



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
FEBRUARY 2021

Join Us

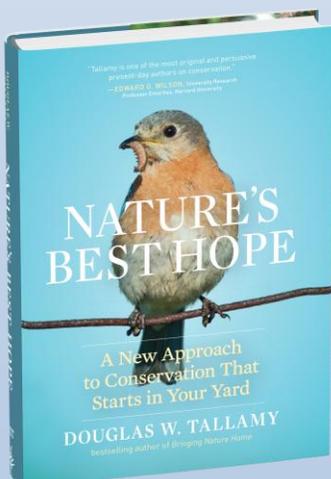
AT OUR FEBRUARY ZOOM MEETING!

Join us at our next meeting **Thursday, February 4 at 7:00pm** for a group viewing of **Doug Tallamy's Presentation to Audubon Florida - "A Guide to the Little Things that Run the World."** This presentation was originally given to Audubon Florida on **September 22nd.**

Group discussion about Tallamy's books 'Bringing Nature Home' and 'Nature's Best Hope' will follow the group viewing.

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 7-7:10 followed by brief announcements and our speaker at 7:15pm. If you would like to try Zoom before the meeting, please email Kristy at caascallnote@gmail.com



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

Did you make any birding resolutions or goals for 2021?

In 2019, during the Christmas Bird Count, I was very inspired by fellow CAAS member, Jessica Parling. She submitted an eBird checklist every day in 2019, and I decided to give it a try in 2020.

The year started strong with backyard winter visitors, a trip out of state to Miami, Florida and my first ever checklist with a Black Skimmer!

Unsurprisingly, after March 1st, my lists stayed close to home with very few new or unexpected species. I was lucky enough to spot a Cinnamon Teal at Corey Marsh during the summer and had my first backyard Great Horned Owl in December.

Although I didn't add many birds to my life list in 2020, the daily checklist goal gave me precious time each day to remove myself from the stresses around me and fully focus on the visitors to my bird feeder, birds around our neighborhood pond or even taking the time out to record an incidental sighting during a busy day.

My checklist goal also allowed me to carve out time for myself. I have two children in virtual schooling and my husband has been working from home since March. We have a lot of fun together and are very blessed to be safe and healthy, but there were many times that I needed to get outside, and spend some time alone in nature. Without my goal, I am sure some of those times set aside for birding would have been filled up with other tasks.

As I submitted my 405th checklist on December 31st, I realized how taking

a few moments each day, or making time for a walk helped me process all of the challenges that 2020 offered. It also made me reflect on the perfection of nature. The reliability of the seasons, even in times of great human uncertainty, and the joy and peace of a spring bird song and summer breeze.

Another thing I noticed was how thankful I am to live in an area with abundant wildlife. There was only one day during 2020 that I did not see a single bird. No visitors to the feeder, crummy weather for a walk and I even took a drive to the local park to see if I could spot anything that evening. Nada. My checklist that day said '0 species'.

I hope as we wrap up the first month of 2021 that you are feeling the joy and peace of nature and the promise of the new year.

As we look toward spring, I am hopeful for a return to in-person meetings next program year, but as a board, we have decided to continue with our virtual meetings for the remainder of the 2020-21 program year.

We do plan to offer socially distanced bird walks and a few special outdoor events including a marsh walk at the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, a spring walk at Sleepy Hollow State Park and an outdoor wrap up for our June meeting for all of those who would like to attend.

I wish you all a wonderful winter and very few '0 species' days in 2021.

See you soon (virtually)!
Kristy Taylor

CAAS EVENTS

Our next monthly meeting will be March 4th at 7pm. Meeting topic will be announced in mid-February in our March Call Note.

Spring Bird Walks -

This spring, we will hold our Saturday bird walks each Saturday in May at Fenner Nature Center and Monday Morning Migration walks at a local birding location. These walks will be lead by a CAAS member and will be socially distanced. Masks are required. More details will be provided in March and April.

If you would like to lead a walk, please email us at caascallnote@gmail.com

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

EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

- by Barb Hosler

On December 19, 2020, 57 people participated in a socially-distanced East Lansing Christmas Bird Count. Sixty-seven species were tallied, which is well above the five-year average (59) for this count. Although our species count was up from last year, the total number of individual birds observed dropped to 14,718, well below the five- and ten-year averages for the count (17,251/17,537).

This was a good year for gulls, with Bruce Cohen finding Bonaparte's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Great Black-backed gulls in addition to the more common Ring-billed and

Herring gulls at Lake Lansing. New highs were observed for Cackling Goose (8) and Pileated Woodpecker (16). This was also the best year since 2012 for red-breasted nuthatch, with 30 observed on this year's count.

