



**WASHTENAW**  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

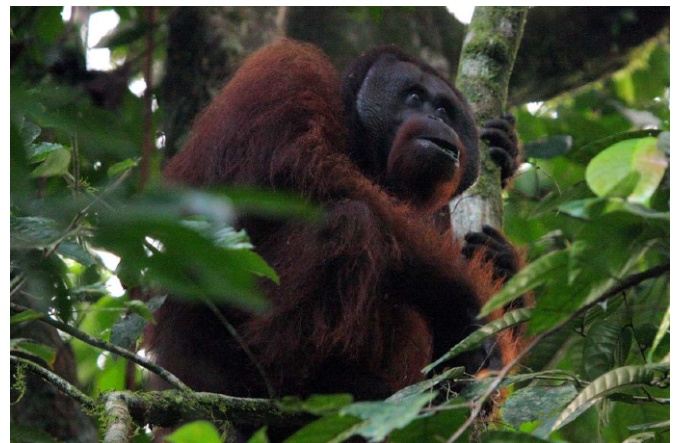
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**NEWSLETTER**

**September/October 2013**

**WAS 4th International Field Trip: Borneo (Malaysia): June, 2014!**

WAS is once again happy to announce the opportunity for international travel with us, this time to the magnificent tropical island of Borneo! This 10-day tour is organized through the birding company Rockjumper Tours, who gave us a fantastic trip to South Africa in 2009 and have given us here an itinerary to all of the top birding destinations in northeastern Borneo (part of the more-modern Malaysian side of the island) at a very reasonable price. We will visit the famed Danum Valley with its canopy walkway, bird by boat along the Kinabatangan River, experience the spectacle of Gomontong Cave's millions of swiftlets, and ascend Mt. Kinabalu, the highest point between New Guinea and the Himalayas. We plan to see between 225-250 species of birds on this trip and particular focus will be on seeing the 40-some possible endemics to this part of this large island. We have excellent chances for 8 hornbills, 6 barbets, 6 broadbills, at least 3 pittas (and hopefully more of these secretive jewels), 18 bulbuls, 4 trogons, 15 sunbirds, the world's largest woodpecker, and the Bornean Bristlehead, a species so unique it is given its own Family. If you have never birded in Asia, plan on most of these birds being absolutely new to you. As if this wasn't enough, Borneo is known for its wealth of mammals and we hope to see Orangutans, Proboscis Monkeys, a variety of species of cat and elephants, among many others. To maximize our odds, we will do a few night drives/boat rides which are typically very successful! Accommodation throughout the trip is of a generally good standard and the hotels and resorts that we make use of are quite comfortable, some downright fantastic! Some examples are Borneo Rainforest Lodge ([www.borneonaturetours.com](http://www.borneonaturetours.com)), Sukau Rainforest Lodge ([www.sukau.com](http://www.sukau.com)), and Sepilok Jungle Resort ([www.sepilokjungleresort.com](http://www.sepilokjungleresort.com)). Exotic, tropical birding in style! Trip details can be found on pg. 8. To reserve a spot or to request a detailed itinerary, trip list (with percentages for every species) or to ask any question about the trip please email Bryn Martin at [brynmartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brynmartin@sbcglobal.net). Hope you can join us for this adventure!



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## Publication

WAS Newsletter is published in Jan., March, May, July, Sept. and Nov. Email or send submissions by the 15th of the month prior to publication to:  
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6241 Runnymede  
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Dear Friends,

One of the most important aspects of our organization is that, like most small non-profits, we are about community- the joining together with others who share a passion. And within Washtenaw Audubon, one very special aspect of our community that I regularly brag about is that we are notably cross-generational. We repeatedly bring together birders of all ages, who happily engage with and learn from one another. This is a good thing!

