



WASHTENAW  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

---

NEWSLETTER

September / October 2022

## Update from the Education Chair



Scenes from our BIPOC walk at Furstenberg Park on 9/5/22 (*Victor Chen*)

Washtenaw Audubon Society is committed to being open and welcoming to all birders regardless of race, gender, age, or sexual orientation. In addition to the open walks that happen each week in the county, we continue to host walks specifically for people in the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community each month. This fall, look for local walks happening at North Bay Park (October 15), and at Barton Nature Area (December 10). We will also have an out-of-county walk at Crosswinds Marsh in Wayne County on November 12. Of course, allies are welcome to these walks, as well. For more information, check our website. If transportation is an issue to any of these locations, please e-mail me, Victor Chen, at [education@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:education@washtenawaudubon.org).

# President's Letter

Dear Washtenaw Audubon Society and Friends,

Today's crisp weather reminds me of all the fall days of my youth, of birding with my dad in Central Park, of raking leaves with my children, of long walks in the Arb with all of you. We continue our Thursday fall migration walks at the Arb until the end of October, so there are more warblers to see, and more sparrows to enjoy. Today's Arb walk was a wonderful combination of fall warblers and migrating raptors, with kettles of Sharpies, Red-tails, Broad-wingeds and Vultures, along with Northern Parula, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Tennessee Warblers. What a treat!

Matthew Spoor, our Field Trip Chair, has a plethora of fantastic field trips lined up for us this fall, including weekend walks around the City parks, as well as a few forays further afield. October 1, we go to Hudson Mills for a Mushroom Foray, and October 15<sup>th</sup> is the Big Sit at Independence Lake County Park. Near the end of the month, on October 22<sup>nd</sup> we head to the Detroit River Hawk Watch, to see the raptor migration, and hear an introduction to raptor ID from veteran photographer and hawk watcher, Jerry Jourdan. Just prior to the Hawk Watch trip, on October 19, Josh Haas reprises his presentation of Hawks on the Wing, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and on Zoom. After these programs, we should have raptor ID well in hand. Many thanks to Jacco Gelderloos, whose hard work putting together this newsletter, is only surpassed by his genial nature and excellent rarities article!

I hope to see you all by the shores of a river, watching hawks kettle overhead, or on the trail, searching for an Orange-crowned Warbler....

Until then, as always, I am for the birds,

Juliet Berger, President  
Washtenaw Audubon Society



Top: scanning for shorebirds during the field trip to Pointe Mouillee (*Bill VanderMolen*)

Left: attending the WAS picnic (*Bill Nolting*)

## July-August 2022: Spring Highlights

### The Highlight

Post-breeding dispersal of waders that generally nest (well) to our south is a well-established summer phenomenon – a great recent example was the young Roseate Spoonbill that spent well over a week near Saline last July. On August 10, a juvenile egret was found and initially identified as a Little Blue Heron. However, as the bird's ID was discussed among local birders, this young bird was determined to be a **Snowy Egret**. At times during its extended stay (at least through 8/31), it withdrew to the northern end of the lake and would be hard to pick out, but more often it put on quite the show near the observation point at the southern end of the lake, where it could often be seen actively foraging among the more static Great Egrets. This long-staying young egret represents roughly the tenth Washtenaw County record, all but one of which have occurred in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*, Four Mile Lake, Lake (left: Ben Lucking (8/10); right: Michael Bowen (8/20))

About three weeks earlier, on 7/21, a very lucky observer was at the right place at very much the right time and encountered a stunning adult **American Avocet** along the margins of Four Mile Lake. Soon after he managed a photo of the bird, it lifted off and flew away to places unknown. Since the first Washtenaw County record back in 2010, this is still only the sixth record for this beautiful shorebird – interestingly, almost exactly four years ago a small group of them was at Four Mile Lake as well, so perhaps this is one of the best times and places to search for the next occurrence.



American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*, Four Mile Lake, July 21 2022 (Victor Chen)

### Waterfowl through Rails

A few early **Northern Shovelers** had trickled into our area by the end of August, with one bird at Trinkle Marsh on 8/20 and two more at Thurston Pond on 8/28. A long-staying **American Black Duck** was seen off and on at Mary Beth Doyle Park (7/3 – 8/17); an observation at the Ann Arbor Landfill on 7/11 may well have involved the same bird. A group of four was at Hewen's Creek Park on 8/21. A few **Green-winged Teals** were noted throughout the county this summer, with a maximum of four at Four Mile Lake on 8/28.

