



KRISTY TAYLOR 2020

## Join Us

### THIS FALL, CAAS WILL OFFER MONTHLY PROGRAMS VIRTUALLY!

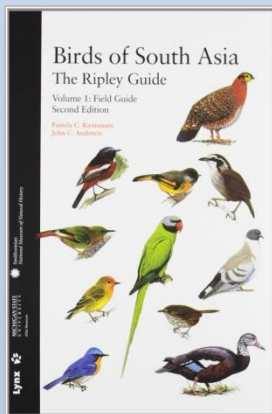
#### September 3 – Birds of Asia

**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**.

This meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. Please visit - <https://msu.zoom.us/j/93046251213> or open your Zoom app and enter Meeting ID - 930 4625 1213 Password - CAAS

Detailed instructions are available on page 2 of our newsletter or can be found on zoom.us

Social time will take place from 7-7:30 followed by brief announcements and our speaker at 7:30pm. If you would like to try Zoom before the meeting, please email Kristy at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com) to arrange a brief trial.



*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 summer seemed like a blink of an eye and also like the slowest summer our family can remember. With changing safety guidelines and limited travel options, we spent a lot of time outdoors here in our home state! We spent time camping, boating and I even tried mountain bike trails for the first time. (I discovered that it is much harder to bird while riding downhill avoiding trees and rocks.)

Our backyard was host to a nesting American Robin with a first brood of only one successfully fledging chick. Her second brood was more robust with three chubby fledglings leaving the nest in July.

In early August, we found a Green Heron nest in our back yard pond with four fuzzy heads sticking out! They have the strangest 'quarking' noise and would alert us anytime they seemed to be upset about something (or possibly just hungry again).

While camping in Northern Michigan, our campsite was host to nesting Common Grackles, and a very aggressive male Red-winged Blackbird. After a day or two of camping, two baby blackbirds were discovered in the weeds near the water's edge and we did our best to keep our distance.

## CAAS NEEDS YOU!

### CAAS is seeking two Board Members ASAP.

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

The experience camping really made me wonder if the slowdown of human activity gave nature a bit of a chance to recover and re-claim some of the more human dominated landscapes.

Killdeer were nesting on the elementary school soccer field, Eastern Meadowlarks occupied a grassy field normally kept short, and the late start to the camping season allowed birds and other wildlife to stake their claims to spaces normally occupied by people early in the spring.

Gardening, planting vegetables, and bird watching greatly expanded during the quarantine, and if you are new to birding, welcome! We are happy to have you join us this year!

This fall, in addition to keeping ourselves and our families safe, hopefully we can make our homes and our yards a little safer for birds. During migration, turn off outdoor lights, treat your windows to prevent bird collisions, and keep cats indoors.

Our meetings this fall will be held virtually on the Zoom platform. Hopefully many of you have had the chance to use Zoom before, but if you have not, please take a look at the guide on page 2.

Hope to see you all (virtually) soon!  
- Kristy Taylor

members on local birding issues and provide walks and field trips throughout the program year. We would love to have your input on programs and board decisions.

If you have any questions, please notify the board at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com)

# CAAS EVENTS

## Fall Bird Walks at Fenner Saturdays in September

Please join fellow CAAS members for our fall migration bird walks at Fenner Nature Center. Birders will meet at the parking lot at 9:00 am and disperse in groups of 10 for a walk around the property. Please wear a mask, and observe social distancing practices.

Walks will be lead by Bob Kingsbury.

Do not attend the walks if you feel sick, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in personal contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

*Additional walks may be offered this fall. Please watch for Facebook announcements and our emails.*

# CAAS MEMBERSHIP

Support community programs with your CAAS Membership. Your membership supports programs in our community and monthly meetings September through June.

**Your membership is more important than ever!** Clubs and non-profits across the state are facing hard decisions this year because funding from many sources has been drastically reduced.

Please consider renewing your membership as soon as possible so the CAAS can get a clear picture of our membership and to allow us to continue to support local programs in line with our mission.

## 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 - [capitalareaaudubon.org](https://www.capitalareaaudubon.org)

If you would like to mail your membership form and payment, please mail to - PO Box 22065, Lansing, MI 48909

# ZOOM BEGINNER'S GUIDE

We are very thankful to be living in a time where we will still be able to connect to each other virtually!

If you are new to Zoom, here are some great tips for beginners. These instructions are courtesy of the East Lansing Prime Time Newsletter (Sept-Nov 2020). We thank Prime Time for this compact Zoom Users Guide.

### How do I get Started?

- You will need a computer, tablet or smartphone with a speaker or headphones and a healthy internet connection.

