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the  
**Call Note**  
CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON  
APRIL 2021

## Join Us

### AT OUR APRIL MEETING!

**Join us at our next meeting Thursday, April 1st - 7:00pm via Zoom  
Love for Birds, Light and Composition  
with presenter Josh Haas**

This program will feature Josh's finest images as he shares how bird knowledge is vital to creating more pleasing and artistic photographs. Josh will also share some of his favorite stories in the field including unique experiences with birds out in nature. Additionally, he will share simple non-technical tips on bringing birds closer, how to get birds away from non-natural elements like feeders and ways to create artistry in images creating better photographs.

Josh is a Michigan birder, photographer, President of Battle Creek Audubon and board Vice Chair for the Hawk Migration Association of North America. He has over 15 years of birding and photography experience. He also has passion for teaching others ID, birding by ear and photographing birds in flight. His photographic background and involvement with raptors at local nature centers as well as raptor migration sites spawned his movie "Hawks on the Wing" teaching viewers raptor ID in flight through the use of video and audio commentary; including multiple species on screen side-by-side. His movie, reference guide, hawk-watching information and photography are available at [www.hawksonthewing.com](http://www.hawksonthewing.com).

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

*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

The snow is gone and it feels like spring! I saw my first Turkey Vulture of the year on March 5th, and the bird song has returned to our backyard.

This winter I sincerely missed all the song, but have regretted it a little, as this spring we have two alarms. One is a disgruntled Canada Goose who seems to wake up with the sunrise and sounds much like a car alarm. The other is a male Northern Cardinal who makes it known that our suburban backyard is his domain.

Hopefully you have also noticed an uptick in the bird song and rising number of birds in your area as well. (Although for your sake, I do not wish the car alarm goose on anyone...)

April is always an exciting month in the Lansing area with the MSU Science Fest and community activities. This year, the Science Fest will feature over 30 programs about birds, nature and community science!

New birders can join me on Saturday, April 17th to learn about the basics of bird ID and my favorite apps for beginning birders. Full details are available on page 3.

This spring, many migration festivals, including the Biggest Week in American Birding and the Tawas Point Birding Festival, will again be hosted online, but spring migration walks with the CAAS will still be taking place!

With Covid safety guidelines, social distancing and masks, we hope that many of you are able to join us in May to enjoy the spring migrants visiting our area. We will also offer walks at a few other local natural areas and parks in the Capital Area. I look forward to spending time in nature with all of you again.

We are still looking for volunteers to help lead the spring migration bird walks. Walk leaders help get the walk started, and steer the group, but do not need to be able to identify every bird spotted (that is what the community is for).

Also, with great sadness, I share that one of our former members, Caitlin Boyle passed away on March 12th following a long battle with brain cancer. Caitlin joined in 2018-19 and was interested in volunteering to help serve as historian and volunteered with the Michigan State Bird Observatory as a data recorder. She moved back to Beaver Island in 2019 and would continue to email bird questions and interesting sightings. She was a lifelong animal lover, MSU alumnus and was passionate about helping others. Her full obituary is online at [www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Caitlin-Boyle](http://www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Caitlin-Boyle)

Rest in peace Caitlin.

Happy birding to all of you.

Kristy Taylor

# CAAS EVENTS

**May Monthly Meeting**  
**May 6th- 7:00pm via Zoom**  
**Birding by Ear - Beginners Guide to**  
**Birdsongs, Calls and Commotion**  
**Presenter - Erin Parker**

**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 locations. These walks will be lead by a CAAS member and will be socially distanced. Masks are required. Saturday walks will begin at 8am on May 1, 8, 15, 22, 28

**Monday Morning Migration Walks -**  
May 3 - Lake Lansing Park - North  
May 10 - Harris Nature Center  
May 17 - Capital City Bird Sanctuary  
May 24 - Sleepy Hollow State Park  
May 31 - Burchfield Park

If you would be willing to help lead a walk, please email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com)

**Michigan State Bird Observatory**  
**Audubon Virtual Visit**  
Saturday, May 15th, 7-10 AM

Join the crew from the MSBO to view the entire process of bird banding from capture to release. Ask questions, meet the crew and get to see birds up close, right from home!  
Join Zoom Meeting -  
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98349887580>  
Meeting ID: 983 4988 7580  
Passcode: MSBO

**June Monthly Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 3, 7:00 - 8:30pm**  
Join us for an evening, socially distanced bird walk at Fenner for our only in-person meeting this year. Masks will be required.



