

KRISTY TAYLOR 2021

the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
SEPTEMBER 2022

Join Us

AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

Thursday, September 8th, 7:00pm
Learn and Walk at Woldumar!
2020 E Mount Hope Ave, Lansing

Join CAAS for a short meeting followed by an evening walk at Woldumar Nature Center in Lansing.

Our program will begin with a vote to approve new Board Applicant Nick Segerson, (Bio on page 2) and thank outgoing board members Julia Spalding and Mike Moquin for their service over the past few years.

Next we will offer an overview of iNaturalist, Merlin Bird ID and eBird with a small handout to get you started if you are new to these amazing apps.

Take a moment prior to the meeting to download Merlin Bird ID and create a profile for the iNaturalist App and eBird if you do not already have one. This will save time the night of the meeting and help get you started!

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

Bring binoculars 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.

The meeting will begin at 7:00. The walk will begin at approximately 7:30pm.

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 love to hear people answer the question, 'What is your favorite season?'. We are very aware of the changing seasons here in Michigan with the ebb and flow of birds, yard chores and ever changing wardrobe.

Each season brings its own beautiful surprises, but I tend to favor fall for a few different reasons.

In early fall, migrating warblers start moving through, trees are just beginning to turn a shade of yellow or red, my children have kicked off a new school year (and an impressive sports schedule) and the temperatures start to fall a little more each evening. I know in a month or two I will miss the warmth, and that makes it even more sweet while it lasts.

Fall brings a return of rhythm to our family. Summer is filled with fun trips, camping, staying up late, exploring and an ever changing schedule. Fall brings a return to the stability and familiarity of weekly repetition and a bit more day to day predictability. Some people thrive on constant change, but I really enjoy those times of dependable harmony, even when it can be packed full!

Capital Area Audubon Programs also return in each fall and I have enjoyed being a part of them for the last seven years. Though 2020 and 2021 were challenging to keep the community of bird and nature enthusiasts together, our board is happy to again return to in-person meetings in 2022-23. Our programs will begin with a few outdoor meetings and walks before we head indoors until the spring.

Our indoor location may change this year based on meeting space availability, so we will announce the full schedule and location next month. Our meetings will still be held the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of September. With the holiday weekend, our board decided it would be best to move to the 8th to accommodate holiday weekend plans.

Thankfully the Lansing area is home to many amazing parks and beautiful natural areas, so even if you will not be travelling for Labor Day weekend, maybe you can get out and spot some migratory species right in your own backyard.

Our fall walks at Fenner will begin the This Saturday at 9am and will again be lead by the fantastic birder Bob Kingsley. These walks are a great way to learn more about fall warblers, and get to meet other birders in the area. All skill levels are welcome!

I hope to see you all on September 8th as we explore Woldumar together!

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

Kristy Taylor
CAAS Board President



CAAS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE -

The CAAS Board is in need of two members to serve on the board of directors for the 2022-23 program year. We currently have one applicant. 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.

Nominee Bio - Nick Segerson

Conservation of the natural world has always been of great importance to me. While attending graduate school in Ithaca, I would regularly go on hikes with my partner while she botanized, and it was there that I developed a love for photographing and observing birds. Upon moving to Lansing in 2020, I had the chance to appreciate the natural areas in the Capital Area and to participate in a handful of field trips with Michigan Audubon. After being able to explore the area and enjoy what has been offered, I'd like to give back. I hope to ensure that the excitement of bird watching is more accessible to anyone who is interested in it and that this excitement can also translate into the preservation of crucial habitats. I hope to accomplish this by joining the CAAS as a board member and supporting all of the amazing work that CAAS is doing and will do.

CAAS EVENTS

Saturday Morning Fall Migration Bird Walks - September 3, 10, 17, 24

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. Group meets at the parking lot.**

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.

LOCAL EVENTS

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

WHAT'S IN A BIRD'S NAME?

EXCERPT from Audubon Magazine - Ariana Remmel - Summer, 2022 -

More than 100 North American birds carry the names of people, some of whom were enslavers, supremacists, or grave robbers. A growing movement aims to do away with honorifics all together and bestow monikers that reflect each species' unique qualities

A growing movement to reexamine names bestowed on everything from college campuses to city streets has swelled to encompass birders, ornithologists, and conservationists. Doing away with honorifics, they say, and renaming birds for the qualities that make each special, could make the birding world more inclusive for those who have long been left out or pushed away. Once unthinkable, the scientific body that governs bird names is finally embarking on a process that could redefine not only what we call myriad birds but also birding itself.

About 150 of the roughly 2,000 North and Central American bird species have honorifics. Most were named for naturalists, such as Alexander Wilson, a chronicler of birdlife during the early 19th century and widely considered the father of American ornithology. The handful of names that commemorate women mostly use first names; Anna's Hummingbird is a tribute to French courtier Anna Massena, wife of an amateur ornithologist. While these figures don't stir up much controversy, other species are saddled with heavier burdens.

Audubon's Shearwater and Audubon's Oriole honor renowned avian artist John James Audubon (also the namesake of this magazine), an enslaver who collected skulls from Texas battlefields during his travels. His contemporary John Kirk Townsend plundered Native American graves; his legacy lives on with Townsend's Warbler and Townsend's Solitaire. Scott's Oriole carries a banner for General Winfield Scott, who willingly accepted a leading role in the genocide of Native Americans on the Trail of Tears.

