



KRISTY TAYLOR 2017

Join Us

AT OUR JUNE MEETING!

June 4 - Ice Cream Social, Member Photos and Annual Meeting

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

This meeting will be held in the Michigan Nature Association Education Room. 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos, MI

CAAS is seeking new Board Members

If you have considered serving on the CAAS Board, we are looking for two new applicants. Board members help to organize monthly meetings, produce our Call Note Newsletter, pursue and educate members on local birding issues and provide walks and field trips throughout the program year.

If you are interested in serving, please email caascallnote@gmail.com or caaudubon@gmail.com for more information. Member bios will be published in our May and June Call Note, and a vote to approve new Board members will be held at the June meeting.

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

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

Typically in April, our family welcomes spring with a morning at the Fenner Nature Center Maple Syrup Festival, heading outdoors for a few Saturday morning bird walks, attending the MSU Science Festival, and planning visits to our favorite migratory stop-over sites, like Tawas Point, or Maumee Bay, Ohio.

In this unprecedented time of social distancing, this spring is starting off very differently. It can be a little overwhelming to think of all the events that have been cancelled, all the trips interrupted and all of the best laid plans we have set aside in order to protect one another.

This year, our family is enjoying migration in a different way. We are home all day, every day, and have time to notice the Northern Cardinal who calls every morning, and the evening song of the American Robin in our backyard each night.

With schools closed, our children (fourth and sixth grades) have a few assignments, daily reading and research projects that they are able to work on from home. Our workstation is at the kitchen table where we can look out the window and see our birdfeeders loaded up with feathered visitors (and also a red squirrel lovingly named Pee-Wee). The Dark-eyed Juncos are still hopping around under our bird feeder, most likely fattening up for their journey north.

When the news seems overwhelming or my kids have finally reached the end of my at-home-teaching methods, we take a hike at a nearby park, try to find owl pellets under the pines and get back to the serenity and rhythm that nature can swing us back into.

I never thought that when I started birding a few years ago that it would provide such a solid foundation for a time in my life when everything would be so uneasy, unsettled and changing.

I have been able to take the time the last few weeks to plant redbud trees with my daughter, clean invasives out of an elementary garden and clear a new area for native plants in our urban yard.

Birding can be a social or solitary activity and although I deeply enjoy getting out into nature all by myself, I will truly miss searching the trees for our spring warblers with all of you.

In this newsletter, I hope to share ways for you to engage with the outdoors and nature this spring, while keeping each other safe and maintaining social distancing practices.

If you are alone, or lonely, please reach out. Just because we need to be separate, does not mean we cannot share with each other and support each other. I want to hear about your spring sightings! Send your walk lists to our Facebook page, or drop me a line in our Call Note email.

One of the reasons I serve on the board for the CAAS is the power of connection I felt when I attended a meeting and knew that I had found my people. People who love birds, who are curious and kind and make wonderful and yummy desserts. I will miss you all until we are able to safely gather again!

Take care of yourselves and each other!
Kristy Taylor

UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

Our April and May meetings and organized spring bird walks are cancelled due to the COVID-19 safety precautions.

Please check our website and email updates about our June Ice Cream Social on June 4th.

LOCAL EVENTS

Most community events for the spring have been cancelled. Please check with any event organizer to see if the event will still be held. The CDC has recommended the suspension of any and all large gatherings, and that those at greater risk to COVID-19 avoid all public and social gatherings.

Cancelled Events -

MI Audubon Spring Fling
www.michiganaudubon.org

MSU Science Fest
sciencefestival.msu.edu

Biggest Week in American Birding
www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

Mackinaw Raptor Fest - Cancelled
www.mackinawraportfest.org

AuSable Valley Audubon
Tawas Point Migration 2020 - Cancelled
and Tawas Beginning Birder Tour
ausablevalleyaudubon.org

EXCITING SIGHTINGS

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

- A Trumpeter Swan was reported at Corey Marsh on March 30th.

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

- A Long-eared Owl was reported in a Norway Spruce in East Lansing on Mar. 29.

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
or share it on our facebook page -
facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon

VISITING LOCAL AND STATE PARKS

During the COVID-19 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' executive order, locals are encouraged to stay home and limit long distance travel. Michiganders are still able to enjoy the outdoors, while respecting social distancing practices.

Many local facilities and offices are closed, but trails remain open so that people can enjoy the outdoors. Please check with your park online before heading out to be sure the area you plan to visit is in operation.

Ingham County parks and trails are open, but they recommend avoiding park facilities, playgrounds and gathering places within the parks. Bathroom facilities will not be open.

State managed lands, parks, trails and recreation areas will remain open, but campgrounds, restroom facilities, playgrounds and park offices will be closed. State Parks are waiving the Recreation Passport Fee during the mandate.

