

KRISTY TAYLOR 2021



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
APRIL 2022

Join Us

AT OUR APRIL MEETING!

Join us at our next meeting Thursday,
April 7, at 7pm via Zoom
Birds and Wildlife of Uganda
Presenter: Alexia Witcombe

Alexia Witcombe is a former CAAS board member and enjoys being involved with local birding organizations, including as a volunteer with the Michigan State Bird Observatory. While conducting agroecological research in Uganda, Alexia had the opportunity to see and photograph some of the incredible birds and wildlife found in "the pearl of Africa." She is currently an assistant professor at MSU in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences.

This meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. Please visit - <https://zoom.us> or open your Zoom app and enter **THIS IS A NEW ZOOM MEETING ID - Meeting ID - 425 279 1091**
Password - CAAS



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

I am so excited to see you all this spring! This month will be our last Zoom meeting, (fingers crossed), and we will plan on in-person meetings for our May and June meetings and the 2022-23 program year! Our board will pay attention to any changes in the Covid landscape and let you know if we need to take a different approach, but for now, we look forward to greeting you all face-to-face very soon!

Our April meeting will be held on Zoom and will feature former CAAS Board member, Alexia Witcombe as she shares some faraway places and amazing birds with us. Please note that the link this month is different than months past. There are also many in-person and online opportunities this spring featured on page 3.

This April, the MSU Science Fest is celebrating its 10th year and will host events around the state including a Bioblitz at many local natural areas and visits to museums, nature centers, and more. The festival is a great introduction to a few of the many ongoing research projects at MSU and a great way to learn more about science in our community.

For our meeting in May, CAAS will meet at the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, in Laingsburg, for an overview of the property, a tour of the Bird Banding Barn and an evening walk to the marsh. More details will be included in next month's Call Note.

Our spring bird walks will begin Saturday May 7th, and will take place at Fenner Nature Center each Saturday in May. All are welcome and beginners are encouraged to attend.

One of the best ways to learn more about our spring warblers is to take a walk with group who can help you identify the new-to-you species. Warblers can be hard to spot, but with a group, we always seem to add quite a few to the Fenner list each year. Last spring was pretty quiet, and diversity seemed low, so hopefully numbers will return to normal this year. If you would like to help lead one of these casual walks, please email us at caascallnote@gmail.com.

On June 2, our final meeting of the 2021-22 program year will wrap up at Fenner Nature Center. We will meet near the parking lot for a brief annual meeting and we will also host a small birding/nature book exchange (more details next month) followed by an evening walk.

I am hopeful that the weather will be in our favor as we start to hold more outdoor events and that spring migration this year is a rewarding one for all of you. I look forward to the sore neck, muddy boots and wet socks that spring always seems to bring.

See you soon!
Kristy Taylor



CAAS EVENTS

May Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 6:30pm

Walk at Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center

9422 E. Herbison Rd., Laingsburg, MI
Short program, tour of the Bird Banding Barn and site overview at 6:30pm, followed by a walk at 7pm. Dress for the weather, walk will be easy, but may be wet depending on weather. **This meeting will have an earlier start time than our regular meetings. Please arrive at 6:30.**

Spring Bird Walks -

This spring, we will hold our Saturday bird walks each Saturday in May at Fenner Nature Center. These casual Saturday walks will begin at 8am on May 7, 14, 21, 28. Meet at the parking lot near the nature center.

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

June Monthly Meeting

Thursday June 2, 7:00pm

Walk at Fenner Nature Center

Annual Meeting, welcome and comments by the board at 7pm, followed by a walk at 7:15pm.

This meeting will also host a Nature and Bird Book Exchange. If you bring a book, you will receive a ticket to exchange for a different book to take home. If you did not bring a book, you can purchase a book from the table. All proceeds will go to CAAS.

JOIN OUR BOARD!

The CAAS Board is in need of two members to serve on the board of directors for the 2022-23 program year. If you would like to help steer the CAAS, lead field trips, engage with members or help with volunteer opportunities, we need you! Please send your interest to caascallnote@gmail.com with a brief bio and your interest in serving on the board.