In celebrating our age diversity at WAS, I'd like to take time to recognize two of our young birders on their exceptional performance in the 2013 ABA Young Birder of the Year competition. Each year young birders from across the country submit portfolios of drawings, photographs, field notes, and writings to a panel of birding experts. Students can make submissions to all or select modules, including a new module this year in Conservation/Community. This year Aspen Ellis and Sarah Toner placed first in three of the five categories in the 14-18 year old division. Remember, this is a national completion, and Aspen and Sarah brought home three first place finishes! This is really quite a phenomenal showing, if you ask me. Aspen placed first in the Field Notebook and Illustration modules, and Sarah place first in the Writing Module. (*You can see samples of their work on the next page.*)

I caught up this past week with both Sarah and Aspen by email and asked for their reflections on the ABA contest. For both of them, the *process* was as valuable, if not more so, than the earned honors.

"I think that the YBY contest is a great experience for young birders to explore new mediums of expression. I learned how to draw birds, improved my writing dramatically, and got my camera as a result of the contest. The contest inspires me to go out of my comfort zone to illustrate birds, keep a detailed field notebook, and network with other birders for conservation..."

And Aspen writes,

"At this time last year, I was getting ready to submit my entries for the Illustration and Field Notebook modules of the ABA YBY Competition, and more than a bit nervous; it was my first time entering the YBY. Regardless of the outcome of that year's competition, however, I had learned a huge amount over the course of the summer, from big things, like how to always be watching for details when observing nature, to little things, like 'Shoot, swallows would be way easier to paint if they would chill out and sit still for a bit.' ... Receiving the judges' comments was fantastic as well, as they were full of useful advice and constructive criticisms. To any young birders interested in competing in the YBY competition in the future, I wholly recommend it - you learn so much, and have a great time in the process. Thank you to everyone for your congratulations and support!"

On behalf of all the Washtenaw Audubon community I want to officially congratulate Aspen and Sarah on their hard work, perseverance, and tremendous achievements. Washtenaw Audubon is extremely proud to call you our own.

Happy Birding,

Sue Johnson

## Rare Bird Alerts

### Michigan Bird Report

<http://birdingonthe.net/birdmail.html>

Scroll down to Michigan, Mich-listers, and SE Michigan



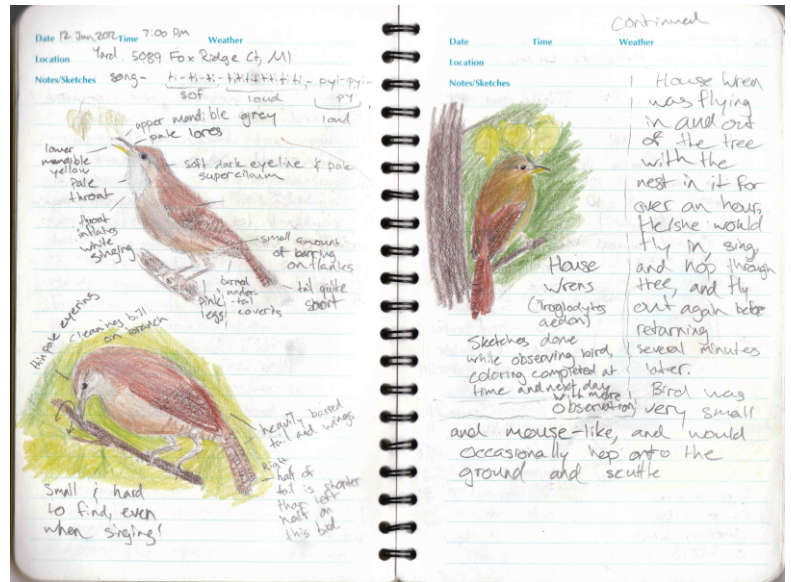
# Up All Night *By Sarah Toner*

Afternoon. The sun arcs over its noonday peak and slides down toward the horizon, and birds that have rested during the hot afternoon begin to awaken. Activity increases as crepuscular animals begin feeding, nocturnal animals wake up, and even diurnal animals make one final foraging push before the night's sleep. One extra morsel of food could save a bird's life overnight, keeping it warm as the weather gets colder. A warbler flock—Nashville, Magnolia, and American Redstarts—gathers in the treetops. As they flutter, hover, and glean, hopping from branch to branch, snatching and swallowing little portions of food, the wind shifts from west to northwest. The sun drops low, hanging on the edge of the horizon. A few scattered clouds skirt off to the east, like theater curtains sweeping back as the light dims. A good night to fly.

