

## Join Us

### AT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING!

**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.



### 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 October, the first frost of the year brought my first fall sighting of an Eastern Towhee, Fox Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Our winter friends are returning!



I really start to miss all the bird song after October makes its exit. Our breeding warblers made their way south starting in September, followed by most of our native sparrows.

The soaring birds have also left for warmer locations, with many heading as far south as Mexico and South America. Sandhill Cranes are gathering in large numbers at marshes as they prepare to travel to warmer wintering grounds in the southern United States.

As migration wraps up and the outdoors seems much quieter with less bird song, the wonders of our winter residents are ready to be admired.

For our family, one of the most exciting winter visitors to our area is the Snowy Owl. During irruption years, Snowy Owls can regularly be spotted in lower Michigan during the winter months. The last few years Ingham County has been a reliable spot to find a Snowy! If you can head a little further north, the farm fields outside Alma and Ithaca have also had reliable sightings of Snowy Owl throughout the winter.

You can read our full article about our winter visitors on page three to find out who may be paying a visit to your feeder or neighborhood this winter.

Enjoy the snow birds!  
- Kristy Taylor

## CITIZEN SCIENCE FROM YOUR COUCH

As the winter temps keep you inside and the birdlife quiets down, consider watching birds a different way this winter and help complete research projects from all over the country.

Zooniverse offers various research opportunities to citizen scientists all year long right from your computer. Pick a project that is appealing to you and follow the simple directions to get started. Visit - **Zooniverse.org** for details.

FeederWatch with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers the opportunity to contribute to science from the comfort of your home! Every week, spend a few minutes for two days in a row and record the birds that are visiting your feeders and your yard.

This is a great activity for new birders, children and those of us trying to learn all the species visiting our backyards! Visit - **Feederwatch.org** for more information!

# UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

## **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 -**

### **December 14 - East Lansing Count**

Barb Hosler - [birdingbarb@yahoo.com](mailto:birdingbarb@yahoo.com)

## **December 28 - Eaton Rapids Count**

Thomas Wheeler -

[tom.wheeker@gmail.com](mailto:tom.wheeker@gmail.com)

## **January 9 – Marsh Birds**

### **Speaker - Rachel Pierce**

Would you like to learn more about some of our more secretive marsh birds? Join us Thursday, January 9th, at our monthly meeting to learn more about these amazing birds.

**This meeting will be held the SECOND THURSDAY of the month due to the holiday.**

## **February 6 – Grassland Management**

### **Speaker - Chad Krumnauer**

Explore the changing and fascinating restoration of native prairie with Chad Krumnauer from the Michigan DNR.

## **March 5 – Bats**

Michigan is home to 9 species of bat, including the endangered Indiana bat. These bats play an important role in controlling local insect population. Peter Fowler, from the Bat Association of MSU will share more about Michigan bats and ways to help!

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month (except January) 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.

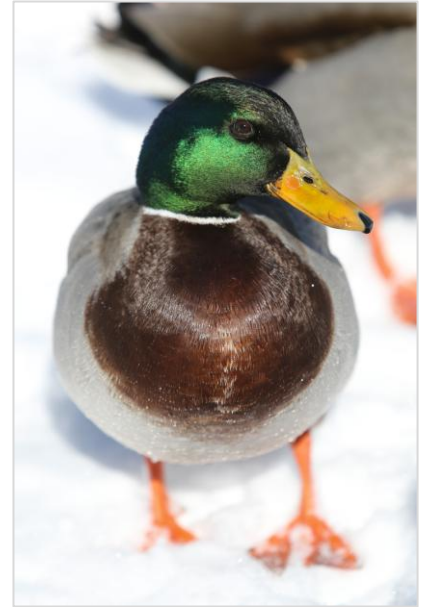
If you have a speaker suggestion or a topic you would like presented, please email [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com) or let a board member know at our next meeting.

# EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

**Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14, 2019,** for the 72nd annual East Lansing Christmas Bird Count! This is one of the oldest Christmas Counts in Michigan. We need all the eyes and ears that we can get out into the field. A few hours in the morning is all that is necessary (although you can go longer if you wish.) Participation is open to people of **all skill levels.** Anyone who wants to help is welcome. **You do not have to be a member of Capital Area Audubon.**

The count circle is divided into different areas, each with its own leader. We will publish all of the area leaders along with contact information in our Call Note next month. A map of the areas can be found on the CAAS website [www.capitalareaaudubon.org](http://www.capitalareaaudubon.org). The CBC Tally and Dinner will be hosted by Sam and Liz Febba following the count on Saturday. There will be chicken salad croissant sandwiches. If you are able to bring a salad, veggie or dessert to share, that will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Liz Febba at 517-646-0240 or [lizandsam1972@att.net](mailto:lizandsam1972@att.net) with any questions about the count dinner. Food will be served at 6:00 p.m., but feel free to come sooner. We hope to start the tally promptly at 7:00. The Febba's house is located at 9950 Donegal Drive, Dimondale, MI.



## EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Whooping Crane was spotted in a field with Sandhill Cranes near Stockbridge in Ingham County.
- A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported at the Capital City Bird Sanctuary on October 23rd!
- A Northern Shrike was captured and banded by the Michigan State Bird Observatory at Corey Marsh on October 19th.
- On the southern edge of the MSU Campus, a Snow Goose was spotted in a group of Canada Geese near the corner of College and Jolly Roads.

*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](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com)*

*or share it on our facebook page - [facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)*

# Thank You!

Thanks to Julia Spalding, Mike Moquin and Sandra Conn for providing the snacks for our October meeting and to Christina Farrell for sharing her research into the Black-crested Titmouse with us!

# IT'S SNOWBIRD SEASON

In addition to our hardy year round residents, Michigan is host to a number of northern breeding species that find our snowy winter mix just right for a nice winter away from the frozen north.

Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Pine Siskin, White-crowned Sparrows, Common Redpoll and American Tree Sparrows will visit areas throughout Michigan all winter long.

Occasional rarities may also show up in the winter as well! Last year in March, a beautiful Varied Thrush visited a home in Harbor Springs for a few weeks snacking on offerings from wonderful homeowners who shared their discovery with birders from all across the state.

A few years ago, in early March of 2017, an Ivory Gull made its way to Flint to the delight of many area birders. Sadly, the bird passed away a few days after its discovery, but I

was able to make the quick trip to Flint and photograph the amazing variety before he met his end.



On a brighter note, each winter on south campus, near the corner of Jolly and College Roads, Horned Lark and Snow Bunting start to run across whitewashed cornfields, and if we are lucky, a beautiful Snowy Owl will spend a month or two in the area!



The last three years, the Alaiedon Township Hall in Okemos has hosted a Snowy Owl at some point during the winter. It has perched on the playground equipment, in a field, on the baseball field lighting, on the fence and in the field just outside the property.



So even if you do not head south this winter, try to get outside (or at least do some birding from the warmth of your car) and see if you can find a new visitor that will leave us again as the warm weather returns. Enjoy the crisp air before the snow flies and see if you can hear the much more subtle calls of the winter birds. Join us at the Christmas Bird Count this December and see who turns up!

# FALL EVENTS

## Native Garden Workshop Woldumar Nature Center November 9 and 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](http://woldumar.org)

## Sandhill Crane Viewing November 2, 3, 9, 10 - 4-7p.m. Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area 22300 15 Mile Road, Bellevue MI 49021

Not able to make it to CraneFest? No worries. The Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek generously opens their property at the Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area to public crane viewing for a few weekends in the fall.

Visit the property to experience hundreds of Sandhill Cranes flying in to Big Marsh Lake as they prepare for migration in the coming weeks. The best viewing time is from 5 p.m. to dusk but can change as sunset gets earlier.

Crane viewing is free, but please remember it is run by volunteers who may choose to cancel public viewing due to weather or other circumstances at any time

## MICHIGAN AUDUBON SEMINAR SERIES

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

### Holiday Bird Crafts December 9 - 7-8 p.m.

2310 Science Parkway, Okemos  
More information can be found at -  
[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.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://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

## CALL NOTE

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September through June by the  
Capital Area Audubon Society  
PO Box 22065, Lansing MI 48909.  
Deadline for submissions:  
20th of the month.

### 2019-2020 CAAS Officers

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### 2019-20 CAAS Board of Directors

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Alexia Witcombe  
Richard Yarsevich

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[capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org)

# THE LIST LIFE

If you have ever participated in the Christmas Bird Count or a breeding bird survey, you will understand the value and enjoyment of keeping a species list. Many birders keep backyard lists, life lists, county lists and trip lists of all the birds we spot on that trip and throughout the year.

