



the Call Note

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON
DECEMBER 2022

KRISTY TAYLOR 2016

Join Us

AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING!

**Thursday, December 1st 7:00pm -
Foster Community Center, Room 213
200 N. Foster Ave, Lansing MI**

**Wild Rice Research with
Speaker - Kailee Pearson**

Kailee Pearson is in her last semester at Michigan State University about to get a degree in Wildlife Biology and Management with plans of becoming a wildlife biologist.

"I'm so excited to speak to you all about my experiences as a student researcher on wild rice. I am one of the few Native American students at MSU which is where my interest in the subject started. I'll outline my story of how I got to where I am and will dive into all things wild rice. I am no expert in growing wild rice, but I worked alongside various professors and professionals in the summer of 2021 that taught me a lot of what I know, so I hope I can teach you all something new.

If you want a summary of what I have done so far this article was written about my experiences this summer working on my independent research: [Bringing Indigenous wild rice research closer to campus | MSUToday | Michigan State University](#). Thank you for your interest in my research, I am excited to see you all in December!"



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 hope you have all enjoyed this very temperate fall and look forward to participating in this year's Christmas Bird Count.

The East Lansing count is one of many across the state and across the country. If you would like to participate in this year's local count, please check out the information on page three. If you will be travelling in December, you can check out the national Audubon website for information on counts across the country.

It was wonderful to see everyone at our November meeting. After a bit of confusion and room swapping at our last meeting, we had a room full of guests and enjoyed learning about improving our backyard habitats from presenter Alexa Warwick. An email with her resources was sent the week

following her presentation. If you would like those sent to you, please let me know at caascallnote@gmail.com

Our December meeting should be much less eventful (and hopefully offer a few more available parking spots)! For those planning on attending, we will be in room 213 (at the end of the hall upstairs). There is also an additional parking lot located on the north side of the building if the main parking area is full.

If you would like to help provide light refreshments at our meetings, we need a few more volunteers for the remaining programs. You can email me at caascallnote@gmail.com if you have questions or if you would like to sign up.

Kristy Taylor
CAAS Board President

UPPER PENNINSULA WINTER BIRDING

MI DNR -

The Shore-to-Shore Birding Trail, a driving/walking/birding experience that covers more than 400 miles and 40 bird-watching locations throughout parts of Chippewa, Schoolcraft, Luce and Mackinac counties, offers abundant year-round birding opportunities.

The trail, in the eastern Upper Peninsula, spans Lake Superior's southern shore from Sault Ste. Marie to Whitefish Point. Whitefish Point, a prime birding destination, features an abundance of songbirds, shorebirds and raptors that migrate through in the spring and fall. The trail then heads south and east through forests, bogs and patches of

grassland. Stops include the Hiawatha National Forest, the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, the Silver Creek Birding Trail and other birding locations.

Visit shoretoshorebirdingtrail.org for an interactive map of locations as well as tips and other helpful information for planning your trip.



photo by Evan Griffiths

CAAS EVENTS

Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of the month September - June
All meetings are open to the public.

Meetings will begin at 7pm in Room 213 at Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave. Lansing, MI (unless otherwise listed)

East Lansing Christmas Bird Count - Saturday, December 17th

Full details on Page 3.

Please contact Barb Hosler with questions at birdingbarb@yahoo.com
Compilation meeting will take place on Zoom.

January 5 – Up to My Ears in Mud and Traffic, Speaker - Susan Elbin

Lessons from Long-term Bird Monitoring in New York City. Susan will give us a glimpse into the lives and conservation issues facing some NYC birds, share her secret to working with a small staff in a very large city, and celebrate some of their conservation successes!

February 2 – Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan and State of the Bird, Speaker - Tony Henehan

Learn about the State Wildlife Action Plan, how it helps birds and species of special concern here in Michigan and what the Restoring America's Wildlife Act could mean for our state.

Thursday March 2 - Red-tailed Hawk Research and Migration Speaker - Nick Alioto

Thursday April 6 - TBA

Spring Bird Walks - Saturday Mornings in April and May at Fenner Nature Center

Walks begin at the parking lot at 8am. Beginners are welcome.

Thursday May 4 - Migration in Mid-Michigan at Capital City Bird Sanctuary

Enjoy a walk at this local Michigan Audubon managed property and see what birds are moving through!

Thursday, June 1 - Member Walk and Ice Cream Social at Fenner Nature Center

Join CAAS members and their guests for a quick annual meeting followed by ice cream and a walk around Fenner Nature Center.