Evening. A Cooper's Hawk swoops into the flock and snatches a Chestnut-sided Warbler who gleaned at the wrong time, foolishly flashing its satiny white underbelly and exposing its position. The hawk flies off to finish this small morsel, which will see it through the night, while the sun vanishes below the horizon. As the last glow fades, the cast of stars takes the night stage, stippling it with light. Despite the glow of the moon and stars, it is now too dark for the warblers to feed. It is time to set off.

Night. Across the country, millions of birds take flight. Softly chipping, chirping, and tweeting to each other, they follow the stars and their internal compasses, their zugunruhe urging them southward. The mass exodus creates a wave of birds stretching across the continent, and the sheer bulk of birds in flight blots out radar images. Microphones pointed at the sky record the in-flight conversations, while computer programs sort through the languages and determine who is talking. Shadows flash across the full moon and make the stars blink. Most humans below are asleep, unaware of the formidable passage in progress over their heads.

*(cont'd on pg. 6)*



*Illustrations by Aspen Ellis (Additional examples in the on-line version)*

## **67th Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count** **Saturday, December 21, 2013**

As I'm writing this, my phone just buzzed to notify me of an incoming email with news of some 16 southbound warbler species still at the Cherry Hill Preserve in Superior Township. At the same time, the leaves on the trees and shrubs have definitely taken on fall-like hues, and sparrows are starting to show up in good numbers and variety. Before long, all but the hardiest of the warblers will be gone, a variety of ducks and geese will have traveled south from their breeding territories, and the first flakes of snow will be upon us. With that, the CBC season will have arrived.

Since our count has traditionally been held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of December, this year the Ann Arbor CBC will take place on the latest date possible, December 21, 2013. It is my sincere hope that this late date will not interfere with the Christmas plans of you, our volunteer counters, and that our count will manage to continue its streak of large observer turn-out. What kind of effect the late date will have on the birds, time will tell, but suffice to say the weather will be the biggest factor. Will the snow hold off to allow a few American Kestrels to hang around? Will a freeze limit the amount of open water and concentrate what waterfowl is still present into areas easily surveyed by our counters. Of course, we'll all be looking for that massive rarity, but really, the tallies for the more "mundane" species are really where the rubber hits the road as far as helping determine how our birds are doing. In my opinion, these long-term trends are the most interesting aspect of the CBC – keep in mind that this will be the 67<sup>th</sup> edition of the Ann Arbor CBC, so collectively we have been submitting valuable data for a very long time!

In short, your contribution to increasing our collective knowledge about wintertime bird distribution, population trends, etc. is crucial, so all are invited to participate in the 67th annual Ann Arbor CBC, as always sponsored by the Washtenaw Audubon Society. As I mentioned, **Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** is the date to remember. Although it is helpful to have some experience in identifying our local resident and wintering birds, you can always be grouped with more experienced birders if you're a novice birder. As a former newbie, I can attest to the warm and knowledgeable welcome WAS birders will give!

