



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
SEPTEMBER 2021

Join Us

AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

Join us at our next meeting Thursday, September 2, 7:00 - 8:30pm on Zoom!

**Great Lakes Piping Plover:
An Endangered Shorebird Near You
Presenter: Stephanie Cabala Schubel**

Stephanie Cabala Schubel has been working on the Great Lakes Piping Plover Project for 15 years. During this time, she has participated in the full range of activities necessary to keep the endangered Piping Plover safe and to promote its recovery.

In her talk, you will learn how to identify the Piping Plover from other shorebirds, how to recognize its habitat, and some basic biological information on the species. She will also provide an overview of the history of the project and an update on the current status of the Great Lakes Piping Plover. Learn about the conservation practices involved in the recovery of the Piping Plover and where you can find more information on Plovers and the Great Lakes Piping Plover Project to help this endangered shorebird on a beach near you.

This meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. Please visit - <https://msu.zoom.us/j/93046251213> or open your Zoom app and enter Meeting ID - 930 4625 1213 Password - CAAS

Social time will take place from 7-7:15 followed by brief announcements and our speaker at 7:20pm.

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

Hopefully your summer was filled with good health, family, friends, catching up with those we have missed over the last year and plenty of birding!

The heat is still around, but many birds are already headed south and my kids have returned to school, so things around here are feeling very fall-like.

Our family spent time camping in Northern Michigan and got to see our first Ruffed Grouse creepers (babies) off a hiking trail in Roscommon! The Robins who typically nest on the side of our house chose the neighbor's bushes for their nursery this year and we were lucky enough to be close by when all three of the youngsters fledged!

A very noisy House Wren also chose a nest box on our back porch, making a very predictable morning alarm clock and delightful evening entertainment.

We were out of town when the young fledged, so hopefully they have a successful migration and we can watch all the drama unfold again next summer.

As we start our program year, the risks of Covid exposure are again changing. Our board decided to host meetings on the Zoom platform until it is safe to hold in-person meetings indoors again. Our hope is that by 2022 we will be able to meet in person.

Fall Migration Birds Walks will start back up in September at Fenner Nature Center. We hope that by spending time outdoors together at walks and joining each other virtually for monthly meetings, that we can preserve our connections and keep learning more about the amazing birds and birding opportunities in the Capital Area and around the world.

Hope to see you all soon! - Kristy

GREAT LAKES PIPING PLOVERS

At this month's meeting, join us to learn about the Piping Plovers who call the Great Lakes home. For additional resources, please visit - <https://www.greatlakespipingplover.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/GLPIPL/>



CAAS EVENTS

Saturday Morning Fall Migration Bird Walks - September 4, 11, 18, 25

See what's new each week at **Fenner Nature Center** and get some help with those confusing fall warblers from experienced birder **Bob Kingsbury**. Walks start at **9:00 a.m.**

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.

Backyard Birding with the Eaton Rapids Library and CAAS

September 16, 5:30-6:30pm

Oakridge Park

360 Dexter Road, Eaton Rapids, MI

For more information, see the informational poster on page 3.

Capital Area District Library Bird Walk September 18, 8am

Hawk Island Park, Red Tail Shelter

Join CAAS walk leader Barb Hosler for a walk with the CADL! This walk is free and for all ages.

Bird Banding Demonstration at the MSBO September 17 - 8-11am

Burke Lake Banding Station

www.burkelakebanding.com for directions and more information.

Monthly Meetings -

October 7 – A Summer with the USFWS studying Shorebirds in Alaska

Speaker - **Evan Griffis**

Griffis will share his summer research from Alaska studying Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers and Upland Sandpipers.

November 4 – To Be Announced

This program will be held via Zoom. Please check our newsletter next month for additional information.

December 2 – Christmas Bird Count Speaker - CAAS Members

Join CAAS members to learn more about the Capital Area Christmas Bird Counts. Hear about the history of the count, memorable years, rare birds, and how to get involved with this year's count!

Programs this fall will be held the first Thursday of each month via Zoom.

If you have a speaker suggestion or a topic you would like presented, please email caascallnote@gmail.com or let a board member know at our next meeting.

FALL BACK INTO BIRDING WITH THE MI DNR

- *MI Birds & Michigan DNR*

Over 380 bird species travel through Michigan each fall!

Fall migration is truly a magical time, as waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, songbirds and raptors pass through Michigan on their trips south to their wintering grounds. Michigan lies at the intersection of two migration "superhighways," the Mississippi and Atlantic, which bring over 380 bird species through our state each fall!

Michigan's coastal and inland wetlands act as important resting and refueling zones for migratory birds and are some of the best habitats to visit during fall migration. Wetlands provide birds with water, food and shelter during their long migration journeys, so many birds follow Michigan's coastlines on their travel south.

