



KRISTY TAYLOR 2020

the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
JANUARY 2021

Join Us

AT OUR FEBRUARY ZOOM MEETING!

We will not hold a meeting this January. Our next meeting will take place Thursday, February 4, 2021.

This month, take a moment to renew your membership!

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 - capitallareaaudubon.org

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

Your membership dollars help support our monthly programs, backpack program, educational grants, and local programs fitting the CAAS mission including outreach with Potter Park Zoo and Arbor Day Foundation, as well as donations to Fenner Nature Center, Michigan Audubon, Michigan Nature Association and the Michigan State Bird Observatory.



CAAS members at Migratory Bird Day at Potter Park Zoo. Table visitors made reusable bags from donated t-shirts.

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

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and were able to connect safely with those you love over the holidays! We spent time laughing on Zoom with my extended family and had a nice quiet day with our little family.

I was gifted with an amazing game expansion for the board game Wingspan! This card-based, engine-building game is a fun way to learn about birds and I cannot wait to host a game night once we can safely gather again. If you are not familiar with Wingspan, you can find out more information at stonemaiergames.com/games/wingspan/

Things were quiet for me during the Christmas Bird Count, but I was able to get out and try to see the Iceland Gull reported by Bruce Cohen at Lake Lansing during the count. I wasn't able to relocate the Gull, but I did see a couple of Tundra Swans, many ducks and bundled up birders.

Although the area I helped cover was quiet the morning of the count, there

were a few notable species on the count as well as the most Gull species reported in years! We will publish the full list once it is compiled.

A big thank you to all of those who were able to participate in the CBC this year and to Barb Hosler for leading the count and compiling the results.

As we head into the slower birding months of the year, I am excited for what 2021 will hold. I am inspired by the motivation and action of local birders and conservationists and I am very ready to share with new birders who took time during the Covid shutdowns to start birding and learn more about the nature around them.

Our next meeting will take place in February and should be a great conversation starter with new birders and help you plan for spring gardens and landscaping.

Hopefully we will all be able to gather together again in 2021!

Stay healthy and safe, and happy birding! - Kristy Taylor

SILENT AUCTION WINNER

CAAS Member Ed Merz donated his original watercolor painting to CAAS for a silent auction. The auction winner was Jennifer Woods, with her \$350 bid. Proceeds will be donated to CAAS.

Thank you so much Ed and Jennifer for your generous donations to the CAAS!



WEBINARS FOR WINTER

While the birding may be slow here in the winter months, there are plenty of opportunities to dive in and learn online!

MSU Extension Conservation Stewards Program Webinar Series

canr.msu.edu/conservation_stewards_program/Webinar-Series

The Conservation Stewards Program hosted a free six-part webinar series on Tuesdays in October, November and December 2020. These webinars take a closer look at diverse cultural perspectives, unique natural communities and innovative conservation partnerships across Michigan.

Talks topics include -

Connecting Youth with the Outdoors in Detroit: Cultivating the Next Generation of Naturalists and Conservationists

Up-close and personal with bears, American marten, fisher, and deer

Grayling in Michigan: Their past, present, and future

How Habitat Restoration on Belle Isle can Mitigate Climate Change

Perspectives in Conservation: Understanding People and the Landscape to Protect our Natural Heritage

Webinars are free and available to the public.

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

naturalhistory.si.edu/education

Join museum educators as they walk your family through science skill-building activities and ways to explore the natural world and collections. The January Program will feature Susan Stockdale.

Stripes of All Types

Saturday, January 9, 11-11:45

Join author/illustrator Susan Stockdale as she reads her book, "Stripes of All Types" and shares how learning about and studying natural history inspires and informs her book creations. Participants will be invited to create and share their own artwork at this free Zoom program.

NEW TRAILS AT COREY MARSH

December presenter, Hannah Landwerlen, shared updates about the ongoing research at the MSU Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center in Laingsburg, MI. Many asked about visiting the property, the trails and directions to the site.

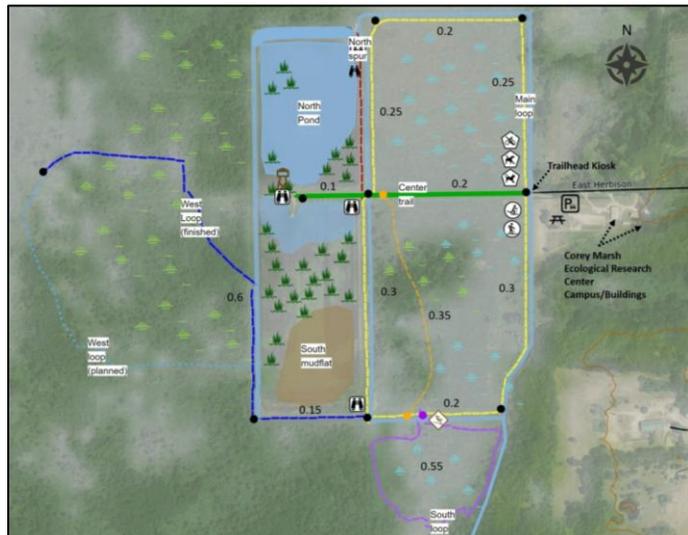
The center is located at 9422 Herbison Road in Laingsburg, Michigan.

