



KRISTY TAYLOR 2017

the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
JUNE 2020

Join Us

OUR JUNE MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

June 4 - Member Photos and Annual Meeting - CANCELLED

Please vote to approve our Board Applicants by following the link below.

If you receive your Call Note in the mail, your vote can be taken by phone at 517-980-4600. Voting will close on June 7th.

<https://forms.gle/uc1JMECScEuVzidR6>

CAAS is seeking new Board Members

If you have considered serving on the CAAS Board, we are looking for two applicants for the 2020-2021 program year. 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.

Additional Board Member applicants will be up for a vote at our September Meeting.

If you are interested in serving, please email caascallnote@gmail.com or caaudubon@gmail.com for more information.



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 migration hit full swing mid-month, I decided to head out for a little birding at Fenner Nature Center. On the trail, I was reminded that even though we are observing social distancing, there is nothing that can stop a birder from sharing the amazing joys of spring migration!

Through masks and an a safe distance, birders shared their sightings as I approached ponds, swapped spots with me to share the best views of warblers and shared well wishes that I sincerely needed. It was an amazing morning in so many ways. I observed about 50 species including a Wilson's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Canada and Magnolia Warblers, a Black-and-white Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Veery and Baltimore Orioles.

When it seems like so much is unknown right now and our human events are constantly changing, the perfect rhythms of nature bring a much needed balance to my life and hopefully to many of yours as well.

So thank you birders at Fenner, for

reminding me that there is still the opportunity for community, even in our shared isolation. Thank you all so very much for supporting the CAAS with your membership dollars, volunteer hours, warm welcomes and stewardship of our natural places. Thank you for sharing your love of birds and curiosity about the world around us!

I would also like to personally thank our two out going board members, Parks Marion and Alexia Witcombe. They have helped to shape the CAAS for the last three years. These two amazing people have encouraged my love of birding and are a wealth of bird knowledge! They will be very missed on the Board, and I wish them all the best in the future.

Hopefully you all have a safe and healthy summer and we are able to meet in person again this fall. Until then, enjoy your families, our beautiful state, and the amazing wonder of birds. Have a happy summer!

Sincerely, Kristy Taylor

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE BIO

We would like to introduce you to the applicants for our open CAAS Board positions. Members will vote for the approval of these applicants in June. If you have any questions, please notify the board.

Mike Caterino - (seeking a 2nd term)

After working as a computer programmer for 30+ years and raising our 3 children, I found myself retired with an empty nest. Although I couldn't completely give up programming (or my children for that matter), I found myself with more

time. Well before the career and the family, I had spent a lot of time outdoors enjoying nature - lots of time spent camping and hiking and as a boy scout, learning about nature. So what better way to enjoy my retirement than reacquainting myself with the outdoors. And bird walks seemed like one of the more engaging ways to satisfy that interest. Joining the CAAS was a perfect way to get involved in birding and reacquainted with nature with like-minded people to share those interests with.

LOCAL EVENTS

Many community events for the spring and early summer have been cancelled. Please check with event organizers 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.

Many events are making the switch to online and Zoom meetings. Please check our Facebook page for many different online opportunities as they are announced this summer.

facebook.com/capitalareaudubon

Native Plant Sale

May 31st, 1-5pm

DeVries Nature Conservancy

2635 N. M-52, Owosso, MI

Prices are \$6 for native plant and grass quarts, or \$98 for a pre-selected garden kit! Plants are from Designs By Nature East, LLC located in Durand, MI. Pre-order at - www.devriesnature.org

Botany 101

August 11th, 6:30-8:30pm

Michigan Wildflower Farm

11770 Cutler Road, Portland, MI

Carolyn Miller, Botanist and currently MSU's Plant Recorder for the W. J. Beal Botanical Gardens and Campus Arboretum will teach botany basics during a farm walk.

Please call 517-647-6010 or email michiganwildflowerfarm@gmail.com to register.

