



NEWSLETTER

July / August 2021

WAS May Count May 8, 2021 It's always the Warblers!



Magnolia Warbler (Scott Huizenga)

Here is the as yet untold story of the 2021 May Count. Per usual, volunteer effort is a huge part of the tale, and it was a **massive** volunteer effort. At least 137 birding volunteers helped us count all the birds in Washtenaw County that we could find. Thank you to the field volunteers, and the Area Leaders, for their hard and fun work, counting and IDing birds and entering all into eBird, which so appreciates the data. Thanks to the drivers, like my husband Scott Huizenga who drove almost 100 miles in Lodi TWP and Ann Arbor to count our birds. He's been my May Count partner since 2015. And, a grand thank you to the helpers behind the scenes, like my co-compiler, David Amamoto, for crunching the data and creating the tables, in addition to his field counting. This year we all counted 178 bird species, despite the cold, north winds, and delayed migration, and 36,538 individual birds. To all the spouses who held down the fort at home for the kids and other household members, you're appreciated so much!

Saturday May 8th started out cold. Intrepid owls and others up before dawn got to experience temps in the mid-30's, with wind starting to build, which became gusty by mid-day. We wondered, were the warblers going to show up?? The answer is mixed. For some early species, like Yellow-rumped Warbler (509 individuals!) and Palm Warbler (272 individuals), they showed up, and how! More likely, they stayed around, having been unable to migrate further north because of strong north winds battering them and keeping them here for what seemed like weeks. In all the records I can access from May Counts past, this is the largest number of these 2 species we've ever recorded. We saw this pattern in 2020, but this year was even more marked. Northern Waterthrush, another relatively earlier migrator, made an exceptional showing, with a whopping 47 individuals counted, compared to 18 last year (which we thought was an astounding number at the time). 662 Yellow Warblers got counted, which is way above last year, and below 2019's total in the 700's. 1 Orange-crowned Warbler was found in Lodi TWP, thanks to Kurt and Liz Hagemeister. This species is usually an early migrator and more abundant in years when the May Count occurs early, but we found it scarce this year. 4 Cape May Warblers seen or heard in 2021 eclipsed our single bird from last year.

Later migrating species of Warbler were harder to find. We found 1 Canada Warbler in Lodi TWP, (Thanks Darrin O'Brien and Julie Craves), 1 Blackpoll Warbler in Ann Arbor at Huron Hills Golf Course, (Thanks Brendan McMahon), one Wilson's Warbler in Sharon TWP, (Thanks Linda Ar, Dave Borneman and crew), 2 Bay-breasted Warblers, in Superior TWP (Thanks Susan Falcone and Tom McClanahan) and Scio TWP at Dolph Park (Thanks Andrew Pawuk), 1 Golden-winged Warbler in Webster TWP (Thanks to Faye Stoner, Julie Frost and Cyndie Zaccaro), 1 Louisiana Waterthrush in Dexter at Crooked Lake, (Thanks Maggie Jewett and Alan Ryff), 1 rare Yellow-throated Warbler in Saline (Thanks to Roger Wykes), 3 Prothonotary Warblers--2 in Dexter TWP at Hudson Mills, and 1 in York TWP at Draper-Houston Preserve (Thanks Karen Markey and Aditya Mupala, Greg Jacks and Johanna Lentz). Several Cerulean Warblers were heard, though not as many as in later dated count years--thanks Gordon Fitch, Cathy Theisen and Dennis Pozega in Sylvan TWP, and Dexter and Salem and Manchester birders. Hooded Warblers sang to be counted this year, unlike their sad showing last year, of 0. No Mourning Warblers or Connecticut Warblers made themselves known to our counters this year.

One of the most exciting finds of the May Count was spotted by Peggy Hsu and Russell Ryan at the new eBird Hotspot, Saline Fisheries Research Station—an American Bittern, actually observed visually by Peggy, and not just heard, which is our usual means of IDing this elusive species. Several other birders were able to see the Bittern, thanks to the Russell and Peggy's prompt notification. Some elusive Sparrows, such as a lingering Fox Sparrow in Sharon TWP, and 7 hauntingly singing Vesper Sparrows, in York, Saline and Lodi TWP, were found. Henslow's Sparrow proved hard to find, with just 1 recorded in Manchester on Noggles Rd. A Clay-colored Sparrow was heard in Superior TWP at LeFurge Woods, and 2 in Ypsi at Rolling Hills Park. Both these locations are breeding spots for Clay-colored Sparrow in Washtenaw. None of the usually late arriving Grasshopper Sparrows were noted on this year's count.

Raptors made a good showing with 28 Osprey on count day, proving they've made a great comeback from the days of decimation by DDT. Next year, they join the regular, not rare list, along with Bald Eagles, moved over last year. Observers noted 3 Red-shouldered Hawks, a species not seen every year on the May Count. 6 Broad-winged Hawks called in to the count, with 2 Northern Harriers observed, one in Northfield TWP, and one in Sharon TWP. All regular owl species were present, with a large number of Barred Owls joining the crew (7). And thanks to Keith Dickey, field observer in Ann Arbor, for making a special trip to Burton Tower on UM Campus to count one of our resident Peregrine Falcons.

See our Rare Bird table for TWP locations for the 35 rare species that were counted this year. Regular species mostly noted each year, are in a separate table. Thanks to the table, I don't have to state the count for each species, since you can see for yourself! Ruffed Grouse made an appearance, after a one year absence, and some Winter Finches were still present—Purple Finch, 15, and Pine Siskin, 10 on the common list, after an exceptional flight in the winter of 2020/2021. None of the Red or White-winged Crossbills, or Evening Grosbeaks from the winter at Cedar Lake Camp lingered into May.

Since we're able to publish the tables with exact numbers of each species in each TWP, you can see the township by township comparison in numbers of species. We have a friendly competition between townships, and this year, Ann Arbor tied Sharon TWP, to defend a share of the title for most species per township, 121! Kudos to Sharon TWP observers who recorded 121 species with only 4 observers, while 44 Ann Arbor observers worked the splendid Ann Arbor parks for their species total.