As most of you will know, the Ann Arbor CBC is part of a hemisphere-wide (and growing) effort coordinated by the National Audubon Society. In years past, the NAS charged a \$5.00 participation fee, but starting last year participation is free! The transition from a pay-to-participate to a free-of-charge approach coincides with a move from the traditional CBC compilation published on paper to an online publication format. This new format has the benefit that data can be displayed (and manipulated by you) in a more versatile manner, but you will have to sign up for the citizen science eNewsletter on the NAS website to be able to do so. Per the latest note from the NAS coordinators:

"If you would like to receive this citizen science eNewsletter, you must sign up online at [www.audubon.org/citizenscience](http://www.audubon.org/citizenscience) by entering your email address just to the right of "Want to keep up with Citizen Science?" If you have already signed up to receive the new Citizen Science eNewsletter, many thanks--you will receive the first issue of American Birds online next week." Check it (and much more!) out at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

All CBCs are conducted during a 3-week period from December 14 to January 5, all over the Western (and even a small part of the Eastern) Hemisphere. Each count circle covers an area 15 miles in diameter; the Ann Arbor count circle is centered on the Foster Road bridge, near the intersection of Maple Road and Huron River Dr. – [http://www.washtenawaudubon.org/Resources/AA-CBC-Map\\_full.pdf](http://www.washtenawaudubon.org/Resources/AA-CBC-Map_full.pdf) shows the count circle in immaculate detail. The object is to identify all bird species present in this circle and count the number in which they are present. In addition to the daylight bird census, several observers will conduct a pre-dawn search for owls.

As always, there are several ways to participate in this count, the main one of which is field observer. The Ann Arbor CBC area comprises eight regions, each of which is assigned to an area leader who coordinates the census in that region. If you wish to be a field observer, select one of the eight regions (for more information on the specific count areas, please check out the detailed maps on the WAS website) and sign up with the area leader of that region. If you are not sure where to help census, call me (CBC Compiler Jacco Gelderloos) and I will assign you to an area based on need. The National Audubon Society web site also has a system for signing up for counts across the nation. If you sign up through this service, *(continued next page...)*

please contact me by phone or email me to let me know you have done so, as I will need to place you into an area within the count circle.

You can also be a feeder watcher. If you have a feeder within the count circle this is a fun and easy way to participate. (**Remember:** the feeder MUST be within the count circle, otherwise the data is invalid.) Like field observers, you may sign up to participate for any length of time – from one hour to all day. Call feeder watch coordinator Kurt Hagemester for more information, to sign up, or to get feeder watch forms.

The real fun and excitement happens at the end of the day at the potluck supper, when the final results are tallied and announced after dessert. As before, the potluck supper will be held at the meeting room at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens - all participants are invited! If you plan to attend, please contact the potluck coordinator Nicole Sefton to let us know you're coming and to coordinate dishes – please note that alcohol is not permitted on the premises. The MBG are located at 1800 N Dixboro Rd, about ¼ - ½ mile south of Plymouth Rd in Ann Arbor. Please note that the University of Michigan has recently instituted a \$1.20/hour fee at the Bot Gardens. Area leaders will have maps/directions if you need them; plan to gather there around 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Please remember that the CBC is run entirely by volunteers and can always use your help. Consider helping out with the potluck set-up and clean-up: it is exceedingly helpful to arrive early at the potluck site, lend a hand setting up tables and chairs, and help prepare for the arrival and arrangement of food. This may also entail getting supplies such as tablecloths, plates, etc. (costs will be reimbursed by WAS). After the supper, we will need to clean up as well. Remember: many hands make light work!

Information regarding the count will also be available on the Ann Arbor CBC web page (<http://www.washtenawaudubon.org/aacbc>) where any updates will be posted as the count day approaches.

## Area Leaders

- 1 Sarah Toner
- 2 Rob & Nancy French
- 3 Roger Wykes
- 4 Cathy Carroll
- 5 Mike & Susan Kielb
- 6 Jacco Gelderloos
- 7 TBA – contact Jacco G.
- 8 Mike Sefton

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## CBC Compiler:

Jacco Gelderloos (734) 973-9422 [jjgelderloos@yahoo.com](mailto:jjgelderloos@yahoo.com)

## Feeder Watch Coordinator:

Kurt Hagemester (734) 663-9746 [khagemester@sbcglobal.net](mailto:khagemester@sbcglobal.net)

## Potluck Coordinator:

Nicole Sefton [seftonn1344@yahoo.com](mailto:seftonn1344@yahoo.com)

## Ann Arbor CBC Web Site:

<http://www.washtenawaudubon.org/annarborecbc.php>

## National Audubon Society:

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>

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### Washtenaw Audubon Library

If you are thinking about a birding trip to either a distant land, or some specific place in the USA, remember that we have a library that may have just the book you want to see or borrow for the trip. This offer is normally for members only. A list of our books should always be up on our website. Call or email Sherri Smith, 734 994-6287 or [grackle@umich.edu](mailto:grackle@umich.edu).