LOCAL EVENTS

Check out our Facebook page at [facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon) for local events, plant sales, Audubon events around the state and much more!

If you have an event to share, please email caascallnote@gmail.com.

MSU FW CLUB INSTALLS PEREGRINE BOX

A pair of peregrine falcons have been observed around Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium for the past five years. The falcons persist despite rowdy football games, heavy traffic, and thousands of students surrounding them - conditions clearly absent from the remote cliffsides they usually call home. Despite this falcon activity, a nest has never been located and young have never fledged. The Fisheries and Wildlife Club at MSU has taken on a project to assist the nesting efforts of this pair of endangered birds by installing a nest box at Spartan Stadium.



This project includes the installation of a peregrine falcon nest box, which if successful, would provide banding and research opportunities to MSU students, and outreach and engagement for the local community. The box was installed on January 28th and already has a pair investigating the box.



Female Peregrine preparing a scrape on March 21, 2022 - FW live cam

This project also includes the installation of a high-definition surveillance camera to live-stream video footage of the nest to the University website. This will allow the public to engage with the project and watch nest activities such as egg-laying, growth and development of falcon chicks, and feeding. The Fisheries and Wildlife Club wishes to foster a connection between Spartans and the falcons and bring awareness to urban wildlife conservation through this project.

The live cam can be viewed at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZxtVFoW9ts>



The team running this project consists of a devoted group of undergraduate Fisheries and Wildlife Club members. This group of students is committed to supporting wildlife conservation and providing engagement opportunities to other members and the community. Their involvement in Fisheries and Wildlife Club is preparing them to be the next generation of wildlife professionals.



TOP SHIAWASSEE COUNTY HOTSPOTS

Did you know that eBird lists the top hotspots for each county? The next few months, we will highlight top ten hotspots for nearby counties along with the species totals!

1. Rose Lake SWA (191 species),
2. Byron Millpond (142),
3. Gerald E. Collamer/Hopkins Lake Park (114),
4. DeVries Nature Conservancy (109),
5. Shiatown Park (72),
6. Harmon-Partridge Park (46),
7. Pinegrove County Park (42),
8. Henderson Park (41),
9. Elliot-Patchett Nature Preserve (33),
10. Venice Landfill (32).

To view more, visit ebird.org/explore and enter the region you would like to explore.

SPRING EVENTS

MSU Science Festival

April 1-30

Virtual Event

The 2022 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.

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

Biggest Week in American Birding May 6-15, Northwest Ohio

This year's Biggest Week is back in person! Enjoy this spring birding celebration including workshops, keynote presentations and field experiences in northwest Ohio.

Registration is \$50, or \$30 to BSBO (Black Swamp Bird Observatory) members. To learn more, visit - www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival May 12-15

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.

Registration and schedule are available online at - <https://indunesbirdingfestival.com/>

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

SPRING MIGRATION IN MICHIGAN

If you want to get in a weekend of high quality spring migration birding, check out one of the following Michigan birding locations. Many trails 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 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. Spring is a great time to check for the return of the Piping Plovers to their nesting grounds along the lakeshore.

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.

Maple River State Game Area

Just north of Lansing, on either side of US127, the Maple River SGA is a great place to view migrating waterfowl, songbirds and shorebirds. This area is considered one of the Michigan DNR's Wetland Wonders properties.

Hartwick Pines State Park is in the heart of Kirtland Warbler country and also has a visitor center feeder that regularly hosts Evening Grosbeak. This is one of the most visited stands of old-growth forest in the nation and offers a trail suitable for all abilities.