Washtenaw County 2021 May Count		Number of Common Species: 142										Number of Rare Species: 36										v7.1				
		Number of Rare + Common Species: 178																				7/9/2021 dya				
Number of Common Species w/o sp.		142	114	64	75	92	82	68	109	80	105	68	73	30	92	108	107	92	77	91	93	90				
Number of Rare Species w/o sp.		35	7	1	0	11	0	4	6	2	6	2	4	1	4	6	14	2	3	9	5	3				
Total Rare+Common Full Species		177	121	65	75	103	82	72	115	82	111	70	77	31	96	114	121	94	80	100	98	93				
		Total	Ann	Aug	Bri	Dex	Fre	Lim	Lod	Lyn	Man	Nor	Pit	Sal	Sln	Sci	Sha	Sup	Syl	Web	Yor	Yps				
Count - All Common Indiv, w/ sp.		36265	7081	538	1193	2171	1574	879	3675	561	2801	793	774	376	1547	2010	1496	2803	566	1843	1593	1991				
Domestic goose sp. (Domestic type)	sp	26																				26				
Canada Goose	C	2363	428	35	60	78	62	120	215	23	181	71	76	40	83	116	117	237	11	144	86	180				
Mute Swan	C	102	55		2	8		12			4	1	2		1	1		6		4		6				
Trumpeter Swan	C	16	3			1	4	1	2			1	2			2										
swan sp.	sp	5																				5				
Wood Duck	C	172	24		1	13	6	5	15	2	36		2	2	1	11	10	6	12	6	17	3				
Blue-winged Teal	C	44	10								1		2			2	25					4				
Mallard	C	578	186		9	12	21	11	55	4	38	9	26		18	39	14	24	5	21	20	66				
Mallard (Domestic type)	sp	9																6				3				
Hooded Merganser	C	29	1		2				4		3				17				2							
duck sp.	sp	8	6									2														
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	25			4			1	5		1				3	3	4	2		1		1				
Wild Turkey	C	113	7	4	3	7	6	1	7		13	4	5		6	5	9	7	4	18	6	1				
Pied-billed Grebe	C	12	1								2		2			1	3	2		1						
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	C	277	85		29	12	12	18	11	6	14	5		12	10	1	7	26		1	3	25				
Mourning Dove	C	639	95	7	30	32	28	15	74	5	52	13	15	12	46	30	17	28	15	48	44	33				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	2								1									1							
Black-billed Cuckoo	C	1															1									
Chimney Swift	C	1076	859		1	2		18	1		12				6	3		39		3		132				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	49	10						9	2	4	1	3			2	5	2		5	4	2				
Virginia Rail	C	13				2	1	1		2	1	2				1	1			2						
Sora	C	22			1		1	1	1		5				1	2	1	1		6	1	1				
American Coot	C	1											1													
Sandhill Crane	C	322	6	2	21	30	15	19	41	10	40	8	11		3	14	35	6	17	37	5	2				
Killdeer	C	247	30	7	12	3	25	2	39	2	19	8	5	10	8	15	17	21	1	6	11	6				
Least Sandpiper	C	15	4		2											7	2									
Pectoral Sandpiper	C	7														2	5									
Calidris sp.	sp	8	7																			1				
American Woodcock	C	22	2			7			2		4						5			2						
Wilson's Snipe	C	5											1		1		1			2						
Spotted Sandpiper	C	32	4		2				4		1		2		6	6	1	1			1	4				
Solitary Sandpiper	C	42	10		1		2		5		6		1		1	4	7	1				4				
Greater Yellowlegs	C	26	3					7			1	3	1				11									
Lesser Yellowlegs	C	79	10		1		24	15	1		3		2			4	19									
Ring-billed Gull	C	10	1					4								1						4				
Double-crested Cormorant	C	43	15									3	4					3				16	2			
Great Blue Heron	C	114	25	1	5	7	1	3	5	1	9	6	5		8	9	7	5	2	7	3	5				
Great Egret	C	20	8		1				1		1				2	2		1				3				
Green Heron	C	55	14		1	1	4		2	1	4	1	1		3	1	3	10		2	4	3				
Turkey Vulture	C	615	50	28	45	21	86	16	63	12	52	30	7	10	43	25	23	20	12	34	20	18				
Sharp-shinned Hawk	C	3															1	1				1				
Cooper's Hawk	C	27	5		1			2	2		2		1		1	4		2	2	2	1	2				
Accipiter sp.	sp	1																				1				
Bald Eagle	C	17	3			1		1	2						1		3		2	1	2	1				
Broad-winged Hawk	C	6	1			1				1	1											2				
Red-tailed Hawk	C	105	17	5	6	6	8	2	6	1	7	9	3		10	3	5	4		6	2	5				
Buteo sp.	sp	1	1																							
hawk sp.	sp	2	1						1																	
Eastern Screech-Owl	C	6	1															2	1			2				
Great Horned Owl	C	15	3	6		1			1							1	2					1				
Barred Owl	C	12				7					4						1									
Belted Kingfisher	C	37	14	1		3	1	1	2		1	1			1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	5	1				1									2					1					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	407	100	3	7	40	11	10	39	8	24	5	4	3	20	35	15	18	9	20	20	16				
Downy Woodpecker	C	246	82		4	17	3	7	13	4	9	4	2	2	5	20	11	20	4	10	19	10				
Hairy Woodpecker	C	71	20	2		9	3		8	1	3	1			2	9	2			9	1	1				
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker	sp	1									1															
Pileated Woodpecker	C	43	3			5	1		4	4	2	2		2	2	3	4	2	2	5	2					
Northern Flicker	C	202	51		5	9	12	7	11	2	14	10	4	2	8	13	10	13	3	12	7	9				
woodpecker sp.	sp	6	5												1											
American Kestrel	C	10		2	3										2		2			1						
Peregrine Falcon	C	1	1																							
Olive-sided Flycatcher	C	1														1										
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	7	1						2									4								
Willow Flycatcher	C	2					1															1				
Least Flycatcher	C	10	1		1		1		4							2			1							

