

WASHTENAW AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Sun., Jan. 10 - Audubon Wildlife Film: "Hawaii - Paradise of the Pacific," by Walter H. Berlet. Ann Arbor Pioneer High School auditorium, W. Stadium and Main streets, 3:00 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 20 - General Meeting. Program: Jim Strayer, "Insect Behavior." U-M Botanical Gardens, Dixboro Rd., 7:30 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 17 - Ann Arbor Ornithological Society meeting, Room 2009, U-M Museums Bldg., 7:30 p.m. Speaker to be announced.
- Sun., Feb. 21 - Audubon Wildlife Film: "Around the Bay," by George Regensburg. Ann Arbor Pioneer High School auditorium, 3:00 p.m.
- Sun., March 14 - Audubon Wildlife Film: "Fabulous Africa," by Edgar T. Jones. Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, 3:00 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that the holiday season is over, we need to give some thought to environmental matters. Dr. Sibley W. Hoobler, of Ann Arbor, has held two symposia on The Multiple Use of State Forest Lands, with particular respect to conflict between oil exploration and preservation of ecological and recreational values. The immediate concern is the Pigeon River State Forest. This area is probably the largest tract of wilderness in Lower Michigan. If the moratorium is lifted on oil drilling, this area will be opened to road-building and oil well site clearing. These activities conflict with the maintenance of suitable habitats for eagles, ospreys, elk, bear and other creatures of wilderness areas. Once roads are built, increased development will take place on the private lands within the Pigeon River State Forest area. If you are concerned about this matter, contact Dr. Hoobler, 764-1200, for additional information and a plan of action.

The second immediate concern is the Michigan Audubon Society's Baker Sanctuary near Marshall. The MAS is channeling all of its available money into paying off the debt on the Baker Sanctuary property. This is the oldest of the Michigan Audubon sanctuaries. The first parcel of land was acquired in 1941. Since then several properties have been purchased, so that the sanctuary now consists of 897 acres. This fall the Convis Township Board of Supervisors

was asked to rezone land adjacent to one side of Baker Sanctuary from agricultural to recreational. A group has plans to develop snowmobile trails and year-round use of this property. These uses of the adjacent property do not seem in the best interest of maintaining good nesting habitats for the sandhill cranes and other birds found in the sanctuary. A few of the men interested in developing this new recreation area were found to be hunting on the Baker Sanctuary in November. One individual, in trying to get away, drove his car through part of a fence and ran into Mabelle Isham, a retired teacher and local resident who helps to look after the Baker Sanctuary for the Michigan Audubon Society. Your help for Baker is needed. Another way you can help is to use the enclosed joint membership application of the Michigan Audubon Society and National Audubon Society. If you have already sent in your application then pass this one on to someone else. The Michigan Audubon Society receives \$6.00 from each of the joint memberships taken out.

The 76th annual meeting of the Michigan Audubon Society will take place March 12-13 at Traverse City in the Park Place Motor Inn. The Resolutions Committee is requesting information on environmental concerns of the membership, to be considered at the annual meeting. Submit your written suggestions to me and I will forward them. We have been asked to have a display at the MAS convention. If you would like to help with the display or have suggestions, let me know.

The officers of the Washtenaw Audubon Society are considering whether there are enough members interested in having a current membership list to warrant having one printed. If you would be interested in a membership list, drop WAS secretary, Barbara Miller, a note or call Doris Behling at 434-2048. Did you notice that the Society has a telephone listing in both the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti directories?

It is nearing the time of year when a nominating committee must be selected to find people who would like to be officers of the Washtenaw Audubon Society next year. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee, would like to run for an office, serve as a committee chairman, or have a recommendation for one of these positions, let us know.

The interest at this time seems to indicate that the March education and nature quiz meeting will be preceded by a pot-luck supper. If you are interested in attending, lending slides for the quiz, or helping with the meeting, call Doris Behling.

I was saddened to hear of the untimely deaths of two of our members, Mr. J. W. Freeman and Mrs. Elizabeth Wilbur. The officers have discussed setting up a memorial fund for the Baker Sanctuary in honor of Mr. Freeman and Mrs. Wilbur. If you would like to make a contribution to this memorial, send your checks to Doris Behling, 130 Clubview Drive, Ypsilanti 48197.