## Board Members

### President

Juliet Berger  
[president@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:president@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Vice President & Programs

Mike Sefton  
[vp-programs@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:vp-programs@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Treasurer

Keith Dickey  
[treasurer@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Secretary

Jessica Adamczyk  
[secretary@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:secretary@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Membership

Diana Miller  
[membership@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:membership@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Field Trips

Matthew Spoor (local)  
 Bryn Martin (international)  
[fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Conservation

Cathy Theisen  
[cathythetvet@comcast.net](mailto:cathythetvet@comcast.net)

### Education

Victor Chen  
[education@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:education@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Stewardship

Dana Novak  
[stewardship@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:stewardship@washtenawaudubon.org)

### Webmaster/Technology and Social Media

Rob French  
[rwfrenchjr@comcast.net](mailto:rwfrenchjr@comcast.net)

### Past President

Sue Johnson  
[Suejohn62@gmail.com](mailto:Suejohn62@gmail.com)

### Board Member/Bird Rescue

Sherri Smith  
[grackle@umich.edu](mailto:grackle@umich.edu)

### Newsletter

Jacco Gelderloos  
[newsletter@washtenawaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@washtenawaudubon.org)

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.

A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard vocalizing at the Conservancy Farm property on Vreeland Rd on 7/9 but could not be relocated afterwards. The more uncommon of our two nesting cuckoo species, **Black-billed Cuckoos** were observed in five locations over the summer, so they likely persist as an uncommon breeding species in Washtenaw County. On 8/13, the only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** of the summer was calling at the Green Lake Campground off M-52, where two birds were regular this past spring.



Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*, Sharon Mills County Park, August 1 2022 (Michael Bowen)

**Virginia Rail** observations were rather widespread this summer, with up to two birds at seven different locations. Similarly, **Soras** were noted at a half dozen sites, with as many as five birds at Trinkle Marsh on 7/13. Both species are much more easily located during the spring months when they tend to be much more vocal. The top spot for rail observations was the so-called M-52 & Lehman fluddle, where all four locally nesting rail species were seen. Star attraction was the large number of **Common Gallinules** there, with as many as 24 birds (both adults and juveniles) present there throughout the summer, which, no surprisingly for this uncommon nesting species, set a new local high tally. Up to four Gallinules were at Trinkle Marsh during August and scattered individuals were reported from the marsh at Five Mile & Chubb (8/20) and the Gotfredson Marsh (8/28). A family (or two) of **American Coots** successfully raised young at M-52 & Lehman – this provides for a (very) rare, if not the only, confirmed breeding record for Washtenaw County. Essentially all other summer Coot observations involve only one or two birds.



American Coot *Fulica americana*, M-52 & Lehman fluddle, July 16 2022 (Bill Nolting)

## Shorebirds through Falcons

Not surprisingly, given the ephemeral nature of their preferred habitat, shorebirds were found in rather wildly scattered locations, even if Four Mile Lake was the epicenter. There was a single **Semipalmated Plover** at the Platt & Morgan fluddle (8/4 – 8/5), up to five more of them at Four Mile Lake (8/4 – 8/12), and as many as three at the fluddle at Five Mile & Dixboro (8/19 – 8/22). A small group of **Stilt Sandpipers** stayed at Four Mile Lake during the last week of July, topping out at five individuals on the last day of their stay (7/31). Another **Stilt Sandpiper** was very cooperative and delighted the numerous birders that went to see it during its 3-day stay (8/18 – 8/20). A group of three **Baird's Sandpipers** played hard to get during their stopover at Five Mile & Dixboro (8/19 – 8/22) – viewing conditions were often less than ideal and somehow these birds eluded observers off and on. Much like was the case during spring migration, **Pectoral Sandpipers** were quite hard to come by – although they were located at some seven sites from 7/16 on, nowhere were there more than four individuals. Equally widespread, the maximum number of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was a group of five, with the first birds arriving in the county on 7/11.



Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Four Mile Lake, August 4 2022 (Ben Lucking)



Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*, State & Textile, August 18 2022 (Victor Chen)

There were two **Short-billed Dowitchers** at the Vreeland Rd pond from 7/7 – 7/10; another individual was at Four Mile Lake on 8/4. A surprisingly number of reports of **American Woodcocks** were submitted over the summer – one or two birds were seen at five different locations. A completely unexpected **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed at the Ann Arbor Airport on 7/7; more in line with their regular migratory window were birds at M-52 & Lehman (8/14) and at State & Textile (8/20).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** are not generally part of our summer avifauna, but two birds bucked that trend this year: one was at Four Mile Lake from 8/16 – 8/18 and another was at Halfmoon Lake on 8/30. The first of the summer's **Caspian Terns** hung around at North Bay Park from 7/7 – 7/17. Additional birds were seen over Whitmore Lake (7/24 & 8/25) and Four Mile Lake (8/25); August numbers at North Bay Park started to build starting on 8/7 and topped out at seven birds, which seems rather paltry compared to last August's group of 27. The only other terns of the season was a group of six **Forster's Terns** that loafed around the north end of Four Mile Lake for a few hours on 8/8.



Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*, Four Mile Lake, August 4 2022 (Ben Lucking)



Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, North Bay Park, July 17 2022 (Ben Lucking)

As was the case last summer, Mary Beth Doyle Park was the epicenter of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** observations. Once again, an apparent multi-generational family group frequented the park's ponds throughout July and August, with five birds seen on several occasions. Other than these birds, one was in Manchester (7/17), at Four Mile Lake (8/10 – 8/11), and at Nichols Arboretum (8/24). The **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at the subdivision ponds at Tuttle Hill & Merritt was last reported on 7/3.



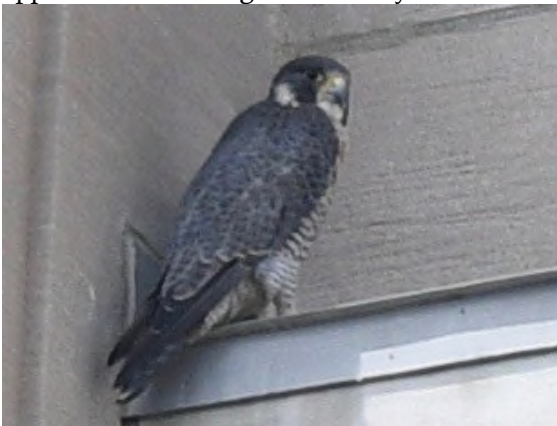
Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Mary Beth Doyle Park, August 17 2022 (Nui Moreland)



Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*, Mary Beth Doyle Park, July 16 2022 (Jocelyn Anderson)

A lone **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was in Manchester on 8/25, likely the first of the southbound birds coming our way. Concentrated in the greater Ann Arbor area, all summer **Red-shouldered Hawk** observations all involved single birds. **Broad-winged Hawks** were more widely distributed during July and August, but no more numerous – the maximum number reported was three birds. That will likely increase as the September migration peak approaches.

No **Barred Owls** were reported during July, but reports started coming in again around 8/20 – a family group of three (with begging young recorded!) at the Cherry Hill Preserve on 8/21 was the only report involving more than one bird. Birds along Spring Lake Dr (8/19), on U of M's North Campus (8/26), and at Friend's Lake (8/27) rounded out the Barred Owl observations. One (or two?) **Merlins** at Stadium & Packard on 7/17 was quite intriguing; no additional sightings occurred after this one, unfortunately. Other Merlins were at Mary Beth Doyle Park (8/19) and Nichols Arboretum (8/20 – 8/31) – the fact that there was no date overlap may suggest that this may have been the same bird. A **Peregrine Falcon** at Oakwood & Cross in Ypsilanti on 7/4 was the only report away from the nesting location at U of M's North Quad – the birds there did appear to be roaming more widely over the downtown area and the Huron River corridor as the summer progressed.



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Burton Tower, August 4 2022 (Barbara Segal)

### **Passerines: Flycatchers through Chat**

The first fall observation of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** was at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens on 8/18 – interestingly this is also where the first spring bird was seen back in May. Other locations with this dapper tyrannid were the West Lake Preserve (8/20), Nichols Arboretum (8/22 – 8/31, up to 2 birds), Hudson Mills (8/25 – 8/26), and Greenview/Pioneer (8/29 – 8/30). Southbound **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were almost all one-day wonders, with the exception of a bird at Eberwhite Woods, which spent nearly a week there (8/13 – 8/18). That bird also happened to be the first of the five birds seen during the second half of August. A whopping 14 **Acadian Flycatchers** at Stinchfield Woods on 7/10 was an impressive mid-summer number.