		Total	Ann	Aug	Bri	Dex	Fre	Lim	Lod	Lyn	Man	Nor	Pit	Sal	Sln	Sci	Sha	Sup	Syl	Web	Yor	Yps
Count - All Common Indiv, w/ sp.		36265	7081	538	1193	2171	1574	879	3675	561	2801	793	774	376	1547	2010	1496	2803	566	1843	1593	1991
Empidonax sp.	sp	1																1				
Eastern Phoebe	C	63	5	1	5	6	2	1	6	2	2	1			3	11	2	3		6	4	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	46	13	1		5		1	4	3	3	2			1	3	3	5	1	1		
Eastern Kingbird	C	42	4	1		1	4	1	4	1	8	1			4	2	3	2	1	3		2
Yellow-throated Vireo	C	82	3	2	1	17	3	2	8	6	8				2	4	8	6	6	5		1
Blue-headed Vireo	C	15	5			3	1				2					3			1			
Warbling Vireo	C	242	65	3	10	11	10	7	24		10	1	1		9	13	10	2	7	12	7	40
Red-eyed Vireo	C	24	2	2		1	3	1			4	2				2	2		1		3	1
vireo sp.	sp	1	1																			
Blue Jay	C	1399	328	19	36	124	48	31	162	20	128	16	14		72	81	17	60	16	87	74	66
American Crow	C	698	88	7	22	50	32	27	66	9	53	20	6	8	19	35	61	97	16	41	25	16
Black-capped Chickadee	C	546	123	4	12	83	8	14	39	12	38	14	12		10	35	11	24	24	41	27	15
Tufted Titmouse	C	452	104	6	7	48	22	19	29	21	30	11	4	4	19	42	7	14	21	28	10	6
Horned Lark	C	91		3	16				18		5				16	1	3	14			9	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	221	77	2	4	5		2	3		3		2	2	8	22	3	2	4	10	13	59
Purple Martin	C	89			39	1	2	2	2	10	10	6	4		1		5			2		5
Tree Swallow	C	889	97	1	21	85	31	21	37	7	26	5	66	24	12	11	18	182	5	22	124	94
Bank Swallow	C	117	22						5	3	2					2	2	80				1
Barn Swallow	C	1165	163	32	44	14	87	18	164	19	111	28	88	12	107	61	21	14	11	38	20	113
Cliff Swallow	C	119	87					1	1		9					3	5			2	2	9
swallow sp.	sp	96	16					30							10					40		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	4							1							1				2		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	114	27		5	6	3	1	10	3	1	1	1		7	16	3	1	4	9	14	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	19	4	2		6			2							1			1	1	1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	308	81	1	5	22	8	15	20	12	24	4	5	2	14	25	7	9	8	22	17	7
Brown Creeper	C	9		1		5					1				1	1						
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	154	23		1	16	4	1	18	4	20	1		3	4	11	10	5	13	8	4	8
House Wren	C	337	48	12	5	18	15	5	69	4	28	12	5		11	18	11	21	1	19	20	15
Carolina Wren	C	81	34	2		2	1		12	1	2	1			2	12			1	3	3	5
wren sp.	sp	1	1																			
European Starling	C	1089	153	29	64	31	112	26	108	8	97	17	12	12	41	56	26	71		38	72	116
Gray Catbird	C	407	94	11	7	12	11	3	50	5	34	8	3		15	47	12	32	6	18	24	15
Brown Thrasher	C	35	1				4		5		10	1			3	1	2				5	3
Eastern Bluebird	C	196	18	2	8	26	1	4	20	1	20	8	3		5	6	9	5	2	25	30	3
Veery	C	31	5	3		1	1		5	1	5				2	2	3		2		1	
Swainson's Thrush	C	23	3			2			4	1	3					3	3			1	3	
Hermit Thrush	C	24	4			3			1						1	8	1	1	1	1	2	1
Wood Thrush	C	72	5	3	2	10	3	1	9	2	8	3				6	3	2	7		7	1
American Robin	C	2375	491	49	97	139	91	68	282	28	138	70	59	21	109	127	44	159	56	80	131	136
thrush sp.	sp	1	1																			
Cedar Waxwing	C	17																6		11		
House Sparrow	C	742	124	5	27	35	45	12	137	6	31	22	7		40	37	28	74	4	24	33	51
House Finch	C	303	81	5	5	11	8	1	55	6	13	10	5		8	23	3	7	1	30	19	12
Pine Siskin	C	10	2						5				3									
American Goldfinch	C	1001	216	11	21	113	29	14	105	10	45	22	43	8	33	59	26	89	20	45	54	38
Chipping Sparrow	C	435	28	6	29	36	31	2	65	6	61	10	4		19	18	28	20	11	21	24	16
Field Sparrow	C	262	6	1	8	27	14		30	1	47	9	4	6	1	5	33	43	3	11	8	5
Dark-eyed Junco	C	4																		1	2	1
White-crowned Sparrow	C	81	4	2	2				16	1	1		2		4	6	1	24		5	2	11
White-throated Sparrow	C	516	80	5	7	16	26	3	132	7	28	6	6		44	74	7		6	15	34	20
Vesper Sparrow	C	7							2						2						3	
Savannah Sparrow	C	40		3		4			11		1		3		4		1	9			4	
Song Sparrow	C	926	112	23	38	42	33	20	151	10	112	18	24	12	40	54	19	85	10	53	38	32
Swamp Sparrow	C	112	3		2	5	5	2	6	7	13	3	3		6	2	35	1	5	13		1
Eastern Towhee	C	161	1	1	2	32	2	1	20	18	19	1			3	5	21	7	9	3	15	1
sparrow sp.	sp	24	2				8				1	13										
Bobolink	C	25							2		2	1	6		2		5	6		1		
Eastern Meadowlark	C	50		1	3	1	2		6		3	1	1		3	1	13	8		1	4	2
Orchard Oriole	C	27	6		1				7				2		2		2	1	1	2	1	2
Baltimore Oriole	C	558	145	16	22	19	19	10	60	6	38	12	8		25	30	17	20	13	41	22	35
Red-winged Blackbird	C	4925	578	77	195	267	293	142	437	61	542	119	91	97	250	281	265	637	39	270	105	179
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	803	132	11	51	61	35	4	110	9	52	19	9	31	31	34	32	66	11	53	28	24
Common Grackle	C	1002	227	13	33	53	36	23	125	3	66	45	20		52	38	33	71	15	37	53	59
blackbird sp.	sp	23	3												20							
Ovenbird	C	122	18	1		41	2		9	4	10	1	1		2	5	4		14		6	4
Northern Waterthrush	C	47	4			2	1		13	1					3	5	9	1	3	1	1	3
Blue-winged Warbler	C	53		1	1	6			1	19	4	3		2		1	4	8	1		2	
Black-and-white Warbler	C	77	21	3		10	2		5	5	4		4		2	8	2	3	1	1	3	3
Tennessee Warbler	C	6	3						1	1	1											
Orange-crowned Warbler	C	1							1													
Nashville Warbler	C	93	23		1	11	4		21	5	1		1		3	4	5	7	1	1	4	1