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

MICHIGAN WILD RICE INITIATIVE

- Sheri McWhirter - www.mlive.com
March 10, 2022

Wild rice that grows in Michigan's clearest and most pristine waters will be the focus of new state efforts to safeguard among the most culturally and ecologically important native plants in the upper Great Lakes.

A recently awarded \$100,000 state grant will pay for the collaborative creation of a new wild rice stewardship plan by the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative team. The resulting plan will be designed to protect and foster wild rice across the state, which faces threats from generations of habitat loss, degraded water quality, improper harvesting, and climate change.

Wild rice is known as manoomin or mnomin in Anishinaabemowin, the native language of the Indigenous Anishinaabek people of the Great Lakes, which includes Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and more tribal nations across both the United States and Canada. The word means "good seed" or "good berry."

Manoomin is central to the Anishinaabek migration story, according to expert Roger LaBine of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the Upper Peninsula. He said during a recent webinar that Anishinaabek ancestors migrated from the northeastern shores of Turtle Island – the name for North America for many Indigenous people – and chose their new home when they found wild rice in the Great Lakes region. "When we found this food that grows on the water, we knew that we were home. And one of the things that we found out is that this precious and sacred gift, this is the only place on Mother Earth it grows, part of the Great Lakes Basin, the heart of Turtle Island," LaBine said.

Now tribal experts will lead collaborative efforts to craft a new stewardship plan for wild rice, which includes two plant species in Michigan. Manoomin has remained a keystone subsistence food for Indigenous people of the Great Lakes for generations.

"Wild rice grows in predominantly six inches to three feet of water. And in the water when we talk about it, it needs to be great water quality," LaBine said.

It's a sensitive plant that can fail to re-seed if disturbed during any part of its life cycle. Even harvesting the rice is a delicate process that must not disrupt the plant's roots, so Native ricers use poles to push their canoes through rice beds rather than using paddles that can tear the plants away from lake bottoms.

Goals of the coming stewardship plan will be to protect what remains of native wild rice in Michigan, as well as continued efforts to return the species to places it once flourished, said Frank Zomer, a biologist with the Bay Mills Indian Community.

"A lot of what we deal with is monitoring what's there and talking about restoring to places where it either was or just sort of generally restoring it to the landscape, right. We don't necessarily need to have either a written or oral account of it being in a place but if we can restore it to the landscape for the people to have then that's sort of the goal," Zomer said.

The Michigan Wild Rice Initiative team will work with the University of Michigan's Water Center to create a stewardship plan that "acknowledges manoomin as a sacred relative and important member of aquatic communities across the Great Lakes region," said Danielle Fegan, biologist with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa and team co-chairperson with Lambeth.

The team includes representatives of each of the 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan, and both state and federal agency officials.

It's expected the wild rice stewardship plan will lead to more collaboration among tribal and state agencies, as well as more coordinated research, protection, and restoration of wild rice across Michigan.

For the full article, visit - [Michigan's native wild rice would become the state's official grain under bill - mlive.com](http://www.mlive.com)



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

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CAAS EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the support of our membership, Capital Area Audubon offers two \$250 scholarships a year to support educational programming.

These scholarships are offered each program year and are evaluated and approved by the board as they are submitted. Approved requests may include educational opportunities for groups and individuals that are in line with the mission of CAAS.

Preference will be given to CAAS Members and their families. Individuals, schools, teachers and student groups are encouraged to apply.

Recipients will be asked to share with CAAS in the Call Note or in person about their experience.

Please contact the board at caaudubon@gmail.com for the application or with any additional questions.

EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Join us for the 2022 Christmas Bird Count. Like last year, this year's Christmas bird count will take place in person, but will cap off the night with a Zoom compilation meeting.

We encourage participants to make counts and report them to their area leaders. New count participants are encouraged to reach out prior to the count to be connected to an area leader. If you are unsure of which area you would like to help with, let us know and we can help find a group that will work well for you! Beginners are welcome and all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate.

Area leaders are encouraged to reach out to Barb Hosler at birdingbarb@yahoo.com for the electronic compilation forms and additional information. Participants should reach out to their area leaders for more information about the count in their area.

The compilation Zoom meeting will take place at 7pm.

Visit - Zoom.us
Meeting ID - 931 4982 2345
Passcode - ELCBC

Hope to see you there!