A Florida Scrub Jay lands on CAAS Board Member Julia Spalding's Handlebars in Florida.

## SHADE GROWN COFFEE ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

If you are anything like me, I am looking for more ways to make my daily life better for birds and less impactful on the earth. This month, I read a great article by the Smithsonian's National Zoo about the Ecological Benefits of Shade Grown Coffee. It may take a little searching to find one that fits your tastes, but the benefits are worth the extra work.

*Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center -*

Bird Friendly coffee is certified organic and produced on farms with a shade cover that provides important habitat for migratory and resident birds in tropical landscapes, which are increasingly threatened by deforestation globally at an unprecedented rate. The Bird Friendly criteria are the world's most stringent standards for shade-grown coffee production.

The market for organic, shade-grown coffee grown to the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's Bird Friendly® criteria is bigger than ever before. At 19 million pounds, the total volume of Bird Friendly certified coffee produced has grown by 13 million pounds in the past decade. The number of certified producers participating in the program more than doubled in 2017, with more than 4,600 participants managing farms from Mexico to Colombia and Ethiopia to Thailand. Bird Friendly habitat covers more than 30,000 acres around the world.

When the coffee reaches its final destination — where it is roasted, packaged and sold — roasters can use the Smithsonian Bird Friendly seal to market their Bird Friendly coffees to consumers. These pennies-on-the-pound royalty fees fuel the program, as well as the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's cutting-edge ornithological research exploring the connections between birds, coffee and beyond. Excitingly, some of the following studies cited in Mexico and Costa Rica were supported with funds from royalties remitted to SMBC by roasters involved in the Bird Friendly program. These remittances paid by forward-looking coffee roasters help to fund scientific work that would otherwise not be possible.

The following report captures the wide-ranging benefits of shade-grown coffee production. By reviewing more than 60 studies on shade-grown coffee farms in regions ranging from Central and South America to

Indonesia over the past 25 years, the SMBC makes the case that shade-grown coffee production is the next best thing to a natural forest, and puts to rest any arguments about the comparative sustainability of sun-coffee systems.

While sun-grown systems can have higher yields, shaded farms easily outperform them in sustainability measurements. In study after study, habitat on shade-grown coffee farms outshone sun-grown coffee farms, with increased numbers and species of birds, improved bird habitat, soil protection/erosion control, carbon sequestration, natural pest control and improved pollination.

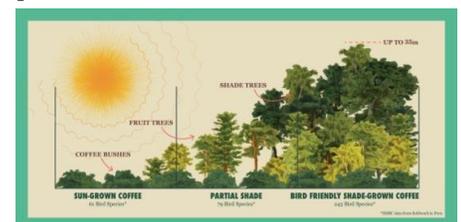
Trees provide an array of ecological services that offer both direct and indirect income and payback to farmers and the environment. In addition, farmers who shade their coffee may be less vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including increased temperatures and rainfall.

The "hidden yield" in the shade versus sun comparison is that of the non-coffee products and opportunities coming from the shaded system. In addition to ecotourism on several shade coffee farms, firewood, fruits, building materials and medicinal plants are all resources harvested to varying degrees by shade coffee farmers and used and/or sold by farmers.

As a general rule, managing more trees as shade cover provides better habitat and supports a more diverse wildlife community than managing fewer trees. The few head-to-head comparisons between Bird Friendly and non-Bird Friendly coffee farms that have been conducted reveal that for maintaining biodiversity, Bird Friendly farms provide a better habitat.

To read the full article, visit - <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/ecological-benefits-shade-grown-coffee>

In our area, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary and Whole Foods both carry Bird Friendly coffee and BirdsandBeanscoffee.com offers a wide variety of bird friendly blends. If you have a favorite shade grown coffee, please share it with us on Facebook!