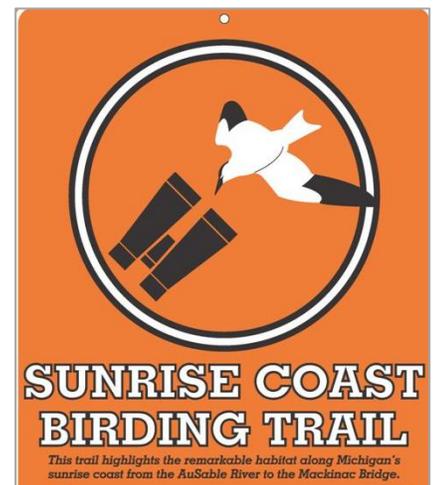
Shiawassee National Wildlife

Reserve typically opens in June for wildlife viewing and is a great area location for birding by car. Visit the website before you head out, as the trail will close during hunting seasons and due to flooding.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the Upper Peninsula is well worth the drive and a spring visit. Loons will return and begin nesting attempts in the spring and you may get a glimpse of the oldest known loon pair in the world!

To view all of the Michigan birding trails and more great birding locations from the Michigan DNR, visit 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.

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

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Capital Area Audubon Society
PO Box 22065, Lansing MI 48909.

Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month.

2021-2022 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	Sandra Conn

2021-2022 CAAS Board of Directors

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

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SPRING CLEAN UP

This time of year the urge to clean up our lawns and green spaces can also harm insects that have decided to use that leaf litter to overwinter. Consider letting the lawn clean up wait until the weather has been over 50 degrees for three to four consecutive days.

Take this time instead to take down bird feeders, clean and prep them for the spring! Feeders and baths need regular cleaning to eliminate any mold, feces or dirt accumulated over time. Finches and other birds can carry the highly contagious finch-eye disease, that can be spread at backyard feeders.

Feeders can be cleaned with a bleach solution, rinsed and fully dried before filling and returning outside.

This can also be used to keep larger flocks of starlings or blackbirds from emptying your feeder. Removing the feeder for a few days can encourage groups to move on.

Spring birds returning from migration are going to use feeders as a supplemental food source before many switch to insects as they start to raise their young.

Do not be surprised if a slow time starts in early summer as birds are now seeking other wild sources of food found away from feeders. This is a great reason to plant native plants, as they provide a home and food for many of the insects and larva the birds will need for their nestlings!

BOREAL OWL IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

*LEELANAU COUNTY, Mich.
(WPBN/WGTU) --*

It's not every day you spot a rare owl in northern Michigan, but for one 17-year-old bird watcher, it was his lucky day.

Bird enthusiasts wait their whole lives to spot birds like this Boreal owl and fortunately, Evan Reister had his camera ready to go.

Bird enthusiasts wait their whole lives to spot birds like this Boreal owl and fortunately, Evan Reister had his camera ready to go. (Evan Reister)

"They're super hard to find. Most birdwatchers and naturalists can go their whole life without actually being able to see one. It's more common to hear than you actually get to see them. So pretty lucky we got to see one out on the exposed perch like I did," said Reister.

Even more rare, finding this remote bird during the daylight hours. "They are very secretive. It's not usual for somebody to see one live. They are one of the nocturnal owl species they only they're only around out at night, they don't come out in the daytime very often at all, explained Ed Pike, Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch. Boreal owls are typically found in northern regions in Canada and have been spotted in places like Whitefish Point, around the city of Cheboygan, and now sometimes Suttons Bay.

"They do in the winter some winters there what is referred to as an

erupting species that only comes occasionally into the area of Michigan mostly into the Upper Peninsula and even less often in the Lower Peninsula," said Pike.

Boreal owls are smaller in size. Pike says they are a little bigger than the Northern Saw-Whet owl which is common in Northern Michigan but being smaller also means they are hard to spot.

"That's what makes it an interesting species when it does show up, but normally they aren't found other than by banding stations where they capture them in a mist net and then band the bird. They got really lucky finding this bird," said Pike. Lucky and, as Reister, said totally by accident.

"I wasn't really focused on the owl. That's why it kind of slipped by me for a minute what it actually was but when I ended up going to my local Audubon meeting that evening, we actually were at NMC looking at their bird collection and that's kind of what triggered me saying, I don't think I saw a Saw-Whet Owl and turned out it was a Boreal Owl," said Reister. "So that was pretty awesome once I figured it out. It was just not found the Boreal owl as far south in the area that's just remarkable."

After spotting this bird in the Northern Lower Peninsula, Reister and Pike both agree who knows if bird watchers will spot another one this year.