The Michigan Audubon Offices are closed, but the sanctuaries will remain open, including the Capital City Bird Sanctuary.

Clinton County Parks and Eaton County Parks facilities and playgrounds are closed, but parks are open.

Lansing Parks and Recreation community centers are closed to the public, but trails, bike paths and the Lansing River Trail remain open.

Wellness Guidelines -

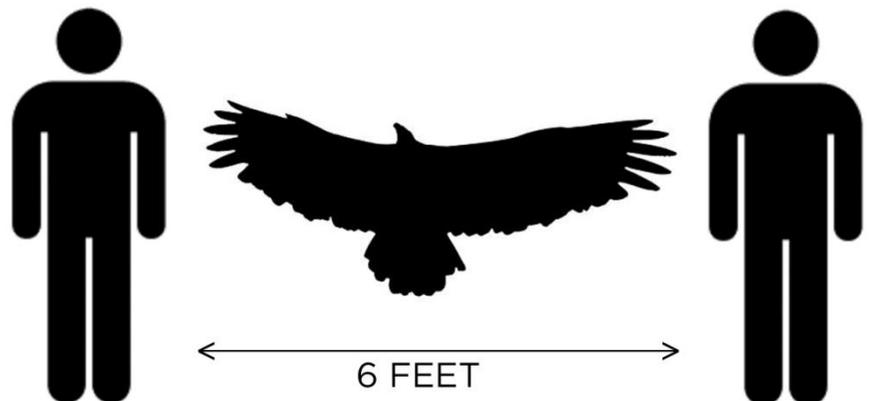
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well. Call your primary care physician if you are experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, coughing, sore throat or you have been in direct contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue and wash your hands immediately afterward.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water. If no soap is available, use a hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol content.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing, maintaining a distance of at least six feet from your fellow birders.
- Do not share binoculars or scopes.
- Minimize travel and the possible places that you can come in contact with other people other than those in your household.

Please check the website - michigan.gov/coronavirus for more information and current recommendations.

a brief guide to

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

keep one Turkey Vulture of space between you and others.



AREA EVENTS

Nature Discovery Wildlife Outings April - May - By Appointment

This spring, Nature Discovery in Williamston, will offer small group guided outdoor exploration at their private nature center, or natural area of your choosing. These sessions are by appointment only and will adhere to social distancing practices. Groups must be from the same household, healthy and can choose from a variety of topics, including vernal ponds, birds by sight and sound, breeding frogs and more.

For more information and a full list of possible topics for your outdoor adventure, visit www.naturediscovery.net

Eaton Conservation District MI Birds Wildlife Habitat Workshop May 7 - 6-8pm

551 Courthouse Drive. Ste 3, Charlotte
Come to this workshop to learn from MI Bird's Program Associate Erin Rowan on what you can do to provide ideal habitat and food sources for songbirds and game birds on your property. Free dinner (subs) will be provided. This is a FREE workshop, reservation is required. (517) 543-1512 ext. 5 by May 1st to RSVP. *This event may be cancelled, please call for more information.*

Many events are making the switch to online and Zoom meetings. If you would like to be a part of an online discussion, let us know on our Facebook page. We could offer a weekly bird chat with CAAS members via Zoom or Microsoft meetings. Please email caascallnote@gmail.com for more information.

*Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caascallnote@gmail.com
or share it on our Facebook page -
[facebook.com/capitalareaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaudubon)*

Thank You!

Thanks to Clara Bratton for providing the snacks for our February meeting and to Dr. Alan Kurta for sharing with us!

SPRING IS HERE AT LAST

Many of you, just like me, anxiously await the return of our breeding birds. Mornings are filled with birdsong calling for you to be out there enjoying all the amazing opportunities of spring.

With the safely precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, many of us are spending much more time indoors this spring than we had planned.

Here are a few links to help you weather the time at home and enjoy the birds right in your own backyards. Most of these activities and sites have options for all ages and can be integrated into home learning for K-12 students as well!

Audubon Adventures

www.audubonadventures.org

Audubon is now offering a website for young nature lovers. This site has student adventures, a monthly newsletter, action steps, quizzes, puzzles and games as well as a teachers' lounge with additional resources.



Audubon - The Joy of Birds

www.audubon.org/joy-of-birds

From the Audubon site -
Birds bring us happiness in so many ways—especially in trying times. Whether you're just looking for a lift, unable to enjoy the outdoors, or in desperate need of distraction, look no further than this birdy care package, from Audubon to you.

This site features articles, photos, links to videos, webcams and more.

All About Birds by The Cornell Lab or Ornithology

www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-make-these-next-few-weeks-a-little-easier-courtesy-of-birds/

The Cornell Lab will be offering free courses and supports for educators and birders alike. They have links to bird cams, citizen science projects, online games and educational

resources and even advanced courses. If you haven't started using eBird yet, now is a great time to learn. Watch the eBird Essentials video and start by making a profile and a quick list of the birds you see right outside your window!

