



# NEWSLETTER

September/October 2014

## Name our Newsletter!

The Washtenaw Audubon Society newsletter needs a name, and we are looking to you for help. It doesn't have to be a bird name (but it could be), and it doesn't have to be alliterative (but it could be), but it should be related to birding in Michigan. Please submit your idea to:

newsletter@washtenawaudubon.org

or mail your idea to: 427 Crest Ave.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Please submit your idea by November 15, 2014 for consideration. The WAS board will pick a name based on the entries submitted. The winner will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to Wild Birds Unlimited or Downtown Home and Garden and his or her name will be included in the newsletter when we announce the winner!

## Field Guide to the Future: Nearly Half of North America's Birds at Risk from Global Warming

Nearly half of the bird species in the continental U.S. and Canada are threatened by global warming. Many of these species could go extinct without decisive action to protect their habitats and reduce the severity of global warming. That's the startling conclusion reached by Audubon scientists in a new study.

Here in Michigan, birds threatened by global warming include Baltimore Oriole, Common Loon, Cerulean Warbler, and Piping Plover.

Of 588 bird species examined in the study, 314 are at risk. Of those, 126 species are at risk of severe declines by 2050, and a further 188 species face the same fate by 2080, with numerous extinctions possible if global warming is allowed to erase the havens birds occupy today.

"The greatest threat our birds face today is global warming," said Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham, who led the investigation. "That's our unequivocal conclusion after seven years of painstakingly careful and thorough research. Global warming threatens the basic

*(continued on page 4)*

# President's Letter

Hello Washtenaw Audubon Members,

In May 2014, I got an email from WAS Past President Ray Stocking, asking me to speak with him about the future of Washtenaw Audubon Society. I thought to myself, "What does he want to talk with me for?" I had only been a member for 11 months. I spoke with my friend Merrily Hart that evening at Tuesday Evening Birders. She suggested to me that Ray had probably contacted me to ask me to be the new President. "Why me?" was my first thought after I had spoken with Ray the next day. After all, I'd just taken on the compiler job for the Washtenaw Audubon May Count. I was busy. I was new to WAS. I promised I'd think about it, but I thought I'd say, "No, thank you."

However, I love birds and birding. My first memories as a young child are moments spent birding in the woods with my late father, Sam Berger. Nothing gets me up at 5 a.m. or obsesses me like birding. I am passionate about encouraging young birders to get more involved in birding and I teach an elementary school birding class. I love birds, being outside, and studying nature. I also enjoy meeting new people, forming new friendships, and staying connected with old ones. I am a Social Worker by profession. I go on all the field trips I can, I meet birders and try to welcome newcomers into our community. In that capacity, I guess I am already representing Washtenaw Audubon. I told Ray I'd accept the position, and I am glad I did.

So, here I am, proud to represent all of you as your new President. As birding is my life's passion, I hope to bring that enthusiasm to bear in my new position. Thanks to the many members who have welcomed me and generously offered me their support. I promise to work hard on your behalf, to keep you informed about the state of our birds, to help our community of birders stay connected, and to bring new birders—young and old—into our community. Together, we can make a difference for the birds we all love.

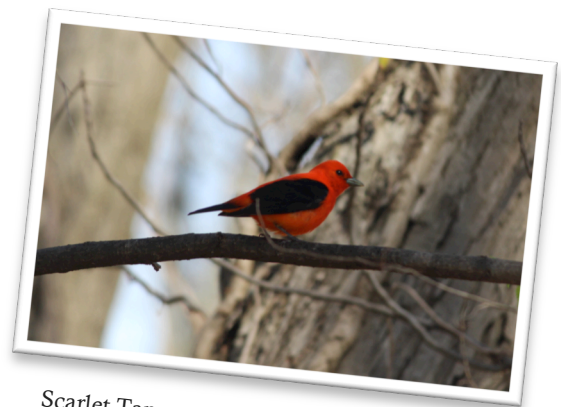
I am also happy to welcome fall migration season back to Washtenaw County. It was a beautiful cool summer here in Ann Arbor, just right for watching young birds fledge in our parks and backyards. I'm excited now to see shorebirds migrating through, warblers returning to fatten up on bugs in the Arb and elsewhere, and groups of birders getting together once again for our field trips and outings.

Join us on a Thursday morning at the Arb for a bird walk with friends, enjoy the crisp fall air, get out and attend one of our many upcoming field trips. I look forward to meeting you in the woods.