Our fall bird walks at Fenner Nature Center had a fantastic species list this year, recorded by Lou Snow. She noted that the total species from the fall walks was 50, including 2 maybes. Last fall had 53 species reported.

Snow said that the most exciting to her was the Red-headed Woodpecker, as it was one she saw as a child in Western Kansas!

## Fall Bird Walks Species List - 2019

1. Gray Catbird
2. American Goldfinch
3. Pileated Woodpecker
4. American Blue Jay
5. Red-tailed Hawk
6. Red-headed Woodpecker
7. Magnolia Warbler
8. American Robin
9. Black-capped Chickadee
10. American Redstart
11. Downy Woodpecker
12. Chestnut-sided Warbler
13. Northern Flicker
14. Common Yellowthroat
15. Tufted Titmouse
16. White-breasted Nuthatch
17. Red-eyed Vireo
18. Warbling Vireo
19. Least Flycatcher (?)
20. Common Grackle
21. Canada Goose
22. Black-and-white Warbler
23. Black-throated Blue Warbler
24. Red-bellied Woodpecker
25. Blackpoll Warbler
26. Turkey Vulture
27. Common Nighthawk
28. Canada Warbler
29. Northern Cardinal
30. Great Blue Heron
31. Ovenbird
32. Scarlet Tanager
33. Yellow-throated Vireo
34. Black-throated Green Warbler
35. Eastern Towhee
36. Brown Creeper
37. Ruby-throated Hummingbird
38. Blue-winged Warbler
39. Chimney Swift
40. Eastern Phoebe
41. Wild Turkey
42. Philadelphia Vireo
43. Eastern Wood Peewee
44. Tennessee Warbler
45. Nashville Warbler (?)
46. Bay-breasted Warbler
47. Blue-headed Vireo
48. Brown Thrasher
49. Hermit Thrush
50. Northern Parula

# CONSIDER A CATIO®

- by Kristy Taylor

This October, the *Lansing State Journal* published an article highlighting the community response to a colony of outdoor feral cats in Meridian Township. The township, in cooperation with cat rescuers and the Ingham County Animal Shelter, will be trapping the feral cats and trying to place them in adoptive homes. This would be a wonderful way to protect these cats from freezing temperatures, food instability and predators. Unfortunately, one of the options suggested for placing these cats was searching for barns where cats will still be able to roam freely.

To help curb the dramatic decline of our native bird population, one of the seven main suggestions for simple ways to help birds from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is to keep cats indoors or provide them with an outdoor space, like an enclosed 'catio' (cat-patio) where they will not be able to interact with wildlife.

Cats are instinctive predators and even well fed, indoor/outdoor cats will attack and kill native birds and native wildlife. They are an introduced and invasive species that live longer and healthier lives when kept indoors.

Birds are already facing migration and nesting challenges from habitat destruction, a warming climate, limited food supplies, light pollution, power lines, wind turbines and window collisions. Let's take every step we can to help manage these challenges and do something very simple. Keep your cat indoors or build an adorable and practical enclosure to keep them from interacting with wildlife.

For more suggestions on how to keep our feathered friends safe and our cuddly pets out of trouble, visit - [abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/](http://abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/)

Next month I will highlight ways to watch birds and share what you see.

# FALL EVENTS

## Symbols and Superstitions

### Mount Hope Cemetery Stroll

#### Fenner Nature Center

November 1 - 6-8:00 p.m.

Join a Fenner Naturalist on a guided tour from Fenner Nature Center to Mount Hope Cemetery to investigate the signs and symbols of nature that surround life and death. They will delve into the folklore of ravens, owls and other animals that can be found on the tombstones. The walk will wrap up with a campfire and marshmallows.

Tickets are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. For more information, or to register, visit - [mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org)

## 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](http://www.michiganaudubon.org) for more information and to RSVP.

## Seeing Stars: How Birds Use the Night Sky to Orient During Migration

Thursday, November 21 - 7 p.m.

### Abrams Planetarium

Each fall and spring, many species of birds migrate thousands of miles - but how do they know where to go?

