



May / June 2024 Newsletter

March-April 2024: Early Spring Highlights

The Highlight

On the heels of the 1/17 bird on Portage Lake (which was present for only a very short period of time), Washtenaw County's sixth **Red-throated Loon** appeared on Ford Lake on 3/31. In contrast to the January record (and several of the prior ones), this bird stuck around for more than 24 hours and was exceedingly cooperative, offering great views from (appropriately) Loonfeather Point Park and Ford Lake Park. Given that the weather was almost balmy for late March - early April (also in contrast to nearly all prior occurrences), many, many observers were able to enjoy this bird on a nearly waveless Ford Lake. As it was associating with a group of Common Loons, it also offered a great opportunity to compare the two species for size, posture, and plumage.



Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*, Ford Lake, March 31, 2024 (left: Nui Moreland; right: Jacco Gelderloos)

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President's Letter

Hello Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance-

Reflecting on the 10 years I have been your President.... we have been through so much together-- COVID, the Lockdown, unfit US Presidents, my children's High School and College graduations, births and passings of some of our favorite people, our name change process. It has been a momentous decade. Some of you may know I'm looking to retire as President of WBNA—10 years is a good long time, and we're looking for another President to take over this vibrant and growing organization. I'm proud to have presided over the doubling of our membership, new additions to our Board, our welcoming of birders of color and allies through our name change, and so much more. Please contact WBNA if you have suggestions or nominations for the office of WBNA President: info@washtenawbirdandnaturealliance.org.

With all that in mind, I searched for the very first President's Letter I ever wrote to you all, and it is as timely and true today as it was back then. Please read what I had to say in late summer 2014. And thanks for your support for all these years. I will always be on your Board, working for you, as Past-President or the next role or project.

'Hello Washtenaw Audubon Members, In May 2014, I got an email from WAS Past President Ray Stocking, asking me to speak with him about the future of Washtenaw Audubon Society. I thought to myself, "What does he want to talk with me for?" I had only been a member for 11 months. I spoke with my friend Merrily Hart that evening at Tuesday Evening Birders. She suggested to me that Ray had probably contacted me to ask me to be the new President. "Why me?" was my first thought after I had spoken with Ray the next day. After all, I'd just taken on the compiler job for the Washtenaw Audubon May Count. I was busy. I was new to WAS. I promised I'd think about it, but I thought I'd say, "No, thank you." However, I love birds and birding. My first memories as a young child are moments spent birding in the woods with my late father, Sam Berger. Nothing gets me up at 5 a.m. or obsesses me like birding. I am passionate about encouraging young birders to get more involved in birding and I teach an elementary school birding class. I love birds, being outside, and studying nature. I also enjoy meeting new people, forming new friendships, and staying connected with old ones. I am a Social Worker by profession. I go on all the field trips I can, I meet birders and try to welcome newcomers into our community. In that capacity, I guess I am already representing Washtenaw Audubon. I told Ray I'd accept the position, and I am glad I did. So, here I am, proud to represent all of you as your new President. As birding is my life's passion, I hope to bring that enthusiasm to bear in my new position. Thanks to the many members who have welcomed me and generously offered me their support. I promise to work hard on your behalf, to keep you informed about the state of our birds, to help our community of birders stay connected, and to bring new birders—young and old—into our community. Together, we can make a difference for the birds we all love.'

I'll see you out there on the trail of a nesting Hooded Warbler or counting Wood Thrushes in one of our beautiful nature areas.

As always, I am for the birds!

Juliet Berger

President, Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance



Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dylan Micallef*)

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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.

Education Chair Update



In an effort to reach more communities of color, Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance partners up with organizations in the area that allow for relationship-building. One such partnership is with the Erickson Elementary School Science Olympiad Team. For the past few years, Victor Chen has worked with the school's Feathered Friends group to grow their interest and knowledge in Michigan's bird species. Our practices usually consisted of students learning about the appearances, habitats, diets, calls, and other facts about some common species. When the weather gets nice enough outside, we take a trip to Loonfeather Point Park to put our learning to action. This year, we got some great looks at a Common Loon on the water. We hope that reaching out to some of the young birders in our community can spark a lifelong interest in a hobby that many of us enjoy.