The top ten species were: 1) Canada Goose, 2) House Sparrow, 3) Mallard, 4) Rock Pigeon, 5) European Starling, 6) American Crow, 7) Black-capped Chickadee, 8) Cedar Waxwing, 9) House Finch, and 10) American Robin.

Many thanks to everyone who participated safely in this year's CBC. We look forward to being able to gather together again for next year's Christmas Bird Count!

2020 Species List -

8uR	Cackling Goose	85u	Tufted Titmouse
5,676d	Canada Goose	30u	Red-breasted Nuthatch
3d	Mute Swan	228u	White-breasted Nuthatch
2s	Trumpeter Swan	12u	Brown Creeper
2d	American Black Duck	1s	Winter Wren
1,209u	Mallard	13d	Carolina Wren
6u	Redhead	59d	Eastern Bluebird
6u	Ring-necked Duck	341u	American Robin
1u	Lesser Scaup	1u	Hermit Thrush
15u	Bufflehead	689d	European Starling
1d	Common Goldeneye	387u	Cedar Waxwing
23u	Hooded Merganser	69d	American Tree Sparrow
41u	Common Merganser	179s	Dark-eyed Junco
1u	Ruddy Duck	4d	White-throated Sparrow
167u	Wild Turkey	8u	Song Sparrow
1u	Pied-billed Grebe	1d	Swamp Sparrow
5d	Great Blue Heron	276u	Northern Cardinal
2u	Sharp-shinned Hawk	360u	House Finch
11d	Cooper's Hawk	5u	Purple Finch
2d	Bald Eagle	33u	Pine Siskin
38u	Red-tailed Hawk	312u	American Goldfinch
1u	Rough-legged Hawk	1,365u	House Sparrow
25d	Sandhill Crane		
8u	Bonaparte's Gull		
154u	Ring-billed Gull		
14s	Herring Gull		
1u	Iceland Gull		
1u	Lesser Black-backed Gull		
1u	Great Black-backed Gull		
10d	Gull sp.		
940u	Rock Pigeon		
228d	Mourning Dove		
1u	Eastern Screech-Owl		
4u	Great Horned Owl		
4d	Belted Kingfisher		
73d	Red-bellied Woodpecker		
3u	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
159u	Downy Woodpecker		
32u	Hairy Woodpecker		
10d	Northern Flicker		
16uR	Pileated Woodpecker		
6u	American Kestrel		
2u	Peregrine Falcon		
202d	Blue Jay		
639d	American Crow		
510u	Black-capped Chickadee		

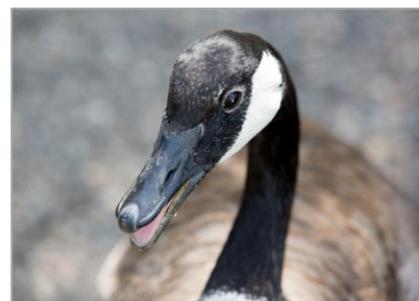
Key: The number in front of the species name is the 2019 total.

R=record total;

u=up from 2019;

d=down from 2019;

s=same as 2019



VIRTUAL EVENTS

Quiet Adventures Symposium

February 16, 18, 23, 25, 27

Virtual Event

7:00 - 9:00pm

This year, the Quiet Adventures Symposium will feature over 40 different programs over five evenings in February. Each evening offers two parallel sessions with new speakers every 30 minutes. Registration is available online. The cost for this event is \$10 and will include links to the presentations once the event has concluded.

Visit - quietwatersociety.org for more information and to register!

MSU Science Festival

April 1-30

Virtual Event

The 2021 Science Fest will host over 200 different virtual presenters ready to dazzle, delight, educate and inform! Full event details will be available online at sciencefestival.msu.edu

Cornell Bird Academy Open Lectures

Join The Cornell Lab for open lectures this February. Archived events are also available to watch online at any time!

February 9 - Watch Birds and Share the Joy: How to Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count

February 16 - Explore Nature Through Sound and Music: Tropical Islands and Ocean

Both events are free to attend. For more information and to register, visit academy.allaboutbirds.org/live-events/

Mi Bird-Friendly Communities Lunch and Learn Webinar Series

This free webinar series will feature different topics related to Michigan Audubon's Mi Bird-Friendly Communities program — a suite of urban bird conservation projects focused on reconnecting communities with birds and the environment for the benefit of all! Join them on the second Tuesday of each month at noon for a 45-minute presentation. The series will feature various expert speakers and will be available through Zoom or as a Facebook Live stream.

February 9 - Nest Boxes

March 9 - Purple Martins

April 13 - Bird-Window Collisions

Find out more at michiganaudubon.org

Do you have an event to share? Email us at caascallnote@gmail.com.

MI DNR CONSERVATION LICENSE PLATE

MI DNR - January 11, 2021

Purchase a wildlife habitat license plate for your vehicle and help protect Michigan's most vulnerable species.