- Download the Zoom app on your computer by going to <https://zoom.us/download>. Click on "Zoom Client for Meetings." If you use your smart phone or a tablet, get the iOS and Android app versions in the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

- You do not need an account to use Zoom. Only the person who hosts the meeting needs this.

### How do I get into a Zoom meeting/class?

- You will receive an email notice from your Zoom meeting from your instructor. Click the link under "Join via computer" or click on a phone number if you prefer to call in (although it's not as much fun!).

- You will have an opportunity to test your audio at this point by clicking on

"Test Computer Audio." Once you are satisfied that your audio works, click on "Join Audio by Computer." Make sure the sound on your device is turned up.

- Make sure you are facing a good light source, or it will be hard to see you.

- You may have to wait for the instructor to admit you into the meeting.

- Your instructor will guide you through the various controls, such as how to mute, how to use the two views (speaker and gallery), etc.

### Do not stress out!

- If you don't quite get this, keep trying. If you have a technical issue, you can 'end' your participation and then rejoin the meeting, following the steps above. You can always phone in if the camera on your device is not working. Don't be afraid to ask for help. It won't take long before you're chatting up all your family members and having virtual happy hours with your buddies.

- Here's a link from AARP to help reinforce some of the concepts. <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/personal-technology/info-2020/how-to-use-zoom.html>.

- If your internet speed is slow, you can turn your own video off, and still watch the presenter.

# BIRDING BOOMING DURING COVID

Visits to Cornell's live bird cams have doubled, unique visits to the National Audubon Society website is up by half a million and downloads of Merlin Bird ID shot up 102% over last spring. Birding is booming during COVID-19.

With all the growth and attention on birding this summer, now is a good time for a few reminders for safely birding this fall. The ABA has a great list of recommendations at [aba.org](https://www.aba.org)-

**1. Go birding!** Every single one of us can tell a story of a good bird, or even a great bird, found right around home.

**2. Check in on other birders.** Do you have a birding friend who has trouble getting out of the house or assisted-living facility? Leave groceries or a care package at the front door (and state in advance that you are doing so). And although visits

to assisted-living and other facilities are increasingly restricted, think about picking up the phone for some good-old-fashioned unhurried conversation.

**3. Carefully heed the advice of state and local authorities.**

**4. At the same time, also consider that both birding organizations and local communities are going to be seriously strained by the ongoing emergency.**

**5. We'll get through this!** Our lives as birders are already being disrupted, and it seems likely that additional disruptions, potentially severe ones, are imminent. If anyone is more disappointed than you, it's the event organizers and others who promote so much good for birding and society. Be patient, be flexible, be reasonable. Sooner or later, we'll be birding together again.



## LOCAL EVENTS

### After the Invasion: Restoring Landscapes with Native Species

September 1st, 6:30-8:30pm  
(Rain Date Sept. 3.)

#### Michigan Wildflower Farm

11770 Cutler Road, Portland, MI

During this FREE workshop and tour of the Michigan Wildflower Farm, you will be introduced to the benefits of native plants and species that can be used in your restoration project, as well as a review of how to do a wildflower seeding. The Mid-Michigan CISMA would like to thank Michigan Wildflower Farm for providing a tour and sharing their expertise!

This is an outdoor event. Please come with proper attire to walk around the farm to see the native plant beds. Bring a mask, your own chair and plan to physically distance.

This event is funded in part with funds from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program

([www.michigan.gov/invasives](http://www.michigan.gov/invasives)).

Please call 517-647-6010 or email [michiganwildflowerfarm@gmail.com](mailto:michiganwildflowerfarm@gmail.com) to register.

## ONLINE EVENTS

### Corey Marsh Migratory Bird Virtual Field Day - Wednesday, September 23

1:00-3:00 pm

Learn about the ongoing research projects at the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center including an overview of the property, cavity nesting bird studies, the work of the Michigan State Bird Observatory, and more! This event is free to the public. To find out more, visit - [www.canr.msu.edu/virtualfielddays](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtualfielddays)

### Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Birds of Prey Saturday, Sept. 19th, 10:00 -11:00 am

\$5 for members, \$7 non members

Learn about the ambassador animals, predator/prey relationships and adaptations that make them unique in their ecosystems. Register by Sept. 18th. [events.anr.msu.edu/BirdsofPrey](http://events.anr.msu.edu/BirdsofPrey)

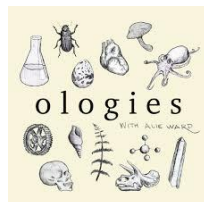
**Due to the abundance of caution around large gatherings, many events nationwide have moved to online events and meetings. Now is a great time to hear from experts from all over the world without leaving your home!**

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)

## PODCASTS FOR FALL

Last year my commute to work became a daily escape as I dove into fun and interesting nature based podcasts! I use an Apple device, but all of the podcasts listed below can be found online and downloaded to your device. Ask a friend for recommendations and you will be sure to get an interesting mix of fun, fiction and facts! The following podcasts are a few of my favorites. Please share yours on our Facebook page, or in the chat in our next Zoom meeting!

