



NEWSLETTER

July / August 2020

Washtenaw Audubon Society's Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The birds Washtenaw Audubon pledges to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. As we honor and celebrate the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Washtenaw Audubon considers the work of inclusion, diversity, and equity a top priority moving forward. We hope that, in doing so, we can bring new creativity and energy to our work in Washtenaw County and beyond for birds and people alike.

Respect, inclusion, and opportunity for people of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and perspectives will attract the best ideas and harness the greatest passion to shape a healthier, more vibrant future for all of us who share our planet. We believe that protecting and conserving nature and the environment transcends political, cultural, and social boundaries. As an organization, we are committed to increasing the diversity of our board, volunteers, members, and supporters.

As an organization, Washtenaw Audubon strives to create a sense of community where **all** people can feel safe to explore nature and experience the wonder of birds.

We respect the individuality of each member of our community, and welcome all without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, national or ethnic origin, politics, or veteran status, or any other status.

All are welcome to bird with us, learn with us, and to share our passion for birds and the environment.

The 2020 Washtenaw County May Count

➤ *A note to readers: This article is in lieu of the regular President's Letter*

Hello Washtenaw Audubon and friends of the Washtenaw May Count 2020,

First, May Count 2020 was held, as always on the second Saturday of May, which this year was May 9th. May 9th was the day after the first snowfall in May in over 16 years. It was as cold as I have ever experienced in May. The small shorebird ponds were frozen over. The birds were largely silent. When my husband, Scott Huizenga and I began our birding day, on Tessmer Rd. in Lodi TWP, the thermometer barely reached 27 degrees Fahrenheit. Seemingly, the 2020 May Count was shaping up to be a very tough day to bird.



Ring-necked Pheasant & Yellow-rumped Warbler (Scott Huizenga)

Cue the 115+ super volunteers this year, who swooped in to save our day. That's right, 115+ birders, took the time to bundle up, strap on their binoculars and cameras, and brave the frigid winds and biting cold, to count birds in their designated areas. All volunteers recorded their results in eBird, with most using eBird mobile. In total, we counted 179 species of birds, very respectable and way above the yearly average since I began compiling the Count, after taking over from the inimitable Roger Wykes, in 2014. This high number of bird species were counted, despite remarkably low numbers of Warblers except for Black-throated Green, Palm, Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Northern Waterthrush, which were at or above average. We found no Cerulean Warblers, which have been increasing in our County in recent years. We found no cuckoos, not surprising, since they arrive later in the month many years, and the below freezing temps probably kept them further south of Washtenaw County. Our Scarlet Tanager number, 11, was abysmally low. We are generally in the 70's to 100's, and last year's number was in the 50's but this year, well, I hope they were around but just not singing. There do seem to be Scarlet Tanagers in the parks this year, so I think that was a function of the weather. So, it does seem to be down to the sheer number of volunteers, that we counted so many species, since many of the more common migrants were seen in 1's and 2's, rather than the larger numbers we usually expect. Shorebirds of all kinds were seen in normal numbers, fortunately. Osprey, making an amazing comeback in our region, numbered 19 on the Count, and will be moved from the rare list to the expected species list for next year.

For the informal rivalry between the volunteers in each of the 20 Washtenaw County Townships, Ann Arbor took the prize this year, the first time in history, with 117 species. I have justifiable pride, since I am also the Area Leader for Ann Arbor and Lodi Twps., which means I recruit the volunteers, and give newcomers the tools to complete the count. Area Leaders also check each eBird list submitted by the other volunteers, and make sure all the lists are accurate. We had nearly 50 volunteers counting in Ann Arbor, so that made our bird counting task a bit easier. Many of our Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) volunteers counted in the nearby nature areas where they survey for birds during breeding season. Thanks to Jacco Gelderloos for counting all of Pittsfield TWP nearly singlehandedly, as well as covering his Ann Arbor BBS area at Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area, scoring the Summer Tanager that was still hanging out at a nearby suet feeder. Sharon Twp. took second place, with a whopping 113 bird species, and Manchester placed third, with a high count of 108 species. Dexter Twp. brought up 4th place with an exceptional 103 species.



Yellow Warbler & Swainson's Thrush (Scott Huizenga)

Some cool sightings to take note of-- in Ann Arbor--the Count's only Gray-Cheeked Thrush from the Arb team of Jessica Adamczyk and Keith Dickey, the Count's only Red-breasted Nuthatch from Bird Hills by Colleen Vogler, the Count's only Cape May Warbler sighted in the Arb by Russell Ryan, the Count's only Summer Tanager-- at Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area, by Jacco Gelderloos, the Count's only Green-winged Teal at Gallup by Judy Wade, and Maryse Brouwers, Feibai Yang and her husband Jack, and the Count's only Red-shouldered Hawk at the Ann Arbor Landfill, also by Jacco. The Count's only 2 Common Mergs were seen in Ann Arbor as well, and the only 2 Gadwall on the Count.

