

KRISTY TAYLOR, 2020

the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
OCTOBER 2020

Join Us

THIS FALL, CAAS WILL OFFER MONTHLY PROGRAMS VIRTUALLY!

October 1 – Detroit Hives

This month, hear from Timothy Paule with Detroit Hives! Detroit Hives turns vacant lots in Detroit into homes for honeybees and native bee species!



This meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. Please visit - <https://msu.zoom.us/j/92780225507> or open your Zoom app and enter Meeting ID - 927 8022 5507 Password - CAAS2020

Social time will take place from 7-7:15 followed by brief announcements and our speaker at 7:20pm. If you would like to try Zoom before the meeting, please email Kristy at caascallnote@gmail.com to arrange a brief trial.

Join us for our November zoom meeting on Thursday, November 5th! Meeting details will be posted online as soon as we have the details. Due to the unique circumstances of this year, our full schedule will be flexible and will be scheduled on a month by month basis.

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

September is always one of the busiest months of the year for our family. It starts off with our wedding anniversary on the 3rd (15 years this year!) and my birthday on the 4th. Usually Labor Day weekend is near this time so we are able to get away for a little trip or visit someplace new.

This year, we hung out close to home and took our kiddos disc golfing at Burchfield Park in Holt. The time together was great, but hopefully travel will look a little different next year and we will book a getaway somewhere!

As September picks up speed, our kids get into the swing of school, and parent/teacher conferences are scheduled. Virtual schooling has been going really well so far and I am in absolute awe of the amazing effort of the teachers in our district and the adaptability of the students. These children have faced a lot of uncertainty in the last few months, and are showing how resilient, kind, generous and understanding they are.

At the MSBO banding station where I serve as outreach and education coordinator, our procedures have

changed to make sure we are keeping each other safe, and it has limited our outreach for the year. As excited as I get seeing the amazing migrants to the Lansing area, my absolute favorite thing is sharing the experience with others. We have been very fortunate to continue our research this year and have had a few remarkable birds, including two Golden-winged Warblers!

Since I am missing all the outreach at the banding station, I was so happy to see many of your names and faces join us at our September meeting! We also had a great turnout at the first bird walk of the year at Fenner on September 5th. All of the attendees wore masks and kept social distancing guidelines in mind. It was an absolutely perfect morning with about 30 species sighted, including a few warblers, a Baltimore Oriole and three Red-breasted Nuthatch!

As fall continues and our winter birds come back to visit, I hope you are able to keep connecting with us and enjoy the slower pace of the cooler weather.

Keep safe and stay connected!
- Kristy Taylor



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 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

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

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

DETROIT HIVES

This month, hear from volunteers with Detroit Hives! Detroit Hives is a 501c(3) non-profit organization working to create sustainable communities and bee populations by transforming vacant lots into pollinator friendly spaces.

The idea for Detroit Hives was sparked in the winter of 2016 when Timothy Paule discovered that local raw honey was able to cure a cold that no other remedy had. After learning about the medicinal properties of honey and seeing how it was able to provide his immune system the boost it needed, he and partner Nicole Lindsey became fascinated with bees. The couple learned as much as they could, enrolling in local beekeeping classes over the next few months.



Both being proud Detroit natives, they recognized the abandoned lots in the city could serve a greater purpose and combined their new knowledge with a need in the community. They bought their first lot in 2017, started their first urban bee farm, and Detroit Hives was born.

They've generated buzz with their work, expanding to other lots, multiplying their number of hives and continuing to build their colony ever since. Our founders created Detroit Hives with the purpose of bringing diversity and cognizance to bee awareness and rebuilding inner-city communities introducing Detroit as the place to "BEE".

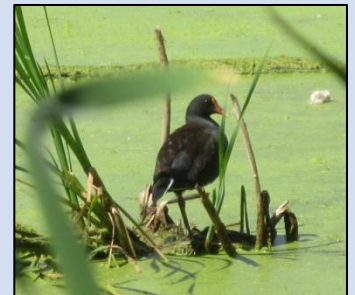
To learn more, shop or donate, visit - www.detroithives.org



EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This September many exciting sightings were reported in the area!

