



KRISTY TAYLOR 2020

# the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON  
DECEMBER 2020

## Join Us

### AT OUR DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING!

#### **December 3 – Cavity Nesting and Secretive Marsh Species at Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center**

This month, join Hannah Landwerlen, MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Senior for a discussion about cavity nesting bird research and long-term data set monitoring secretive marsh birds.

Landwerlen has experience working with Western Bluebirds, Kirtland Warbler conservation, West Nile Virus in American Robins and as head bander at the Michigan State Bird Observatory.



Hannah checking nest boxes at CMERC.

This meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. Please visit - <https://zoom.us> 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](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

We decorated our house for Christmas before Thanksgiving this year. And I don't mean we put up lights while it was still warm out. I mean the whole deal. Garland, gingerbread houses, decorations, wreaths, the whole thing. The only element we had to wait for was our tree, as we found out that tree farms usually do not open before Thanksgiving!

This year with so much change, Thanksgiving via Zoom, safety recommendations and social distancing, we decided to change up our normal holiday routine and decorate early to enjoy the season as long as possible.

Traditionally, during the weekend following Thanksgiving, our family visits a local tree farm and picks out a live tree. (We aim to select one with a bird nest for good luck.) I take any vines off the tree and make a tiny wreath ornament. We usually share the day with hot cocoa, Santa and watching the movie 'Elf' while decorating our tree.

I am not one with a beautiful, matching tree featuring a color theme and coordinated holiday decor. Our tree is a spectacular mess of color, memories, handmade ornaments, our favorite things, sparkle lights and occasionally a cat, or two. (They are obsessed with drinking the tree water. It is their favorite part of Christmas.)

I love getting out all of the bird ornaments and sometimes remembering the first time we got to see that bird in real life. We have a Snowy Owl ornament with a date and place written on the back to celebrate our first sighting, and a delicate

cardinal that belonged to my late grandfather.

Along with our family events, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count has been a part of my winter traditions for the last six years. This year I will miss my breakfast with fellow birders at the Fleetwood Diner, and the conversations while walking Hawk Island Park and Fenner Nature Center, but I will still be excited to get out on my own and count the birds who stick with us all winter.

I hope you can join us and focus more on the core of the holiday season, enjoying the stories from the past and sharing love from a distance.

Wishing you a season of joy, health and hope for the coming year!

Sincerely, Kristy Taylor



# CAAS NEW BOARD MEMBER

**NEW Board Member Applicant - Please join us at our December meeting to vote on the approval of the following Board Member Applicant.**

## **Board Applicant - Patricia Deventer**

Watching and identifying birds has been part of my life since age 12 when my family took a trip to Yellowstone and Glacier national parks. My mother gave me a small pocket guide to Western birds of North America and encouraged me to identify them as we traveled. My interest increased over the years and has evolved to include yearly international birding trips with similarly minded friends and birding groups. This year, due to Covid 19 the company I was working for downsized my division and I opted to take a severance agreement. It has been an interesting transition from working 50 plus hours per week.

I began E birding this year and I also keep a world list of birds I have seen. My interest in nature includes keeping track of mammals and reptiles seen in the U.S. and in other countries. Over the last 10 years of my working career I have mentored and trained 10 interns and also have served on committees to improve and update work productivity and on the art committee at the church I attend.

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

## CAAS EVENTS

This year the Christmas Bird count will take place on Saturday, December 19th. Please email Barb Hosler at [birdingbarb@yahoo.com](mailto:birdingbarb@yahoo.com) for more information. The compilation meeting will take place virtually on the Zoom platform.

Visit - [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us)  
Meeting ID -999 2864 9127  
Passcode - CAASCBC

Due to current safety guidelines, new participants are encouraged to wait until next year to join the count.

**Our next monthly meeting will be in February, 2021.**

## EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this year's Christmas bird count will take place with full adherence to social distancing guidelines and with a Zoom compilation meeting following the count.

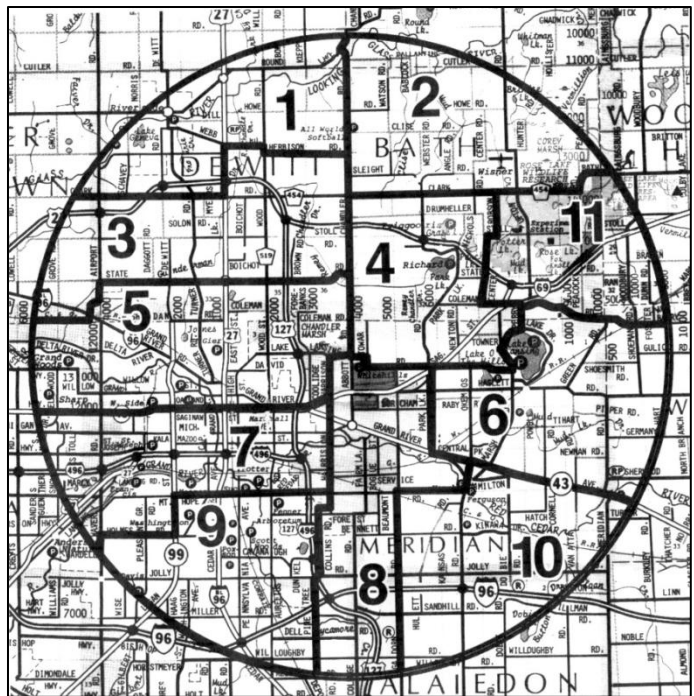
To ensure the safety of participants and compliance with local and state guidelines, participants in the count are asked to wear masks while in public, maintain social distancing and only carpool with members of your own household. This year we will encourage participants to make counts and report them to their area leaders. New count participants are encouraged to wait until next year to join us for this fun annual event.