I did some research into whether there has ever been a Summer Tanager recorded on the May Count, and I've not found any May Count records to reflect that. However, a SUTA was seen on May 11, 2019 at a private residence, and not counted for the 2019 May Count, even though it was seen on the Count day by an observer who was apparently unaware of our Count. Because it is recorded with a photo in eBird, I think we can safely add it from this excellent eBird checklist. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S56152332> to the Ypsilanti Twp Count and 2019 May Count tally.

In Manchester, the Bialeckis and their dedicated team of volunteer birders found the Count's only Connecticut Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. In Scio Twp, Tim Gacioch's crew documented the Count's only Bay-breasted Warbler and White-eyed Vireo, and in Scio and York Twps, the Count's 2 rare Yellow-throated Warblers. In York Twp. Greg Jacks' team found the Count's only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Alder Flycatcher. In Lyndon, Ben Hack's team found the Count's only 2 Ruffed Grouse and 4 Forster's Terns. In Lima, John Mills and Jen Wescott found the Count's only Dunlin on Four Mile Lake. In Superior Twp., Susan Falcone, and Dan Thiry's team tallied the Count's only Least and American Bitterns. And in Lodi Twp., Darrin O'Brien and Julie Craves recorded the Count's only Louisiana Waterthrush on their property. Also, in Dexter, Rob French's crew saw the Count's only Golden-crowned Kinglet. And, in Salem Twp., birders saw the Count's only American Coot. Sharon Twp. counters, David Borneman and Linda Ar, tallied the Count's only Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows. You get the picture. We rocked the May Count!

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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.

Thanks to all of you, the many Area Leaders and other volunteers, for your continued support of this project over the years. We contributed to eBird's expanding dataset of bird information, in such a big way, with over 300 eBird lists county-wide. None of this would have been possible without your efforts. The May Count is so important to me, to all of us, and to so many in our birding community here in Washtenaw. It was a bright light in our pandemic locked down month of May this year, to at least be able to go out and count birds. A huge thank you goes out to David Amamoto for making the technical side of the Count go so smoothly. See his excellent twp. by twp. bird chart in this issue of Washtenaw Audubon's Newsletter, following this article.

I hope I can count on everyone's help next year!! I will be in contact before next year's May Count, May 8th, 2021. All the best, stay well, stay safe and good birding!!! And thank you all, so much,

As always, I am for the birds,

Juliet Berger

President Washtenaw Audubon, Washtenaw County May Count Coordinator and Co-Compiler, and wearing a few other hats these days!!



American Robin (Jacco Gelderloos)

Field Trip Update

Due to the coronavirus outbreak and an abundance of caution, most field trips have been canceled until further notice. We will continue to assess the situation and update our website, washtenawaudubon.org, accordingly.

Going outside and enjoying nature is a great way to relieve stress and pass these trying times. We encourage you to do so while practicing responsible social distancing.

Did you know that you can help save birds by drinking Smithsonian "Bird Friendly" certified shade-grown coffee? Visit 3billionbirds.org to learn more about this and other practical conservation tips!

