



DOUG HITCHCOX, MACAULAY LIBRARY 2019

# the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON  
FEBRUARY 2020

## Join Us

### AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING!

**OUR MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE HELD AT THE MICHIGAN NATURE ASSOC.**

**February 6 – Grassland Management Speaker - Chad Krumnauer**

Explore the changing and fascinating restoration of native prairie with **Chad Krumnauer**, wildlife Technician with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He will present specifically on habitat restoration and the management techniques of the Michigan DNR. Krumnauer will open up for questions at the end of the meeting.

For many wildlife species, grasslands are a vital habitat type. Many creatures make their homes in these areas, including a variety of songbirds that use the grasses for nesting and feeding, including Red-winged Blackbirds, Savannah Sparrows, Ring-necked Pheasants and Eastern Meadowlarks.

Grasslands have become increasingly rare over the last 150 years due to the conversion of grasslands to agriculture. The rich soil and lack of trees made prairies, plains and other grasslands in North America prime lands for farming. This conversion has led to a decrease in many grassland wildlife and plant species.

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

**This meeting will be held at the Michigan Nature Association  
2310 Science Parkway, Okemos, MI**

*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

Thanks to a hot tip at our last meeting, on my way home I decided to try to track down the urban Snowy Owl. I stopped at the South Lansing Meijer on Cedar street and pulled into the Culver's parking lot. After only a minute, I spotted the Snowy Owl resting on a food sign just off Edgewood Blvd. It was late, dark, and cold, so I made a plan to visit again the next day.

The next morning, the Snowy was higher up, on a street light, again over Edgewood, but easily viewable from the Culver's parking lot.

One of the things I love about the birding community is their enthusiasm and willingness to share great sightings with each other. I love when really cool birds end up in urban settings for several reasons.

1. They are easily seen without binoculars. Spark birds, the birds that can inspire a life-long love of birding, are rarely some sought-after, rarity, hiding in a forest, found only after a deep hike into nature. They are very often simple, common birds that introduce the wild wonders of nature

that we may have not noticed before. They can start us on a journey of curiosity and can create a life-long connection with nature.

2. They are easily found. eBird is a valuable tool for many birders, and can help find species in the area. For the new birder, they can use postings on Facebook, social media sites or have a friend tell them in person where the bird is located. The easier to find, the more likely they will be able to spot the bird.

3. The spectacle. When a group of people, armed with binoculars and scopes show up to an area, people tend to be curious about what is going on!

As I stood at the edge of the parking lot, bins aimed at a streetlight, hundreds of other people drove past, getting shopping done before the winter storm. I feel so very blessed to be able to stop and notice what amazing birds we still have right here in Lansing, and for all of you who share these amazing bird sightings with friends and family!

-Kristy Taylor

## MEETING LOCATION UPDATE

Due to the icy conditions, dark pathway and current sound issues, the CAAS Board has decided to move the monthly meetings back to the Michigan Nature Association Education Room.

Following the meeting in January, members emailed the board with a number of concerns and many of our guests had a hard time hearing the speaker in the new space. The Davis Nature Pavilion will eventually have

a more permanent screen set up, and acoustical adjustments so the room will be more functional for our monthly presentations.

The Susan and Jack Davis Nature Pavilion is designed to create space for community gatherings, special events, arts and education. The Pavilion also hosts the Donor Recognition Gallery, and annual art exhibitions.

# UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

## 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. **Dr. Allen Kurta**, nationally respected bat expert and wildlife biologist at Eastern Michigan University along with **Peter Fowler**, from the Bat Association of MSU will share their knowledge of bats and bats' habitat needs. This will be a joint meeting with the MSU Bat Association!

## April 2 – Birds of Asia

**Dr. Pamela Rasmussen** will share her vast knowledge and past work with Asian birds. Rasmussen, the lead author of *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*, is an assistant professor at MSU and assistant curator at the MSU Museum. She is also the coordinator of MSU's global bird sounds website **AVoCet**.

## April 4, 11, 18, 25

### Spring Migration Bird Walks

Enjoy spotting the latest spring arrivals at **Fenner Nature Center**. Walks start at **9:00 a.m.**

## May 7 – Michigan Endangered Species

Join us to hear about many different endangered species that can be found here in Michigan. From the Lake Sturgeon, to the Spotted Turtle and the amazing recovery of the Kirtland's Warbler, we will learn about efforts all over Michigan to restore our native species.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the **Michigan Nature Association**.

Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. with announcements and bird sightings followed by the program.

# 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, or to sign up online, visit - [capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org)

# EATON RAPIDS BIRD COUNT

The 2019 Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 28, 2019. The weather was dry and temperatures were in the low 30s. Both still and moving water were open, which is unusual for this count.

Nevertheless, birds were scarce. Only 32 species were found, which is well below the average of 38 for this count since it became a "national" count in 2008. 3559 individual birds were counted. That is not the lowest total for this count, but it is well below our previous average of 4796.

The only new species for the count was Red-headed Woodpecker. A juvenile was found by the group counting the northwest quadrant of the circle.

