



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
NOVEMBER 2020

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.

Join Us

AT OUR NOVEMBER ZOOM MEETING!

November 5 – Birding Belize

This month, join Keith Dickey for a program on birding in the Central American country of Belize. With over 600 species, Belize boasts some sought-after birds such as Keel-billed Toucan, Jabiru, Agami Heron, and Black-headed Trogon, mammals such as Jaguar and Mayan ruins!



Keel-billed Toucan. Photo by Juan Carlos Vindas

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 December meeting on Thursday, December 3rd featuring Hannah Landwerlen and Evan Griffes from the Michigan State Bird Observatory.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This November is shaping up to be historic in many ways. Hopefully you have already had the chance to cast your vote, or have a plan in place to vote in person Tuesday, November 3rd. This year I voted by mail and used the opportunity to show my children what the ballot looked like, how we make sure it is completed correctly and talk about some of the issues that were on the ballot.

As a non-political organization, CAAS does not make candidate recommendations or spend significant time lobbying for legislation, but we do encourage active involvement in our communities. There are a great number of nature based organizations that spend significant time and resources on the behalf of birds and the environment, including Michigan Audubon, the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and many more. If you would like to know where candidates stand on the issues impacting the environment and birds in particular, I encourage you to seek out answers from a trusted source. To learn more about how to vote, and find out what is on your ballot, visit vote411.org.

CAAS is made up of very passionate members who care deeply about our families, communities, our environment, birds and equality. This November, we all need to make our voices heard and vote.

This fall, Michigan is also experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases in the Greater Lansing area and across the state. It is likely that the remainder of our meetings for the 2020-2021 program year will need to take place virtually. We will skip our meeting in January this year to give our program organizers additional

time to arrange presentations for the spring. We look forward to sharing again in person as soon as it is safe to do so.

We appreciate those members who have already taken the time to renew, and thank you for your ongoing support of CAAS.

I hope as fall migration wraps up, you find time to get outdoors, enjoy the amazing fall colors this year and take time to surround yourself with nature. It seems like it will be winter before we know it and we have already spotted many Dark-eyed Juncos in our backyard.

Keep an eye out for a few irruptive species that have been reported in the area as well! Red-breasted Nuthatch and Evening Grosbeak are in the area already this season! Consider joining Project Feeder Watch (Page 2) or submitting an eBird Checklist once a week for your own backyard birds.

Vote and stay healthy out there!
Kristy Taylor



Dark-eyed Junco banded at BULA 10/6.

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](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

CHRISTMAS COUNT CHANGES

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this year's Christmas bird count will require a few changes if our count is to take place at all.

To ensure the safety of participants and compliance with local and state guidelines, Audubon has recommended that we wait until November 15th at the earliest to confirm if the CBC in our area will take place.

The CAAS Board supports cancelling the CBC for this year due to the group nature of our count and rising COVID-19 cases in our area.

Area leaders are encouraged to reach out to Barb Hosler at birdingbarb@yahoo.com and let her know if you are interested in participating in a socially-distanced CBC with a Zoom compilation meeting this year.

If the CBC is possible, Area Leaders will run a safe and socially-distanced count with no carpooling, wearing masks, and electronic CBC compilation forms. The count would end with a virtual Zoom meeting to share results at the end of the day.

The final plans for the CBC will be published in the Call Note in December.

SILENT AUCTION PAINTING DONATION

CAAS Member Ed Merz has donated his original watercolor painting to CAAS for a silent auction. Proceeds will be donated to CAAS.

This Prothonotary Warbler painting is 21x17, and framed using cedar fence slats. The painting includes the original inspiration photograph and a species description on the back.

To bid on this item, please email caascallnote@gmail.com or call Kristy at 517-980-4600 with your bid amount. Bidding will begin on Nov. 1st and end on Dec. 15th.

Ed will arrange pick-up or drop-off with the winning bidder.



EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This October many exciting sightings were reported in the area!

- A Savannah Sparrow was reported at Corey Marsh on Oct. 21st.
- Evening Grosbeaks have been spotted in many local areas this fall! One was reported in Eaton County on the 25th and in Brighton on the 26th!
- The Detroit River Hawkwatch holds the record for the most hawks sighted - 500,000! Find their daily summary at detroitriverhawkwatch.org

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)

ONLINE EVENTS

Audubon's I Saw a Bird Show Tune in the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm

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.

Previous episodes are available to watch anytime online!