As always,

I am for the birds,

Juliet Berger



Scarlet Tanager by Matty Hack



Western Kingbird by Lyle Hamilton, September 2014

## A First County Record: Western Kingbird

by Mike Sefton

Veteran birder and Washtenaw Audubon member Paul Dannels was birding Arkona Road near the Lenawee County line late on the morning of September 6 when he found a first county record Western Kingbird at about 11:30 a.m. Realizing that he had found an extreme rarity, Paul called a few other birders so that the bird could be photographed and the sighting shared with others.

By 1:00 p.m., the sighting had been posted to the Mich-listers rare bird email list, and the SE-Mich and Birders lists, as well as to eBird, which triggered emailed eBird alerts to the many birders who sign up to receive these notices of rarities. Birders, many of them compulsive county listers, began arriving in droves at the intersection of Arkona and Mohart Roads south of Saline, where this western stray was seen perching on telephone wires, with frequent forays to the ground in the surrounding fields, looking for bugs for lunch.

The Western Kingbird is a cousin of our familiar Eastern Kingbird, and is typically found only west of the Mississippi River, the nearest population to Michigan being in central Minnesota and western Iowa. It spends winter in western Mexico and in Central America, with a few wintering in southern Florida. It is casual in Michigan (seen less than annually, with four or more records in the past ten years), though not so rare that it's on the Michigan Bird Records Committee's list of

review species. In the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, it's accidental, with three or fewer records in the last ten years. Paul's sighting is the first known occurrence in Washtenaw County, so he's among the few lucky birders to have found a first record bird in the county.

The bird was present from September 6 through September 10, with WAS member Macklin Smith being the last person I know of who saw it. It became increasingly difficult to find during its stay, with sightings ranging south on Mohart Road, west on Arkona to Jordan Road, and east on Arkona to the end of a long driveway where it was found only with great effort. Many of the birders who saw the bird eBirded the sighting, so we know that at least 35 birders saw the bird. I know of at least five birders who saw the bird but did not eBird the sighting, and there are doubtless others who saw it without posting to eBird or one of the email lists, so it was seen by more than 40 birders during its five-day stay.

The large number of birders looking for the Western Kingbird created a "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect," a well-known birding phenomenon in which one rarity yields additional rarities, owing to the large number of birders beating the bushes. On September 6, Sean Bachman found two



Western Kingbird by John Lowry, September 2014

American Golden-Plovers at Willow and Maple Roads—a bird not seen in the county every year—and on September 7, Darrin O'Brien found the even rarer Buff-breasted Sandpiper in the same field.

*(continued on page 4)*

**Field Guide to the Future** *(continued from page 1)*

fabric of life on which birds – and the rest of us – depend, and we have to act quickly and decisively to avoid catastrophe for them and us.”

To understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them, Langham and other Audubon ornithologists analyzed 30 years of historical North American climate data and tens of thousands of historical bird records from the U.S. Geological Survey’s North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Understanding those links then allowed scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive – and not survive – in the future.

The study also reveals areas that are likely to remain stable for birds even as climate changes, enabling Audubon to identify “stronghold” areas that birds will need to survive in the future.

The result is a roadmap for bird conservation in coming decades under a warming climate. The study provides a key entry point for Audubon’s greater engagement on the urgent issue of global warming. Responding to the magnitude of the threat to our birds, Audubon is greatly expanding its climate initiative, aiming to engage a larger and more diverse set of voices in support of protecting birds.

Solutions will include personal choices to conserve energy and create backyard bird habitat, local action to create community climate action plans, state-based work to increase rooftop solar and energy efficiency, and our work in Important Bird Areas and other efforts to protect and expand bird habitats. For more information, visit [Audubon.org/Climate](http://Audubon.org/Climate).

**Save the Date**

**Saturday, December 20**  
**68th Christmas Bird Count**

Join us for the Christmas Bird Count. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. More details to come. Please be sure to check the WAS web site for more information.

**A First County Record** *(continued from page 3)*

Paul’s Western Kingbird was actually the third sighting of this species this year in Michigan, well above normal; the other two were at Copper Harbor and Tawas Point for only one day each, and were seen by only a single observer. The fact that Paul found his kingbird in the most heavily populated part of the state allowed many birders to see this rarity. Paul will doubtless be considered the Washtenaw County Bird Finder of the Year, as were Cathy Theisen for her Red Phalarope last year, Dan Sparks-Jackson last year for his Eurasian Wigeon, and Don “The Man” Chalfant for his Kirtland’s Warbler in 2011, all first county records since the 1940s. Congratulations and thanks to these keen birders!

