



March / April 2024 Newsletter

## Education Chair Update

When people think of the outdoor spaces, most people probably think that they are open and free for whomever wants to engage with them. The truth of the matter is that when the outdoor spaces were created, most (if not all) of them were created by white people for white people. On their website, the National Parks Service (NPS) writes about Madison Grant, a key contributor to the founding of national parks such as Glacier, Everglades, Denali, and Olympic. In their writings, the NPS describes how the land for the parks was forcibly removed from Indigenous peoples and how conservationists like Grant completely disregarded human consequences for these projects as he fought for wealthy, white Americans to enjoy nature.

It is not solely the parks' origins that shaped the landscape of outdoor recreation. Racist policies and ideals, many of which exist to this day, persisted and have been compounded over centuries to codify the racial divide in outdoor recreation as a part of American culture. As a result of these racist origins and policies like Jim Crow laws that reinforced these ideals, and enforcement practices which largely consisted of racial violence, people in the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community have not felt welcome or safe at parks for decades. Current data

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Brandan Freeman & Victor Chen  
(Victor Chen)

# President's Letter

Dear Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance!!

Thanks for all your support of the name change process, and for being willing to undertake the name change for so many reasons, the most crucial of which is to be the most welcoming to all members of our community. 'Audubon' was an impediment to our welcoming all to join our birding and nature community, particularly the BIPOC community. Bird & Nature Alliance better embodies who we are and what we do; at our recent March meeting, the vote in favor of changing our name to Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance passed 68-2. For those who may have opposed the name change, we are still the same welcoming and inclusive organization we always were, dedicated to fostering the preservation of the natural world in all ways, with a particular emphasis on birds. You'll find us still the familiar bunch of dedicated volunteers, providing birding and nature content, conversation about and restoration of the land, and hands-on experiences with birds and birding.

**Since change is in the air, I'm announcing that we will be moving our monthly Programs from Matthaei Botanical Gardens to the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch, beginning with our April Program.** And, our new start time for all the programs will be 6:00 p.m. (The Library has a hard closing time at 8:00 p.m.) Our April program will be in hybrid format, (Zoom and in-person.), a celebration of the birds of Costa Rica with WAS member Len Sander as our Presenter. You will be amazed at how Len's already gorgeous photos look on the new giant technicolor screen at the AADL Downtown, in the main first floor meeting space. Look for the link to the Zoom on the AADL webpage closer to the event (<https://aadl.org/events-feed/upcoming>) or come on out in person!! Anyone who has sat through the technical difficulties we have nearly every month with sound, AV, internet connectivity and the projector at Matthaei will understand the reason for our move. AADL provides us with an AV specialist throughout each program, every month. We will still partner with Matthaei Botanical Gardens for other in-person events, like special meetings and the Christmas Bird Count potluck. The AADL Downtown Branch location has hundreds of underground and street level parking spaces nearby and is on the AATA Bus line for those who use public transportation.

Spring is apparently here, despite that it's still technically winter as I write this letter. I'll see many of you at the first Arb Spring Migration Walk on March 28<sup>th</sup>, at the same place as always, at the east end of Dow Field. Join me and other enthusiastic birders for this Washtenaw birding tradition.

As always, I am for the birds!

Juliet Berger, President

Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance

Scenes from our 3/17 outing to the Goodrich Preserve  
(*Matthew Spoor*)



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### Newsletter

Jacco Gelderloos  
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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.

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shows that while our country is over 40% BIPOC, only 22% of NPS visitors are BIPOC. The discrepancy is greater if it is examined by individual outdoor activities. For example, according to a recent study, only 5% of birders identify as BIPOC.

To help shift this narrative, organizations are taking anti-racist actions and people in the BIPOC community are using various platforms to amplify their voices. For example, the NPS has created the Office of Relevancy, Diversity, and Inclusion to help their employees become more educated about the racist history of the parks and to help make their parks more inclusive for people of color. Non-profit organizations such as Outdoor Afro are inspiring Black folks to reconnect with the outdoors by organizing activities and creating gear for people of color. Our own organization is taking steps by changing our name, organizing events for the BIPOC community, and working with students and communities of color.

Individual outdoor enthusiasts can also contribute towards making the outdoors inclusive. By acknowledging the outdoors as a space created for the dominant culture and accepting that individuals outside of that culture enjoy the outdoors differently, a space can be created that is welcoming to all.