From I-69 E/Flint, take exit 92 for Webster Rd toward Bath, turn right on Webster Rd, go to 4-way intersection and turn right on Clark Road. Drive ~3.5 miles and turn left onto Peacock Road (dirt road), drive 1.0 miles and turn left onto Herbison Road. You will see the sign for CMERC and an alpaca farm on the corner of Peacock and Herbison. Turn left on Herbison and follow until it ends at the trailhead kiosk. Park in designated area on the left or near other cars.

From Haslett exit 94 (or, from Marsh Road and Old 69/M78), turn east at the first stoplight to Old 69/M78, proceed ½ mile to Upton Road North (go left) for 3 ½ miles to Clark Road, turn right go 1 ½ miles to the curve, go left, and in 1/8 mile at the next curve is Peacock Road (north), follow the directions above from that point for Webster Road.

From I-69 W, take exit 98 Woodbury Road, go north to Clark Road stop, turn left (west) and go 2 ½ miles to the curve at Peacock Road, turn right (north), and from that point follow the directions above for Webster road.

The map below shows the new and improved trail system at CMERC. The main trails have been leveled and widened and an additional 1.5 miles of trails have been added. If you enjoy cross-country skiing, the trails will be groomed this winter for skiing (fingers crossed for snow!).



EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This December many exciting sightings were reported in the area!

- A Lesser Black-backed Gull and Iceland Gull were reported during the Christmas Bird Count at Lake Lansing on Dec. 19th by Bruce Cohen.

- A Greater White-fronted Goose was reported at Motz County Park in Clinton County on Dec. 27th. Five Cackling Geese were also at the park!

- A Short-eared Owl was spotted just east of Dansville for a few minutes after 5:15 pm on the 26th. The Owl was hunting over an open field.

- A Northern Mockingbird was reported a couple of times in December in an Okemos neighborhood!

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

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

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)

SCIENTISTS RELEASE GENOMES OF BIRDS REPRESENTING NEARLY ALL AVIAN FAMILIES

Approximately 40% of Genome Samples Sourced From Smithsonian Collections, Amassed Over Decades From Around the Globe

Smithsonian News Release, November 11, 2020 si.edu/newsdesk

Since the first bird evolved more than 150 million years ago, its descendants have adapted to a vast range of ecological niches, giving rise to tiny, hovering hummingbirds, plunging pelicans and showy birds-of-paradise. Today, more than 10,000 species of birds live on the planet—and now scientists are well on their way to capturing a complete genetic portrait of that diversity.

In the Nov. 11 issue of the journal *Nature*, scientists from the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Copenhagen, BGI-Shenzhen, the University of California, Santa Cruz and approximately 100 other institutions report on the genomes of 363 species of birds, including 267 that have been sequenced for the first time. The studied species—from widespread, economically important birds such as the chicken to the lesser known Henderson crane, which lives only on one small island in the Pacific Ocean—represent more than 92% of the world's avian families. The data from the study will advance research on the evolution of birds and aids in the conservation of threatened bird species.

Together, the data constitute a rich genomic resource that is now freely available to the scientific community. The release of the new genomes is a major milestone for the Bird 10,000 Genomes Project (B10K), an international collaboration organized by researchers at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, the Kunming Institute of Zoology, the Institute of Zoology in Beijing, the University of Copenhagen, The Rockefeller University, BGI-Shenzhen, Curtin University (Perth), the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Imperial College London and the Natural History Museum of Denmark, which aims to sequence and share the genome of every avian species on the planet.

"B10K is probably the single most important project ever conducted in the study of birds," said Gary Graves,

curator of birds at the National Museum of Natural History and one of B10K's seven organizers. "We're not only hoping to learn about the phylogenetic relationships among the major branches of the tree of life of birds, but we're providing an enormous amount of comparative data for the study of the evolution of vertebrates and life itself."

Comparing genomes across bird families will enable B10K researchers and others to explore how particular traits evolved in different birds, as well as to better understand evolution at the molecular level.

Ultimately, B10K researchers aim to build a comprehensive avian tree of life that charts the genetic relationships between all modern birds. Such knowledge will not only reveal birds' evolutionary past but will also be vital in guiding conservation efforts in the future.

More than 150 ornithologists, molecular biologists and computer scientists came together to obtain specimens and analyze more than 17 trillion base pairs of DNA for the family-level phase of the B10K project. Sequencing and analysis began in 2011, but the data represent several decades of work by field collectors and collections management staff who have collected and preserved birds from every continent, Graves said.

Approximately 40% of the newly sequenced bird genomes were obtained using tissue samples preserved in the National Museum of Natural History's Avian Genetic Resources Collection, which Graves started in 1986 and has since become part of the museum's biorepository in support of its broader Global Genome Initiative. Also contributing to the project were Michael Braun, a research zoologist at the National Museum of Natural History; Rebecca Dikow, who leads the Smithsonian Data Science Lab; and researchers with the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

For the full article, visit www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/