Join Dr. Jen Own as she gives a talk describing bird migration and how birds use the stars during their journeys. This talk is part of the Planetarium's Astronomical Horizons lecture series. Doors open at 7pm, the talk will begin at 7:30. This program will last about an hour with time for questions. There is no charge for admission.

## Natural Vine Wreath Making Workshop

### Fenner Nature Center

November 4 or 18 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Learn how to create a natural vine wreath from harvest to completion. The workshop will begin with a short walk to collect grapevine, bittersweet and other useful vines.

Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. For more information, or to register, visit - [mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org)

Do you have an event to share?

Email us at - [caasCallNote@gmail.com](mailto:caasCallNote@gmail.com)

# NETFLIX IS FOR THE BIRDERS

If you have a Netflix subscription and would like to experience some of the birding and research happening along the Rio Grande, check out the new Netflix film, *Birders*.



*Birders* is a 2019 US-Mexican short film depicting birdwatchers on both sides of the border and how migrant birds travel back and forth each year.

The film highlights conservation efforts along the Rio Grande and the amazing birds that migrate through the area. If you have ever visited the Rio Grande Birding Festival, you will recognize many of the parks that are covered in the film. *Birders* was released on September 25th and is available now to stream on Netflix.

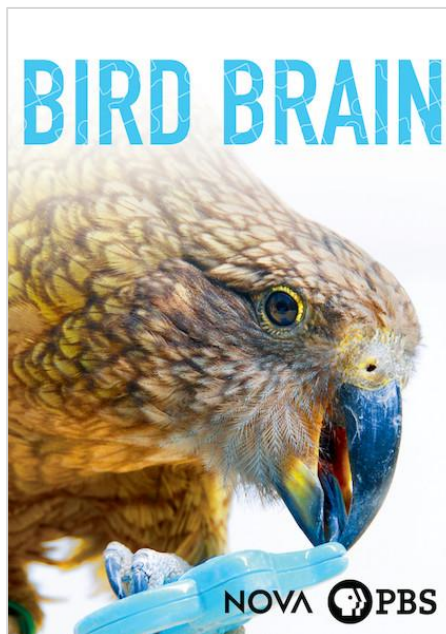
Another recent documentary release is the nature film, *Dancing with the Birds*. From ruffling their majestic feathers, to perfecting courtship routines, this film features all the best moves of the many different birds of paradise.

This lighthearted nature documentary is stunning and showcases the brilliant color, stunning plumage and bizarre displays perfected by these beautiful birds. Narrated by Stephen Fry, the

stunning visuals leave you hoping for follow up films after the hour-long documentary wraps up.



Last but not least, if you are in the mood to learn more about the brainiest of our birds, look no further than the 2017 documentary, *Bird Brain*.



This film showcases the research surrounding some of the brightest brains in the bird kingdom. The feisty Kia and many of the corvids are surprisingly smart and amazing problem solvers.

If you have any film or book recommendations, please let us know! [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com)

# WINTER EVENTS

## Winter Birding in the Eastern UP January 18-19, 2020 or February 8-9, 2020

Are you anxious to see a Canada Jay? Hoping to check the Northern Hawk Owl off your list? Then join Michigan Audubon and birding guide Darrell Lawson, former president of Petoskey Audubon, on a birding tour of the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

This caravan adventure will start at Sault Ste. Marie and progress through Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. This trip is rated EASY. Most travel is by car caravan and foot travel is generally on gravel or paved roadways. Roads may be snow-covered and/or slippery. Duration of foot travel is less than a mile at a time and participants need to be able to withstand cold temperatures for periods of 30 minutes.

Registration will open on November 8, 2019. For more information or to register, visit - [michiganaudubon.org/upcoming-tours-workshops/](http://michiganaudubon.org/upcoming-tours-workshops/)

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Thank you so much to all of our members for joining us for another year of programs and supporting community connections with nature!

Please extend a warm welcome to all of our new members since last spring!

Deb & Gerald Babcock  
Christy & David Bennet  
James & Susan Bonfiglio  
Caitin Boyle-Wetzel  
Margaret Cotrill  
Douglas Danstrom  
Dennis & Suzanne Dudley  
Esther & William Durnwald  
Joy Frawley  
Judith Fryer  
Amber Fuller  
Gracen & Jason Helopoulos  
Jon Overman  
Janet Sjoquist

# 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 [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)