A complete list of birds follows -

Canada Goose	939
Wood Duck	1
Mallard	354
Wild Turkey	21

Great Blue Heron	3
Red-tailed Hawk	8
Rock Pigeon	263
Mourning Dove	107
Belted Kingfisher	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	18
Downy Woodpecker	28
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Northern Flicker	8
Pileated Woodpecker	5
Blue Jay	62
American Crow	734
Black-capped Chickadee	70
Tufted Titmouse	25
White-breasted Nuthatch	40
Brown Creeper	1
Carolina Wren	1
Eastern Bluebird	19
American Robin	1
European Starling	513
American Tree Sparrow	22
Dark-eyed Junco	37
Song Sparrow	2
Northern Cardinal	61
House Finch	21
American Goldfinch	64
House Sparrow	126

# EBIRD 2.0

The latest version of the free eBird Mobile app optimizes the checklist process making it faster than ever to log birds you find.

eBird is a free, user-friendly way for birders to record, archive and share their observations at any hour of the

day. It is an important tool for conservation, providing researchers with a comprehensive picture of the abundance and distribution of birds. The data comes to life via eBird's interactive maps. For more information, visit [ebird.com](http://ebird.com).

# EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- The Snowy Owl was spotted at the South Lansing Meijer from the end of December until mid-January.

- A Eurasian Collared Dove is still near the farms on College Road at MSU.

*These sightings were reported at our last meeting or on eBird.com.*

*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 Marti Caterino for providing the snacks for our January meeting and to Rachael Pierce for sharing with us! To learn more about the study, and see what you can do to help bird populations, visit

[www.3billionbirds.org](http://www.3billionbirds.org).

# BOOKS ABOUT BIRDING

- Sam Febba

Recently Kristy offered some suggestions of birding books to be read during the time you cannot be in the field. In recent years I have found myself to be more of an armchair birder than one who is active locally in the field. Here are some books I have read in the last few years with brief notes. You can find longer reviews on line to help you decide if anything here interests you.

*Amona Penguins* by Noah Stryker details his time as a researcher in Antarctica. Noah is a captivating writer.

*On a Wing and a Prayer* by Sarah Woods is about a woman spending time in the rainforest with the goal of seeing a Harpy Eagle.

*Falcon Fever* by Tim Gallagher. Gallagher is with the Lab for Ornithology. The title should be enough.

*Lost Among the Birds* by Neil Hayward tells the tale of his all but accidental Big Year.

*One More Warbler* by Victor Emanuel is a memoir of a lifetime spent birding and of founding one of the best known bird touring companies.

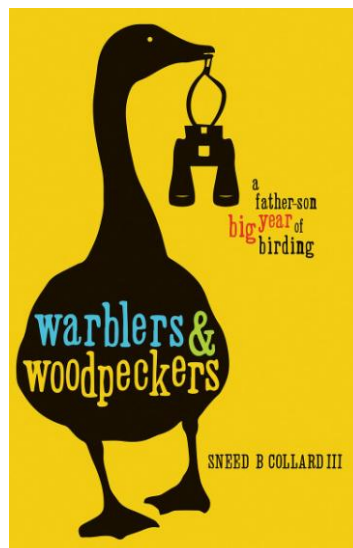
*Returnina North With the Spring* by John R. Harris and *North on the Wing* by Bruce Beehler are both books telling the authors story of somewhat duplicating Edwin Way Teale's classic *North With the Spring*. Harris does a better job of following Teale's path but I prefer the story told by Beehler. I think I have previously recommended all of Teale's books in *The Call Note*.

*The Rarest Bird in the World* by Vernon R. L. Head is a fascinating account of an expedition to Ethiopia to locate a nightjar only known from a wing found on an earlier expedition.

*The Life of the Skies* by Jonathon Rosen—Google a review.

*Mozart's Starling* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt will tell you about both the pet starling the author raised and the one Mozart bought.

*Warblers and Woodpeckers* by Sneed B. Collard III. A man in middle age takes up birding because his son develops an interest. Then they decide to do a big year.



# LOCAL EVENTS

**Michigan Audubon Owl Prowl**  
March 7 - 6-7:30 p.m.  
Capital City Bird Sanctuary  
6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing, MI

**Michigan Audubon Winter Walks**  
February 2, March 1- 9 - 10:30 a.m.  
Capital City Bird Sanctuary  
6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing, MI  
More information can be found at -  
[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)

**Great Backyard Bird Count Guided Tour at Belle Isle Nature Center**  
Saturday, February 15, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
176 Lakeside Dr., Detroit, MI

**Winter Seed Sowing Workshop**  
February 25, 6 -8 p.m.  
Fenner Nature Center  
Learn all about the amazing adaptations of Michigan native plant seeds and how winter helps them survive and thrive.  
Visit [mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org) to register.

**Michigan Wildflower Conference**  
Sunday and Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Kellogg Conference Center  
Michigan State University  
For registration, schedule or more information, visit - [wildflowersmich.org](http://wildflowersmich.org)

**Science on a Sphere**  
MSU Museum  
409 West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI  
Gallery now open  
Public Shows began January 11, 2020  
Imagine yourself in a darkened museum gallery. You watch our spinning earth – our tiny “blue marble” – from outer space. Then, the image instantly transforms into the rotating sphere of Mars, a history of cities on Earth, or even the interior of a biological cell. Come experience it for yourself!

**MI Audubon Spring Fling**  
April 26-28  
Whitefish Point, MI  
This year will mark the 31st annual Spring Fling Celebration of Bird Migration. Visit [michiganaudubon.org/spring-fling/](http://michiganaudubon.org/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://facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

## CALL NOTE

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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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**Join the CAAS Board!**  
We are looking for new applicants to serve on our board next year. For more information, please contact a board member or email us at [caaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:caaudubon@gmail.com).