To find out more, visit -

www.audubon.org/isawabird

Detroit Audubon Virtual Presentations

Detroit Audubon has also transitioned to online presentations for the 2020-21 program year. New programs are hosted each month. If you would like to join one of their online presentations, or view a previous program, please visit -

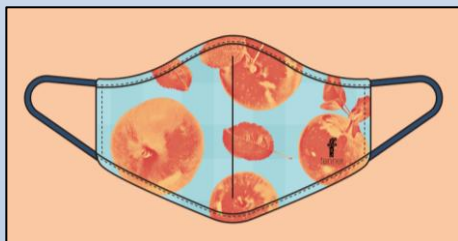
www.detroitaudubon.org/2020-virtual-presentations/

Fenner Nature Center

Apple Butter Mask Ask

Due to the cancellation of this year's Apple Butter Festival, Fenner Nature Center is facing an unprecedented revenue loss. They need help to keep Fenner's traditions alive. This year, the Apple Butter Mask Ask is an alternative way to support Fenner and hold on to a small part of the festival with its artwork.

Donors contributing \$50 will receive a limited-edition mask featuring the 2020 Apple Butter artwork, as well as an individual membership to the organization.



To find out more and to purchase your mask, visit -

mynaturecenter.org/programevents/maskask

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)

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS WEBSITE

BirdLife International and 13 of the world's leading conservation institutions came together in 2016 to form the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Partnership. Their aim is to map, monitor and conserve the most important places for life on Earth.

As part of this aim, this October, they launched a brand new website which holds data on over 16,000 KBAs. Each site has information on the location, boundaries and the species and biodiversity for which they are important.

The site features a searchable database and interactive map with at-a-glance summaries, boundary lines and species information.

Areas in Michigan include the Kirtland's Warbler Management Units, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Saginaw Bay, Waterloo Recreation Area, Barry State Game Area, Yankee Springs Recreation Area, White River in the Manistee National Forest, Allegan State Game area and the Kalamazoo River (from Galesburg to Saugatuck), Eastern Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and the Fort Custer Recreation Area.

According to their website, The KBA criteria do not just consider populations of species but also their habitats or ecosystems. Ecosystems are identified by the unique collections of species they sustain, so their conservation helps to ensure the simultaneous survival of many species.

However, ecosystems are being rapidly lost and degraded around the world due to human impacts. KBAs can be identified for ecosystems that are globally threatened as defined by

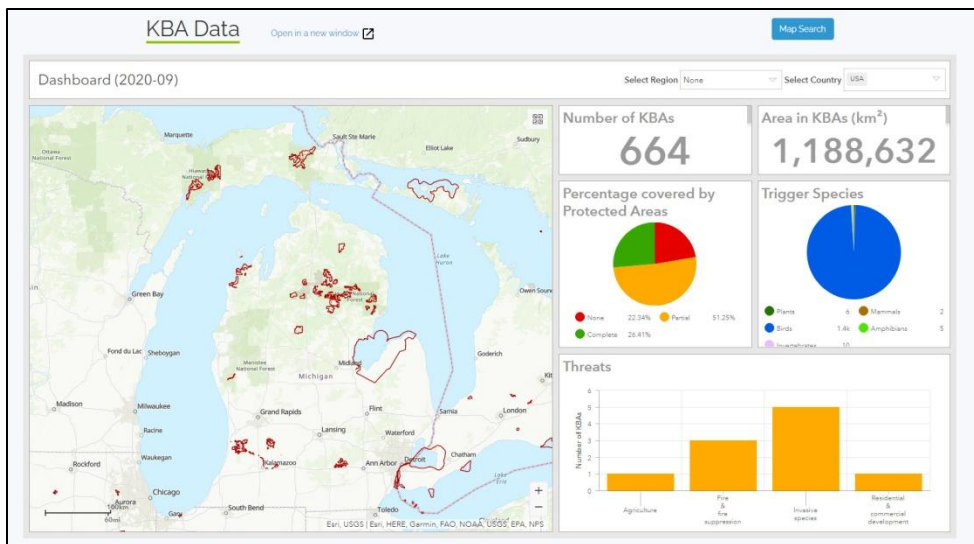
the IUCN Red List of Threatened Ecosystems or for ecosystems that are geographically restricted and therefore at risk of being lost due to unsustainable human activity.

There is also a KBA criterion for sites that are fully intact in terms of their fauna and flora, where there is globally outstanding ecological integrity. These sites are becoming increasingly rare around the world as human impacts spread, with only about 26% of the world showing low human impact. Intact sites boast largely unmodified collections of plants as well as retaining their characteristic animal species – unlike many areas of formerly intact forest that appear healthy but their animal population have been depleted by excessive hunting pressures. These intact sites provide disproportionately large climate benefits to people and are the last few areas of true wilderness left on earth.