Victor Chen and Brandan Freeman

Brandan is the founder and organizer of the BIPOC outdoor group called “The Shades of the Outdoors.” To listen to our full presentation from February 28 at the Ann Arbor District Library, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOHJvCq6rnI> or find it on the AADL YouTube channel.



Short-eared Owl (Bonnie Penet)



## 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://www.washtenawaudubon.org)

## Local National American Butterfly Association Official Counts 2024

Time	Date	Name	Compiler/Contact person
Spring	May 25	SW Washtenaw	Mary Breslow ( <a href="mailto:mbreslow@umich.edu">mbreslow@umich.edu</a> )
4th July	June 29	SW Washtenaw	Silas Bialecki ( <a href="mailto:bialecki.silas1@gmail.com">bialecki.silas1@gmail.com</a> )
4th July	July 4	Chelsea	Roger Wykes (734-769-6482)
4th July	July 6	Ann Arbor	John Swales ( <a href="mailto:jmswales@umich.edu">jmswales@umich.edu</a> )
4 <sup>th</sup> July	July 6	Toledo	Jackie Riley ( <a href="mailto:jriley4@sbcglobal.net">jriley4@sbcglobal.net</a> )
Fall	July 27	Dundee	Marcy Breslow ( <a href="mailto:mbreslow@umich.edu">mbreslow@umich.edu</a> )
Fall	August 19	SW Washtenaw	Silas Bialecki ( <a href="mailto:bialecki.silas.1@gmail.com">bialecki.silas.1@gmail.com</a> )

All of these counts will be on a Saturday (in case of inclement weather it will be on Sunday), except for Chelsea Count. Counts generally run from about 9.30 to about 17.00. The various groups usually meet for a picnic lunch at a designated location. Generally, on a local count 35-40 species are found, and a thousand individuals.

**We need more participants since most of us are retired. Beginners are very welcome.**

Most of the transects are fairly easy-going, even if sometimes wet, so that wellingtons are a good idea. I am sometimes asked about butterfly field guides; the one I would now recommend is the *Butterflies of Indiana* by Jeffrey Belth and published by the University of Indiana Press in 2013. It has excellent accounts of all our local species, apart from the Common Ringlet.



Common Ringlet (courtesy of [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org))

There is an official \$3 dollar fee for each adult participant, although compilers have been known to pay the fees for the group. NABA is a good organization to join; the annual subscription is modest; it offers a quarterly journal of some quality; it has an interactive website called “hot seens”, and it produces an annual report of all the butterfly counts in North America (around 400), which is what the \$3 dollar fees support.

John Swales (734-995-1139)

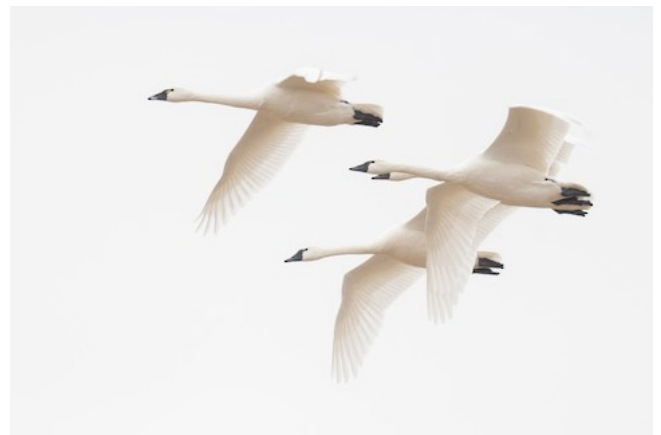
## January-February 2024: Winter Highlights

### Waterfowl

**Snow Geese** were relatively easy to come by this winter. On the first day of the year, a flock of six birds was at Wilson Park in Milan; the following day these birds, five blue and one white morph, were at the Hammer Pit to the southwest of Saline. In addition, over the first few days of January, there was an immature blue morph at the S Parker Rd Marsh (1/1 – 1/2), two more birds, an adult and immature white morph, at Wilson Park (1/1 – 1/14), and an immature white morph at Waterworks Park (1/21). After that, things went quiet for a couple of weeks, courtesy of a cold snap, but with the arrival of February, **Snow Goose** reports came in from widely scattered places all over the county, involving single birds, duos, and a group of six. Interestingly, given the roughly 50-50 mix of blue and white morphs during January, all of these February reports concerned white morph birds. A **Ross's Goose** was found with a couple of Snow Geese at M-52 & Jerusalem on 2/9 – none of these birds stayed around, however.



Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Wilson Park, January 7 2024 (Chase Masters)



Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*, Grass Lake & Struthers, February 13 2024 (Ben Lucking)

Large gatherings of geese tend to attract other geese, and checking these flocks for the rarer species can often pay off. So it was for the observers that visited the masses of Canada Geese at Milan's Wilson Park, where a pair of **Greater White-fronted Geese** was also present from 1/7 – 1/13. The singleton Greater White-front at the Daly Rd Pond was also associating with a mixed goose flock hanging around in that area in the final days of February. **Cackling Geese** showed a pattern very similar to that of Snow Geese – small groups of between two and ten were seen at four or five locations during the first few weeks of January. None were reported during the cold snap between 1/17 and 2/6, but after that a group of four was found in Saline (2/6 – 2/7), followed by up to eight birds at Avis Farms (2/8). Another (or the same?) group of up to eight was present in the area around the Daly Rd Pond for the final two days of February. **Tundra Swans** were hanging around in small numbers in a quite a few spots throughout the winter. As the weather warmed, groups of migrants started to move through, with numerous reports of dozens of northbound birds. Starting 2/8, a large concentration of up to 100 Tundras was present at Four Mile Lake, although oftentimes they were far out at the north end of the lake, and it was hard to get good looks at them. An even larger flock of as many as 200 birds used the fields at Clinton & Hoelzer Rds as a stopover site from 2/16-2/17.



Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*, North Bay Park, February 21 2024 (Nui Moreland)



Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, Portage Lake, February 17 2024 (Bill Nolting)

A trio of **Northern Shovelers** persisted on Portage Lake until 1/17. During February small groups of up to eight birds were seen at about ten different sites. Contrasting with the very small numbers of November-December, **Northern Pintail** numbers were quite high, with as many as 80 on Four Mile Lake at times. A few **Greater Scaup** were found among the concentrations of *Aythya* diving ducks, with up to three on Portage Lake (1/17 – 2/25), one on Barton Pond (2/10 – 2/27), one on Ford Lake (2/13), and another small group in Gallup Park (from 2/23). There were no scoters on any of the lakes this winter period, but a pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** on Portage Lake thrilled observers from 2/17 – 2/20. A flock of 227 **Common Goldeneyes** on Portage Lake on 2/19, established a new local high count for that species and was emblematic of the large concentrations of waterfowl on that lake during the second half of February. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were a little easier to come by than in the preceding couple of months, with up to seven staying on at least four local lakes, starting 1/17.

### Pheasant through Herons

With more limited cover and the spring nesting season approaching, **Ring-necked Pheasants** were noted in six locations throughout the first two months of the year, with as many as six birds in one of them. A lone **Horned Grebe** hung on until 1/11 on Portage; the next reports of these dapper little grebes starting to come in starting 2/26, with a flotilla of ten on Ford Lake. The first **American Woodcocks** started peenting on 2/27, with numbers building from there rather rapidly.

Not typically a species associated with winter (although there is a fairly recent record from the Ann Arbor CBC), **Bonaparte's Gulls** stuck around into January: a group of up to 14 birds was at Portage Lake the 1/11 and a lone bird was over Barton Pond on 1/5. Although birders diligently staked out the Salem Landfill during January, the only prize during that month was a single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** from 1/2 - 1/9. Another (or the same?) bird was at North Bay Park on 1/6. Renewed visits to the Salem Landfill resulted in encounters with an adult **Glaucous Gull** (2/17 – 2/24), one or two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (from 2/17), and up to two **Iceland Gulls** (2/18 – 2/25). Interestingly, as many as two Lesser Black-backs (three different birds) roosted off and on at North Bay Park from 2/5 – 2/14, followed by an adult Iceland Gull between 2/18 – 2/25. Given the overlap between these species at the landfill and at North Bay, it seems quite likely that there was at least some movement of gulls between these two locations.



Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, North Bay Park, February 6 2024 (Norka Saldana)



Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Mary Beth Doyle Park, February 26 2024 (Nui Moreland)

A **Red-throated Loon** was a complete surprise to a select few observers on Portage Lake on 1/17 – this made for only the fifth Washtenaw County record for this species, three of those having come from this very location. Perhaps a sign of what will soon be a new normal, the first of the year's **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared on Ford Lake on 2/29 – this winter, only January did not feature this species. After an absence of over two weeks, the immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Mary Beth Doyle Park was relocated on 1/14, surprising many who thought it had succumbed to the cold – this hardy youngster was well-documented for the remainder of the winter period.

### Vultures through Falcons

Somewhat surprisingly, given the plethora of other semi-hardy species that attempted to winter locally, no **Turkey Vulture** were seen at all this winter. By contrast, a few **Golden Eagles** must have been tempted to at least try to stay around – on 1/13, a likely adult was over Eberwhite Woods, an adult was seen at the Squiers Preserve on 2/1, and another over Crooked Lake on 2/10. Given that these birds can range over large areas, these three observations could very well all pertain to the same bird. Winter reports for one or two **Red-shouldered Hawks** came in from over a dozen sites throughout the winter and likely involve mostly resident birds. **Rough-legged Hawks** continued to be hard to come by, with two different individuals in the Vreeland Rd corridor (1/15 – 1/31) and another over the Pittsfield Preserve on 2/12 – perhaps these Arctic nesters did not need to come down

this far courtesy of the mild weather.



Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*, Vreeland Rd, February 3 2024 (Daniel Blower)



Merlin *Falco columbarius*, Gallup Park, January 1 2024 (Jocelyn Anderson)

After a near-absence at the tail end of 2023, **Barred Owls** reappeared and were seen and heard both on the west side of the county and in a few spots either in or close to Ann Arbor. One of the **Short-eared Owls** at Four Mile Lake persisted through at least 1/20; the duo along the Watkins Lake County Preserve's bike trail between Sharon Hollow and Noggles roads was relocated there on 1/20 and was last reported on 2/22. Stealing the show, one of these crepuscular owls delighted veritable crowds at the Conservancy Farm on Vreeland, sometimes passing within feet of onlookers as it hunted the prairie from 1/20. Surprising the observer, another Short-ear flew by the Plymouth Orchards on 1/22. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at the Brauer Preserve on 1/4; another was at Huron River Dr & Tubbs on 2/10, continuing this species' excellent showing in 2023-24.

The fact that **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** chose to spend the winter in Washtenaw County is not abnormal per se, but the numbers in which they did so (one or two in more than ten locations) is certainly noteworthy. By the same token, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were quite numerous and widespread as well this winter – of the eight locations, the Leonard Preserve boasted the maximum with up to three birds there. Ten **Hairy Woodpeckers** in a woodlot along Warren, east of Vorhies, on 1/3 set a new county high mark. **Merlins** continued to be ubiquitous; reports came in from nearly 30 sites! Away from the downtown Ann Arbor nesting location, the only **Peregrine Falcons** were a bird at North Hydro Park (1/21) and another along Vreeland Rd (1/31).

## Passerines

Many of the November-December **Northern Shrikes** stayed put. Possibly as many as ten different individuals were reported from ten locations throughout the period, which very likely makes the winter of 2023-24 the best ever for these feisty songbirds! After a couple of reports on the Waterloo and Ann Arbor CBCs, no **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted until a very compliant individual was found at Delhi Metropark, where it was present 1/27- 1/30; another one was at North Bay Park on 2/1. Given the abundance of quite a few semi-hardy species, it was not surprising that one or two **Winter Wrens** overwintered locally, in over 15 locations.



Northern Shrike *Lanius borealis*, Vreeland Rd, January 21 2024 (Bill Nolting)



Hermit Thrush *Catharus gattatus*, Crescent Hill & Goodband, January 3 2024 (Ben Lucking)

**Gray Catbirds** were seen at Dolph Park on 2/11 and at Hudson Mills Metropark on 2/24. The only **Brown Thrasher** of

the period made a brief appearance at a feeder at Vesper & Red Oak on Ann Arbor's north side on 2/22. As always, the county's southwestern corner, where four locations hosted them, was the best place to look for **Northern Mockingbirds**. That said, the bird that has been on territory off Maple south of Saline was seen there on 1/11; additional mockers were at Saginaw Forest (2/19) and along Fleming Creek Dr (2/20). Fitting nicely into the trend of good to great numbers for semi-hardy species, **Hermit Thrushes** were almost common, with as many as three individuals in nearly 30 (!) different spots.



Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*, Braun & Lima Center, February 16 2024 (Ben Lucking)



Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*, Ashford Way, January 23 2024 (Bill VanderMolen)

Small groups of **Purple Finches** moved around the county, showing up at numerous feeders and scattered natural areas – the largest group was one of twelve individuals. A single **Common Redpoll** flew over Four Mile Lake on 2/8. **Lapland Longspurs** were quite widespread this winter and present in flocks maxing out at 35 birds in roughly a dozen locations. After a few observations in December, **Snow Buntings** appeared in larger numbers in January – flocks numbered in the dozens (as many as 55 were reported) but tended to be hard to pin down. There were no sightings in February.

A **Field Sparrow** attended a feeder in Manchester for a few days in January (1/18 – 1/20), making for the only one reported this winter. Interestingly, after numbers of **Fox Sparrows** dropped from November into December, they bumped right back up going into January-February. Many of them were noted attending feeders for days/weeks on end, but many others were found away from human habitation and were clearly benefitting from the mild weather. Similarly, good numbers of **White-crowned Sparrows** were mixed in with their (much) more common White-throated cousins, although all of these handsome sparrows appeared to have moved on after 2/5, the last day any were eBirded this winter. As always, small numbers of **Swamp Sparrows** remained in the area this winter (up to three birds in seven locations) – perhaps their preference for hard to explore marshes leaves them somewhat underreported during the winter months.



Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*, Torrey Rd Hawk Watch, February 12 2024 (Bill Nolting)



Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, February 12 2024 (Wendy Conrad)

The first **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen along Vreeland Rd on 2/4 but was not seen again until 2/18. Additional birds showed up in the last week of February; no doubt, numbers will continue to build into March. Starting on 2/11, groups of **Rusty Blackbird** mixed in with the other more numerous blackbird species. In most cases, relatively small numbers were involved, but one flock (almost) exclusively made up of Rusties consisted of at least 300 of them, crossing Northfield Church Rd just west of Nollar on 2/24 – the size of this flock set a new county record. Another example of a semi-hardy species managing to overwinter in Washtenaw County, quite a few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen throughout January-February, with as many as four individuals in over 15 locations.



## Field Trip Calendar

### Migration Thursdays at The Arb

**Thursday, April 11 – May 30, 8:00 am – 10:00 am**

Join us at Nichols Arboretum Thursday mornings through May to observe migrants making their way north. These leaderless walks are a great opportunity to join with other birders of all skill levels.

**Directions:** Meet at the east end of the arboretum near the Dow Prairie entrance off Riverview Ct

### Woodcock Walk with Natural Area Preservation

**Friday, April 5 & 12, 7:45 pm – 9:30 pm**

Join Natural Area Preservation and Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance (formerly Washtenaw Audubon) as we partner to bring you another installment of our annual Woodcock Walk. If you have never witnessed the display of the American Woodcock, you should join us for this event. This wacky shorebird has evolved to live far away from water in the forest. After sunset, males will display by flying high into the air then engage in a circling dive that initiates their display call by moving air fast over three specially evolved feathers. Make sure to dress for the weather (walks happen rain or shine). You will be walking in the dark so bring a flashlight. Registration is required and space is limited to provide a quality experience for all. We have scheduled two events this year to be able to accommodate everyone that is interested. Register:

<http://tinyurl.com/WoodcockWAS>

**Directions:** Meet at the Furstenberg parking lot off Fuller Rd.

**Leaders:** Matt Spoor (4/5) & Matt Spoor & Juliet Berger (4/12)

### Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO) Feathered Friends Walk at Scarlett-Mitchell Nature Area

**Saturday, April 6, 9:30 am - 11:30 am**

This event is meant specifically for students participating in the WESO event “Feathered Friends.” We will take a walk through and around the Scarlett-Mitchell Nature Area to look and listen for the birds in the area. All ages and skill levels are welcome. We will have extra binoculars if you do not have any. Wear boots as the nature area can get very muddy.

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot of Scarlett Middle school.

**Leader:** Victor Chen

### Wildflower Walk at Black Pond Woods

**Saturday, April 6, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Spring is exploding and there is so much life to explore! Let’s go for a walk and explore the highly biodiverse oak hickory forest of Black Pond Woods. Many of our beautiful spring ephemeral wildflowers will be in bloom. There is such a short window to soak them in so come on out and learn all about them and other interesting things we may find.