Steve Hampton has difficulty saying the general's name, preferring to call the bird Yucca Oriole, for its association with the plant. A birder, former California Department of Fish & Wildlife employee, and citizen of the Cherokee Nation, he says honorifics are outdated relics that reflect a time

when colonizers were "on the frontier, ethnically cleansing the West, and simultaneously discovering birds on the side." He analyzed 80 birds with honorifics and found that most were bestowed to Western species in the mid-1800s. As white aggressors paved over the landscape with their names, he says, Indigenous bird names fell victim to the same erasure as mountains, valleys, and rivers.

About one-third of Hampton's study set shows a mismatch between the meaning of the Latin name and the honoree, indicating these men likely weren't the first to describe to science many of the birds they named. Take Bachman's Sparrow. First described in 1823, its original scientific name, *Fringilla aestivalis*, translated roughly to "finch of summer." When Audubon came across the bird nearly a decade later, he believed it to be a new discovery and he named it for his friend John Bachman, whose defense of slavery cast Black people as intellectually and biologically inferior.

The name Bachman's Sparrow reveals nothing about the bird itself, says acclaimed ornithologist and poet J. Drew Lanham. "An honor is a privilege," he says. The name was a favor from one enslaver to another, the gift of a bird between men who wouldn't have considered Lanham a human being, he says, and an honor that neither enslavers nor birds deserve. What's more, he adds, honorifics go against the tenets of rational science. He calls the bird Pinewoods Sparrow, a name that's both poetic and scientifically accurate (the species was later reclassified *Peucaea aestivalis*, "pine-tree bird of summer"). When ornithologists insist on preserving these unobjective vestiges of the past under the guise of research stability, it sends a message that protecting the status quo is the top concern. So he and many others feel honorific names have to go. "We're limiting birds to the fallibility of humanity," Lanham says. "And that is a way of owning what should be wild and free from the names of humans that hang on their backs."

For the full article, background and more information about submitting your ideas for bird names, visit - <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/summer-2022/whats-bird-name>

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 2023 - AUGUST 2024

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.

2022-2023 CAAS Officers

President	Kristy Taylor
Vice President	
Secretary	
Treasurer	Michael Caterino
Membership	Richard Yarsevich

Editor & Facebook	Kristy Taylor
Publicity & Hospitality	Sandra Conn
Field Trip Coordinator	
Program Coordinator	Patricia Deventer
Historian	Barb Andersen
Website	Sandra Conn

2022-2023 CAAS Board of Directors

John Baumgartner
Michael Caterino
Sandra Conn
Patricia Deventer
Barb Andersen
Kristy Taylor
Richard Yarsevich
YOUR NAME HERE!

caaudubon@gmail.com
capitalareaaudubon.org
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WHITEFISH POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

Michigan Audubon -

Located 11 miles north of Paradise, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory is the premier migration hot-spot in Michigan. Jutting out in Lake Superior, Whitefish Point acts as a natural migration corridor, bringing thousands of birds through this flyway every spring and fall. With its wooded dune and swale complex, distinctive to the Great Lakes region, the Point witnesses a huge diversity of migrants. Home to numerous rare breeding birds, this Globally Important Bird Area has recorded over 340 bird species. Research conducted at WPBO significantly contributes to an ongoing effort to increase knowledge of bird migration, encourage public awareness of birds and the environment, and further critical bird conservation.

The shape of Whitefish Point, a peninsula that stretches out into Lake Superior, creates a natural migration corridor. Hemmed in by water on either side, Whitefish Point's land and water features create a natural corridor that funnels thousands of birds through the Great Lakes region during spring and fall migrations, providing unique opportunities for research, education, and conservation programs. As a concentration zone for migrating birds, the Point has been identified an Important Bird Area for several species of conservation need. Thousands of birds use

Whitefish Point as critical stopover habitat to replenish energy reserves before venturing across Lake Superior during spring and fall migrations.

The habitats surrounding the Point are ideal for many of Michigan's boreal birds. Along with summer and yearlong residents, the area attracts numerous winter migrants atypical in the southern part of the state.

Over 340 species of birds have been seen at the Point including: White-winged Scoter, Red-throated Loon, Spruce Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, Jaegers, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, over 30 species of warblers and northern finches like Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Redpolls and Crossbills to name just a few.

Seasonal staff at WPBO conduct waterbird counts in the spring and fall and a spring raptor count. During the seasons, counts are conducted daily. Fall Waterbird counts run August 15-November 15, 8 hours starting at dawn daily. The Hawk Deck and Waterbird Shack are accessible to the public, and you can follow their online blog for regular updates during the counting seasons!

Migration updates are available at - [Migration Counts - Whitefish Point Bird Observatory \(wpbo.org\)](http://Migration Counts - Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (wpbo.org))

GREAT LAKES COASTAL SYMPOSIUM

Register now for the 2022 Great Lakes Coastal Symposium September 19-21, 2022, at the Kewadin Convention Center in the beautiful city of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. This event is presented by the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and Audubon Great Lakes. Early bird registration by August 22 so register today!

The Symposium will bring together hundreds of conservation experts, scientist, educators, Tribal members, and community leaders from across the Midwest to explore the state of our coastal wetland systems in the face of a rapidly changing climate and other threats.

Over three days, participants will discuss current topics related to coastal wetland management and provide input on management and conservation approaches for this upper Great Lakes setting.

Participants will spend time in workshops, presentations and field trips sharing experiences and best practices for managing coastal waters, vegetation, and wildlife.

Registration is \$200 for general attendees, \$80 for student attendees.

For the full schedule or to register, visit - 2022 Great Lakes Coastal Symposium | Audubon Great Lakes