Area leaders are encouraged to reach out to Barb Hosler at [birdingbarb@yahoo.com](mailto:birdingbarb@yahoo.com) for the electronic compilation forms and additional information. Participants should reach out to their area leaders for more information about the count in their area.

The compilation Zoom meeting will take place at 7pm.

Visit - [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us)  
Meeting ID - 999 2864 9127  
Passcode - CAASCBC

***The Eaton Rapids CBC is cancelled for this year.***



## EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This November many exciting sightings were reported in the area!

- A Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported at Lake Lansing on Saturday, November 21st.
- A Common Redpoll was spotted at Crandell Park in Eaton County on November 18th.
- Keep your eye out for Evening Grosbeaks! They have been spotted in Eaton, Ingham, Clinton and surrounding counties this fall.
- A White-winged Crossbill was reported in Clinton County by Nina Hebel on November 16th!

*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/capitalareaudubon](https://facebook.com/capitalareaudubon)*



# 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 - [capitalareaudubon.org](http://capitalareaudubon.org)

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

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### NEW YORK TIMES -

During 2020, the New York Times followed three farms, and referenced our October presenter, Detroit Hives in a beautiful photographic article about farming in 2020.

[www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/10/30/style/small-farms-harvest-2020-beekeeping.htm](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/10/30/style/small-farms-harvest-2020-beekeeping.htm)

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE -

Saving the Great Lakes - This month's cover story highlights the numerous threats facing the Great Lakes and hopeful solutions for the future.

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

## ROCKEFELLER THE OWL

*Ravensbeard Wildlife Center Facebook Page - November 17, 2020*

Yesterday morning, I received a phone call from someone who asked if we take in owls for rehabilitation. I replied, "yes we do," there was silence for a moment and she said "OK, I'll call back when my husband comes home, he's got the baby owl in a box tucked in for the long ride."

I asked where her husband was when he found the owl. She said he works for the company that transports and secures the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center.

She lived about an hour south so we met in the middle to do the transfer. Once secured, I peaked in the box and saw this little face looking up at me. He/she was a little Saw-whet owl, the smallest owls we have in the northeast. All baby owls are born in the spring so the idea that there was a baby owl in November didn't make sense.

Back at Ravensbeard Wildlife Center, we've given him fluids and are feeding him all the mice he will eat. It had been three days since he ate or drank anything. So far so good, his eyes are bright and seems relatively in good condition with all he's been through. Once he checks in with the vet and gets a clean bill of health, he'll be released to continue on his wild and wonderful journey.

Our hearts go out to all those "behind the scenes" workers. Great job and thanks for saving "Rockefeller"!

On the 21st, they reported that Rockefeller is doing very well and has been moved to an outdoor location to acclimate to the weather. The Wildlife Center is scouting locations to determine the best timing for his release.

To learn more, visit [ravensbeard.org](http://ravensbeard.org).



## 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](mailto: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.



# PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

## Embrace the winter, count feeder birds for science!

Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. You don't even need a feeder! All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water or food that attracts birds. The schedule is completely flexible. Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance. With FeederWatch, your observations become part of something bigger than your backyard. For more information or to join, please visit -

[www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org)

## CALL NOTE

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PO Box 22065, Lansing MI 48909.  
Deadline for submissions:  
20th of the month.

### 2020-2021 CAAS Officers

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Membership	Richard Yarsevich

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Website	Roger Wolf

### 2020-21 CAAS Board of Directors

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

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## IRRUPTION ALERT: EVENING GROSBEAK

Irruption Alert: Evening Grosbeaks are moving in their largest numbers in 20+ years. *By Tyler Hoar and Matthew Young, October 26, 2020*  
[finchnetwork.org](http://finchnetwork.org)

The Evening Grosbeak irruption for winter 2020-21 is well underway! Similar to the Fall months of 2018, the last time the Evening Grosbeak moved southward in numbers, this year's movement has mainly come out of the Province of Quebec as well (see below eBird maps comparing Sept-Oct 2020 to Sept-Oct 2018). The irruption has triggered eBird alerts across Ontario and the northeastern states down to West Virginia and Florida already.

In the last week more birds have also been noted in the Great Lakes region, where sightings have reached Indiana. This fall's irruption appears to involve a larger number of individuals than 2018's, and we're only getting started with still almost a week left in October.

In September, observers at Tadoussac Bird Observatory in Eastern Quebec counted their highest numbers for their early fall count in 25 years, with the vast majority of birds moving southwest. In Mid October, almost 1000 Evening Grosbeaks were

observed moving southwest at Rimouski Quebec. On October 20th, Toronto and southern Ontario had a widespread flight of birds moving west/southwest. October 24-25th, a much larger and widespread flight moved southwest through Southern Ontario with single location counts in the 100s. While there wasn't a big single count noted in the northeastern states, dozens of eBird alerts popped up on these same days across much of the region. With sightings already in Northern Florida (map below), the irruption may very soon reach the mountains of the Carolinas and Georgia. "Be sure to be on the lookout for birds on the Piedmont in the Carolinas as well", says North Carolina Park Ranger and birder Dwayne Martin.

Look for Evening Grosbeaks to be foraging on Maple, Box Elder, and Ash samaras (dry fruit), on Cherry and Crabapple seeds, and on Sumac fruit. At feeders this species prefers platform or hopper feeders well stocked with Black Oil Sunflower seeds. As winter finches go, the Evening Grosbeak is perhaps the most gorgeous of all, and we hope that many of you are lucky enough to enjoy them at your feeder during this winter!