**Directions:** Meet in the parking lot of Leslie Science & Nature Center at 1831 Traver Rd.

**Leader:** Matt Spoor

### Weekend Walk for Waterfowl at Hewens Creek Park

**Sunday, April 14, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

This beautiful 191-acre park is located on the south side of Ypsilanti Township has had 162 species reported in April and is a great place to find migrating waterfowl. We will explore the pond and then walk the forest in search of amazing birds.

**Directions:** Navigate to 6515 Bemis Road and you will find us in the parking lot.

**Leaders:** Matt Spoor & Juliet Berger

### BIPOC Bird Walk at Furstenberg Nature Area

**Saturday, April 20, 9:30 - 11:30 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 early spring migrants. All ages and skill levels are invited. We will have extra binoculars if you do not have any.

**Directions:** Meet in the main Furstenberg parking lot by the bathrooms.

**Leader:** Victor Chen

### Restoration Workday at Searles Nature Preserve

**Saturday, April 27 & May 25, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Did you know Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance owns a nature preserve? We do! Searles Nature Preserve is a 50-acre natural area that hosts the headwaters of Stony Creek. Did you also know that Ninety-seven percent of North American landbirds require animal, primarily insect, protein to raise their young? Most insects require specific, native, host plants for successful reproduction and this is why supporting a biodiverse ecosystem of native plants is so important. Join us as we work to remove invasive species and improve biodiversity to support the birds we love. Tools and know-how will be provided. Bring gardening gloves (we will have extra), wear long pants, tall socks, and closed-toe shoes or boots.

**Directions:** Meet at the entrance to the preserve on Bolla Road between Crane and Stony Creek Roads.

**Weekend Walk for Wildflowers & Birds at Nan Weston Preserve Sunday, April 28, 8:00 am - 10:00 am**

Join us to explore spring ephemerals and migrant birds and Nan Weston Preserve. This 248-acre preserve is owned and protected by the Nature Conservancy. It should be a beautiful, educational and enjoyable walk. Check the Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance website for more detailed location information.

**Directions:** Meet in the parking lot off Easudes Rd

**Leaders:** Matt Spoor & Juliet Berger

**Tuesday Evening Birders**

**Tuesdays in May, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Each Tuesday Evening Birders will feature a new trip leader and location of their choice. These events have produced many memories and stories over the years and often yield interesting birds. Each Tuesday in May, we meet somewhere at 6pm, often at Miller Rd. Park & Ride, Plymouth Rd. Park & Ride, or Meijer on Zeeb Rd., depending upon which direction in the county we are headed, and leave from there.

**Please register** and we will email you the meeting location at least 24 hours before as details for these walks tend to come together closer to the event than our other walks.

**Spring Migrants and Summer Residents at Hudson Mills Metropark**

**Sunday, May 5, 8:00 - 10:00 am**

This annual walk at Hudson Mills with Karen Markey is always tons of fun and super interesting. Join us as we search for spring migrants and recently returned summer residents. Target birds include beautiful spring wood warblers, woodpeckers, tanagers, towhees, thrushes, and any of the other 146 species seen here in May. The field trip is free, but a Metroparks Pass is required for admission. Free passes can be checked out using your library account via [Michigan Activity Pass](#).

**Directions:** Meet at the southern end of the large parking lot near the Activity Center.

**Leader:** Karen Markey

**Annual Washtenaw May Count**

**Saturday, May 11, 2024**

Please join dozens of enthusiastic volunteers for the Washtenaw County May Count, on [World Migratory Bird Day](#) and [eBird's Global Big Day](#). This event is a day to be out there counting all the birds we can find, and it's a super fun Big Day! Juliet Berger is the organizer for this countywide count, which uses eBird to benefit bird science with its comprehensive results. See the website for more details: <https://washtenawaudubon.org/event/washtenaw-may-count/>

**BIPOC Walk at Eliza Howell Park**

**Saturday May 18, 10:00 am - noon**

This is a joint walk with the BIPOC Birders of Michigan. At this walk, we will walk along the Rouge River in one of Detroit's hidden gems and look for warblers and other migrating species. Park near the Nature Trailhead, by the third set of parking spots as you drive around the loop.

**Directions:** 23751 Fenkell Ave, Detroit, MI

**Leader:** Victor Chen

**Many more field trips are listed on the Events page on our website!**

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.