Apart from one at Furstenberg Park on 7/7, there were no **Alder Flycatchers** in the County this summer. Probably confirming the spring nesting suspicions, **Blue-headed Vireos** continued at Stinchfield Woods through 7/22. Another rather oddball sighting was at Warren & Earhart on 7/13; more expected were one at Nichols Arboretum on 8/23 and along Buss Rd on 8/27. The first **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Furstenberg Park on 8/19; additional migrants were spotted in Lodi Twp (8/25), in Nichols Arboretum (8/28 – 8/31), and at the Matthaehi Botanical Gardens (8/30).



Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*, Nichols Arboretum, August 25 2022 (Ben Lucking)



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*, West Park, August 16 2022 (Rachel Leggett)

A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at the West Lake Preserve on 7/31 made for one of very few local summer records of his feisty little bird. As mentioned in the Spring Rarity Report, **Brown Creepers** may be establishing a local breeding population, and individuals reported from four different locations during July certainly seems to be fueling that suspicion. Sedge Wrens nested at the Ann Arbor Landfill's hayfields off Stone School Rd again this year, with up to four birds present through 8/15. That tally was bested by the five individuals at the Watkins Lake County Preserve (through 7/16). Away from these two hotspots there were two along Smythe Rd (through 7/17) and one at the Matthaehi Botanical Gardens on 7/31. **Marsh Wrens** were more widespread (nine locations) but also topped out at five birds in any one location, Trinkle Marsh in this case. Not surprisingly, **Northern Mockingbird** observations were, by and large, concentrated in five sites in the Manchester area during the summer months. The only other mocker was a bird that appears to have slowly worked its way up the Huron River, from Furstenberg Park (7/7) to the Arb (7/8) to the Foster Rd bridge area (7/9). Beginning on 8/9, single **Swainson's Thrushes** started trickling into Washtenaw County and by the end of the month they had been noted in some half dozen locations.



Sedge Wren *Cistothorus stellaris*, Smyth Rd, July 6 2022 (Maggie Jewett)



Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*, West Park, August 16 2022 (Rachel Leggett)

Thinly distributed, **Grasshopper Sparrows** were hard to come by this summer – two birds at the Sharon Valley SGA (through 7/14) was the occasion involving more than one bird. Away from the small colony at Rolling Hills County Park where a bird sang through 7/29, there was only one other **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Washtenaw County: along Meyers Rd on 7/4. Up to five sites with open country habitat throughout the county hosted **Vesper Sparrows** this summer, with Sharon Mills County Park most popular with three birds. For a species that is of statewide conservation concern, **Henslow's Sparrows** appear to have had a banner breeding season locally. Not only did they (likely) nest at seven or eight sites, they did so in impressive numbers in several of those: 5 at Watkins Lake Preserve (7/7), 8 at the Leonard Preserve (7/24), 8 at the Sharon-

ville SGA (through 7/25), 11 (!) at the Ann Arbor Airport (through 8/11), and 5 at the Conservancy Farm (through 8/17). A skulking **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Sharon Mills County Park on 7/2 was the only report of the summer, and was not relocated during subsequent searches, unfortunately.



Henslow's Sparrow *Centronyx henslowii*, Conservancy Farm, July 20 2022 (Bill Nolting)



Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*, Sharon Mills County Park, July 2 2022 (Bill Nolting)

### **Passerines: Wood-Warblers through Cardinalids**

The **Northern Waterthrush** at the West Lake Preserve on 7/31 may have been an unsuccessful breeder or a very early migrant (or both). Additional birds were at Mary Beth Doyle Park (8/14 – 8/17) and Nichols Arboretum (8/31). A **Golden-winged Warbler** stayed at Nichols Arboretum from 8/22 – 8/26 – during that time, many observers could study its rather unusual plumage features. There was only one other Golden-wing this August, at Greenview/Pioneer on 8/26. With the discovery of the extensive breeding population there in recent years, it was not surprising that this summer's only **Prothonotary Warblers** were found near Delhi (7/3) and at the Burns-Stokes Preserve (8/21 – 8/22). Given what inveterate skulkers they can be, it is not too surprising that only a single **Mourning Warbler** was found, at the Arb on 8/25.



Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Nichols Arboretum, August 25 2022 (Todd Palgut)



Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*, Nichols Arboretum, August 25 2022 (Mark & Tori Myers)

During July, **Hooded Warblers** were observed at some six sites; none were reported during August. Rather similarly, **Cerulean Warblers** were noted mostly during July, with one Park Lyndon County Park (7/17) and another near M-52 & North Territorial (through 8/20) – that latter observation is one of few August records for this declining species. Two early July **Northern Parulas** may have involved late migrants or possible breeders; they were at Silver Lake (7/2) and Wilderness Park (7/12). Southbound migrants appeared in the county as of 8/25 with as many as 5 birds involved. Always a sought-after species, single **Canada Warblers** were exciting finds in four locations from 8/19 on. **Wilson's Warblers** started coming through during the last week of August, with one or two birds at three different sites.





Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*, Bruin Lake Camp-ground, August 27 2022 (John Lee)



Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*, Nichols Arboretum, August 24 2022 (Cherie F)

The southwestern corner of Sharon Township was the place to go looking for **Blue Grosbeaks** this summer. Not only did the pair at Sharon Mills County Park successfully raise a family this year, with as many as 6 birds observed at times (setting a new county record high tally), but there appeared to be a second pair/nesting attempt at the nearby Sharonville SGA, where two or three birds were present through at least 7/25. Drought conditions farther west seems to have pushed impressive numbers of **Dickcissels** into Washtenaw County once more. Not only were they observed at ten or more locations during July and August, but they were present in impressive numbers wherever conditions were conducive - the family groups at Sharon Mills County Park added up to at least 20 individuals, which set a new record.



Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*, Sharon Mills County Park, July 20 2022 (Michael Bowen)



Dickcissel *Spiza americana*, Sharon Mills County Park, July 17 2022 (John Lee)

## Field Trip Calendar

**Thursday Fall Migration Walks at Nichols Arboretum**

**Recurring - through October 27th, 8:00 am - 10:30 am**

Join us on Thursday mornings at Nichols Arboretum to observe birds and simply enjoy being in the Arb. These 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 east end of the arboretum at the Dow Prairie entrance. From Geddes Ave., turn north onto Riverview Dr. and stay right until it terminates at Riverview Ct. cul-de-sac. Check the website for a link to the map if you have never been there.

**The Big Sit at Independence Lake County Park**

**Saturday, October 8th, 6:00 am – 2:00 pm**

How many birds can you identify in one day while staying within a 17-foot / 5.2-meter diameter circle? This free, annual, semi-competitive international birding event was started by the New Haven Bird Club in 1992. Join long-time field trip leader Don Chalfant and some stalwart WAS birders as we count as many species as we can from our circle. Great for those with mobility issues, and who enjoy the more relaxed pace of birding in place. Bring a comfy chair and some warm food and beverage and enjoy the birds, conversation, and camaraderie. While many will be, none are expected to be there the entire time so feel free to drop in for an hour or four. We would love to see you. Meet at the grassy knoll just past the boat launch area as you enter the park from Jennings Rd, it's ¼ of a mile into the park on your left. Leader: Don Chalfant.

**BIPOC Bird Walk at North Bay Park/Ford Lake Boardwalk**

**Saturday, October 15th, 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

We invite all people from the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community and our white allies to join us on this walk to look for late fall migrants and waterfowl. All ages and skill levels are invited. Meet at the Grove Street parking lot at 526 S. Grove Street in Ypsilanti. New to birding? Bird curious? No binoculars? No problem! There is no better way to learn than to get out in the field with experienced birders that love to help. Plus, you get to meet awesome people. Absolutely everyone is welcome and encouraged to come out. We will have many pairs of quality binoculars on hand for anyone to use. Leader: Victor Chen.

**BIPOC Bird Walk at Crosswinds Marsh**

**Saturday, November 12th, 10:00 am – 12:00 am**

We invite all people from the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community and our white allies to join us on this walk at this Wayne County hotspot. Crosswinds Marsh is host to many sandhill cranes as well as different species of gulls and waterfowl. All ages and skill levels are invited. We will have extra binoculars if you do not have any. Leader: Victor Chen



**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.

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

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="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 currently on hold; we intend to resume in-person/hybrid Zoom programs in May. 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 add more online programs for April and the future, which will be announced on the same internet platforms.

### **October 19, 7:30 p.m.                      Identifying Raptors in Flight, with Josh Haas**

The fall migration of raptors is in full swing at the Detroit River Hawk Watch at Lake Erie Metropark near Brownstown, MI. To prepare for the Washtenaw Audubon field trip to the Hawk Watch on October 22, raptor expert Josh Haas will give us tips on identifying raptors in flight. 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 in 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.

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/93611857032>

Meeting ID: 936 1185 7032

Passcode: 551598

**November 16, 7:30 p.m.**

**Program to be announced**

## Washtenaw Audubon Society

P.O. Box 130923

Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0923