

KRISTY TAYLOR 2021

## Join Us

### ATOUR MAY MEETING!

**Join us at our next meeting  
Thursday, May 5, 6:30pm  
Walk and tour at the Corey Marsh  
Ecological Research Center  
9422 E. Herbison Rd., Laingsburg, MI**

Join CAAS for a short program and site overview by CMERC Director Jen Owen followed by a tour of the Bird Banding Barn and a walk to the Marsh.

Dress for the weather, layers and boots or water proof shoes are recommended.

The walk will be easy, but may be wet depending on weather. The main trail at CMERC is crushed gravel and easy to navigate. Bathroom facilities will be available. Bring binoculars and scopes if you have them. Extra binoculars will be available to borrow during this event. This walk will be appropriate for all ages and non-members are welcome.

***This meeting will have an earlier start time than our regular meetings. Please arrive at 6:30pm. The walk will begin at approximately 7:00pm.***



*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 has finally arrived and although the warmer weather has yet to return, the birds are starting to come back in droves.

Each morning during migration, I try to check the BirdCast migration forecast to see how many birds are predicted to move through the area.

This site is newly updated with some amazing maps and additional information for those looking to get out birding on the Migration Dashboard! Visit [birdcast.info](http://birdcast.info) for more information.

This month we will return to in-person meetings and I cannot wait to share the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center (CMERC) with you all.

I have been lucky enough to lead educational events at CMERC as a part of my job with the Michigan State Bird Observatory for the last three years.

The bird diversity, accessibility of the site and beautiful wetland make CMERC one of my favorite places to spend a spring morning. During our meeting I hope you will be able to hear the frogs, in all their spring splendor, calling from the woods and wet areas around the barns and see the Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows checking out the nest boxes along the marsh trails.

The research center also hosts many different ongoing projects, including acoustic bat surveys, turtle monitoring, duck banding, secretive marsh bird research, cavity nesting bird studies, migratory bird banding, trail camera, MSU student projects, and more.

Use of iNaturalist and eBird at the site help researchers learn more about the biodiversity and seasonal changes. During the spring and summer, visitors can participate in a Bioblitz using iNaturalist to help record all of the living things calling the marsh home. These programs encourage visitors to interact with the center and to learn more about their natural surroundings.

CMERC also offers two interactive guided trails. The newly installed historical interpretive trail and audio tour gives visitors an opportunity to learn more about the history of the site, including its past as the MSU Muck Soils Research Farm.

The other trail is available during the summer and encourages younger visitors to learn more about different aspects of the outdoors including native plants, pollinators, birds, tick safety, animal tracks, how to contribute to community science projects and more.

I hope you are able to join us for this walk and experience the marsh for yourself!

Happy Spring!  
Kristy Taylor



# CAAS EVENTS

## 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.

## We still need leaders for these walks!

If you would be willing to help lead a walk, please email us at [caascallnote@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:caascallnote@gmail.com) with a brief bio and your interest in serving on the board.

Nominee bios will be posted in the Call Note next month.

# 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!

## Fenner Nature Center - Birding 101

Saturday, May 14, 9-11am

\$10 members, \$15 non-members

Bring your binoculars and join Fenner Naturalists for an introduction into the world of birding on International Migratory Bird Day. Learn calls of common birds, identification methods, bird biology, and migration patterns tickets are available at -

[mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org)

# REDUCE THE SPREAD OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

MI DNR - April 20, 2022 -

Temporary removal of bird feeders can help reduce potential spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

As Michigan continues to respond to detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) – commonly referred to as “bird flu” – some residents are asking questions about how best to keep themselves, their poultry flocks and wild bird populations safe. This is of greater interest now, as popular passerines (including many songbird species) make the spring migration back to Michigan and seek out food sources such as backyard bird feeders.

With HPAI confirmed in wild birds and domestic flocks in several counties throughout Michigan, wildlife and animal health experts in the state’s departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development have been fielding increased calls about the HPAI virus. Follow the current status of HPAI in Michigan counties at [Michigan.gov/BirdFlu](http://Michigan.gov/BirdFlu).

Megan Moriarty, the state wildlife veterinarian with the DNR, said it is important to note that while all birds are potentially susceptible to HPAI, some are more likely than others to become infected and die. Domestic birds and some wild birds, like waterfowl, raptors and scavengers, are highly susceptible and have been particularly affected by this disease.

“Current research suggests songbirds are less susceptible to highly pathogenic avian influenza and are unlikely to play a significant role in spreading the virus,” Moriarty said. “However, much remains unknown, and surveillance and testing for HPAI in this group of birds is less common, resulting in a knowledge gap.”