### Washtenaw Audubon MASTER BIRDER Certification

Washtenaw Audubon will offer those who wish to pursue a rigorous bird education program an opportunity to obtain a Washtenaw Audubon Master Birder certification. Like the similar Master Gardner program, applicants are asked to participate in an approved ornithological course (similar to the Leslie Science Center Course or Cornell's at home study program) and complete 40 hours of service in a bird-related activity such as leading birding field trips for a local Audubon Society, working with breeding bird surveys, doing bird related volunteer work at Leslie Science and Nature Center or the Bird Center of Washtenaw County or other similar activities. Interested individuals should contact Dea Armstrong, at [ddarm@umich.edu](mailto:ddarm@umich.edu).



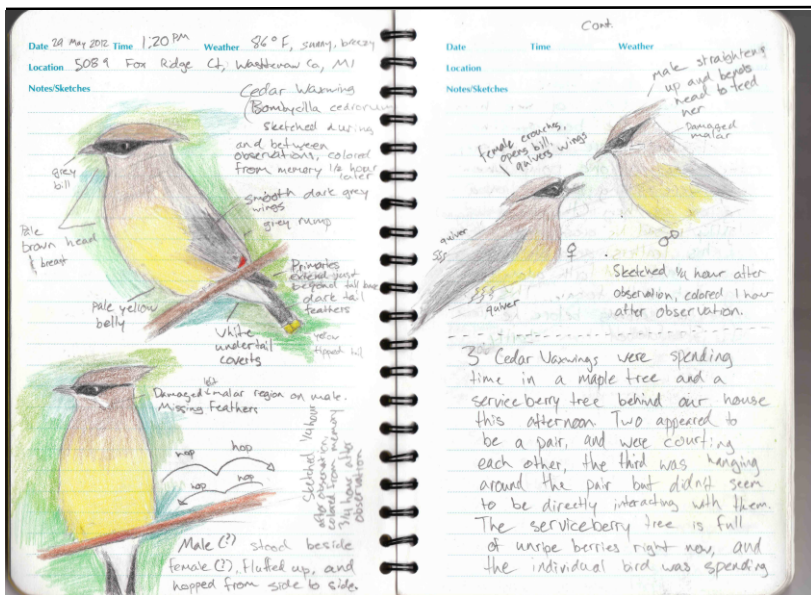
*(Up All Night continued from pg. 3)*

Nocturnal predators cannot reach the high-flying birds, who now need only fear their own faults. Some, confused, crash into lighted buildings, disoriented by the extra stars below them. Others did not forage enough the day before, and collapse in exhaustion. Still other unfortunate migrants realize, in the light of the morning sun, that they are flying over water. Whether they turn back or continue, they must have the energy to keep flying or drown.

Morning. As the sun rises, the survivors drop down into the nearest natural area, determined to restock their energy for the next night's journey. The redstarts, Magnolias, and Nashvilles group together, moving from tree to tree, systematically scouring the branches for food. More species arrive: a few Blackburnian Warblers, a couple of Bay-breasted with a handful of Blackpoll, and a Cerulean. A few local chickadees and titmice join them, swelling the flock. The sun's rays hit the tops of the trees, energizing the birds and their insect prey. The warblers glean caterpillar after caterpillar off the leaves. With full bellies, some of the warblers begin to doze off in the warmth of the sun. A harsh chickadee alarm splits the air, and the warblers suddenly hush, hiding motionless in the thick leaves. The Cooper's Hawk has been spotted circling overhead. There is no danger, though; today, the hawk has already dined on a House Sparrow from a nearby feeder. As the sun warms the warblers, it also powers thermals, rising columns of heated air. The hawk flies into a thermal and circles for a while, soaring on the free lift in elevation before it continues south on its own migration to places with milder winters.