The new website, keybiodiversityareas.org, provides free access to the World Database of KBAs and offers summaries of each property on the list. The site also explains how people can propose new KBAs and the criteria used to assess them. They can also learn about how KBAs are being used by governments, business, donors and the conservation community.

To learn more about Key Biodiversity Areas, the KBA Partnership, and how you can get involved, please visit - keybiodiversityareas.org.

For the full article by BirdLife International, please visit - birdlife.org/news/



AUDUBON.ORG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY HIGHLIGHT

To celebrate Indigenous People's Day, Audubon Great Lakes Wetland Restoration Manager, Bradford Kasberg, shared a beautiful and informative article celebrating the diversity and resilience of our country's original inhabitants, whose long-overlooked ecological knowledge can help conservation today.

Kasberg is a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and an alum of the Masters of Landscape Architecture program at the University of Michigan. He joined Audubon Great Lakes in 2018.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/working-restoration-bird-habitat-i-carry-traditions-were-meant-be-erased>

CALL NOTE

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Deadline for submissions:
20th of the month.

2020-2021 CAAS Officers

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Richard Yarsevich

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DNR LAUNCHES WINGED WEDNESDAYS

The Michigan DNR has recently launched a new text alert program called Winged Wednesday.

Subscribers can sign up for a weekly text update on which birds were recently spotted in state parks.

A new bird and park will be highlighted each week. To sign up, text "bird" to 51555 or visit Mobile Cause - app.mobilecause.com/form/LF_ztA?vid=dcy35

The Michigan DNR has also put together a new [Birding](http://michigan.gov/dnr) page at [michigan.gov/dnr!](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

Click on Things To Do, then Wildlife Viewing. The Wildlife viewing page offers information on Elk Viewing, Birding, Sandhill Crane Migration and the game "What in the Wild".

The new birding site features links to the various birding trails in Michigan including the Sunset Coast Birding Trail, Thornapple, Ausable, Sleeping Bear, Superior, North Huron, Saginaw Bay, Beaver Island and Sunrise Coast Birding Trails.

The new site highlights species such as the Sandhill Crane, provides links to additional birding locations and eBird hotspots and gives resources to help beginners get started birding!

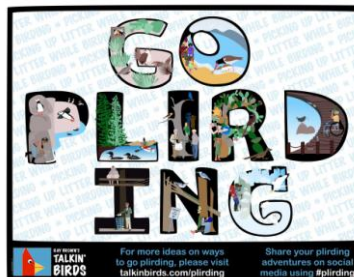
HAVE YOU BEEN "PLIRDING"?

Talkingbirds.com/plirding -

In Sweden a few years ago, a movement called "plogging" sprang up, encouraging runners to pick up trash along their run. Plogging (a combination of Swedish plocka upp — "picking up"— plus "jogging") took off in popularity, and runners around the world now are helping keep trash out of our rivers and oceans by turning every run into a treasure hunt, picking up any trash they find.

Inspired by plogging, "plirding" is picking up trash while birding! As people who enjoy birds, we have an obligation to look after them by taking care of their (and our) environment. Picking up even a couple of pieces of trash while we're out on the trail or in a park can help make a difference. And as others see our example, they might be encouraged to pick up trash too—or perhaps even not throw it on the ground in the first place.

The anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." And President John F. Kennedy said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." So let's go plirding!



A quick note in these times of COVID-19: please continue to maintain social distancing while out plirding, and do not pick up anything you do not feel comfortable picking up. The [CDC recommends](https://www.cdc.gov/recommendations) the use of face masks and hand sanitizer, and we think wearing gloves while plirding is always a good idea!

Talkingbirds.com has a great list of ways to get involved and ideas to help you prioritize what to pick up to have the greatest positive impact for birds.

When you go out birding, bring a used plastic grocery bag or netting bag. Adopt your local birding patch and clean it up each time you go out.

If you cannot collect much, prioritize picking up any of the following items -

- Fishing line
- Lead fishing tackle or bullets
- Balloons (inflated or deflated)
- Plastic including shopping bags, straws, six-pack rings, string, etc.

Don't pick up anything you don't feel comfortable picking up; for example, broken glass or syringes. Every item you pick up is one less piece of trash in our waterways and outdoor spaces, so we should all plird in whatever capacity we can!

Visit - Talkingbirds.com/plirding for more information and full details.