CAAS MEMBERSHIP

Support community programs with your CAAS Membership. Meetings will begin again in September. Have a great summer!

SEPTEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2021

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 - capitalareaudubon.org

SERVING WITH THE CAAS

Many of our members are highly involved in the community with many different amazing organizations. We are thankful to have such a great group of people that rally around our mutual love of birds! If you are looking for more ways to get involved in the community, (even if you are new to birding) the CAAS needs you!

We are currently looking for two new board applicants as soon as possible. These positions help to shape our programs, donations, field trips and communications.

If you are not ready to join the board quite yet, we are also looking for a few non-board roles; historian, Call Note co-editor and backpack program coordinator.



A not ebook from the backpack program, packed with nature treasures.

The Call Note co-editor will help develop content, distribute the email newsletter and help publish the Call Note September through June. For more information, email Kristy at caascallnote@gmail.com.

Our backpack program is in need of a coordinator to make sure backpacks are maintained, that new teachers or schools are offered a pack and collect end-of-year reports from participants.

The CAAS Historian position is also open, and more information is available below. Please contact the Board at caaudubon@gmail.com or caascallnote@gmail.com for more information!



CAAS Volunteers help Zoo Visitors make reusable bags from t-shirts.

CAAS HISTORIAN NEEDED

The principal job for the historian of a small organization is to collect and store the relevant documents.

I suspect many organizations do not have a historian or even a process for saving and maintaining their materials. Someday their members may regret this oversight, if they don't already. Just as it is useful and interesting to know our own family history as well as the history of our town, state, and country, so also for an organization to which we belong.

Who started Capital Area Audubon, who were the people who kept it going for 85 years, what activities were they engaged in, what birds were they seeing and where?

We have all heard about the startling loss of birds in the last 50 years and read the grim statistics. But not all species have fared poorly. Back in the 1970's the Club calendar included an annual May field trip to Hartwick Pines, in Crawford County, usually led by Joan Brigham who was president for two terms and was employed as chief naturalist at Fenner. The big draw for the trip was a chance to see Bald Eagles and Pileated Woodpeckers. Today, close to 50 years later, Pileated Woodpeckers

come to my suet feeder and a Bald Eagle flies over the house. These two species have proven to be adaptable to changing conditions and have acclimated to human proximity. Another is the Sandhill Crane, once scarce in Ingham County. I have a scope pointed out a back window of our house in Meridian Township at a nest in the wetland where a mated pair of cranes take turns incubating one egg.

In the March, 1974 Newsletter there was an appeal for car-pooling to meetings because of the "energy crisis." These days, in the spring of 2020, we have plenty of energy but there is another crisis that impacts our activities. It's now our own species that faces an adaptability test.

But back to the position of historian. I have been the proprietor of CAAS records for six years and I and the Board are looking for someone new to take a turn. Document collection and storage are much easier now in the digital age. If anyone has an interest in learning more about what is entailed contact me or our president, Kristy (caascallnote@gmail.com).

Jim Hewitt - tz4ggm@aol.com

ONLINE EVENTS

Due to the abundance of caution around large gatherings, many events nationwide have moved to online events and meetings. Now is a great time to hear from experts from all over the world without leaving your home!

Cabin Fever Conversations
hosted by MSU Extension
Fridays 10-10:30am
register at bit.ly/cabinfeverconversations
or watch live on
[facebook.com/gardeninginmichigan](https://www.facebook.com/gardeninginmichigan)

Audubon Great Lakes Webinars
Join Audubon Great Lakes, regional experts, conservation partners and their network for free weekly webinars. Previously held webinars can viewed on the website anytime.
gl.audubon.org/thenest/webinars

I Saw a Bird: Audubon's Spring Migration Show -Wednesdays at 7pm
Each week, Audubon's social media producer Christine Lin and chief network officer David Ringer will welcome celebrities and guests to offer a fresh look at the world of birds and bird watching. Past shows are posted online to view at your convenience.
www.audubon.org/news/i-saw-bird-audubons-spring-migration-show