Washtenaw County 2020 May Count		Number of Common Species: 136										Number of Rare Species: 43										V4a
		Number of Rare + Common Species: 179																				
Number of Common Species		136	107	50	79	95	56	72	89	79	98	59	86	27	78	92	103	87	72	68	86	61
Number of Rare Species		43	10	0	5	9	1	7	4	3	10	2	2	1	1	7	10	7	2	1	3	2
Number of Rare + Com Species		179	117	50	84	104	57	79	93	82	108	61	88	28	79	99	113	94	74	69	89	63
Species Name	Indiv Birds	Ann	Aug	Br	Dex	Fre	Lim	Lod	Lyn	Man	Nor	Pit	Sal	Sin	Sci	Sha	Sup	Syl	Web	Yor	Yps	
Count - All Individuals, including sp.->	34895	7152	604	1427	3408	289	827	3057	1043	2552	587	1359	198	965	2001	2248	3002	787	1054	1261	1074	
Tree Swallow	TRES	1640	341	10	11	576	3	11	44	50	141	2	30	8	6	31	174	94	39	34	4	31
Bank Swallow	BANS	294	124	0	1	110	0	7	0	4	5	0	0	0	6	11	6	0	0	0	0	20
Barn Swallow	BARS	2794	638	3	54	598	49	92	91	37	188	2	64	22	42	56	409	55	116	20	58	200
Cliff Swallow	CLSW	183	85	0	0	50	0	0	2	4	0	0	9	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	20	7
swallow sp.	#N/A	62	0	0	0	20	0	0	1	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	GCKI	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	RCKI	150	57	2	4	8	6	0	6	5	2	1	12	0	1	21	3	7	0	2	10	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	RBNU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	WBNU	343	86	2	6	39	3	5	26	7	15	5	14	0	7	39	32	12	8	15	19	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	BGGN	235	22	0	10	37	10	0	11	15	18	2	5	0	2	24	23	2	13	6	13	22
House Wren	HOWR	216	38	2	4	8	1	2	40	3	10	3	7	2	2	9	17	33	1	14	15	5
Carolina Wren	CARW	75	31	0	3	2	0	1	7	1	3	1	0	0	6	6	1	3	1	0	4	5
European Starling	EUST	1595	175	55	162	74	0	7	148	7	210	45	84	0	143	162	105	82	12	41	54	29
Gray Catbird	GRCA	227	40	4	4	13	2	4	40	8	14	1	4	0	5	19	21	12	3	4	27	2
Brown Thrasher	BRTH	27	1	0	1	4	0	1	1	0	4	0	4	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	3	0
Eastern Bluebird	EABL	242	28	6	11	29	1	5	18	5	23	5	11	0	2	3	18	31	5	26	15	0
Veery	VEER	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swainson's Thrush	SWTH	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hermit Thrush	HETH	18	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
Catharus sp.	#N/A	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Thrush	WOTH	45	0	1	0	3	0	0	4	12	5	1	2	0	0	8	2	1	0	0	6	0
American Robin	AMRO	2442	509	120	106	173	8	8	294	69	112	58	130	12	114	158	57	187	43	73	125	86
Thrush sp.	#N/A	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Waxwing	CEDW	46	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	3	0	5	1	3	10	0	0	0	6
House Sparrow	HOSP	499	154	4	29	5	0	17	82	0	7	4	21	0	36	28	2	48	12	12	11	27
House Finch	HOFI	257	66	0	12	23	0	2	51	1	9	3	8	0	11	12	1	21	6	19	10	2
American Goldfinch	AMGO	1076	178	32	34	79	2	12	148	31	123	24	58	8	10	55	14	139	34	18	63	14
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	326	39	6	17	51	0	1	60	10	23	9	5	0	6	15	25	17	23	8	7	4
Field Sparrow	FISP	205	3	1	9	11	3	1	19	1	17	4	13	6	3	6	35	39	5	9	20	0
White-crowned Sparrow	WCSP	170	22	0	6	3	5	2	34	0	0	0	9	0	13	9	9	28	4	11	13	2
White-throated Sparrow	WTSP	280	47	0	5	13	13	2	85	19	16	3	15	0	4	19	4	11	0	2	21	1
Vesper Sparrow	VESP	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Savannah Sparrow	SAVS	30	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	2	12	2	0	0	0
Song Sparrow	SOSP	805	104	22	32	51	7	11	117	26	45	10	64	6	24	53	35	78	17	43	50	10
Swamp Sparrow	SWSP	102	2	0	1	2	2	3	4	26	5	2	2	0	2	2	26	11	5	5	2	0
Eastern Towhee	EATO	131	4	0	1	29	3	0	18	19	10	1	1	1	2	4	19	7	7	1	4	0
sparrow sp.	#N/A	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Bobolink	BOBO	25	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6	0	0	1	6	0	4	0	0
Eastern Meadowlark	EAME	35	0	0	6	0	0	2	5	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	6	2	0
Orchard Oriole	OROR	26	10	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Baltimore Oriole	BAOR	457	140	8	18	25	2	7	30	3	51	2	13	0	23	26	5	36	11	17	22	18
Red-winged Blackbird	RWBK	4182	490	104	204	173	33	116	415	149	474	82	142	42	96	192	180	857	91	161	105	76
Brown-headed Cowbird	BHCO	821	166	15	62	54	0	13	80	25	95	4	31	6	7	51	20	120	14	36	16	6
Common Grackle	COGR	997	237	11	66	42	12	40	133	39	51	35	35	0	29	35	18	71	16	15	68	44
blackbird sp.	#N/A	31	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ovenbird	OVEN	29	4	0	0	6	0	0	4	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	2	0	0	2	0
Northern Waterthrush	NOWA	18	1	0	1	2	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	1	0
Blue-winged Warbler	BWWA	7	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler	BAWW	28	13	0	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
Tennessee Warbler	TEWA	8	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	OCWA	10	5	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Nashville Warbler	NAWA	175	48	1	3	18	4	5	19	11	5	0	7	0	2	13	6	7	2	0	22	2
Mourning Warbler	MOWA	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Yellowthroat	COYE	162	12	1	9	13	0	6	6	16	22	2	7	0	2	15	32	11	2	3	2	1
American Redstart	AMRE	13	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0
Cape May Warbler	CMWA	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Parula	NOPA	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
Magnolia Warbler	MAWA	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	BBWA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackburnian Warbler	BLBW	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Warbler	YEWA	359	61	3	10	30	4	6	27	24	33	4	8	0	7	30	46	17	12	18	8	11
Chestnut-sided Warbler	CSWA	16	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackpoll Warbler	BLPW	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Black-throated Blue Warbler	BTBW	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Palm Warbler	PAWA	129	44	0	0	8	1	0	3	3	3	1	3	0	1	7	19	0	1	25	3	7
Pine Warbler	PIWA	31	3	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	YRWA	350	93	1	7	35	12	2	13	13	16	1	12	0	4	28	31	10	20	19	17	16
Black-throated Green Warbler	BTNW	206	54	0	1	40	4	7	7	18	9	2	12	0	2	14	14	4	10	1	7	0
Wilson's Warbler	WIWA	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
warbler sp. (Parulidae sp.)	#N/A	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Scarlet Tanager	SCTA	11	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Northern Cardinal	NOCA	909	209	13	21	53	3	19	118	37	63	12	42	2	15	97	33	57	16	28	61	10
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	RBGR	207	41	2	9	13	7	6	35	19	17	0	11	0	4	2	5	18	2	5	10	1
Indigo Bunting	INBU	19	1																			