Victor Chen



Erickson Elementary's Feathered Friends (*Megan Thomas*)

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](http://washtenawaudubon.org)

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Waterfowl

After being almost easy to find during the winter, **Snow Geese** became downright scarce during March. A blue morph juvenile hung out with a large gathering of Canadas in the cornfields along Gotfredson near Ford Rd from 3/7 – 3/10. The next day, a flock of ten white morph adults flew over the Greene Farm subdivision in Ypsilanti Township. There were no April records this year. By contrast, **Cackling Geese** continued to be found in numerous spots around the county. A group of three was present fairly consistently in the area around Gregory Rd and the Daly Rd Pond between 3/4 - 3/13. Overlapping with these birds was a group of five on Pierce Lake on 3/12. One flew over private property in Lodi Township on 3/15, offering a nice size comparison with the Canada Geese it was associating with. Rounding out the March records, two Cacklers were at the Goose Lake SGA on 3/24. Only one was found during April, at Sharon Mills County Park on 4/8. After kicking off with some gusto in February, **Tundra Swan** migration continued into (the first half of) March, with birds at or over a dozen locations, topping out at 115 at the West Lake Preserve on 3/3. After this northbound push quieted down, a lone bird was found on a pond along Floyd McFall Dr in Augusta Township on 4/10.



Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*, Daly Rd Pond, March 8 2024 (Ben Lucking)



Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*, Vreeland Rd, March 2 2024 (Bob Maddox)

On 3/29, a quite stunning density of **Northern Shovelers** was reported from the Trinkle Rd Marsh – 100 birds established a new county record high. Equally impressive numbers of **Northern Pintails** gathered in numerous locations – a marsh along S Lima Center Rd held as many as 137 (on 3/31) and Four Mile Lake hosted up to 108 (on 3/12). There may have been some movement back and forth between these two, but triple digit numbers of these handsome dabblers are notable no matter what. By mid-April, all pintails had left Washtenaw County. Not to be outdone, **Green-winged Teal** got in on the action too, by setting a new high mark of their own when 80 of them were counted at Four Mile Lake on 4/14.

Given the trickiness of identifying them, it would a stretch to say **Greater Scaup** were easy to find, but throughout the period up to 11 were picked out among the rafts of their *Aythya* congeners. To illustrate the degree of difficulty involved in sorting through all these diving ducks, a staggering 800(!) **Redheads** were reported from Portage Lake on 3/11 – and these birds were only one part of the huge mixed flock present there! The pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** on Portage Lake re-appeared after not being reported for a few weeks (due to lack of observer effort, perhaps?) and was reliably seen there from 3/8 – 4/7.



Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, S Lima Center Rd, March 29 2024 (Juliet Berger)



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*, Green Farms Sub, April 24 2024 (Raymond Olson)

Gallinaceous Birds through Herons

After one was reported from a spot only about two miles away in June of 2023, a group of six **Helmeted Grebe** was observed and photographed at Dixboro & Five Mile. Odds are these are associated with a nearby residence, but perhaps they could also indicate the beginnings of the establishment of a feral population of this species. Representing a species on the other end of the spectrum, the only **Ruffed Grouse** report came from Mill Lake on 3/29. Although occasional reports are still made off and on, this species is hanging on by a thread as a member of Washtenaw County's avifauna. Tucked in among the multitudes of diving ducks on Portage Lake, a walloping number of 54 **Horned Grebe** were picked out on 3/29, which set a new county record for that species. Much rarer locally, a breeding plumage **Red-necked Grebe** was found at Gallup Park on 4/2, but this stunning bird proved to be a one-day wonder. However, the next day two of these handsome/pretty grebes were found on Independence Lake, where they stayed until 4/4 – needless to say, these birds were enjoyed by many!