		Total	Ann	Aug	Bri	Dex	Fre	Lim	Lod	Lyn	Man	Nor	Pit	Sal	Sln	Sci	Sha	Sup	Syl	Web	Yor	Yps
Count - All Common Indiv, w/ sp.		36265	7081	538	1193	2171	1574	879	3675	561	2801	793	774	376	1547	2010	1496	2803	566	1843	1593	1991
Common Yellowthroat	C	404	13	11	8	27	23	9	36	18	69	6	6	9	10	39	34	41	4	22	12	7
Hooded Warbler	C	13	2			4				1						1	1		4			
American Redstart	C	58	18		2	3	3		2	2	2		4			11	3		4	1	1	2
Cape May Warbler	C	4	1							1									2			
Northern Parula	C	55	9			2	2		7	1	2		6		2	4	4	6		2	8	
Magnolia Warbler	C	20	2			1	1		2						1	3		2	3	3	2	
Bay-breasted Warbler	C	2														1		1				
Blackburnian Warbler	C	15	5						1		3		1		1			2	1		1	
Yellow Warbler	C	662	101	9	27	62	28	9	41	18	77	7	6	6	15	24	38	73	16	41	29	35
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	16	3			1	3		3	1						2	1			2		
Blackpoll Warbler	C	1	1																			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	C	56	15	2		5	3		3	3	3					5	2	10			5	
Palm Warbler	C	272	77		1	22	6	2	16	3	10	1	5		17	15	9	11	9	32	10	26
Pine Warbler	C	33	4			13			2	2	4					1	3		3			1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	509	170	4	5	46	7	2	28	10	7	1	5	1	35	38	33	24	17	22	25	29
Black-throated Green Warbler	C	135	35	1	1	15	2		15	3	18		6	4	4	12	5	2	3	1	8	
Canada Warbler	C	1							1													
Wilson's Warbler	C	1															1					
warbler sp. (Parulidae sp.)	sp	3	1																	2		
Scarlet Tanager	C	21	7			1				2	1						2	5	1		2	
Northern Cardinal	C	1026	240	20	28	81	33	16	113	15	69	22	13		37	64	26	78	7	66	53	45
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	296	75	3	2	9	17	5	25	19	19	9			9	19	13	19	2	25	14	12
Indigo Bunting	C	33	7	1		3			2	1	3				2	7	3	2			1	1
passerine sp.	sp	10	10																			
Total Common indivs including sp's.		36265	7081	538	1193	2171	1574	879	3675	561	2801	793	774	376	1547	2010	1496	2803	566	1843	1593	1991
Common Indivs - not including sp's.		36038	7026	538	1193	2171	1566	849	3674	561	2799	778	774	375	1517	2010	1496	2797	565	1800	1592	1957
Count of Indivs - Just Common sp's.		227	55	0	0	0	8	30	1	0	2	15	0	1	30	0	0	6	1	43	1	34
Count of Common sp's.		19	13	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	3
Number of Rare Species w/o sp.		35	7	1	0	11	0	4	6	2	6	2	4	1	4	6	14	2	3	9	5	3
		Total	Ann	Aug	Bri	Dex	Fre	Lim	Lod	Lyn	Man	Nor	Pit	Sal	Sln	Sci	Sha	Sup	Syl	Web	Yor	Yps
Count - All Rare Indiv, including sp.		272	23	2	0	84	0	20	17	3	13	10	6	1	8	9	28	6	3	13	20	6
American Black Duck	R	3															3					
Green-winged Teal	R	5															5					
Canvasback	R	2				1				1												
Ring-necked Duck	R	7																			7	
Lesser Scaup	R	12				8		4														
Bufflehead	R	61	9			38		4				9	1									
Common Merganser	R	1	1																			
Ruddy Duck	R	30	2			15		10	1											2		
Northern Bobwhite	R	1															1					
Ruffed Grouse	R	1																	1			
Eastern Whip-poor-will	R	4									2					1	1					
Common Gallinule	R	2															2					
American Bittern	R	1													1							
Osprey	R	28	7			2					2		2				1	5		3	3	3
Northern Harrier	R	2										1					1					
Red-shouldered Hawk	R	3				2										1						
Red-headed Woodpecker	R	29	1	2		4		2	2		4		1		4		2		1	1	5	
White-eyed Vireo	R	2														2						
Winter Wren	R	2														2						
Sedge Wren	R	12							5							7						
Marsh Wren	R	4							1							1				2		
Northern Mockingbird	R	8									3						1				4	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	2	1																	1		
American Pipit	R	7							6								1					
Purple Finch	R	15	2			7				2						2	1			1		
Clay-colored Sparrow	R	3																1				2
American Tree Sparrow	R	1	1																			
Fox Sparrow	R	1															1					
Henslow's Sparrow	R	1									1											
Lincoln's Sparrow	R	7							1				2		2					1		1
Rusty Blackbird	R	2															1			1		
Louisiana Waterthrush	R	1				1											1					
Golden-winged Warbler	R	1																		1		
Golden-winged/Blue-winged Warbler	sp	1							1													
Prothonotary Warbler	R	3				2															1	
Cerulean Warbler	R	7				4					1			1					1			
Yellow-throated Warbler	R	1													1							
Total Rare indivs including sp's.		272	23	2	0	84	0	20	17	3	13	10	6	1	8	9	28	6	3	13	20	6
Rare indivs - not including sp's.		271	23	2	0	84	0	20	16	3	13	10	6	1	8	9	28	6	3	13	20	6
Count of individuals - Just Rare sp's.		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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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.