American Birding Podcast
Join host Nate Swick every Thursday for news and happenings, recent rarities, guests from around the birding world and features to interest every birder.
aba.org/podcast

Birds of North America
Enjoy this fun, fast paced birding adventure hosted by bird lover and Bronx native, Jason Ward.
topic.com/birds-of-north-america

Kalamazoo Nature Center Digital Creature Features
Saturdays at 3pm
www.facebook.com/KalamazooNatureCenter/live_videos/

If you have a resource to add, please share it on our Facebook page!
www.facebook.com/caaudubon

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

GROW A BIRD FEEDER

- Saving Birds Through Habitat
www.savingbirds.org

Most people are aware that native bird, butterfly and bee populations are declining. Nationally known educator, author and speaker, Dr. Douglas Tallamy, is the leading expert on the link between native plantings and healthy bird, butterfly and other wildlife populations. His work has shown that to reverse the declines, birds must have an abundance of insects. Many terrestrial birds live exclusively on insects, and virtually all require insects for their young. Insects are only abundant where native plants are plentiful. This brochure was created to offer a few suggestions for those wanting to add native plants to their personal landscapes.

Our suggestions include both botanical and common names and includes an example for each genus, however none of them occur across the entire country. It is important to select only plants that are indigenous to your area. (If you live in the Great Lakes area and want to plant an oak tree, choose a white or red oak rather than a coastal live oak.) You can find the range of any plant by searching it on the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center or USDA web sites.

To create the most productive garden for birds and butterflies select only true native plants rather than horticultural or exotic species. Avoid all known invasive species as they degrade ecosystems. Using botanical names will help you avoid alien or invasive species. Keep in mind that cultivars may not be as effective as their native cousins.

DECIDUOUS TREES

1. Oaks (White Oak - *Quercus alba*)
2. Cherry, Plum (Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*)
3. Birches (River Birch - *Betula nigra*)
4. Poplars, Cottonwoods (Eastern Cottonwood - *Populus deltoides*)
5. Maples (Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*)

CONIFERS

1. Pines (White Pine - *Pinus strobus*)
2. Junipers (Common Juniper - *Juniperus communis*)
3. Eastern White Cedar (*Arborvitae* - *Thuja occidentalis*)

LARGE SHRUBS or UNDERSTORY TREES (over 4 feet)

1. Willows (Pussy Willow - *Salix discolor*)
2. Viburnums (Mapleleaf Viburnum - *Viburnum acerifolium*)

3. Hazelnuts American Hazelnut - *Corylus americana*)
4. Dogwoods (Alternate-leaved Dogwood - *Cornus alternifolia*)
5. Serviceberry (Common Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea*)

SMALL SHRUBS (1 to 4 feet)

1. New Jersey - Tea *Ceanothus americanus*
2. St. Johns-wort - (Shrubby St. Johnswort - *Hypericum prolificum*)
3. Sweetfern - *Comptonia peregrina*
4. Bush-honeysuckle (Northern Honeysuckle - *Diervilla lonicera*)
5. Leadplant - *Amorpha canescens*

TALL PERENNIAL FORBS (3 to 6 feet)

1. Goldenrods Showy Goldenrod - *Solidago speciosa*)
2. Asters Aster (New England Aster - *Symphotrichum ster novaeangliae*)
3. Rosin-weeds (Compass Plant - *Silphium laciniatum*)
4. Coneflowers (Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*)
5. Joe-Pye Weed *Eutrochium purpureum*