# VIRTUAL EVENTS

## 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! This year will host over 15 events focused on birds and community science! Learn about hawk migration, bird adaptations, bird rehabilitation, bird banding, beginning birding and so much more!

Full event details, schedule and registration are available online at [sciencefestival.msu.edu](http://sciencefestival.msu.edu).

### Vernal Pool Patrol Training

This spring, help the Michigan Natural Resources Inventory learn more about the status, distribution and ecology of vernal pools in Michigan! Zoom training is available for those interested in volunteering this spring.

Learn more and sign up for a training workshop at [vernal-pool-patrol-mnfi.hub.arcgis.com](http://vernal-pool-patrol-mnfi.hub.arcgis.com)

### Biggest Week in American Birding May 6-10

This year's Biggest Week will be a virtual birding celebration including workshops, keynote presentations and virtual birding experiences from northwest Ohio.

Registration is \$35, or free to BSBO members. To learn more, visit - [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/)

### Indiana Dunes Birding Festival May 13-16

#### In-person and Virtual Events

The annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is held to celebrate the dunes area's various birding habitats and bird watching opportunities to create a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors and residents to the Indiana Dunes region.

The 2021 festival being planned as a hybrid (both in person and virtual trips and programs) festival. Registration and schedule are available online at - <https://indunesbirdingfestival.com/>

Do you have an event to share? Email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com).

# MICHIGAN BIRDING TRAILS

## Michigan DNR -

Michigan's birds are some of the most beautiful and fascinating creatures to observe outdoors. It's a popular past time for residents and visitors alike, who can find more than 450 bird species on Michigan's many birding trails, state parks and recreation areas, state wildlife and game areas, national wildlife refuges, Great Lakes coastline and more.

If you want to get in a weekend of high quality birding, check out one of Michigan's birding trails. Each trail highlights several destinations within easy driving distance of each other where you can get in some of the best birding in Michigan.

**The Sunset Coast Birding Trail** runs through Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet counties, benefiting the local communities by promoting economic development and environmental stewardship. This trail hosts a wide variety of protected areas and habitats that attract a large number of Michigan's 400-plus bird species.

**Thornapple Birding Trail** consists of over 22,000 acres of state game area, many parks, and over 250 lakes. Barry County hosts a wide variety of bird-filled habitats. Stop by for the ducks and Common Loons, or search out the thirteen species of warblers that nest in Barry County.

**The AuSable Birding Trail** highlights remarkable bird habitat throughout the Houghton Lake, Higgins Lake, St. Helen, Grayling and AuSable River area. The trail takes you through the woods and into the wetlands where you can spot birds such as Kirtland's Warblers and Bald Eagles.

**The Sunrise Coast Birding Trail** incorporates 145 miles along U.S. 23. The trail takes flight at the mouth of the famed AuSable River in Oscoda and wings its way north all along the Lake Huron coast to Mackinaw City. Birders will delight in observing the common, threatened, or endangered birds of our coastal and inland locations.

**The Superior Birding Trail** hosts world class birding in the wilds of Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula. Anchored by Whitefish Point in the north and the Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the south, the 150-mile Superior Birding Trail guides visitors through the rugged and rare ecosystems of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

**The Sleeping Bear Birding Trail** covers the entire 123 miles of M-22, running from Manistee on the southern end to Traverse City at the north. The trail is anchored by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and is home to the Piping Plover, an endangered shorebird that needs vast stretches of undisturbed beach.

The north shoreline of Lake Huron in the Upper Peninsula is known as one of the most beautiful and pristine areas of wilderness in all of the Midwest. **The North Huron Birding Trail** has five zones including St. Ignace, Les Cheneaux area, DeTour, Drummond Island and Pickford Grasslands area.

**The Saginaw Bay Birding Trail** covers 142 miles, running from Port Crescent State Park on the eastern end to Tawas Point State Park on the western end, and largely follows the shoreline of the entire Saginaw Bay. Diverse habitats, sprawling miles of shoreline, over 200 species of birds and extensive natural areas with public access make this trail a birder's paradise.