**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). Additions to the WAS library include:

*Bird Watching Travel Adventures*, Insight Guides  
*Handbook of Bird Identification for Europe and the Western Palearctic*, Beaman and Madge  
*The Pleasures of Watching Birds*, Oberman  
*Birds of Thailand*, Eve and Guigue  
*A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, Stiles and Skutch  
*Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica*, De la Pena and Rumboll  
*Birdwatching Sites: Western USA National Geographic*, Mel White  
*Birdwatching Sites: Eastern USA National Geographic*, Mel White  
*Birds of the Mediterranean*, Paul Skerry  
*Backyard Birds of Texas*, Bill Fenimore  
*Birds of Australia*, Colin Harrison (a coffee table book)  
*Where the Birds Are: A Travel Guide to Over 1000 Sites*, Dolezat  
*Birds of Venezuela and Birds of Columbia*, Hilty  
*Australian Wildlife*  
*Wonders of Brazil*, Colombini

## Board Members

### President

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### Secretary

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### Past President

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### Board Member/Bird Rescue

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### Board Member/Rep to Mich Audubon

Ray Stocking  
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### Newsletter

Nancy Davis  
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The Washtenaw Audubon Society is an active chapter of Michigan Audubon formed in the early 1950s. Monthly programs feature guest speakers on a wide variety of natural history and birding topics. We conduct field trips to places in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, and beyond.

# Hudson Mills Metropark Trip Report

## September 6, 2014

by Karen Markey

Migrating birds moved fast and furiously at Hudson Mills this morning. The action started as soon as we walked onto the nature trails/disc golf course and let up only for short periods of time. Our group numbered about thirty and included two presidents (Juliet Berger and Don Burlett of Washtenaw and Oakland Audubon Societies)!

Thanks to John who heard an OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER and Sandy who led our group to the flycatcher's perch atop one of the many bare treetops on the north side of the Acorn Nature Trail in the spruce-tamarack bog. Don put all of us onto a BALD EAGLE soaring high above. Norca spotted a Swainson's Thrush sitting in the middle of a trail. Christy got several of us on Cape May Warblers at various locations. I wish I could thank every one of you by name who put the rest of us onto today's great birds.

Giving us pause was a juvenile RED-HEADED WOODPECKER perched farther west in the bog. We got long back-sided looks, then took out several field guides, finally agreeing that the Golden Book's drawing was spot-on with respect to our bird. One or more Yellow-throated vireos serenaded us for an hour or two, finally one putting himself into view so several could see him.

Total species seen: 51. Other highlights include:

Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1 (Heard at woodpile)  
Black-billed Cuckoo 1 (Andrew spotted on his own)

Swainson's Thrush 3  
Brown Thrasher 1  
Cedar Waxwing 55

Ovenbird 1  
Black-and-white Warbler 6  
Tennessee Warbler 16  
Common Yellowthroat 1  
American Redstart 6  
Cape May Warbler 2  
Magnolia Warbler 8  
Bay-breasted Warbler 1  
Blackburnian Warbler 4  
Chestnut-sided Warbler 4

Black-throated Blue Warbler 1  
Black-throated Green Warbler 1  
Wilson's Warbler 2  
Eastern Towhee 1  
Song Sparrow 2  
Scarlet Tanager 1 (Reported by a small group who left us to find the Olive-sided)  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3  
Indigo Bunting 6