A quote from National Audubon: "Audubon is for people. And a better world for people to live in." Let's all try to do more during the coming year to make the world a better place for people and birds.

-- Art Carpenter

CONSERVATION NEWS

Bicycle Network in Ann Arbor. On December 14, the Ann Arbor City Council accepted a Proposal For Establishing A Bicycle Network in Ann Arbor, as presented by the Ann Arbor Bicycle League. WAS sent letters to Mayor Harris and each councilman in support of this thoughtful, sensible proposal, which represents the first phase of a comprehensive plan which will eventually lead to a complete bicycle network connecting all parks, schools, points of interest and centers of business activity within the city.

The network, by providing a safe environment for the increasing number of city bicyclists, will also provide a safer, less-polluted environment for all Ann Arbor residents. By alleviating some of the present auto congestion in the city, we may also prevent costly street widenings and the loss of trees and green space which this entails.

If you are interested in assisting with the work of the Ann Arbor Bicycle League, please contact Mrs. Tina Beyer (662-5175).

DDT and Oil. Two Federal issues which are of particular concern to Audubonites include (1) the U.S. Department of Agriculture still not having taken steps which would effectively prevent the use of DDT and other persistent pesticides nationwide (what is needed are "suspension" orders, not the "cancellation" orders issued to date which can mean years of hearings before becoming effective); and (2) a "speed-up" in offshore oil operations which over the past few years have caused several disastrous kill-offs of seabirds and marine life. Governor Milliken recently warned that continued massive public support is essential to the continued impetus of the environmental movement. In short, your letters count.

WAS Conservation Meeting. A meeting is planned for Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. at my home for all WAS members interested in taking an active part in conservation activities of our Society. The meeting will be somewhat exploratory in nature, so please come prepared with your ideas on what activities and issues you believe we should be concerned with and how we could go about implementing them. The extent of our future conservation activities is dependent upon member participation, so if you are willing to devote your time and energy, please attend this meeting.

If you plan to attend or wish further information, please call me at 665-4292 or drop me a postcard. My address is 1241 Island Drive, Apt. 103, Ann Arbor (Riverhouse Apartments directly across from Island Park). When you call, I can give more explicit instructions on how to reach my place.

Eagles Protected. A news release from the Army Engineers announces the designation of the Eagle Roost Area of Fort Randall Dam in Nebraska as a registered national landmark. The 600-acre tract sustains one of the largest wintering concentrations of bald and golden eagles in the U.S. The Fort Randall staff helps protect the eagles by closing the area to the public during the time the eagles use it. (From Audubon Leader).  
-- Ralph Wall

ANN ARBOR CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Thirty field observers and some thirty observers at feeders participated in Ann Arbor's 24th Christmas bird count on Sunday, December 27. We found a total of 59 species, third highest in the history of the count. Of these, four (yellow-bellied sapsucker, evening grosbeak, cowbird, and red-winged blackbird) were found only at feeders. Thanks to a better-than-average turnout and many feeder reports, we achieved new high counts for 14 species (marked with an asterisk). Winter finches, however, in contrast to last year, were very scarce. Top honors for largest number of species (35) went to the Miles party, working southeast of town. Carl Freeman and Don Behling, south of town, came in second with 32. The more unusual birds are underlined, below. Our weather was cold but favorable, with some snow flurries in the morning and some sunshine in the afternoon. The day was very pleasantly concluded with a supper and count tally at Dorothy Wilbur's house.

The count: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Mute Swan, 5; Canada Goose, 260; Mallard, 217\*; Black Duck, 21; American Widgeon, 1; Common Goldeneye, 18; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 16; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 12; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bobwhite, 69; Ring-necked Pheasant, 117; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 297; Screech Owl, 16\*; Great Horned Owl, 6; Barred Owl, 3\*; Belted Kingfisher, 9; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 14; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 27\*; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 26\*; Downy Woodpecker, 137\*; Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 208\*; Common Crow, 25; Black-capped Chickadee, 248; Tufted Titmouse, 147\*; White-breasted Nuthatch, 139\*; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 11; Winter Wren, 2; Brown Thrasher, 2\*; Robin, 28\*; Hermit Thrush, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 110\*; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 486; Myrtle Warbler, 3; House Sparrow, 989; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 4; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Cardinal, 428\* (previous high, 272); Evening Grosbeak, 6; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 205; Rufous-sided Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 391; Tree Sparrow, 582; Field Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 152\* (previous high, 76); Snow Bunting, 1. Total species, 59; total individuals, 5495. Seen in count area during count period but not on count day: American Coot, 1; Long-eared Owl, 1; Saw-whet Owl, 1; meadowlark sp., 2; Rusty Blackbird, 3.

