



# the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON

MAY 2021

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## Join Us

### ATOUR MAY MEETING!

**Join us at our next meeting Thursday, May 6th - 7:00pm via Zoom**  
**Birding by Ear - Beginners Guide to Birdsongs, Calls and Commotion with presenter Erin Parker**

Get ready for spring migration by learning how to bird by ear with Erin Parker!

Parker serves as the Field Conservation Officer and Nature Centers Manager at Belle Isle Nature Center/ Detroit Zoological Society. She is a graduate of Michigan Technological University in Environmental Science and Applied Ecology with a master's degree in science curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Besides her interest in Bird Song, she is also involved in monitoring the MOTUS Wildlife Tracking Tower at Belle Isle which can even track insect flight. She spent three seasons as the Backcountry Ranger at Isle Royale National Park, 8 years as a high school science teacher, and 3 as a nature center education manager on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Having happily migrated back to her home state of Michigan, you can find Erin exploring outdoors year round with a particular passion for birds, bugs, and bats!

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

Spring is here! Migration has begun and new visitors seem to arrive to my home birding patch every day. Our neighborhood ponds have nesting Canada Geese and our resident American Robin is again repairing her nest for the first brood of the year.

I hope many of you are able to join us and get outside at one of our walks this spring. In May, we will offer socially distanced walks on Saturday mornings at Fenner Nature Center and Monday mornings at locations in the Greater Lansing Area. These locations are listed in the CAAS Events on Page 2. Our group will meet at the main parking lot at each location unless otherwise noted. Spring weather can be unpredictable, so be sure to wear layers and waterproof shoes or boots. Be sure to bring your binoculars as well!

Masks will be required at CAAS spring walks (even for those of us who have already had the chance to be vaccinated). Depending on the group size, we may also need to break into smaller groups during the walk. If you

are feeling ill, or have been exposed to someone with Covid-19, we ask that you do not attend the walk.

Our bird sightings from each walk will be posted on Facebook and I will do my best to publish the highlights in our June Call Note.

I am so excited to get outside and share the joys of birding and thrill of discovery with all of you. If you would like to help lead a walk this spring, please reach out by emailing us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com). You do not need to be able to identify every bird, just provide guidance and direction.

As the banding season is starting again this spring, I look forward to sharing the work of the Michigan State Bird Observatory with all of you as well. I hope you can join me virtually on Saturday, May 15th to learn about the banding process and the research of the MSBO!

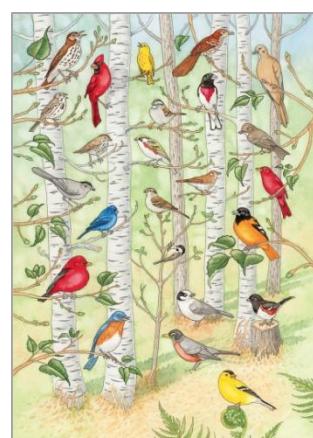
Happy Spring Migration!  
-Kristy Taylor

### SPRING BIRDSONG INTERACTIVE ART

Get a head start on learning birdsongs this spring with a beautiful guide from Minnesota Conservation Volunteer.

You can click on the bird and hear its unique tune! Many of the Minnesota birds are also found here in Michigan, with the exception of the Gray Jay.

Learn more and have fun at -  
[dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/bird\\_songs\\_interactive](https://dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/bird_songs_interactive)



# CAAS EVENTS

## 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 - Walks will begin at 8am

May 3 - Lake Lansing Park - North 6260 East Lake Drive, Haslett

May 10 - Harris Nature Center  
3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos

May 17 - Capital City Bird Sanctuary  
6160 Delta River Dr, Lansing  
Parking for this walk will be at the Hawk Meadow Park parking lot.

May 24 - Sleepy Hollow State Park  
7835 E. Price Road, Laingsburg  
Parking for this walk will be at the main beach access parking lot.

May 31 - Burchfield Park  
881 Grovenburg Rd, Holt

**Walks will be cancelled due to rain or bad weather. Please check our Facebook page prior to heading out if you are concerned about the weather.**

If you would be willing to help lead a walk, please email us at 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.

# KEEP FEEDERS CLEAN, FOR YOU AND THE BIRDS

## **Salmonella Outbreak Is Linked to Wild Birds and Feeders, C.D.C. Says**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 19 people had been sickened in eight states.