HERE ARE BIRDS TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS:

August: Shorebird migration started in July and continues into August along our coastal mudflats, muddy areas within inland wetlands and flooded fields. Some songbirds are also migrating this month, including many warblers, warbling vireos, cuckoos, flycatchers and common nighthawks, which peak at the end of the month.

BIRD MIGRATION IN REAL TIME

This fall, use BirdCast to plan your birding adventures. Each day (through November 15th) at birdcast.info you can see the predicted migratory movement of birds across the United States for the upcoming three days. You can also check to see the previous night's migration and learn about how small changes (like turning off your outdoor lights) on heavy migration nights can make a big difference!

BirdCast uses radar technology to study bird migration and shares live migration maps and much more.

One of the ways that BirdCast has applied the science to action is their 'Lights Out Alerts'. These give cities and home owners an alert to find

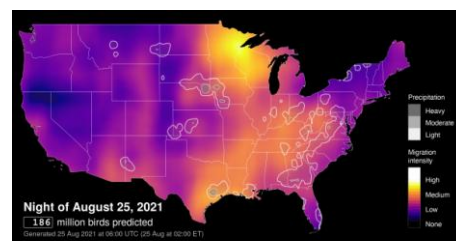
September: Raptors, primarily broad-winged hawks and sharp-shinned hawks, start to move through the region in great numbers. Waterfowl, mainly dabbling ducks like mallards, blue-winged teals and American widgeons, also head south, along with gulls (including some rare species), songbirds including warblers and thrushes, and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

October: Diving ducks – like common goldeneyes, long-tailed ducks and canvasbacks – as well as northern finches like dark-eyed juncos and pine siskins arrive for the winter. Northern breeders, such as ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets, American pipits and horned larks, start to move south. Warbler and thrush migration starts to wind down. Warblers still on the move this month include the blackpoll warbler, yellow-rumped warbler and orange-crowned warbler (which peak in October). Hawk diversity increases, and sandhill cranes start to move through the state in great numbers.

November: Diving ducks, sea ducks (such as long-tailed ducks), rare gulls (like Iceland gull), sandhill cranes and sparrows continue to move through Michigan. Lapland longspurs and snow buntings travel in peak numbers. Northern owls, such as great gray owls, snowy owls, northern hawk-owls and boreal owls, make their way into the Upper Peninsula. Rough-legged hawks and golden eagles also move through the state in decent numbers.

out when the need for Lights Out practices are especially high in their areas. Fall Migration runs from around August 15th through November 30th. Birds can be impacted any time during migration, so these alerts can be very helpful to pinpoint the times when it would be most important to turn out those lights at your home or business!

Visit BirdCast.info to see how this 20-year long vision inspires the next generation of bird migration research!



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! It's time to join or renew your membership! Memberships run the length of the program year, September to August.

SEPTEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2022

Membership Categories

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

To sign up and pay online, visit - capitalareaaudubon.org

If you would like to mail your membership form and payment, please mail to -
CAAS, PO Box 22065, Lansing, MI 48910

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.

2021-2022 CAAS Officers

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MI DNR MONITORING BIRD ILLNESS

By Emily Bingham - July, 2021,
LANSING, MICH. www.mlive.com

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is keeping an eye on an emerging illness that has sickened and killed hundreds of songbirds in the eastern United States.

First reported late this spring in the Washington D.C. area, the unknown illness causes birds to develop neurological symptoms, such as disorientation and difficulty flying, as well as swelling and crusting of the eyes. It is affecting multiple species of backyard songbirds, including blue jays, American robins, Northern cardinals, European starlings and common grackles.

In the past few weeks the illness has been reported in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. It has not been reported in Michigan, but the Michigan DNR

is communicating with affected states and monitoring the situation, said Holly Vaughn, public outreach and engagement unit manager with the DNR.

The cause and transmission mechanisms of the illness remain unclear and under investigation.

As a protective measure, some agencies in affected states are recommending that people remove their backyard bird feeders for the time being. The Michigan DNR is not advising that Michiganders follow suit, but is reminding those who feed backyard birds to properly clean their feeders to protect the health of songbirds.

To report diseased birds in Michigan, visit the DNR's online [Eyes in the Field page](#), or call the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030.

BACKYARD BIRDING

With Capital Area Audubon Society

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

5:30 - 6:30 PM

OAK RIDGE PARK

360 DEXTER RD
EATON RAPIDS, MI 48827

No Library Card or registration is needed.
Intended for kids (Grades 4-6).

Learn about the birds in your own backyard with the Capital Area Audubon Society!

Meet us at Oak Ridge Park to make peanut butter-pinecone bird feeders and play a bird migration game.

Stop by the Library afterward to check out a bird-watching book or binocular set!