Participants in the field: Bill Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. William Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Vaden Miles, Janice Johnson, Dan Bender, Burt Levenson, Vera Levenson, Matt Heumann, Carl Freeman, Don Behling, Robert W. Storer, David W. Storer, Mrs. Stanford Ericksen, David Ericksen, Dorothy Blanchard, Joseph Engelhard, William Spencer, Napier Shelton (compiler), David Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Bryant, Jean Adamson, Eunice Hendrix, Nina Peterson, Meroe Stanley, Barbara Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Behling, Heather Thorpe.

Participants at feeders: Vera Levenson, Debbie McMullen, Heather Thorpe, Wilbur Eiteman, Dr. and Mrs. Carlton Wells, Mrs. Wendell Edwards, Mrs. William Darnton, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Huiser, Mrs. Herbert Sloan, Mr. and Mrs. Irving G. Reimann, Mrs. Joan McKenzie, Charles Steinbach, Eino Kaiduri, Dr. A. A. Christman, E. G. Berry, Mrs. Richard Flinn, Mrs. Martin Stiles, Mrs. E. C. Pliske, William H. Kincaid, Louise Ritsema, Diana Semanske, Mrs. Clarence Siebert, Mrs. Robert Noehren, Mrs. J. Emerson, W.A. Lunk, Mrs. C. Eggertsen, Mary Steere.

MONROE CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Monroe, Michigan, area on December 22 rewarded 14 Christmas bird counters with 72 species, including a number of surprises. Freezing rain the night before left roads slick and vegetation ice-coated, but the weather on count day was merely foggy to cloudy. Compiler Shelly Miller deployed his observers in some 6 teams. Carl Freeman and Janice Johnson, at the Erie Gun Club, found 2 Virginia rails and a short-billed marsh wren. The North Cape team had a black-crowned night heron, 2 glaucous gulls, a dunlin, and a sad-looking turkey vulture. Bill and Carol Ross chanced upon a barn sheltering 2 barn owls, and Curt Adkisson came up with a ruby-crowned kinglet. Al Maley worked his owl magic, with 10 long-ears and a field of short-ears, as well as finding an Iceland gull at Bowles Harbor. Because of the great potential of the Monroe area, the count circle was moved slightly northward so as not to overlap the Toledo count circle, and for the first time the results were sent to Audubon Field Notes, for inclusion with other reports from around the continent.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS - NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1970

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Wood Duck	1	12/12	Huron R.	Shelton, Miller
Harlequin Duck	1	12/20	Grosse Isle	Kleiman, Greenhouse
Killdeer	1	12/27	Ann Arbor	Christmas count
Parasitic Jaeger	several	Oct.- Nov.	Pt. Pelee	Several
Glaucous Gull	2	12/22	Erie	Christmas count
Iceland Gull	1	12/22	Bowles Harbor	Christmas count
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	12/12	Erie	Overman
Barn Owl	2	12/22	Monroe Co.	Christmas count
Long-eared Owl	10	12/22	Monroe	Christmas count
Short-eared Owl	4	12/20	Monroe	Maley
Pileated Woodpecker	1	11/18	Liberty Rd.	Bigelow
Brown Thrasher	2	12/27	Ann Arbor	Christmas count
Hermit Thrush	2	12/27	Ann Arbor	Christmas count
Evening Grosbeak	small flocks	Dec.	Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Monroe Co.	Several
Oregon Junco	1	12/12	Huron R.	Miller, Shelton

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Some members have apparently forgotten to pay this year's dues. Would you please check your membership card, and if behind remit your dues, payable to Washtenaw Audubon Society, to Treasurer Doris Behling, 130 Clubview Drive, Ypsilanti 48197?

WASHTENAW AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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