The sun approaches its peak, and bird activity wanes. A large group of buteos kettles in the thermal before following the Cooper's Hawk south. The warblers finish eating and settle into safe roosts to doze, refreshing themselves for the next night's flight.

Afternoon...



Sarah Toner (left)

Aspen Ellis (Above right)



# Upcoming WAS Field Trips (October--December, 2013)

By Monty Brown, Field Trip Coordinator ([fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org))

Washtenaw Audubon field trips are free of charge and open to the public unless otherwise indicated. For trips with constraints on the number of participants, WAS members are sometimes given priority in registering (again, as indicated). *For trips that require carpooling, minors attending without a parent must bring a written permission statement signed by a parent.* To receive a standard form for this, contact me at the e-mail address above. Also, if you have a suggestion for a field trip, please send it to me at that e-mail address.

**Every  
Thursday  
Through  
October 31**

**Weekly Fall Migration Walks at Nichols Arboretum.** Every Thursday morning from August 29 through the end of October, participants will gather at 8:00 AM at the end of the Riverview Drive cul-de-sac (off Geddes Road) near the eastern edge of the arboretum for these leaderless walks to observe fall migration. The birders available that day will choose a route and head out in search of migrants. The walks go until roughly 11:00, but anyone can join or leave the group as his or her schedule requires.

**Saturday,  
October 12**

**The Big Sit (Independence Lake County Park).** Leaders: Don Chalfant and Roger Wykes  
This is a low-key international competition that Don and Roger have participated in for the past fifteen years to try to identify as many bird species as possible while remaining in a circle that is 17 feet in diameter. You can arrive before dawn to join in the owling at 5 AM or you can come after breakfast, or in the afternoon--whatever works for you--and stay for however long you prefer. We recommend that you bring food and a folding chair, in addition to your binoculars. Please note the Saturday date! Independence Lake County Park is in Webster Township off of Jennings Road, north of North Territorial Road and west of US 23. The count circle will be situated on a mound on the left side of the main road into the park, just beyond the entrance booth.

**Sunday,  
October 20**

**Weekend Arb Walk:** This final walk will start at 8:30 AM.

**Saturday,  
November 23**

**Late Fall Trip to Belle Isle:** Leader: Don Burlett, president of Oakland Audubon. We will join forces with Oakland Audubon on this trip to Belle Isle. Belle Isle is an excellent spot for locating migrating or wintering waterfowl, gulls, sparrows, and raptors. WAS members will carpool from the Park-n-Ride lot at Plymouth Road and US 23. We will meet for at the south/far end of the lot in time for 6:45 departure. For others who prefer to meet at Belle Isle, we will be joining the Oakland Audubon group at 8:00 AM in the parking lot of the Belle Isle Nature Zoo near the east end of the island. Bring beverages, snacks, and a sack lunch. The outing will go until approximately noon, and after eating lunch we anticipate returning to Ann Arbor around 1:30.

**Saturday,  
December 7**

**Gull Trip to Salem Landfill:** Leader: Rob French. This annual trip is a favorite for hard-core WAS members. Because access to the landfill is highly restricted, we rent a van for the trip and have to limit the number of participants. WAS members are given priority, but we will keep a list of non-members who tell us they would like to go, and if there is still space available a few days before the trip, we then open it up to as many of them as we can accommodate. PLEASE NOTE: Registration for this event is full; if you would like to be added to the waiting list, please e-mail your name and a contact phone number to [fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org).