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Count - All Individuals, including sp.->	34895	7152	604	1427	3408	289	827	3057	1043	2552	587	1359	198	965	2001	2248	3002	787	1054	1261	1074
Rare Species Name	274	21	0	5	47	1	57	9	10	19	4	3	1	5	13	22	42	3	6	3	3
Gadwall GADW	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green-winged Teal GWTE	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck RNDU	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Scaup GRSC	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup LESC	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead BUFF	29	3	0	0	12	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Common Merganser COME	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck RUDU	53	0	0	0	23	0	26	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruffed Grouse RUGR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Whip-poor-will EWPW	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Gallinule COGA	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Plover SEPL	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Dunlin DUNL	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Sandpiper SESA	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Bonaparte's Gull BOGU	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forster's Tern FOTE	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common/Forster's Tern #N/A	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Bittern AMBI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Least Bittern LEBI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Osprey OSPR	19	7	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1
Northern Harrier NOHA	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-shouldered Hawk RSHA	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker YBSA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Merlin MERL	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Peregrine Falcon PEFA	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher YBFL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-eyed Vireo WEVI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia Vireo PHVI	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Creeper BRCR	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Wren WIWR	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sedge Wren SEWR	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Marsh Wren MAWR	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Mockingbird NOMO	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gray-cheeked Thrush GCTH	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Pipit AMPI	57	0	0	1	2	0	22	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	20	0	0	0	0
Grasshopper Sparrow GRSP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Clay-colored Sparrow CCSP	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Henslow's Sparrow HESP	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln's Sparrow LISP	9	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rusty Blackbird RUBL	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Louisiana Waterthrush LOWA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Connecticut Warbler CONW	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-throated Warbler YTWA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Summer Tanager SUTA	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rare Individuals, not including sp.	273	21	0	5	47	1	56	9	10	19	4	3	1	5	13	22	42	3	6	3	3
Rare Individuals - spp only	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Rare Species, not	43	10	0	5	9	1	7	4	3	10	2	2	1	1	7	10	7	2	1	3	2
Total Count of Individuals	34895	7152	604	1427	3408	289	827	3057	1043	2552	587	1359	198	965	2001	2248	3002	787	1054	1261	1074

May-June 2020: Spring & Early Summer Highlights

Jacco Gelderloos

The Highlight

Coinciding with the peak of migration, May is generally not short on notable birds. The arrival of June means a transition from migration into the nesting season, but there is still plenty of opportunity for rarities to turn up. So, which bird would get this period's top highlight designation? There were plenty of solid candidates during May (see below), but this period's "winner" was found early on June 18, at Waterworks Park in Ypsilanti. An adult **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** spent a little over 24 hours either showing off in plain view or hiding in the vegetation along the river, forcing many observers to be quite patient before adding this rarity to their Washtenaw County (or even Michigan) lists. Only five or so prior County records exist of this generally coastal southern species, and none of those hung around long enough for many birders to be able to see them. There were a couple of close contenders, though....

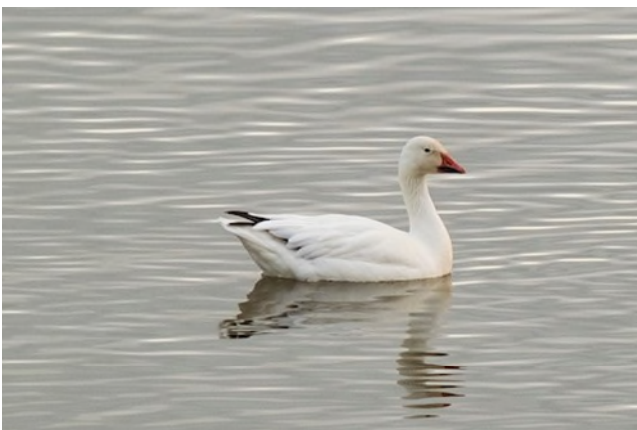


Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Waterworks Park, June 19 2020 (Bill VanderMolen)

