBRATE SANDHILL CRANES

CraneFest, sponsored by Michigan Audubon in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek, focuses to raise awareness and appreciation of our natural heritage and to support the ongoing educational and conservation efforts of Michigan Audubon and its Bernard W. Baker Bird Sanctuary. The festival is held at the Kiwanis Youth Area in Bellevue, overlooking Big Marsh Lake.

Events at this family-friendly festival run from noon to dusk and feature artists, vendors, food, and a variety of environmental and conservation-related information and educational activities.

The main attraction, the “fly-in” of hundreds of Sandhill Cranes, typically begins slowly throughout the afternoon with the best viewing of cranes between 5 p.m. and dusk.

The festival is free, but there is a minimal parking fee.

Interested in volunteering for this event? A variety of volunteer opportunities are available. Please visit the Michigan Audubon website for more information.

www.michiganaudubon.org



MICHIGAN NATURE ASSOCIATION

This fall our meetings are held in the conference room of the Michigan Nature Association. The room was completed in 2018 as a collaborative space for nonprofit, agency and other partners to gather.

Made possible by a generous gift from Margaret and Clifford Welsch, the room is used for meetings, training workshops, educational seminars and groups such as Michigan Audubon, Michigan Forest Association, Michigan DNR, Michigan Wetlands Association, the Michigan Vernal Pool Partnership and now Capital Area Audubon.

The mission of the Michigan Nature Association is to acquire, protect and maintain natural areas that contain examples of Michigan endangered and threatened flora, fauna, and other components of the natural environment, including habitat for fish, wildlife and plants of the state of Michigan and to carry on a program of natural history study and conservation education.

MNA started over six decades ago as a small bird study group and became a statewide land conservation organization. They currently manage more than 175 nature sanctuaries across Michigan.

In Ingham county, MNA works to preserve an area of the Red Cedar called the Red Cedar River Plant Preserve. Located in Meridian Township, the Red Cedar Plant Preserve was donated to MNA by Doug and Darlene Price.

As you enter the MNA building before our next meeting, take a look around the grounds of the building. You will find native plants and alternatives to lawn around the parking lot and near the entrance. The collaboration between MNA and Michigan Audubon will transform the conventional office park landscaping to one that is bird, bee and pollinator friendly.

To learn more about the MNA, visit www.michigannature.org



FALL EVENTS

Fall Fungus Foray Woldumar Nature Center October 12 - 12 - 3 p.m.

This program will introduce the basics of fungal biology and mushroom identification, followed by a foray around Woldumar, and an identification session of your lucky finds. For additional information, visit woldumar.org

Autumn Color Walk Harris Nature Center October 13 - 2:00 p.m.

Leaves of red and gold decorate the trees, flowers have gone to seed and animals prepare for winter. Autumn is a wonderful time for a guided discovery walk with a naturalist!
\$3/person or \$7/family
www.meridian.mi.us/home/showdocument?id=17387

Corey Marsh Ecological Research Station Volunteer Work Day October 20 - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Spend a morning this fall volunteering at Corey Marsh! They will have several activities organized for sign-up in 1-2 hour blocks, such as removing fencing, painting picnic tables, putting up trail markers, planting shrubs, cleaning, etc. Stick around afterwards for a lunch recognizing all of our amazing volunteers! For more information or to sign up, visit www.canr.msu.edu/cmrc

Capital City Bird Sanctuary Workdays Wednesdays - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing, MI
this October, join local nature lovers to maintain the CCBS. Help protect this urban nature preserve by removing invasive woody shrubs and encouraging native habitats. Please visit www.michiganaudubon.org for more information and to RSVP.

Michigan State Bird Observatory Bird Banding Days

Now - October 15 - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Burke Lake Banding Station is open every day for visitors to learn about the entire bird banding process, view birds up close and experience releasing a wild bird from their hand. The banding station at Corey Marsh is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
For more information and directions, visit www.burkelakebanding.com

*Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caasCallNote@gmail.com*

THREE BILLION BIRDS

Just days after the impactful study on neonicotinoids, *Science* published another report indicating the drastic decline in birds over the last 40 years.

Headlines popped up everywhere sharing the news that the bird population has plummeted by over 3 billion birds since 1970.

This is the first study to undertake an accounting of the net population changes across a total of 529 breeding bird species in the United States and Canada. The researchers analyzed birds on a group-by-group basis, allowing them to identify declines among species that use similar habitats. The data included 48 years of data from multiple independent sources, including the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Christmas Bird Count. A comprehensive analysis of 11 years of data from 143 NEXRAD radar stations showed a similarly steep decline in the magnitude of migration.

The study clearly shows that the losses threaten some of our most common and beloved birds. Of the nearly 3 billion birds lost, 90% came from just 12 bird families, including sparrows, warblers, finches, and swallows. These common, widespread species play influential roles in ecosystems. If they're in trouble, the wider web of life, including us, is in trouble.

This net loss of 29% of the breeding bird population over the last half-century takes into account both increases and decreases, like the bottom line on a bank statement. Each year, many birds produce young while many others die. But since 1970, on balance, many more

birds have died than have survived, resulting in 2.9 billion fewer breeding birds today—that's a loss of more than 1 in 4 birds that were alive in 1970.

Although the study did not investigate causes, scientists have identified that habitat loss is the biggest overall driver of bird declines. When habitat disappears, all the birds that live there lose their homes. Habitat loss occurs when land is converted for agriculture, development, resource extraction, and other uses. Habitat degradation is a second cause of losses. In this case, habitat doesn't disappear outright but becomes less able to support birds, such as when habitat is fragmented, altered by invasive plants, or when water quality is compromised.

Estimates of annual bird deaths from specific human-related causes (other than habitat loss) in the United States and Canada include industrial collisions, deaths from power lines (57 million), communication towers (6.8 million), and wind turbines (140,000–679,089). Source: [Loss et al. 2015](#).

Aside from habitat loss and degradation, other human-caused threats to birds come from cats, window collisions, vehicles, power lines, communication towers, and wind turbines. Some threats are difficult to put numbers to: pesticides harm birds both directly (through poisoning) and indirectly (by reducing their food supply), but there's no firm number for their toll in North America. (One study estimated 2.7 million bird deaths in Canada alone.)

Yet many of the causes shown in the graph are ones where small individual actions can make a big difference—efforts like keeping cats indoors and making windows safer.



For more information and for ideas of what you can do to help stop the steep decline of our nation's songbirds, visit - www.3billionbirds.org/

AREA EVENTS

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

Junior Hawkwatcher Program

October 21 or 28 at 10a.m.
DNR Outdoor Adventure Center
1801 Atwater St., Detroit, MI

The Junior Hawkwatcher program was created to get the next generation interested and involved in raptor migration and conservation. Young people up to age 17 are invited to participate in the program! Start with an introduction at the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center, then visit the Detroit River Hawkwatch count site on a later date to complete the program activities and receive a certificate of completion! For more information, call 844-622-6367.

Michigan History Museum

Michigan Archaeology Day
October 19 - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI

Here's your chance to meet archaeologists, to learn of their research and to see one-day-only exhibits from their excavations and underwater explorations.

The day will include: Presentations Hands-on Activities, Exhibitors & Special Displays and a scavenger hunt with a chance to win prizes Free admission, free parking! For more information, visit michigan.gov/mhc

MEMBERSHIP

Support community programs with your CAAS Membership.

SEPTEMBER 2019 - AUGUST 2020

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 capitalareaudubon.org or pick one up at our next meeting.

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