You may also want to consider participating in the NestWatch project if you have birds nesting on your property.

American Birding Association

www.aba.org/march-27-2020-update

The ABA will offer live virtual bird club events online via their Facebook page. This month featured Nick Lund sharing about the agony, ecstasy and inanity of US State Birds. The meeting is available online at - www.aba.org/live

MSU Science Fest Online

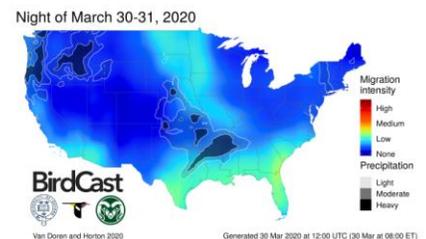
www.sciencefestival.msu.edu

The MSU Science Festival is offering digital presentations, virtual tours, videos, at home STEAM projects and more during the month of April. Saturday, April 4th, you can join them starting at 10am for the *Ask a Scientist Live* webinar.

BirdCast

www.birdcast.info

BirdCast provides bird migration forecasts in real-time. If you are trying to time when to get out to the local park or take a good walk around the neighborhood, Birdcast can help tell you if you can expect to see any spring migrants.



eBird

www.eBird.org

Explore all of the great features of eBird even when you are not out birding. View bar charts for your county to see when spring migrants typically move through the area. Look up local hotspots and areas close to home you may consider birding!

BIRDING ONLINE

With outdoor activities limited this spring, take the time to explore some indoor birding opportunities!

Learn to draw and print great coloring pages with www.drawingtenthousandbirds.com

Enjoy watercolor with Let's Make Art free tutorials of a Northern Cardinal, Barn Owl, Bald Eagle and more at letsmakeart.com.

Birding books, puzzles, field guides and more are available on Amazon. Check out some of our previous Call Note Newsletters for book recommendations.

Capital Area District Libraries offers the Great Courses for free online using the Hoopla App. They also offer audio books such as *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman, and *The Hidden Lives of Owls*, by Leigh Calvez.

We will be posting links to articles and opportunities to learn during our time indoors.

If you have any easy indoor bird and nature recommendations, please share them with us on

BLACKBIRDS

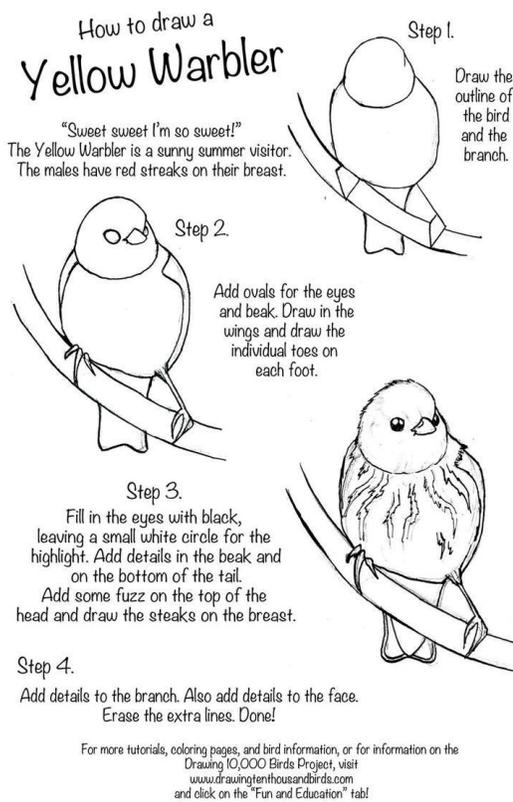
by Julie Cadwallader Staub

I am 52 years old, and have spent truly the better part of my life out-of-doors but yesterday I heard a new sound above my head a rustling, ruffling quietness in the spring air and when I turned my face upward I saw a flock of blackbirds rounding a curve I didn't know was there and the sound was simply all those wings, all those feathers against air, against gravity and such a beautiful winning: the whole flock taking a long, wide turn as if of one body and one mind. How do they do that? If we lived only in human society what a puny existence that would be but instead we live and move and have our being here, in this curving and soaring world that is not our own so when mercy and tenderness triumph in our lives and when, even more rarely, we unite and move together toward a common good, we can think to ourselves: ah yes, this is how it's meant to be.

BLACKBIRDS by Julie Cadwallader Staub from *Wing Over Wing*. Paraclete Press, © 2019. submitted to the Call Note by Sam Febba



How to draw a Yellow Warbler



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our facebook page www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon or email us at caascallnote@gmail.com to share your book suggestions, app reviews or websites that you would recommend to our members.

CALL NOTE

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20th of the month.

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