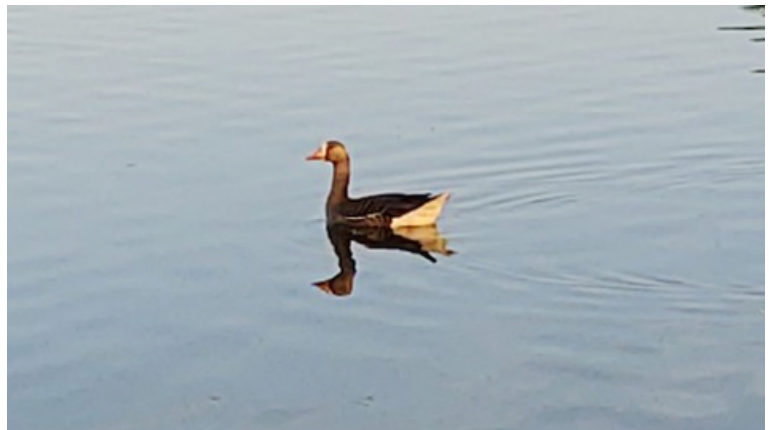
Waterfowl through Rails

This time of year is generally not associated with waterfowl. Apart from local breeders, most species have moved on for nesting grounds farther north by now and won't reappear until their return journey in the fall. That said, there were quite a few unseasonal finds during May and June, with a **Snow Goose** hanging out at North Bay Park on 5/16 and 5/17, and a **Greater White-fronted Goose** associating with Canada Geese at Gallup Park on 6/5.

Although lingering dabbling ducks are not unheard of (and may occasionally nest nearby) a male **Northern Shoveler** at the marsh at Five Mile & Chubb Rds on 6/23-6/24 was exceedingly late. A **Greater Scaup** at Four Mile Lake on 5/9 was certainly of note, and a trio of **Red-breasted Mergansers** at North Bay Park on 5/2 hung around just long enough to make it into this report. Lastly, a male **Common Merganser** was noted at Argo Nature Area on 6/9, and may be an over-summering bird.



Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*, North Bay Park, May 16 2020 (Nancy Hooper)



Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Gallup Park, June 5 2020 (James Boggs)

Although they were not quite as sparsely reported as in the March-April period, **Ruffed Grouse** reports were limited to only two locations (Embury and Lindley Rds), and to single individuals only. Seemingly completely out of place, a **Northern Bobwhite** was photographed in two very urban parks on Ann Arbor's northeast side between 5/29 and 6/4. More normal was a bird heard along Meyers Rd on 6/7; that said, it appears this species is no longer occurring naturally in Washtenaw County, which is borne out by the fact that eBird is no longer displaying any recent observations.

A **Horned Grebe** on Four Mile Lake (5/14) likely established a late spring departure date for that species. As is the norm, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were concentrated in the western tier of townships, with as many as three birds reported calling along Embury Rd. A rare breeding bird locally, there were a few **Common Gallinule** observations away from their traditional stronghold in Trinkle Marsh. A bird was present at the Ann Arbor Landfill from 6/2 – 6/5 (an exciting find for that City property), but the most notable reports came from the marsh at Five Mile & Chubb Rds, where as many as 18 (!) birds were observed. It seems likely two or three pairs successfully raised young there this year.



Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*, Kilburn Park, May 29 2020 (Yvonne Burch-Hartley)



Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*, Five Mile & Chubb Marsh, June 24 2020 (Suzanne Pudelek)

Shorebirds through Terns

Although this spring wasn't outstanding as far as shorebird migration is concerned, enough species of note passed through to make checking ephemeral "fluddles" and other more reliable spots worthwhile. As many as seven **White-rumped Sandpipers** were present at a small puddle in the Meyers Preserve along Vreeland Rd from 6/3 – 6/6. Throughout that window, they were joined there by a half dozen **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, allowing for some excellent comparison views. On a separate location (a fluddle off East Morgan Rd), another four Semipalms were found on 6/3. The three **Long-billed Dowitchers** at the M-52 & Lehman fluddle stayed until 5/1, having delighted many local birders. Two weeks later, on 5/15, a flock of a whopping 32 **Short-billed Dowitchers** was present in the same location – this is probably a new high count for spring migration, if not all time. On that same day, another 11 **SB Dowitchers** were reported along Fletcher Rd, and a group of 8 had been present at Four Mile Lake between 5/12 - 5/13. Certainly, a great spring for dowitchers! Lastly, although this species generally wouldn't make it into a rarities report, a staggering count of almost 200 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Four Mile Lake is most definitely worth mentioning, and almost surely represents a new spring, if not general, record high count.



White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, Meyers Preserve, June 3 2020 (Brendan Klick)



Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*, Four Mile Lake, May 12 2020 (Norka Saldana)

As many as 40 **Bonaparte's Gulls** hung around into early May at Ford Lake (5/1 – 5/3) and another six were present at Four Mile Lake until mid-May (5/14). Terns continued a banner year, with all four species reported in May-June.