- by Jesus Jimenez  
New York Times, April 4, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/04/health/bird-feeders-salmonella-cdc.html>

A salmonella outbreak linked to contact with wild songbirds and bird feeders has sickened 19 people across eight states, eight of whom have been hospitalized, federal health authorities said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was investigating salmonella infections in California, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington State in people ranging in age from 2 months to 89 years old.

Six cases were reported in Washington and five in Oregon. No deaths have been reported.

Public health officials across the country interviewed 13 of the people who were infected and asked them about animals they had come in contact with a week before they became ill, the C.D.C. said. Nine said they owned a bird feeder, and two reported they had come into contact with a sick or dead bird. Ten people said they had pets that had access to or contact with wild birds, the agency said.

To prevent further cases, the C.D.C. recommends cleaning bird feeders and bird baths once a week or when they are dirty. People should avoid feeding wild birds with their bare hands, and should wash their hands with soap and water after touching a bird feeder or bath, or after handling a bird.

In California, where three human cases have been reported, the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife warned of an outbreak in February, and reported that it had been "inundated with calls" from Californians who had discovered sick or dead finches at bird feeders.

Andrea Jones, director of bird conservation for Audubon California, said the state had found that most of the birds affected by the outbreak were pine siskins, a finch species that spends the winter in California. Pine siskins congregated in California in large numbers this year, which allowed the outbreak to spread among the birds.

"It can happen any year, but this has been a particularly bad year," Ms. Jones said. "Pine siskins are not very good at social distancing."

Sick birds can often look weak or lethargic, or may appear to be struggling to breathe, Ms. Jones said. She added that most birds die within 24 hours of being infected by salmonella.

Many pine siskins are now leaving California for Canada, Ms. Jones said, adding that she hoped the outbreak might be nearing an end.

Salmonella bacteria can spread from birds to pets and to humans. People may experience diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps for anywhere from six hours to six days after infection, according to the C.D.C. Children, adults 65 and older, and people with weakened immune systems sometimes suffer worse cases of salmonella, though most people recover in a week or less without treatment.

Because many people recover quickly and are not tested for salmonella, the C.D.C. said it was likely that the true number of cases resulting from the outbreak was much higher than the number of reported cases.

About 1.35 million cases of salmonella are reported every year in the United States. Of those, about 26,500 require hospitalization and 420 result in death, according to the C.D.C.

To learn more about keeping your feeders clean, visit -  
[allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-clean-your-bird-feeder/](http://allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-clean-your-bird-feeder/)

To learn about current salmonella cases, visit [www.cdc.gov/salmonella](http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella)

# VIRTUAL EVENTS

## **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/>

## **HUMMINGBIRD WORKSHOP WITH ENVIRONMENT FOR THE AMERICAS**

**Thursday, May 6, 3:30pm**

Learn about hummingbirds, the plants they like and the threats they face. Scientists from Ireland, Canada, the U.S. and Mexico will join live, via Zoom for presentations and discussion. Register at - <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltc-mhrj8iG93dVdKoqdP7z-2DXFoja26i>

## **MICHIGAN AUDUBON YOUNG BIRDERS CAMP**

**July 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28**

### **VIRTUAL EVENTS AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING**

Michigan Audubon invites young birders 13-18 to join them for three weeks of learning and a virtual camp experience. Registration is \$175 per participant. Campers will be mailed a packet of resources, reference materials and other goodies prior to the start of camp. Registration is open until June 15th. Find out more and sign up at [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org)

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

# MICHIGAN WILDLIFE HABITAT GRANTS

*Michigan DNR -*

Now through June 4, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Grant Program will accept applications for habitat improvement and enhancement projects.

"We look forward to the opportunity to partner with those who want to increase habitat and enhance existing habitat through the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program," said DNR Wildlife Division Chief Jared Duquette. "Healthy and abundant habitats not only benefit wildlife, but also benefit Michigan residents."

Funding is available for local, state, federal and tribal governments, profit and nonprofit groups, and individuals through an open, competitive process. Minimum grant amounts will be set at \$15,000, with the maximum being the amount of funds available for the grant cycle. The 2021 overall available grant amount is approximately \$1 million.

The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program began in October 2013 and is funded from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The DNR administers the program with the main objective to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat in support of the Wildlife Division's strategic plan.