As the largest island in Lake Michigan, Beaver Island is a critical stopover site for migratory birds flying up the lake on their way north to breeding grounds. Many stay to nest. **The Beaver Island Birding Trail** includes more than 12,000 acres of state and township lands and four Little Traverse Conservancy preserves.

To view all of the Michigan birding trails and more great birding locations from the Michigan DNR, visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the 'Things To Do' tab and select 'Wildlife Viewing'.

Each birding trail link connects you to birders and information for the communities along the trails.



# CAAS MEMBERSHIP

Support community programs with your CAAS Membership. Your membership supports programs in our community and monthly meetings Sept. 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.

## SEPTEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2021

### Membership Categories

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Individual   | \$15.00  |
| Family       | \$20.00  |
| Contributing | \$30.00  |
| Sustaining   | \$50.00  |
| Donor        | \$100.00 |

To sign up online, visit - [capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org)

If you would like to mail your membership form and payment, please mail to - PO Box 22065, Lansing, MI 4890

## 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 |
| <b>Historian</b>        | <b>Open</b>    |
| 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

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## HAWK MIGRATION WITH JOSH HAAS

By Josh Haas -  
[www.hawksonthewing.com/blog](http://www.hawksonthewing.com/blog)  
Blog post from March 20, 2020

The temperatures in Southwest Michigan are still on the chilly side but birds, especially Raptors are on the move North. Many Golden Eagles have been sighted moving through Michigan and many other species are on the move as well. Along with Goldens, it's not too hard to see small kettles of buteos like Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks. Before we know it, massive groups of Broad-winged Hawks will be in our area as temperatures begin to rise and the days lengthen. Get outside and look up!

With the craziness this corona-virus pandemic is causing, there has never been a better time to get outside. Most, if not all hawk-watches have all kinds of social distance and getting outside will do wonders for your body right now.

Also check out [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org) to find a hawk watch site near you or to see recent data from your favorite migration site. [Hawkcount](http://www.hawkcount.org) is managed by the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) with the goal of standardizing raptor migration data and making it available to biologists and the public. Check out some of the other things HMANA is doing including Raptorthon which is in season right now!

If you are in the Midwest, some of the nicer hawk watches worth a visit include Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch, Illinois Beach Raptor Watch and Braddock Bay Raptor Watch. If you're not close enough to warrant visiting a watch you can look to the sky from literally anywhere and often find birds on the move if the winds are in your favor. In Spring, partly cloudy skies with South winds and raising barometric pressure can make for great movements. Raptors love following the lake shores of the Great Lakes but even inland, small numbers can be seen consistently throughout the day.

For more great blog posts from Josh Haas featuring everything from Sandhill Crane Migration, to fine tuning your binoculars, visit [www.hawksonthewing.com/blog](http://www.hawksonthewing.com/blog).



## ADVENTURING WITH ALISON VILAG

Our March speaker, Alison Vilag has moved on from Arizona and now finds herself exploring New Mexico. Her blog posts poetry, photography and bird sightings, along with the fun update on her latest adventure. For more about Alison's 2021 trip, visit [passagemigrant.com](http://passagemigrant.com).

Alison describes her year as follows -

The interactions between and amongst birds, their habitats, birders, conservationists, and other land-users fascinates me. While I love seeing new birds, I'm less interested in adding numbers to a lifelist or yearlist than I am in becoming absorbed in natural history and seasonal nuances. In particular, I like to find—and write—about complexities and complications. Take, for example, Everglades Snail Kites (endangered) taking sustenance (by adapting morphologically!) from an

invasive, damaging apple snail, or how in winter, when Snowy Owls move south to depart diminishing resources, they become the coveted resource and receive undue human pressure. I like these sorts of murky stories for they don't automatically reconcile, and they make me feel, deeply.

In searching out these stories in 2021, my plan is — with my pickup, my canoe, and my partner — to start in Florida. It was a place prominent in early U.S. bird conservation, and it seems a fitting start point. From there, I'll work west along the Gulf over to Louisiana's coastal marshes. There, I hope to see — and also share with you — a threshold of a changing climate's damage. Then I plan to continue west towards the Texas-Mexico border wall region. While doing this, I will be developing stories and bird club programs that I hope to share along the way...