### Science Focused Podcasts -



#### Ologies -

Alie Ward shares the work of passionate professionals in many different and fascinating fields of work. Learn about pelicans, jellyfish, macro photography, the science of wolves, and so much more. Alie may curse a bit here and there, but family friendly edits are available. My favorite thing about this podcast is the passionate people Alie interviews and her love for 'asking smart people stupid questions.'



#### Flash Forward -

This fun and sometimes challenging podcast looks at a wide variety of possible futures. Host Rose Eveleth (a science and technology writer) shares a small vignette of a possible future, then interviews pros in the field to determine the likelihood of such a future! I loved the Dollars for Data, Game of Bones and recent Polar Bear episodes.



#### Overheard at National Geographic -

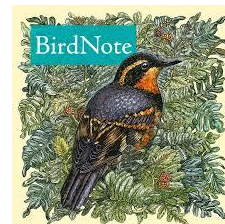
A behind the scenes, in depth look into some of the current stories at National Geographic Magazine. Features include photographer profiles, adventure stories and much more. These are typically 20 minutes long and very fast paced and enjoyable.

### Birding Podcasts-



#### 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.



#### BirdNote -

BirdNote offers two podcasts, one is two minute daily stories about birds, the environment and more. The long-form, BirdNote Presents is a more in-depth look at birds, nature and each other.

## 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.

### 2020-2021 CAAS Officers

President	Kristy Taylor
Vice President	Julia Spalding
Secretary	Mike Moquin
Treasurer	Michael Caterino
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Editor & Facebook Publicity & Hospitality	Kristy Taylor Sandra Conn
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### 2020-21 CAAS Board of Directors

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Michael Caterino  
Sandra Conn  
Mike Moquin  
Julia Spalding  
Kristy Taylor  
Richard Yarsevich

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

# ONLINE COURSES

## Michigan Conservation Stewards Program - Wild about backyard Conservation Webinar Series June through October (Sessions are recorded and available to all registrants.)

This online seminar series is for adults and older youth interested in conservation efforts that can be done in their yards and on their property. Get the basics of backyard wildlife management and learn how to either attract or discourage certain species and much more.

To register, visit -

[events.anr.msu.edu/Wild\\_Backyard/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/Wild_Backyard/)

## 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](https://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

Pete Thayer has offered his birding software for free to 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](https://thayerbirding.com)

# GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

- National Audubon Society  
July 22, 2020

"There couldn't be a more important time than now to improve parks, protect birds and wildlife, and create jobs in every state across the country," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy, National Audubon Society. "By providing full and permanent funding for the 50-year-old Land and Water Conservation Fund, we will fully realize the law's intent to conserve natural landscapes, enhance recreation, and protect wildlife while creating jobs and driving investment in local communities."

In a bipartisan vote today, the House of Representative passed [the Great American Outdoors Act](#), providing permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the authorized amount of \$900 million annually at no additional cost to taxpayers. The program will help national parks, local parks, public lands, and athletic fields in every county across the country. The bill was passed by the Senate in June in a 73-25 vote and will move to President Trump next, who has indicated his support.

"This is the kind of bipartisanship the country needs," said David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society.

The bill also creates a new fund (\$1.9 billion annually for five years) to

address deferred maintenance projects at the National Park Service, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. These public lands and spaces provide critical bird habitat, protect endangered species, support the capture of carbon emissions, and connect people with birds across the country, but have struggled to keep up with repairs for buildings and infrastructure even as visitation has increased.

"Our parks and public lands are sanctuaries for people and birds alike and now we can do more to provide the protection and care they deserve," added Yarnold.

For more information, visit - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/legal/great-american-outdoors-act.htm>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3422>



# EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This summer many exciting sightings were reported in the area!

- A Wood Stork was spotted at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Reserve in late July into early August.
- On August 22, a Stilt Sandpiper and Baird's Sandpiper were reported at the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center.
- A Common Gallinule and chicks were reported again this year along the Inter-Urban Pathway in Haslett.
- A Eurasian Collared-Dove is still at the MSU Farms on College Road! It has been reported there for almost a year.

*These sightings were reported on [eBird.com](https://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://facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)*