We're grateful that this year most observers were vaccinated against COVID-19, and so we were able to travel with our fellow birders to count birds for the 2021 May bird counting extravaganza. I'm especially thankful to all the volunteers who have helped count our birds over the past 2 years, despite uncertain circumstances brought about by the pandemic. And, though I'm mourning the 600,000+ Americans, as well as countless others around the world who have perished from COVID, I am grateful that the pandemic has brought about a new appreciation for the natural world, including birds. Many younger new birders have joined our ranks in the past 18 months, using lock down time to acquire the skill of birding. And a great number of new members joined Washtenaw Audubon Society, despite that we were unable to meet any of them in person. Our Zoom programs, thanks to Secretary/Membership Chair Jessica Adamczyk, and Program Chair Mike Sefton, attracted folks from around the world to join our birding community. Now, our field trips are back on, so join Field Trip Chair Matt Spoor for the fun.

I'm counting on all of us to help keep the environment and birds on the front burner, as we transition back into the normal routines of life. Please join me and many, many other birders for May Count 2022, on May 14, 2022-- the next May Count. We can't do it without you!!

As always, I am for the birds.

Juliet Berger,

President, Washtenaw Audubon Society and Volunteer Coordinator and Co-compiler WAS May Count



Hooded Mergansers at the Saline Fisheries Research Station (Russell Ryan)

Did you know you can save dozens of birds every year by fixing windows around your house or office? Visit birdsmartglass.org to see how!

May-June 2021: Spring Highlights

The Highlight

Each year, all of us eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring and its plethora of colorful migrants. And each migration window offers the tantalizing possibility of something truly rare showing up. This year, lightning struck for two lucky observers out at the West Lake Preserve, who witnessed (and photographed) a subadult **Mississippi Kite** soaring overhead. This constituted only the second accepted Washtenaw County record for this handsome raptor from the southeastern and southern plains states (the first being a single-observer record from 5/21/99). Subsequent searches in the area failed to relocate this bird, unfortunately.

Then, some three weeks later, birders seeking out the Brood X Cicada show at the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve found another (the same?) subadult **Mississippi Kite** feeding on the abundant insects there. To the delight of many, this bird stuck around for weeks, allowing literally hundreds to observe it.



Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*, West Lake Preserve, May 23 2021 (Russell Ryan) & Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, June 17 2021 (Michael Bowen)

Waterfowl through Rails

By and large, waterfowl migration is just about over by the time April is over and only breeding species remain locally. However, a few stragglers stayed into the first few weeks of May, among them a pair of **Northern Shovelers** at the ponds at Scio Church & Parker. Late-ish **Gadwall** were present at three different locations: three birds at South Pond (5/3 - 5/7), one at Mill Lake (5/11 - 5/13), and a hefty eight of them at South Lake on 5/16. The South Pond Gadwall were joined by a couple of **American Wigeon** on 5/3. The flock of eight **Green-winged Teal** at Sharon Mills County Park on 5/1 slowly reduced in size until they were gone by 5/8.



Common Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Nichols Arboretum, May 7 2021 (Bill Nolting)



Sora *Porzana carolina*, Pittsfield Preserve, May 3 2021 (Douglas Gurka)

Straggling diving ducks tend to be even more uncommon than late dabbling ducks, so three separate sites hosting single **Canvasbacks** into May was quite unusual. Perhaps most expected was the bird at Four Mile Lake (through 5/8), given the huge congregation there earlier in the year; more out of the ordinary were the birds at Independence Lake (5/3) and Park Lyndon County Park (5/8). Much like last year, a male **Common Merganser** frequented several sites along the Huron River well into June. Unlike 2020, no female was seen nearby, though. Highly unexpected was a female **Red-breasted Merganser** on Barton Pond on 5/21 – not only is this our most uncommon merganser, but they are generally gone well before the end of April.

Once they stop displaying, **Ruffed Grouse** become very hard to find, so not surprisingly only a single bird was reported from the Waterloo SRA – that said, the lack of observations from (former?) strongholds of this species is disconcerting. Could this handsome grouse species soon be extirpated from Washtenaw County? Similarly, all local observations of **Northern Bobwhites** are now considered to be released or escaped birds. Still, a calling male off Gotfredson Rd on 6/20 was a welcome sighting of this cute little quail. Pairs of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were calling at their expected haunts along Embury Rd (5/7 – 6/4) and Noggles Rd (5/8 – 6/23); a lone bird was heard at Delhi Metropark on 5/8, a much more unexpected locale. Scattered **Common Gallinule** reports came in from the Pittsfield Preserve (5/3), LeFurge Woods (5/22), and Trinkle Marsh (6/27 - 6/30) - all concerned single birds. Although they sometimes nest in southeast Michigan, **American Coots** had left Washtenaw County by May 9 – single birds had been at a handful of locations prior to that.

Shorebirds through Terns

This was an excellent spring migration period for **Semipalmated Plovers** – although they are annual in Washtenaw County, the fact that they showed up in seven different locations is certainly of note. Most of these spots hosted one or two birds, but there was a maximum of six at the pond along S Staebler Rd (5/15 – 5/16) and a staggering 21 at Four Mile Lake on 5/26. The latter represents an all-time record high number for that species, and further solidifies Four Mile Lake's standing as our current shorebirding hotspot. The pair of **Upland Sandpipers** at Gotfredson & Vreeland extended their stay from the previous period through 5/2.



Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* & Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Mary Beth Doyle Park, May 24 2021 (Bill Nolting)



Upland Sandpiper *Batramia longicauda*, Gotfredson Rd, May 1 2021 (Brian Barnabo)

A few **Dunlin** moved through, with one at the Staebler Rd pond on 5/14, four at Scio Church & Parker on 5/22, and four more at Four Mile Lake. The first individual at that location was noted on 5/7, numbers peaked at four on 5/17, but at least one hung around until the late date of 6/22, which is quite unprecedented. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was reported from Scio Church & Parker on 5/25, but it did not hang around. Between 5/3 and 5/21, relatively few **Pectoral Sandpipers** came through – the largest flock was one of six birds along Gotfredson Rd (5/4). The pair that was at Mary Beth Doyle Park on Ann Arbor's south side hung around for almost two weeks and delighted many visiting birders. Much like their similarly named plover cousins, Semipalmated Sandpipers had an excellent spring showing. Not only were they reported from five scattered sites, they were also present in good numbers: 6 at the Staebler Rd pond (5/15), 5 at Mary Beth Doyle Park (5/20 – 5/25), 4 at Scio Church & Parker (5/22 – 5/26), 6 at Four Mile Lake (5/25 – 6/4), and 2 at Sharon Mills County Park (5/31). The latter two likely set new late spring dates for the species, which is generally more common in fall migration. Quite exciting was a small group of five **Willetts** at North Bay Park on 5/4, which unfortunately did not stick around for very long and were seen by a single observer only.