For each sale of the \$35 license plate, \$25 will go to the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund to protect endangered, threatened and nongame wildlife. Kirtland's warblers, lake sturgeon, Mitchell's satyr butterflies and hundreds of other species have benefitted from habitat projects funded by the Nongame Wildlife Fund.

To celebrate one of Michigan's greatest conservation success stories, the 100th anniversary of the

reintroduction of elk, a bugling elk was chosen to be featured on the specialty license plate in 2018.

There's still time to celebrate this historic milestone by purchasing an elk license plate. Place an order for your plate online at Michigan.gov/SOS or visit a Secretary of State office.



24th ANNUAL BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days, people are invited to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to us. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

This year, the GBBC will take place February 12-15th. To participate, use your eBird mobile app, and record the birds you see for at least fifteen minutes. All eBird entries and saved Merlin Bird IDs over the four days will contribute to the Count!

Learn more at birdcount.org.



VIRTUAL FESTIVALS FOR ALL

This year many festivals have adapted to offer a virtual format to share their content, but still offer fantastic programming and speakers from around the country and around the world.

Michigan Audubon has announced the cancellation of the 2021 Spring Fling and Tawas Point Birding Festival, but there are plenty of options for a festival experience at home!

Some of these offerings are free, but others have a range of registrations fees that help support ongoing programs. For many festivals, this support helps operate programs throughout the year.

This year is a great opportunity to check out a festival without all the additional costs of travel.

Please consider supporting one of the great online festivals this spring!

<https://www.aba.org/festivals-events/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/birding-festivals/>

Please note that any in-person festivals may also offer virtual programming or online access to some of their programs. Visit the individual festival websites for more information.

MICHIGAN YOUNG BIRDERS NETWORK

The Michigan Young Birders Network is a program of Michigan Audubon that aims to connect young birders, ages 13–18, offering a space for them to share their enthusiasm for the avian world. The network is managed by young birders who contribute to the programming, content, and community, which focuses on connecting and educating young birders about birds and conservation. Virtual meetings take place the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

Visit www.michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders/ for more information.

Please contact Michigan Audubon Education Coordinator - Lindsay Cain at lcain@michiganaudubon.org or (517) 580-7364 with any questions.

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
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

2020-21 CAAS Board of Directors

John Baumgartner
Michael Caterino
Sandra Conn
Patricia Deventer
Mike Moquin
Julia Spalding
Kristy Taylor
Richard Yarsevich

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

SNOWY OWL VIEWING ETIQUETTE

By Emily Bingham, mlive.com
January 20, 2021

For bird lovers, seeing or hearing an owl can be a magical experience — and thanks to migration patterns, breeding seasons and the starkness of the landscape, winter just so happens to be prime time for some magical owl experiences in Michigan.

For those who might embark on an owling adventure this season, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Audubon Great Lakes are reminding people that there are certain precautions to take when it comes to safe, ethical viewing of these enchanting birds.

For starters, as migratory owls make their way into Michigan, birders and photographers alike should bear in mind that these birds' migration journeys have been exhausting, and that creeping up on them to get a closer look or better photo can be harmful to the bird.

Attention-grabbing snowy owls are particularly alluring when they show up in Michigan, in part because their daytime hunting habits can make them easier to spot. But bird fans and photogs should keep a respectful distance from these Arctic beauties — these birds might not seem startled by people, but getting too close to them can disrupt their life-sustaining search for food during an already challenging season.

“Snowy owls are often here in Michigan due to limited food resources in their typical range and are likely hungry and searching for food,” said Erin Rowan, MiBirds

program associate with the DNR and Audubon Great Lakes.

Rowan's advice for glimpsing these birds while also keeping them safe?

“Watch the owl from a distance, through binoculars or a spotting scope, so as not to disturb it,” she said.

Another reason why winter is a good time for owling: It's breeding season for some of Michigan's native owl species. Great horned owls start their courtship in January, offering the spine-tingling chance to listen for their sonorous calls to one another on calm nights.

While it might be tempting to use audio recordings to find owls or lure them closer to you, Rowan advises that people refrain from doing so, or to play a recording only once or twice, as hearing another owl's call — even a recorded one — can be stressful to them.

For more guidelines, the American Birding Association has a birding code of ethics that outlines basic principles of how to be thoughtful when searching out owls and other birds. [2019-ABA-code-of-ethics.pdf](https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-ethics)

The bottom line, according to the DNR, is to enjoy the magic of Michigan winter owling, but to do so respectfully.

“Winter is still kind of a stressful time for these birds,” Rowan said. “There aren't as many food resources available, so if they're resting or roosting they need to do that to conserve their energy. It's just something to keep in mind.”



Austin Taylor, 2018