Migrant **Caspian Terns** were noted from a number of locations in early May, with up to four persisting at Four Mile Lake until 5/22; more unusual was one observed at Gallup Park on 6/19. No longer a local nesting bird, the **Black Tern** observed by many at Four Mile Lake on 6/26 was probably a late migrant. During the short window of 5/10 – 5/15, an impressive push of **Common Terns** was noted over Washtenaw County: 7 over Whitmore Lake (5/10 - 5/13), 14 at North Bay Park (5/13), 21 over Crooked Lake (5/13), and as many as 25 at Four Mile Lake (5/13 - 5/15). Numbers like these make it hard to imagine that up until very recently this species had barely been reported from Washtenaw County! **Forster's Terns** were perhaps not quite as widely reported, but four at Joslin Lake (5/9) and one (5/4) and 21 (5/14) at North Bay Park was still a very respectable showing for this species.



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*, Four Mile Lake, June 26 2020 (Michael Bowen)



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Four Mile Lake, May 13 2020 (Bill Nolting)

Pelicans through Owls

The banner year for **American White Pelicans** continued into May with a flock of five reported over Cassidy Rd on 5/13. Heron diversity continued to be very good this spring with reports of several rarities in addition to regular species. After two reports in April, single **American Bitterns** were turned up in four additional locations in May: at the Pittsfield Preserve (5/1), at Trinkle Marsh (5/4 – 5/5), at Cherry Hill & Prospect (5/9), and at Barton Nature Area (5/30). **Least Bitterns** were found both at traditional sites like LeFurge Woods (2 birds, 5/1 – 6/9) and Trinkle Marsh (5/4 – 6/15), as well as in scattered locations elsewhere: Crooked Lake (5/15), Pickerel Lake (5/26), and the Whitmore Lake Preserve (6/26). A 1-day wonder, a **Cattle Egret** spent the day among Ring-billed Gulls at Geddes and Ridge on 5/24. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** also continued their strong showing from April: the bird at Thurston Pond continued through 5/2, and other birds were found at Four Mile Lake (5/1), at Mary Beth Doyle (Brown) Park (5/14), and Gallup Park (6/19).

Perhaps not unheard of, **Northern Harriers** were widely reported throughout May and June. Observations from the first half of May likely involved late migrants, but a set of rather consistent reports (from 5/8 – 6/17) south of Saline may indicate possible nesting nearby. What to make of Washtenaw County's first-ever June record for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on Ann Arbor's Old West Side on 6/27, though? A late migrant, or a very early non-breeding bird?



American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*, Cassidy Rd, May 13 2020 (Karen Markey)



American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*, Trinkle Marsh, May 4 2020 (Ardea Thurston-Shaine)



Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*,
Thurston Pond, May 2 2020 (Karen Markey)



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Geddes & Ridge, May 24
2020 (Bill Nolting)

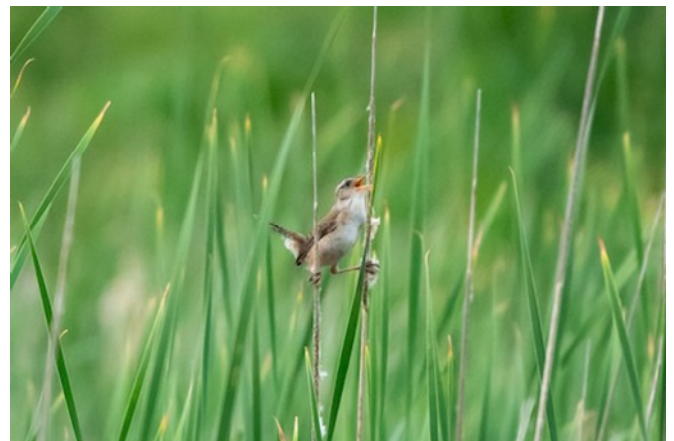
Passerines: Flycatchers through Blackbirds

After a somewhat slow start to their influx, flycatchers were found in good numbers throughout the County after the first week of May. In addition to the more common/regular species, both **Olive-sided Flycatchers** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were present at quite a few locations from 5/8 into early June. Likewise, **Philadelphia Vireos** seem to have had a good migration locally, with reports throughout the County between 5/4 and 5/27; quite a few observers noted that birds were actively singing. The Dolph Park **White-eyed Vireo** was last reported on 5/10; another bird was located at the Leslee Niethammer Preserve near Saline on 5/2. The (presumed) pair at Toma & Stinchfield Woods Rd was back for another year (5/4 – 6/20), and an active territory was found near Scio Church & Wagner from 6/22 – 6/30. An uncommon local breeding species, widespread reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (5/4 – 6/30) were certainly good news, with as many as 5 located at the species's stronghold Stinchfield Woods.