The grant application period began April 19. Applications must be submitted through the MiGrants system at [migrants.intelligrants.com](http://migrants.intelligrants.com) no later than June 4 to be considered for funding. Projects enhancing game species habitat will be given priority. Successful grant applications will be announced in August 2021.

The detailed program handbook and more information are available at [Michigan.gov/DNRGrants](http://Michigan.gov/DNRGrants).

# HELP PRESERVE MICHIGAN BLACK TERNS

Black Terns will be returning from the coastal areas of Central and South America to their breeding grounds across Michigan over the next several weeks to nest in the coastal and inland marshes of Michigan.

Unfortunately, these charismatic marsh birds have seen population declines globally since the 1960s, and up to 71 percent of our Black Tern population has been lost here in Michigan. Audubon Great Lakes and several partners are working towards understanding the underlying cause of the decline and developing conservation strategies that can help bring these birds back.

Audubon Great Lakes and MI Birds are looking for volunteers to participate in breeding Black Tern Surveys across the Lower Peninsula. You can help scientists understand Black Tern demographics, including the number of breeding pairs and newly hatched young, as well as the location of active colonies.

This monitoring effort requires just two site visits between June 1 and July 31, and one rapid habitat assessment. A virtual volunteer training session will be provided.



MI Birds is a public outreach and education program created by Audubon Great Lakes and the DNR, aimed at increasing all Michiganders' engagement in the understanding, care and stewardship of public lands that are important for birds and local communities.

Questions? Contact Emily Osborne at 414-841-5273

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

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Vice President	Julia Spalding
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Treasurer	Michael Caterino
Membership	Richard Yarsevich

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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  
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Sandra Conn  
Patricia Deventer  
Mike Moquin  
Julia Spalding  
Kristy Taylor  
Richard Yarsevich

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## BIRD NEST ETIQUETTE

Bird nests can be found in all kinds of places, so don't be surprised if you find one in a hanging flowerpot, wreath or elsewhere in your backyard.

In addition to songbirds, mallards seem to set up spring nests just about everywhere. Female mallards, called hens, often build them in landscaping, gardens or other locations that people may find inappropriate – or at least inconvenient. If you spot one, be a good neighbor and leave the nest alone and keep pets away from it, too. The hen will lead her young to water soon after they hatch.

"Even if a duck's nest seems quite a way from water, the hen knows how to get her ducklings to the water," said Hannah Schauer, wildlife communications coordinator with the DNR.

Schauer also noted that a mallard will lay her eggs over several days. "You might see eggs show up in a nest but no mother duck sitting on them. The hen will start to incubate the eggs once they all have been laid. They'll take about a month to hatch," said Schauer.

Canada geese sometimes build nests near houses or in parks. Adult geese are very protective and may hiss and run or fly toward perceived intruders.

"Try to avoid nesting areas, but if that is not possible, carry an umbrella and gently scare the bird away by opening and closing it," said Schauer.

Bird nests and the eggs they may contain are protected under federal law. It is illegal to touch, move or possess any part of the nest or eggs without the proper permit.

Get additional tips and information on handling conflicts and what to do if you find a baby animal at [Michigan.gov/Wildlife](http://Michigan.gov/Wildlife).

Questions? Contact the DNR Wildlife Division at 517-284-9453.



## THE WARBLER GUIDE

Spring is an exciting time to be a birder, but can also be very confusing with the similar looking and sounding warblers. Thankfully, there are many great birding guides and apps that can help you get better at your warbler ID skills.

My favorite app to use in the spring is The Warbler Guide. This digital companion to The Warbler Guide, by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, does cost up to \$12.99 (it can occasionally go on sale), but is well worth the price. The app is packed full of valuable ID tips, fall and spring plumage guides for Eastern and Western warblers, song clips, search features and a full 3D rotating view of the warblers!

I highly recommend this app to anyone trying to better their warbler identification skills. The Warbler App features many different views of each warbler, so even if you only see the underside (which can often happen) you can narrow in on the underside tail and belly features that can help you identify the bird!

You can hear directly from the authors in a 2017 interview with Bird Calls Radio at - [birdcallsradio.com/episode-085-tom-stephenson-scott-whittle/](http://birdcallsradio.com/episode-085-tom-stephenson-scott-whittle/)

To purchase the app, search for The Warbler Guide on the Apple App Store, or wherever you purchase your apps. The book is available online at Amazon and many other book sellers for around \$30.