## Borneo Trip Details

When: June 20 (8AM)--June 29, 2014

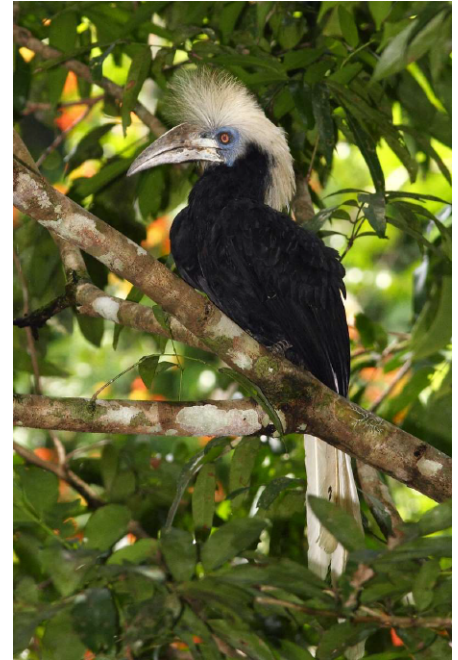
Cost: 11 participants \$ 3,735 per person sharing  
10 participants \$ 3,853 per person sharing  
9 participants \$ 3,978 per person sharing  
8 participants \$ 4,387 per person sharing  
7 participants \$ 4,596 per person sharing  
Single supplement \$ 325.00

What's included: All accommodation on a twin/double sharing basis, all meals, bottled water, all transportation during the tour, boating excursions on the Kinabatangan River, entry permits, gratuities for hotel staff, servers, porters, drivers and local guides, guiding services and costs of a local Malaysian guide and a Rockjumper leader

What's *not* included: Any international or domestic flights (and associated taxes), any visas, drinks

International flights: Once we get our group together, we will work out a group-flight, however, you are free to organize on your own as well.

How to reserve a spot: Send an email to Bryn Martin: brynmartin@sbcglobal.net (or call him--734-454-0439). This will hold your spot until I receive your deposit of \$800. This trip is limited to 11 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.



To become a member of Washtenaw Audubon Society, please complete the form below (or a copy) and mail it with a check or money order payable to **Washtenaw Audubon Society - WAS Membership**  
**PO Box 130923, Ann Arbor, MI 48113**

\_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues:

\_\_\_ Individual/Household \$25  
(on-line only \$20)

\_\_\_ Student \$10  
(emailed newsletters only)

\_\_\_ Senior \$15  
(on-line only \$10)

\_\_\_ Patron \$50

We encourage you to join at a lower rate if the suggested rates would otherwise preclude your membership, or at a higher rate if you possess the means.

Note: WAS will only use your email address to communicate with you about WAS programs, field trips, or matters of interest to you, such as membership renewal, and emailed WAS newsletters (in color!). We will not give your email address to anyone else.



## WAS Monthly Programs

WAS monthly events usually are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Programs begin at 7:30pm at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Free and open to the public. Call 994-3569 if you have questions about the program.

**Please note:** *The Matthaei Botanical Gardens charges for parking at the rate of \$1.20 an hour, enforced 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm. Members of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum park for free. This fee brings the Garden's policies into alignment with other University of Michigan venues, and provides revenue to maintain the Gardens. If you arrive at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm Washtenaw Audubon program, you will only have to pay 90 cents to park for the 45 minutes before enforcement ends at 8pm. The parking kiosks accept coins, bills and credit cards.*

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### October 16

**Some of My Favorite Birds:** Join Doug Leffler for a program on some of the most beautiful birds you'll ever see. Doug is an avid bird photographer and a world birder.

### November 20

**Delaware: Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs:** Join Gary Siegrist and Lathe Claflin for a program on one of North America's most important migratory spots. Every spring, the dwindling population of Red Knots stops at the same spot in Delaware Bay to refuel on horseshoe crab eggs before continuing to their Arctic breeding grounds. Gary and Lathe are members of the Haehnle Audubon Sanctuary Stewardship Committee.

### Washtenaw Audubon Society

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