Both of the *Cistothorus* wrens seem to be having a good year – **Marsh Wrens** were singing from reedbeds across the County (5/4 – 6/28), with a staggering 11 counted at Four Mile Lake on 5/24. A user of more ephemeral habitat, **Sedge Wrens** were territorial at a handful of grassland sites throughout the County. High counts of 5 singing birds were observed at both the Chelsea SGA (5/24 – 6/10) and along Sharon Hollow, north of Easudes (5/9 – 6/9). **American Pipits** migrated through in good numbers, with a maximum of 22 birds reported from the Baker Woods Preserve on 5/9. On that same day, **Purple Finches** appeared in the Stonebridge subdivision (3 birds) and the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (2 birds). A late **Lapland Longspur** was present at Baker & Dan Hoey Rds on 5/5.



White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*, Dolph Park, May 8
2020 (Benjamin Hack)



Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*, LeFurge Woods,
June 4 2020 (Russell Ryan)



Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*, Devine Preserve,
May 27 2020 (Ardea Thurston-Shaine)



American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, Meyers Preserve,
May 11 2020 (Cathy Theisen)

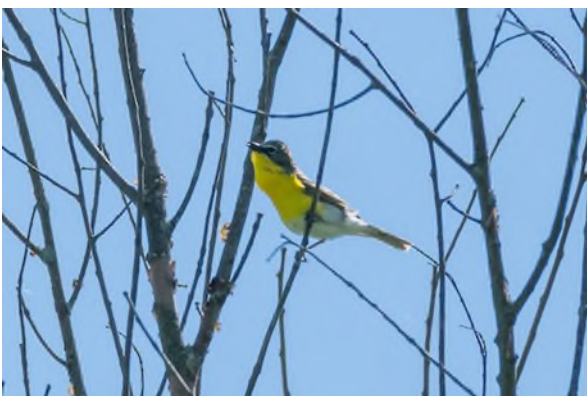
Like Sedge Wren, **Grasshopper Sparrow** appears to be having a good spring – from 5/4 – 6/18 there were numerous observations throughout the County, with a high count of 3 at the Sharonville SGA. A species that seems to be on the increase locally, **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported from eight (!) locations from 5/2 – 6/30. Standing out with a high count of 6 birds, the prairie restoration work at Rolling Hills County Park certainly seems to be bearing fruit! Singing **Vesper Sparrows** were territorial in scattered locations throughout the period, with a high tally of 4 along Vreeland Rd. Continuing the trend of a banner year for grassland species, **Henslow's Sparrows** hit double-digit tallies at two sites: 12 were counted at Sharonville SGA (5/22) and another 13 in the Ann Arbor landfill's hayfields along Stone School Rd (6/20)! Moreover, multiple singing birds were also reported from Rolling Hills County Park (2) and the Conservancy Farm along Vreeland (5).



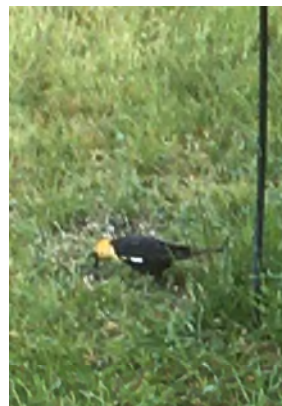
Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus saviannarum*,
Sharonville SGA, May 21 2020 (Michael Bowen)



Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*, Rolling Hills
County Park, June 2 2020 (Bill VanderMolen)



Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*, Barton Park,
May 30 2020 (Bill VanderMolen)



Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*,
Lingane Rd, June 17 2020 (Michael Brosio)

Always a difficult species to find, three reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat** were quite welcome. Single birds were reported from Maple & Saline-Milan Rd (5/18), delighted many observers at Barton Nature Area (5/29 – 5/30), and visited a water feature along a private road in Superior Twp (6/19 – 6/29). A **VERY** close contender for the highlight designation, was a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that visited a Chelsea-area feeder on 6/17 – this species appears to show up roughly once every ten years, and when it does, it is often a one-day wonder.

Passerines: Warblers through Cardinals

Clearly, for many birders, *parulid* warblers are the main attraction during the spring migration window. This year, the main push of these colorful birds was quite delayed, with the main push not hitting our area until the weekend of 5/15 - 5/17. But what a push it was! On 5/15 alone, well over two dozen species were present just in Nichols Arboretum, many of them in impressive numbers. The day after, on 5/16, brothers Matt and Benjamin Hack made good use of this wave of migrants and managed to break the long-standing Washtenaw County Big Day record set in May 2001, improving it to a whopping 143!

Generally considered overshooting migrants, three separate **Worm-eating Warblers** were turned up: one along Maple Rd at the Saline River bridge (5/15), one at the Lakewood Nature Area (5/18), and one, intriguingly, as late as 6/6 at Stinchfield Woods. The latter may have been a territorial bird, although efforts to relocate it were ultimately unsuccessful. Single **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were found in four locations, although somewhat oddly not at Nan Weston Preserve (5/4 – 5/23). **Golden-winged Warblers** put in a strong showing this spring, with two birds present in three of the eight locations they were reported from. Up until quite recently, **Prothonotary Warblers** were considered overshooting migrants or (very) rare breeders in our area. Of late, that has changed, and they are now known to nest in pretty good numbers along local waterways, with as many as 10 birds territorial along the Huron River near Hudson Mills Metropark.



Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Nichols Arboretum, May 15 2020 (Daniel Blower)



Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*, Hudson Mills Metropark, June 20 2020 (Scott Huizenga)

By and large among the later migrants, **Connecticut Warblers** came through in a somewhat early and very narrow window, from 5/15 – 5/19, although an impressive five separate birds were reported. Almost as sought-after as the previous species, **Mourning Warblers** were present all over the County from 5/9 – 5/30, with 2 reported from at least one location. Interestingly, a bird appeared to be on territory at the Kellwood Property in Manchester Twp, indicating a potential nesting attempt. A **Kentucky Warbler** was present for a few days at Dolph Park (5/23 – 5/24).



Kirtland's Warbler *Setophaga kirtlandii*, Waterworks Park, May 5 2020 (Benjamin Hack)



Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor*, Hankerd Rd, May 16 2020 (Ben Lucking)

For the third year in a row, a **Kirtland's Warbler** was found in the County, this one delighting local birders for three days at Waterworks Park in Ypsilanti (5/5 – 5/7). Starting 5/10, migrating **Cerulean Warblers** appeared in a number of parks and natural areas, and settled into their local nesting grounds, with a maximum of 4 reported from both the Waterloo and Pinckney SRAs. The Saline River valley continues to be the epicenter of Washtenaw County's nesting **Yellow-throated Warbler** population, with 2 birds along Hartman Rd, and another at the Maple Rd river crossing. Other than that, scattered observations (including 2 at Nichols Arboretum on 5/16) kept local birders on the lookout for this handsome species. The female **Prairie Warbler** at Thurston Pond continued through 5/1; a couple of other single birds were reported as well: at Nichols Arboretum (5/23) and on private property in Lodi Twp (6/19). The pair that has been nesting along Hankerd Rd returned for the tenth year running!



Yellow-throated Warbler *Vermivora dominica*, Hartman Rd, May 8 2020 (Keith Dickey)



Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*, Scarlett-Mitchell Woods, May 6 2020 (Jacco Gelderloos)

Summer Tanagers do not occur annually in Washtenaw County, so three reports were quite notable. The very cooperative first-year male present at Scarlett-Mitchell Woods (5/6 – 5/9) was a very welcome addition to many local birders' lists. Based on plumage, the same bird may well have been involved in a sighting in Waterworks Park a few days later, on 5/15. A different individual was present at the Leslie Woods Natura Area on 5/23. Continuing a trend from recent years, and mirroring the positive trend for grassland species, **Dickcissels** settled into territories in at least seven locales, with high counts of 6 along Meyers Rd, and a whopping 7 at Gotfredson & Vreeland Rds. Two birds reported from Rolling Hills are further proof of how well the prairie restoration there is working out.

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	Membership Dues	
Additional Donation \$ _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Household	\$25 (online only \$20)
Name: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15 (online only \$10)
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

Washtenaw Audubon's in-person programs at the Botanical Gardens are on hold until the University allows gatherings to take place. To view our online Zoom programs, you will need access to an internet-capable computer, phone, or similar device. An announcement of the web address to view the program will be on our web site, Facebook page, and on the Birders email list a few days before the program.

We may also add more online programs for September and the future, which will be announced on the same internet platforms.

September 16, 7:30 p.m. Identifying Raptors in Flight, with Josh Haas

Raptors in flight bring a sense of wonder and struggle to birders, especially when it comes to identifying them at a distance. Field marks are not enough when back-lit conditions and birds miles out lack any color. Flight ID has long been the best way to identify raptors at a distance, however books only take it so far. Join hawk watcher and photographer Josh Haas as he shares the principles of raptor ID featuring video clips from his movie "Hawks on the Wing" and explains why our local site, the Detroit River Hawk Watch, is a raptor migration mecca.

Josh Haas first developed a love for hawks working with the birds of prey at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. A hawk watching trip to Lake Erie Metropark opened his eyes to raptors in migration. Perplexed by seeing specks at a distance with an overwhelming itch to know what they were, he started learning from veteran hawk watchers and was hooked. He would end up spending seven Fall seasons working with the Detroit River Hawk Watch as a relief counter. There he honed his skills and developed a love for teaching visitors unique ways of telling the shadowy specs apart.

To join the Zoom Meeting, go to:

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/99828722535>

Or dial-in:

Call: +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 998 2872 2535

October 21, 7:30 p.m.	A Virtual Nature Walk with Don Chalfant	(an online Zoom program)
November 18	Birding Costa Rica, with Dave Dister	(via Zoom, or in-person)

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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