For more, visit -
<http://www.savingbirds.org/PDFs/growabirdfeeder.pdf>

CALL NOTE

Published monthly
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

President	Kristy Taylor
Vice President	Parks Marion
Secretary	Alexia Witcombe
Treasurer	Michael Caterino
Membership	Richard Yarsevich
Editor & Facebook	Kristy Taylor
Publicity & Hospitality	Sandra Conn
Field Trip Coordinator	Mike Moquin
Program Coordinator	Julia Spalding
Historian	Open
Website	Roger Wolf

2019-20 CAAS Board of Directors

John Baumgartner
Michael Caterino
Sandra Conn
Parks Marion
Mike Moquin
Julia Spalding
Kristy Taylor
Alexia Witcombe
Richard Yarsevich

caaudubon@gmail.com
capitalareaaudubon.org
[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

ONLINE COURSES

The Bird Academy

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers many self-paced courses to learn more about birds, bird identification, biology, nature appreciation and even journaling and field sketching.

The eBird Essentials course is offered for free, while others range from \$30 to \$240 dollars. To learn more about the courses offered, visit academy.allaboutbirds.org

The Scientific Wonder of Birds and The National Geographic Guide to Birding North America

Capital Area District Library members can log into Kanopy.com with their library card and gain access to many video courses including the above. Search Birds and birding, and see what titles are available for you!

YouTube

The Cornell Lab, American Birdwatching Digest and more all offer free videos on YouTube! Search for Birding Essentials, Warbler Identification or Waterfowl Identification and see the many amazing offerings available for free.

FREE SOFTWARE

Thayer Birding has offered his birding software for free to any and all birders.

Use this software to learn about the amazing birds in your yard and in your country. Watch videos of bird behavior, hear their songs and take hundreds of fun quizzes on the birds of North America. Use the ID Wizard to help identify a bird!

Use the promo code **PeteThayerFree** to change the price from \$49.95 to \$0.00 for the download. Visit - thayerbirding.com

Thank You!

Thanks to our board members for their service this year. A big thanks to **Julia Spalding** for coordinating our program speakers and to **Sandra Conn, Julia Spalding and Mike Moquin** for serving as hospitality coordinators at our meetings. These amazing folks helped set up the meeting space, arranged the snack schedule and brought coffee and extra goodies to many of our meetings!

NESTWATCHING ALL SUMMER LONG

After all the excitement of spring migration starts to settle, take time to visit a few of our breeding birds as they nest this summer and contribute to citizen science!

Project NestWatch (nestwatch.org) has all the resources you need to get started. It includes some identification tips, a tool to help you find the best nest boxes for your area and a certification process, so you can learn the best practices for monitoring nests with as little disturbance as possible.

Participants can print a form or download the app to walk you through the data needed for each nest visit. You can contribute images to your data set

Our family has an American Robin that has made a nest on a back gutter

(over our trash can.. not the most photogenic area) and we have been able to watch her raise her young for the past three years! My husband even bought me a selfie-stick for Christmas so I could take pictures of the nest with very little disturbance to the birds.



EXCITING SIGHTINGS

In May many exciting sightings were reported in the area!

- On May 24th, a Cinnamon Teal pair was spotted by Kristy Taylor and Joe Vostrizansky at Corey Marsh. This could be the 8th record of a Cinnamon Teal in Michigan. A Black-crowned Night-heron, Least Bittern, LeConte's Sparrow and Trumpeter Swan have also been reported at the site.



- On May 17th, a Caspian Tern was reported at Motz County Park and a Common Tern was reported at the Clinton Lakes County Park.

- A Northern Mockingbird was reported in Eaton County on May 17th.

- MSU Green Acres Turf Farm hosted 11 Black-bellied Plovers May 17th and just south, at the MSU farms, a Northern Mockingbird was seen on the 30th.

- A Ruddy Turnstone was reported at Clinton Lakes Cty. Park on May 16th.

- Ingham County had many warbler sightings reported at Fenner Nature Center on Saturday, May 16th. Species included Wilson's Warblers, Canada Warblers, a Hooded Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and a Cerulean Warbler.

These sightings were reported 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)