Audubon and Michigan DNR recommend that one easy way the public can help reduce the potential spread of HPAI is to remove outdoor bird feeders. Though there isn’t yet any widespread recommendation from state agencies to do so, temporary removal of these food sources could be helpful, especially for anyone who has highly susceptible species – domestic poultry, raptors or waterfowl – living nearby. Similarly, removal could be a wise choice for those who observe high-risk species like blue jays, crows or ravens hanging around backyard bird feeders. This temporary removal of bird feeders and baths

may only last for the next couple months, or until the rate of HPAI spread in wild and domestic birds decreases.

“If you’re concerned about this virus and want to act from a place of abundant caution, removing your bird feeders for now makes sense, but it isn’t yet a critical step,” Moriarty said. “With warmer springtime weather on the way, too, birds will have more natural food sources readily available to them, so chances are many people will be taking down feeders in a few weeks anyway.”

If people choose to continue using their bird feeders, please keep this guidance in mind:

Thoroughly clean bird feeders with a diluted bleach solution (and rinse well) once per week. Regularly cleaning helps protect birds against other infections, including salmonella. Clean up birdseed that has fallen below the feeders to discourage large numbers of birds and other wildlife from congregating in a concentrated area.

Don’t feed wild birds, especially waterfowl, near domestic flocks.

Anyone who notices what appear to be unusual or unexplained deaths among wild bird populations is asked to report the information either by: Using the DNR’s [Eyes in the Field app](#). Choose the “diseased wildlife” reporting option or calling the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030.

No human cases of this strain of HPAI virus have been detected in the United States.

“It is vital for poultry owners to take every step possible to keep wild birds away from their flocks and follow other biosecurity measures,” said State Veterinarian Nora Wineland. “Simple, yet effective mitigation strategies help protect not only your flock but others around the state. We have to work together to keep Michigan’s domestic and wild bird populations safe and healthy.”

Domestic bird owners should watch for unusual deaths, a drop in egg production, decrease in water consumption or an increase in sick birds. If avian influenza is suspected, immediately contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after hours). For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/BirdFlu](http://Michigan.gov/BirdFlu).

# SPRING EVENTS

## Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, 9am

Harris Nature Center

3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos, MI

Native plants such as coneflower, butterfly weed and cardinal flower, can enhance your garden with color and ease of maintenance. The Harris Nature Center is hosting a sale of over 80 varieties of native plants this spring.

## Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14, 8am- 2pm

1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos, MI

Feeding birds with native plants can save money and offer food all year! The Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter will be selling native Michigan wildflowers and grasses at the Meridian Farmer's Market. They will have plants that support pollinators and milkweeds for Monarchs!

## 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/](http://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. It also aims to have a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors to and residents of the Indiana Dunes region.

Registration and schedule are available online at -

<https://indunesbirdingfestival.com/>

## MI Birds Michigan Events

Visit [gl.audubon.org](http://gl.audubon.org) to learn about all of the MI Birds partner events happening this spring and summer.

Field trips, walks, volunteer work days, webinars, beginning birder events and more. These events take place all over the state and many are free!

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

# PRACTICING BIRD SONG ID

How are you at "birding by ear?" Could you identify a singing Yellow-rumped Warbler by its song?

With birds beginning to sing in earnest this spring, and new birds migrating into your neighborhood now through early June, it's time to start practicing your birding by ear skills. That is, it's time to refresh your memory, or relearn bird songs and calls you have forgotten since last spring. Those songs will come back to mind quickly, but it's also a great time to learn new songs to add to the list of birds you can identify when you hear their songs. Overall, learning bird songs and calls makes you a better birder – and it's fun!

Any veteran birder will tell you that learning bird songs is a great way to identify distant birds, birds hidden by dense foliage, birds at night, and birds that look almost identical to each other. In fact, when biologists count birds in the field, the majority of species are identified by hearing their songs rather than by seeing them. Same thing for most World Series of Birding and Big Day birders – many of the birds on their species lists are heard and not seen.

When you reach a given birding destination, you can do a quick survey of what's around before you begin a hike. If you hear a song or call you don't recognize, you zero in your attention on that location to find the singer. And throughout times afield, your experiences will be enhanced when you get to know the birds you see by their songs and calls. Same thing in your yard and workplace. If you are looking for some direction to get started, The Cornell Lab provides a great primer on how to make bird song identification easier and more rewarding:

## – 5 Tips to Help You Learn or Refresh Your Bird Song IDs

1) **Watch and Listen** – It's easiest to make the connection between the bird and its song when you see a bird singing. Whenever it's possible, the sounds tend to stick in your mind best when you can see a bird singing the notes.

2) **Learn from Another Birder** – It's much easier to learn bird songs from a fellow birder who can point out a variety of bird songs and calls to you. Ask a friend to help, or check for a nearby birding club, nature center, or Audubon chapter to join a field trip.

3) **Listen to Recordings** – It's fun to start by listening to song recordings of birds you see regularly. Repetition really helps to memorize the sounds. There are many resources for bird songs; some field guides even come with an accompanying bird song CD.