Willet *Tringa semipalmata*, North Bay Park, May 4 2021
(Nui Moreland)



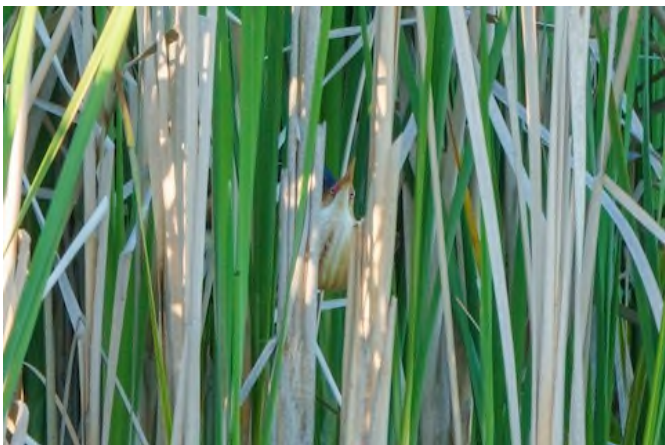
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, North Bay Park, June 3
2021 (Nui Moreland)

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Four Mile Lake on 5/1 were quite tardy, but not unheard-of. Rather good numbers of Caspian Terns moved through the county between 5/2 and 6/12. Of note were groups of four at North Bay Park (5/2) and of six along the Arb-Gallup Bike Pathway (5/13). Other than that, only one or two birds were involved. The only other tern species this spring was a one-day wonder **Black Tern** over the ponds at LeFurge Woods on 5/31.

Loons through Falcons

Although there is precedent for June sightings in southeast Michigan, a **Common Loon** over Barton Pond on 6/12 must have been quite the surprise for the birder that encountered it. **American White Pelicans** had yet another banner spring, and were seen flying over four locations: 10 over Nichols Arboretum (5/6), two at Four Mile Lake (5/20), six over the Stapp Nature Area (6/9), and three more over Carpenter & Packard (6/21). May sightings of these iconic birds are now essentially annual, and June sightings nearly so – keep looking up, folks!

Only one **American Bittern** was heard during this year's spring period, at the Saline Fisheries Research Station during May Count on 5/8. **Least Bitterns** were back on territory at LeFurge Woods starting 5/3 (through at least 6/22); another bird was noted at Park Lyndon County Park on 5/13. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** failed to show up in any numbers and the bird at South Pond on 6/17 proved to be the only one of the period. Oddly similar to last year, an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found in Waterworks Park on 5/31, was enjoyed by many for a couple of days, and then disappeared. Subsequently, this bird was relocated some three weeks later at a complex of ponds along Tuttle Hill Rd a few miles south of the original location. It was still being seen through the end of this period.



Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*, LeFurge Woods, June
17 2021 (Russell Ryan)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*,
Waterworks Park, May 31 2021 (Creston Burks)

Likely migrants, single Northern Harriers were reported from as many as seven locations; that said, the fact that some of these extended well into June may indicate that nesting may have been attempted locally. Almost certainly all migrating birds, a whopping eleven different reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** came in during May, all involving single birds. **Barred Owls** continued their ongoing increase and spread into new areas: singletons or pairs were found in more than 15 locations, scattered around their strongholds in the northwest and southwest of the county, but also from woods just west of Ann Arbor proper. Clearly, the maturing of local woodlots is benefitting this species.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have usually left by the third week of May, so one at the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve on 6/17 is clearly a most unusual find and made for an odd juxtaposition with the Mississippi Kite present there at the time. Two individual **Merlins** remained into May: along Vreeland Rd on 5/1 and at Dolph Park on 5/15. The same two spots also reported **Peregrine Falcons**, on 5/1 and 5/2, respectively. The pair nesting near U of M's Central Campus fledged at least one young this year, with as many as three birds reported (on 6/14).

Passerines: Flycatchers through Wrens

Always an exciting find, five **Olive-sided Flycatchers** in as many locations were spotted this spring, in a rather tight window from 5/8 until 5/27. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** put in great showing for such an unobtrusive species, with more than a dozen sites reporting them between 5/7 and 6/4. Although they move through in the later parts of the spring migration window, reports of **Alder Flycatchers** at the DeVine Preserve (6/2 – 6/11), Lillie Park (6/11), and Rolling Hills County Park (6/13) may well have involved local nesting attempts.

Probably an annual breeder now, up to two **White-eyed Vireo** were present at Dolph Park throughout May and June. An additional singing bird was observed at Lakewood Nature Area on 5/15. Their cousin, the **Philadelphia Vireo**, was reported from some 15 locations during the month of May, with a particular focus on the Huron River valley.



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*, Sharonville SGA, May 29 2021 (Russell Ryan)



White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*, Dolph Park, May 14 2021 (Douglas Gurka)

Single, migrating **Golden-crowned Kinglets** continued to move through our area into the first week or so of May (quite a few were found by May Count volunteers). The eight birds found on the Stinchfield Woods Count on 6/5 no doubt represented a small breeding population there – quite exciting! That last site hosted a good number of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** as well (5, also on 6/5). By the time June rolled around, most of the stragglers from last fall/winter's major irruption had moved on – only a bird in Lodi Township and one at the Cherry Hill Preserve on 6/19 bucked that trend. It appears **Brown Creepers** may be in the process of establishing a local nesting population, among others in the evergreens of Stinchfield Woods, where five birds were found on 6/5. Three additional June reports of creepers may indicate that other locations may be involved as well.

“Only” five **Winter Wrens** remained into May: at the West Lake Preserve (5/1), two at Dolph Park (5/5 – 5/8), at Four Mile Lake (5/7), and in Lodi Township (5/16). **Sedge Wrens** had a banner spring. Not only were they reported from more than a dozen different sites throughout May and June, but the staggering number of 15 birds at the DeVine Preserve on 5/21 is simply unprecedented and established a new record high tally. At least four (on 6/11) of these birds remained to nest there. Similarly, **Marsh Wrens** were noted at nearly 20 locations, with a maximum of six birds at Trinkle Marsh on 6/6.



Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*, DeVine Preserve, June 11 2021 (Benjamin Hack)



Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*, LeFurge Woods, June 18 2021 (Bill VanderMolen)

Passerines: Mimids through Longspurs

A possible sign of range expansion, **Northern Mockingbirds** were seen in nearly a dozen locations this spring, roughly half of them away from their stronghold in the Manchester area. A long-staying pair (through 6/27) near the intersection of S Maple and Milkey Rd, just south of Saline, likely nested there. Thrush species had a banner spring as well. Although not generally noted in this article, a staggering 40 **Veeries** along Embury Rd on 5/21 no doubt blew away any prior high counts for Washtenaw County. During the first three weeks of May, nine sites hosted individual **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, quite a good showing for that species. Much like was the case last year, many **Hermit Thrushes** dallied in our region (until 5/19), likely due to cool spring weather – as many as three birds were noted at several locations, out of a total of 30 or so sites. **American Pipits** migrated through in a very tight window during the first two weeks of May, with longer-staying groups along Vreeland Rd (5/1 - 5/15) and S Maple Rd near Milkey (5/12 – 5/15). A little south of that last spot along Maple Rd, a flock of some 70 birds was present for one day only.



Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, Dolph Park, May 16 2021 (Debi Bailey)



American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, S Maple & Milkey Rd, May 12 2021 (Norka Saldana)

Presumably an echo of last fall's irruption, **Purple Finches** moved through in impressive numbers during the first half of May. A dozen plus sites hosted these close relatives of our resident House Finches, with six at Stinchfield Woods during May Count making up the highest tally. A similar phenomenon likely occurred with **Pine Siskins**: good numbers of birds that had spent the winter farther south moved back north during the first three weeks of May, although quite a few may have been locally wintering birds that stayed longer than normal due to the cool spring. The maximum tally for these finches was 13 at a feeder near Dexter on 5/2. A flock of up to 30 **Lapland Longspurs** entertained birders that had come out for the Gotfredson Rd Upland Sandpipers; much like the sandpipers, the longspurs could not be relocated after 5/2.

Passerines: Sparrows through Blackbirds

Grasshopper Sparrows graced some half dozen fields all over the county, starting mid-May; of particular note were five of them in the Vreeland & Gotfredson area on 6/8. The prairie restoration project at Rolling Hills County Park is really paying off, particularly for **Clay-colored Sparrows**: seven males were singing there on 5/5, and multiple individuals remained present through the end of June. Similarly, the fields at LeFurge Woods have also become good habitat for this species, with two singing males there on 5/8. As a rule, when Chipping Sparrows arrive, **American Tree Sparrows** depart. This spring, a few individuals of the latter did not get that memo, with two at Eberwhite Woods (5/4), one on Ann Arbor's northeast side (5/8), and one attending a feeder at Huron River Dr & Tubbs until 5/11. Along the same lines, quite a few **Dark-eyed Juncos** stayed into the first half of May: as many as three birds were still at the Barton Nature Area on 5/12.



Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus saviarum*, Sharonville SGA, May 14 2021 (Michael Bowen)



Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*, Rolling Hills County Park, May 4 2021 (Bill Nolting)

Singing **Vesper Sparrows** were noted from roughly a dozen locations throughout the period. Most notable were a whopping eight birds along Vreeland Rd on 6/7. Grassland restoration projects are benefitting **Henslow's Sparrows** in a number of places all over the county (some ten in all). Foremost among them is the Sharonville SGA, where as many as nine singing birds were observed on 5/27. The Vreeland Rd corridor constitutes another core area for this species, with four birds at LeFurge Woods (6/22), three at the Conservancy Farm (5/12 – 6/23), and another three at Gotfredson Rd (5/6 – 6/11). **Lincoln's Sparrows** moved through during the first three weeks of May; most of the 13 locations hosted single birds, but as many as three were present at the Ervin-Stucki Preserve on 5/4. Four Mile Lake is the place for **Swamp Sparrows**, it appears. After setting a county high count of 40 last period, some 45 of these handsome little sparrows were observed there on 6/4.



Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus*, Case Rd, May 8 2021 (Russell Ryan)



Henslow's Sparrow *Centronyx henslowii*, Conservancy Farm, June 18 2021 (Jason Vassalo)

Always of note, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the Ann Arbor Airport on 6/1 was, unfortunately, a one-day wonder. Birders looking for the Mississippi Kite (also) found another Chat at the Cherry Hill Preserve (6/18 – 6/20), but that bird proved to very challenging to track down due to the presence of numerous very similar-sounding Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers. **Rusty Blackbird** migration trickled out during early May, with single birds reported from five locations between 5/1 and 5/8.

Passerines: Warblers through Cardinals

Without a doubt, the dozens of species of wood warblers (or parulids) generate much of birders' excitement about spring migration. This spring, 33 species of these colorful little birds were reported, which is right about the average. As is more or less the norm, half a dozen **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were noted during the first couple of weeks of May, but only the bird at Hudson Mills Metropark appeared to have established a territory by the time June rolled around. Its congener, the **Northern Waterthrush**, appears to have had a better local nesting season, with six singing birds at the Eddy Discovery Center on 6/19 establishing a new county high tally.



Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*, Arb-Gallup Bike Path, May 7 2021 (Russell Ryan)



Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*, Hudson Mills Metropark, June 12 2021 (Keith Dickey)

Golden-winged Warblers put in an excellent showing this spring with seven different birds moving through between 5/3 and 5/19 – only the bird at the Arb hung around for more than one day (5/4 – 5/9). Until recently thought of as a very rare local breeding species, **Prothonotary Warblers** are clearly in the process of expanding/consolidating their breeding range in Washtenaw County. Not only were they found at more than 20 sites (and likely nested at several of these), the annual WAS Prothonotary Paddle turned up an absolutely stunning 18 individuals on the stretch of Huron River from Hudson Mills to Delhi. Birders on that outing saw several occupied nesting holes and witnessed a male feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird chick. **Orange-crowned Warblers** continued to move through until 5/22 – somewhat unusually, two of them were present near Whitmore Lake on 5/2.



Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*, Leslie Niethammer Preserve, May 16 2021 (Russell Ryan)



Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*, Nichols Arboretum, May 20 2021 (Carol Poulos)

Among the later migrants, **Connecticut Warblers** are one of the most prized species each spring. This year, only two very fortunate birders were able to find this denizen of the north woods: one was at Mary Beth Doyle Park on 5/16, the other at the Eddy Discovery Center on 5/25. Slightly more common, but no less sought-after, migrating **Mourning Warblers** were not much easier to connect with. Of the six or so birds that were found, only the one at the Arb hung around long enough (from 5/2 – 5/12) to be enjoyed by more than one or two people. Although it was present for only a single day (5/20), a gorgeous male **Kentucky Warbler** at Nichols Arboretum really showed off and could be observed by many birders that came out to see it.

Although the bulk of observations came from the species's stronghold in the Waterloo SRA in the northwest of the county, six additional sites hosted **Cerulean Warblers**, a somewhat hopeful sign for this species in decline. After years of reliable sightings (and likely nesting) near the Saline Mills, there was only a single report for **Yellow-throated Warbler** this spring – a bird was seen at Saline Mills during May Count on 5/8. A favorite of many, the handsome **Canada Warbler** moved through in decent numbers during its two-week window (5/7 – 5/22). All but one report concerned lone birds; there were two at Black Pond Woods on 5/18.



Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*, Barton Nature Area, May 10 2021 (Todd Palgut)



Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*, Embury Rd, June 1 2021 (Benjamin Hack)

For the second year in a row, a young male **Summer Tanager** overshot its destination this spring. A rather splotchily colored male spent three days at the Barton Nature Area (5/10 – 5/12) and showed off for numerous observers. In a classic example of “head out there, and who knows what you might find”, the WAS field trip group birding Embury Rd on 6/1 came across a completely unexpected female or first year male **Blue Grosbeak**. The habitat in the area was all wrong, but there it was, to the delight of all! **Dickcissels** tend to be among the later-arriving migrants, but once they got here, they got here in numbers. Not surprisingly, there were reports of single birds from four or five sites, but several others hosted veritable colonies of these dapper grassland birds. Chief among them were the Vreeland-Gotfredson area (up to 10 birds on 6/11) and the Ann Arbor Airport (9 birds on 6/16). The other three sites with five or more birds were all in the southwestern corner of the County: Sharonville SGA, Meyers Rd, and Watkins Lake County Park. It seems likely that drought conditions in the species's core range continues to push birds into areas on the edge of their distribution.



[Read our full statement at washtenawaudubon.org](https://washtenawaudubon.org)

Diversity, Equity 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 creativity and energy to our work in Washtenaw County and beyond for birds and people alike.

Field Trips are Back!

Recurring: Thursday Walks at Nichols Arboretum 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Join us on Thursday mornings at Nichols Arboretum to observe birds and simply enjoy being in the Arb. These leaderless walks are a great opportunity to join with other birders of all skill levels. In addition to the birds, the Arb's trees and other plants offer delights of their own. Meet at the southeastern corner of Dow Prairie at 8:00 a.m.; the walks will end around 11:00 a.m., but participants can leave whenever they prefer.

Recurring: Beginning Birders Thursdays, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Don't know a hairy from a downy or a chipping from a house? Bird curious? Then this is for you. Join us for a weekly focus on the identification details of our resident, breeding birds. No binoculars? No problem, we will have extra, quality binoculars for those without. >> See the WAS website for location <<

Swift Nights Out August 13th, 14th, 15th, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

We are looking for volunteers for our Sixth Annual Ann Arbor-Washtenaw County Chimney Swift count. Watching Chimney Swifts enter their roosts at dusk is a spectacular sight. Volunteers will choose a known Chimney Swift roosting location and stake it out before dusk, counting the Swifts as they enter the chimney, as darkness falls.

Chimney Swifts are in steep decline across North America, so let's help find out how they are doing in Washtenaw County. Habitat loss is one reason, as well as decline of the insects they eat, and other unknown factors. We are helping bird science by conducting this count! >> More detailed description and directions on our website <<

Weekend Walk for Birds at Barton Nature Area Saturday, August 14th, 8:00 am

Join us for a wonderful walk as we search for birds along Barton Pond and neighboring woods and savannah. Meet at the parking lot along Huron River Drive north of Bird Road.

Shorebirds and Waders at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area Saturday, August 21st, 8:00 am

Pointe Mouillee, on Lake Erie near the mouth of the Huron River is one of the premier destinations in the Midwest for viewing shorebirds and waders, but access is limited. Trip leader Jim Fowler knows this territory as well as anyone and leads several field trips each year at this location. Usually, vehicles are restricted, but for this event, we will be allowed to bring in 4 vehicles. As a result, this trip is one where members are given priority and registration is required. Please see the website for more details.

Fall Migration Walk at Hudson Mills Metropark Monday, September 6th, 8:00 am

Join us for our annual fall migration walk with trip leader Karen Markey. Meet at the flagpole at the Activity Center-HQ building. Registration is limited to 20 for this event and registration is required. See our website for more details.

Weekend Walk for Birds at Nichols Arboretum Sunday, September 19th, 8:00 am

Join us as we search for fall migrants. Meet at the southeast corner of Dow Prairie. Parking along Riverview Court.

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="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Household	\$25 (online only \$20)
Name: <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15 (online only \$10)
Address: <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$15 (online only \$10)
Phone: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>	<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 June and the future, which will be announced on the same internet platforms.

September 15, 7:30 p.m. Birding the Rocky Mountains - with John Mills

Join John Mills for a look at his ten week trip through the Rocky Mountains, from Montana through Arizona, with a look at the 65 life birds he saw during his odyssey, including Chestnut-collared Longspur, Baird's Sparrow, Rosy-Finches, Mountain Plovers, Eared Quetzal, and Lucifer Hummingbird, plus Grizzly Bear, and Wolf. John is a longtime Washtenaw Audubon member and an area coordinator for the May Count.

Zoom link to be announced – check the WAS website for updates

October 20, 7:30 p.m. Program to be announced

November 17, 7:30 p.m. Birding Costa Rica - with David Dister

Dave's fabulous photos make this a much-anticipated program. In-person at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens if the vagaries of COVID-19 permit. Hopefully, we will find it safe to conduct in person programs by this time, and the University of Michigan will re-open the Matthaei Botanical Gardens facility for our use. Dave Dister recently published A Field Guide to the Birds of Mason County, MI and Ludington State Park. Copies of this book will be available at the program.

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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