- A Purple Martin was spotted on September 21 in Eaton, MI by Kirby Adams.
- A Common Gallinule was reported at the Inter-Urban Pathway in Haslett. (pictured)
- A Golden-winged Warbler was banded at the Burke Lake Banding Station on Sept. 6th.



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

ONLINE EVENTS

Audubon's I Saw a Bird Show

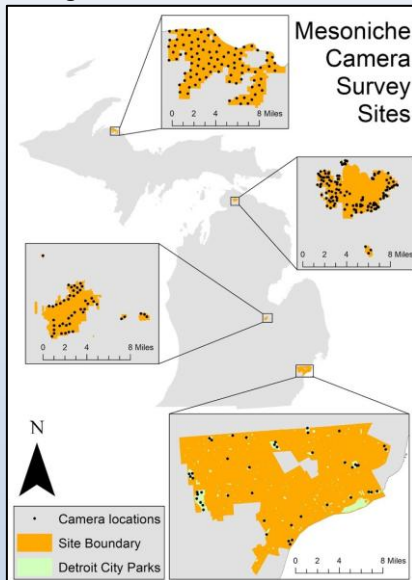
September 30, 7-8pm

Join Audubon's visual storytelling senior producer Christine Lin and chief network officer David Ringer as they welcome celebrities and guests to offer a fresh look at the world of birds and birdwatching. Previous guests include Dr. Jane Goodall, SNL's Melissa Villaseñor, Kenn Kaufman and climate scientist Dr. Katherine Hayhoe. To find out more, visit - www.audubon.org/isawabird

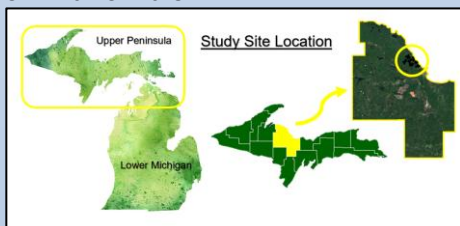
Zooniverse -

Join in a great community science program right from home! Zooniverse has a few new projects that feature Michigan Creatures!

The Michigan ZoomIN project asks participants to help identify animals pictured in trail cam footage. For more details and to help out, visit - zooniverse.org/projects/michiganzoomin/michigan-zoomin



Yoopers Wildlife Watch asks for help identifying the amazing wildlife caught on camera in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This project can be found at - zooniverse.org/projects/bergq105/yoopers-wildlife-watch



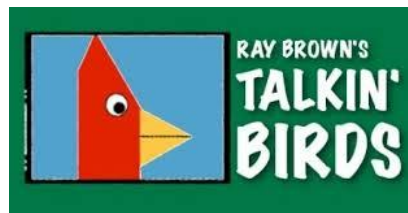
Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caasCallNote@gmail.com
or share it on our Facebook page -
facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon

PODCASTS FOR ALL!

In our last newsletter, I referenced a few of my favorite podcasts for my commute. One of our members also shared a few more recommendations with me from the AARP. These great birding programs are now a part of my listening library! If you would like to share a few favorite nature related podcasts, books, articles or other great media, please email us at caascallnote@gmail.com

In addition to the ABA Podcast and Bird Note which were recommended last month, here are a few more great bird focused podcasts recommended by the AARP, September 3, 2020 -

Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds



When [Ray Brown](#) and his guests talk birds it's like listening to the *Car Talk* guys talk engines — they know their stuff intimately, but offer their knowledge in a relatable, entertaining way for those of us who may not be able to differentiate a sparrow from a starling. The weekly, interactive half-hour public radio show, which has more than 750 episodes in the bank, always features a Mystery Bird Contest, based on clues and calls of a particular species (listeners can call in and win prizes for correct answers).

There's also a "Let's Ask Mike" segment that features often hilarious observations and backyard birding tips from Mike O'Connor, the owner of the Bird Watcher's General Store on Cape Cod (he's revealed the birding items sold in his store that he doesn't really like, for instance). A recent episode offered a fun birder's tour of South Florida and discussion of how birds keep cool in the heat.

'Out There With the Birds'



Bird Watcher's Digest's popular [birding podcast](#) is hosted by the magazine's editor, Dawn Hewitt, along with publisher Wendy Clark, and their enthusiasm about the subject is infectious: "Birds are a drug and I'm addicted," says Hewitt, who always sound thrilled to be learning from experts or reminiscing with guests about the "spark birds" that brought on their birding habit (Hewitt reports that the common grackle kicked off her own). The early episodes of the podcast, which launched in 2016, are also worth diving into — they're full of previous hosts Bill Thompson III and Ben Lizdas' discussions on random but entertaining subjects like seabird guano, the ethics of owling and their favorite beers.