**The Macaulay Library** is the best source to access any bird songs and calls. At their website, just type in the species name of the bird you wish to hear in the Explore Species box [www.macaulaylibrary.org](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org)

A great mobile, cellphone-based source of information about bird identification, including bird songs, is **Merlin Bird ID**, a free smart phone app that you can use to learn and practice bird songs and utilize at home or while you're in the field.

4) **Details, Details, Details** – As you listen to the birds around you, or study recordings, break a given song apart into its different qualities, including rhythm, pitch, tone, and repetition.

5) **How to Listen to a Bird Song** – Concentrate on one bird at a time when you're trying to learn individual songs. Sometimes it's best to focus on one quality of a song at a time, rather than trying to memorize the entire song. Many birds have a characteristic rhythm, pitch, or tone to their song. When you zero in on one of these qualities, you will start to get a better sense of the bird's identity; by learning a part or parts of a bird song, you will eventually add the entire song to your memory.

## 4 Song Qualities to Focus On -

**Rhythm** – Become accustomed to a bird song's characteristic tempo.

**Pitch** – Most birds sing in a characteristic range, with smaller birds typically having higher voices and larger birds having a little deeper voices.

**Repetition** – Some longer bird songs characteristically have repeated syllables or phrases before leading to a new sound.

**Tone** – The tone of a bird's song is sometimes hard to describe, but it can be very distinctive.

Enjoy this information as a beginning or refresher article; it was originally published at [www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls/](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls/)

# 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](http://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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PO Box 22065, Lansing MI 48909.  
*Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month.*

### 2021-2022 CAAS Officers

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## SPRING BIRDING AT GEMS

*MI DNR - April 20, 2022*

The flicker of a golden-winged warbler and the peent of an American woodcock usher in the signature start of springtime in Michigan. To enjoy the return of migratory birds, grab your binoculars and explore one of our Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS). [www2.dnr.state.mi.us/Publications/pdfs/ArcGISOnline/interactiveMaps/gems/](http://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/Publications/pdfs/ArcGISOnline/interactiveMaps/gems/)

GEMS are areas of publicly accessible land managed for wildlife habitat and wildlife recreation. Each area provides abundant food and shelter for a variety of wildlife, including migratory birds. While these areas are primarily used for upland game bird hunting in the fall, they provide excellent birding and wildlife recreation opportunities

year-round. Each area is complete with walking trails, parking areas, site information and maps. The trails, accessible to people of varying physical abilities, are the perfect location for new birders or hikers to explore.

To learn more about Michigan's bird species and to plan your birding trip, visit [Michigan.gov/Birding](http://Michigan.gov/Birding). Are you brand-new to birding? Check out Audubon's How to Start Birding webpage at - [www.audubon.org/birding/how-to-start-birding](http://www.audubon.org/birding/how-to-start-birding).

You'll find everything you need to get started, including necessary equipment, places to go birding, safety tips, how to identify different birds and more.

## SIMPLE STEPS TO PREVENT BIRD COLLISIONS

*Excerpt from National Audubon Society  
April 4, 2022 -*

Some simple actions can help make our communities and the skies safer for birds.

### Preventing Window Collisions - Glass

Birds don't 'see' glass the way we do and may fly into windows and other surfaces that reflect the surrounding landscape or try to fly through glass that appears transparent and invisible. Birds need strong clues on or around glass to warn them that it's there. To prevent these collisions, which can occur day and night, check out the approaches below.

- **Create patterns on the outer surface** - Place dense patterns, such as stripes and dots, on the outer glass surface using commercial products designed for this purpose, or create your own design using craft paper, tape, stickers, paint, and markers designed to be used on glass.
- **Make the glass appear opaque** - Completely cover the outer glass surface with paint, perforated vinyl film, or other materials that will make the glass appear opaque. Perforated vinyl film products are available, which create a solid appearance from the outside, but allows views from the inside.

screens, netting, or hanging cords in front of the glass. As long as the physical barriers do not contain open spaces that are larger than 2 x 2 inches, or the hanging cords are spaced no wider than 4 inches apart, they can effectively discourage most birds from trying to fly through them into the glass.

- **Close blinds or curtains** - Blinds can help discourage birds from flying into windows by creating the appearance of a series of barriers. Closing curtains and shades can also discourage collisions on windows that appear transparent from the outside; however, they are best used on windows where collisions are being caused by the appearance of transparency.
- **Move interior plants away from windows** - Plants directly visible within windows and atria can be a danger as birds perceive them as habitat and may try to fly towards them.
- **Place bird feeders directly on windows** - feeders closer than three feet prevent birds from building up enough momentum to harm themselves if startled.

For the full article and additional resources, visit - [www.audubon.org/news/simple-solutions-prevent-collisions](http://www.audubon.org/news/simple-solutions-prevent-collisions)

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- **Place physical barriers** - like