Bay-breasted Warbler by Matty Hack

## Washtenaw Audubon Society

### 2013-14 Financial Report

submitted by Elvera Shappirio

Description	Checking	Savings
<b>Balances as of July 1, 2013</b>	2,083.53	12,634.23
<b>Checking Receipts</b>	3,638.69	
<b>Checking Expenditures</b>	2,532.86	
transfer from		
error		
<b>Savings Interest</b>		3.47
<b>Transfers: CD interest to savings</b>		18.35
<b>Balances as of June 30, 2013</b>	3,189.36	12,656.05
Checking Account Receipts		
<b>Member Dues (by check or cash)</b>	1,695.00	
<b>memorial donations</b>	250.00	
<b>Donations</b>	395.00	
<b>member dues by Paypal</b>	1,298.69	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	3,638.69	
Checking Account Expenditures		
<b>Newsletter Printing and Postage</b>	846.01	
<b>Speakers, Program Expense</b>		uncashed 14.15
<b>Telephone service</b>	445.31	cancelled Feb.
<b>Grant:Artemis Eyster</b>	300.00	
<b>Brochures</b>	126.54	
<b>Liability Insurance</b>	525.00	
<b>Banking costs (checkbooks)</b>	0.00	
<b>Corporate Filing Fee</b>	20.00	
<b>Web site costs</b>	162.00	
<b>Christmas Count Expenses</b>	0.00	
<b>Property costs: Searles drain fee</b>	0.00	
<b>trip van rentals</b>	0.00	
<b>Postal box fee</b>	78.00	
<b>Safe Deposit box</b>	30.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	2,532.86	
Savings Account Receipts		
<b>Interest on Regular Savings Account</b>	3.47	
<b>Interest on \$10,000.00 CD</b>	18.35	
<b>Total Savings Account Interest</b>	21.82	
Investment Account		
<b>The investment account includes one CD</b>	valued at \$10,000.00	
<b>The interest is transferred to the</b>		
<b>regular savings account on a monthly basis.</b>		
<b>The \$10,000.00 CD matures Sept. 2014</b>		

## Upcoming WAS Field Trips (October–December 2014)

by Bryn Martin, 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 email address above. Also, if you have a suggestion for a field trip, please send it to me at the email address above.

### Thursday mornings throughout October (October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

#### Weekly Fall Migration Walks at Nichols Arboretum

Every Thursday morning 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 Nichols Arboretum. The birders present that day will choose a route or routes and head out in search of migrants, many of which will be in their first-year plumage. Along the way, participants can enjoy marvelous fall scenery and crisp weather. The walks go until roughly 11:00 AM, but anyone can join or leave the group as his or her schedule requires.

### Saturday morning, October 4, and Saturday afternoon, October 18

#### Weekend Fall Migration Walk at Nichols Arboretum

Participants will gather at 8:00 AM on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1:00 PM on the 18<sup>th</sup> at the end of the Riverview Drive cul-de-sac (off Geddes Road) near the eastern edge of Nichols Arboretum. See above for more details.

### Saturday, October 11

#### The Big Sit (Independence Lake County Park)

Leader: Don Chalfant. This is a low-key international competition that Don has participated in for the past 15 years. The task is to try to identify by sight or sound as many bird species as possible while remaining in a circle of 17 feet in diameter. For participants other than Don, the timing can be completely flexible. You can arrive before dawn to join in the owling or you can come after breakfast, in the afternoon—whatever works for you. It is also a great outing for those with restricted mobility since everything takes place in a fixed spot. For those staying any significant amount of time, we recommend bringing food and a chair, in addition to your binoculars.

### Saturday, November 22      8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

#### Belle Isle Park

This annual late fall outing is once again co-sponsored with Oakland Audubon Society. We will be searching for waterfowl, gulls, raptors, and other species. Please meet at the Nature Center on the eastern end of the island. Belle Isle is now a state park and a state recreational passport is required.

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, P.O. Box 130923, Ann Arbor, MI 48113.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<b>Membership Dues</b>	
Additional Donation \$ _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Household	\$25
		(online only \$20)	
Name: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Student (emailed newsletter only)	\$20
Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$15 (online only \$10)
Phone: _____	Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 7:30 p.m. at the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Free and open to the public. **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.*

### **October 15 Impacts of Ecosystem Imbalance on Birds**

Join Maurita Holland and Andrea Matthies of Washtenaw Citizens for Ecological Balance for a program on how high population levels of white-tail deer are threatening basic bird shelter and food. The speakers will present the reasons why this is happening in Ann Arbor and surrounding counties, and why the city government is considering means to control the excessive deer population. Recognizing that this is both an ecological and an emotional issue, we will welcome a conversational exchange. Learn more at: [www.wc4eb.org](http://www.wc4eb.org)

### **November 19 Meteorology and Birding**

Join Sarah Toner for a program on using weather data to know where and when to go birding for maximum success. Sarah is one of Washtenaw Audubon's sharp-eyed and sharp-eared young birders. A senior at Community High School, Sarah is a two-time winner of the American Birding Associations's Young Birder of the Year award in the writing contest, and she founded the Michigan Young Birders Club.

### **December 20 No formal program in December**

Join us on Saturday, December 20, for the Christmas Bird Count! Beginning birders are welcome to participate in the count. Visit the Washtenaw Audubon Society web site for more information.

## Washtenaw Audubon Society

P.O. Box 130923  
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0923

[Recipient]

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4