Do Citizen Science



Make Windows Safer



Keep Cats Indoors



Reduce Plastic Use



Use Native Plants



Drink Shade-Grown Coffee



Avoid Pesticides

7 SIMPLE ACTIONS TO HELP BIRDS

☐ Make Windows Safe
 ☐ Keep Cats Indoors
 ☐ Less Lawn, Plant Natives
 ☐ Avoid Pesticides
 ☐ Drink Shade-Grown Coffee
 ☐ Use Less Plastic
 ☐ Watch Birds, Share What You See

Find out more: bit.ly/7-simple-actions

TheCornellLab of Ornithology

Wood Thrush by John Petrucci/Macaulay Library 56732651; Graphic by Sarah Seroussi.

ONLINE COURSES

Restorative Ecology :
Restoring Urban Green Spaces
Hosted by Detroit Audubon - \$30
To register visit:
eventbrite.com/e/regenerative-ecology-restoring-urban-green-spaces-tickets-115895473481

Explore the moral and ethical dimensions of environmental sustainability, particularly examining how normative (e.g. "traditional") theories and practices/actions historically have ignored the viewpoints of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) communities.

Rev. Dr. Ventra Asana is a retired pastor in both the United Methodist Church (UMC) and the African American Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Dr. Asana is an Eco-minister and Urban Environmentalist who has created and directed numerous community outreach and ecoministry programs at various parishes in Michigan and Illinois. To learn more about Dr. Asana, please visit her website here: <https://spiritualkinetics.com>

CALL NOTE

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

2020-2021 CAAS Officers

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caaudubon@gmail.com

NEW MEXICO MIGRATORY BIRD DEATHS

In mid September, a mass mortality event began unfolding in New Mexico. Hundreds of dead flycatchers, swallows, sparrows, blackbirds, bluebirds, warblers and martins were collected at various sites during the height of fall migration.

Jenna McCullough, a 3rd year PhD student at the University of Mexico, reported on the data in an ABA article September 18th.

Following a strong storm that brought snow, near hurricane force winds and unseasonable record-breaking cold temperatures. McCullough and her colleagues spent the morning of September 10th picking up dead birds in the Sandina Mountains, New Mexico. They believed the deaths to be a somewhat normal mortality event expected for migratory birds until they saw reports and social media posts of widespread mortalities across the state.

In her review of the data she stated that the large die offs were likely caused by a lack of food due to the cold weather. Many of the birds may

have been forced to migrate earlier than normal. She shared the following -

"Though we have yet to perform any toxicology analyses or inspect their lungs for signs of smoke inhalation, I think it is safe to say that these birds were starved and succumbed to hypothermia. When USFWS autopsies of other birds are reported in the coming weeks or months, we suspect they will reveal a similar cause of death.

Our influx of migrants may or may not have been due to wildfires, but I have no doubt that they were affected by the extreme cold and high winds in New Mexico. Though the fires and extreme weather events are influenced by human-induced climate change, it is unlikely that the wildfires alone caused the death of thousands of birds in New Mexico."

To read her full analysis, please visit -
www.aba.org/the-data-behind-mysterious-bird-deaths-in-new-mexico/

POWDERMILL - BILATERAL GYNANDROMORPH

Rector, PA - In Powdermill Bird Banding's nearly 60 year history, we've caught less than ten of these extraordinary birds, the most recent of which was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak that we banded today.

What does "bilateral gynandromorph" mean? It means that the animal is partly male and partly female, and in this case that line runs roughly down the middle of the bird with male on the right and female on the left (from the perspective of the bird, not the photograph!).

This bird was aged as an after-hatching-year, meaning it hatched last year at the earliest. Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in their non-breeding plumage have black wings and tail, pink "wing pits," and often have pink on their breasts whereas females have much browner wings and tail and yellow wing pits. Such an exciting capture and another one for the record books!

*the previous bilateral gynandromorph banded at Powdermill was also a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

This was featured on their facebook page, September 24th, 2020.