The last few days of April saw the (expected) arrival of **Eastern Whippoorwills** – there was one at Scio Church & Zeeb (4/27), one at Black Pond Woods (4/27), and one at the Green Lake site, where they have been reliably present for the past few years (on 4/30). An **Upland Sandpiper** was described well on private property in Webster Township on 4/20, which made for the only record this year (so far). Usually showing up in May, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** showed up in a fluddle along Vreeland Rd on 4/27, where it was photographed, but did not stick around to be enjoyed by other observers.



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*, Gallup Park, April 2 2024 (Nui Moreland)



Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*, Vreeland Rd, April 27 2024 (Norka Saldana)

Lesser Black-backed Gulls staged something of an irruption this period. During March, there were three adults at Vreeland & Gotfredson on 3/17, two non-adults at North Bay Park from 3/19 – 3/24, and an adult at Portage Lake on 3/21. Another (or one of the previous three) adult was at Vreeland & Gotfredson on 4/12, followed by a report of an adult from Loonfeather Point Park on 4/14. The LBB Gulls at Vreeland & Gotfredson were joined by two **Iceland Gulls** (an adult and an immature) on 3/17, but these birds were much harder to pin down; a few days later, on 3/22, an adult was present at the Salem Township landfill, where they are annual. Starting in mid-April, **Caspian Terns** started popping up around the county: there were three over Four Mile Lake (4/14), one hung around North Bay Park (4/19 – 4/27), one was at South Pond (4/29), and a trio was seen along Stark Strasse (4/29).



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*, Gotfredson & Vreeland, March 17 2024 (Andy Dettling)



Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Mary Beth Doyle Park, April 15 2024 (Andy Dettling)

Although they still cause a healthy increase in the observer's heart rate, since 2015 **American White Pelicans** have been a more or less annually occurring species in Washtenaw County. A trio soared over the Torrey Rd Hawk Watch on 4/7 and a group of 14 was noted over Warren & Gotfredson on 4/26. Starting on 4/27, and **American Bittern** could be heard *oonk-a-loonking* in the sedge marsh of the Chelsea SGA; getting within earshot was the challenge in this exceedingly wet habitat. A **Least Bittern** was reported from the LeFurge Woods marsh on 4/26 but was sufficiently secretive to not be reported afterwards. The hardy immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Mary Beth Doyle Park was last seen on 4/2; interestingly, an adult was present in the very same spot from 4/15 – 4/18, perhaps an indication that a(nother) nesting attempt is in the works? Another BC Night-Heron was along the Arb-Gallup Bikeway on 4/29.

Hawks through Falcons

A **Golden Eagle** hung out in the southwestern corner of the county, where it was seen over Sharon Mills County Park on 4/8 and over Watkins Lake County Park the day after. Given how rare the species is it is quite possible that this is the bird that was seen in the western quarter of the county during January-February. **Cooper's Hawks** do not often feature in this report, but the eight reported from the Torrey Rd Hawk Watch on 4/17 set a new high count, which most definitely warrants mentioning. All observations of **Rough-legged Hawks** were of (fortunate) single observers – lone birds were at Rolling Hills County Park (3/30), over M-14 & Ford (4/27), and over the Baker Woods Preserve (4/29).

With nesting season upon us, territorial **Barred Owls** became more vocal. Throughout March and April, one or two were noted in nearly ten locations in the west of the county, along with two much closer to Ann Arbor. The very cooperative **Short-eared Owls** at the Conservancy Farm stayed through 3/9; not long afterwards, three were seen at nearby Vreeland & Gotfredson (on 3/14). Much more unexpected was one over a field along Bemis Rd, west of Schneider on 3/27, aiding the observers in their effort to break the March Big Day record. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at Loch Highland on 3/4; another could be picked out from among the din (courtesy of loads of Spring Peepers and Chorus Frogs) along Lima Center Rd, near Bethel Church from 3/23 – 3/27; lastly, one of these dapper little owls was at Stinchfield Woods on 4/13.



Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*, Rolling Hills County Park, March 30 2024 (Bonnie Penet)



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, Conservancy Farm, March 6 2024 (Christine Cabrera)

Merlin numbers dropped off considerably starting in March, but they were still around in roughly ten sites. The only one found in April was a bird at Rolling Hills County Park on 4/30. Migrating **Peregrine Falcons** passed over Four Mile Lake (4/4), the Torrey Rd Hawk Watch (4/10), Dixboro & Five Mile (4/23), and the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (4/27). The pair nesting on North Quad was present throughout and could be seen sitting on the nest box, perched on nearby buildings, or in flight over downtown.

Passerines

The first **White-eyed Vireo** of this spring was at Saginaw Forest on 4/29. Given that the species had a banner 23-24 winter season, several **Northern Shrikes** hung around into March. One picked off a House Sparrow at a feeder at Braun & Willow on 3/2 (wow!), another put on quite a show for numerous observers in the Vreeland & Prospect area, and the long-staying bird at the Chelsea SGA was last seen on 3/12. A **Sedge Wren** returned to the reliable breeding location at DeVine Preserve as of 4/29. Slightly out of place given the paucity of cattail marsh there, the **Marsh Wren** at North Bay Park on 4/26 quite surprised its observer. By and large, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** are not a terribly noteworthy species, especially not during the March-April timeframe, but a total of 57 at Nichols Arboretum on 4/4 was a new record number for Washtenaw County.

Northern Mockingbirds seemed to be, quite literally, all over the place – throughout March and April they were reported from nearly 20 locations, spread the county. From the last week of March, **American Pipits** could be found in appropriate habitat, even if they could be hard to pick out. A flock of 30 at Arkona & Macon on 4/30 made for the maximum – the other five or six

locations had to make do with significantly lower numbers. Sharing the previous species preference for open country, **Lapland Longspurs** could be hit and miss, even if they were present throughout the period and in (sometimes) impressive numbers. They were reported from roughly half a dozen sites, out of which the Torrey Rd Hawk Watch hit the high mark with a total of 177 birds in several groups moving in over the site (to the southeast).



American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, Vreeland & LeForge, April 30 2024 (Andy Dettling)



Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*, Vreeland Rd, March 23 2024 (Bill Nolting)

As of 4/28, at least two **Clay-colored Sparrows** returned to Rolling Hills County Park, where the species has been nesting annually for some time now. **Vesper Sparrows** delighted many observers with their beautiful ethereal song – even if this is not a common species, up to three were present in as many as ten locations from 4/8 on. As expected, by mid-April **Henslow's Sparrows** were back on territory at the Sharonville SGA's grasslands. As a sparrow species moving through in a later migratory window, the three **Lincoln's Sparrows** that were noted in the last week of April were right on cue.

Spring is when we all queue up and get ready for the coming onslaught of spring migration, particularly that of wood-warblers. Things got started off slowly in March with two species (Yellow-rumped and Pine), but in April the floodgates opened – a whopping 25 species were entered into eBird during that month. A singing **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Pioneer Woods briefly on 4/29, but it could not be relocated despite the efforts of several other birders. Generally one of the first warblers to show up, **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were observed in four spots: at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (4/3), in Dolph Park (4/4), and at the Cedar Lake Campground (4/30). The most likely indication of a nesting attempt was the bird (or birds) present at the Portage River crossing of Dexter Townhall Rd (on the Washtenaw-Livingston border) from 4/26 on. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Dolph Park on 4/29.



Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus*, Vreeland Rd, April 9 2024 (Norka Saldana)



Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*, Cedar Lake Campground, April 30 2024 (Dylan Micallef)

Orange-crowned Warblers were quite common during the tail end of April. Single birds were at Dixboro & Pontiac Trail (4/21), at Thurston Pond (4/21 – 4/22), in Whitmore Lake (4/26), at Loch Highland (4/28), and in Nichols Arboretum (4/30). Away from its nesting locations, a **Cerulean Warbler** delighted many in Nichols Arboretum on 4/29; the singing bird at the B2B Trailhead in Lyndon Township on 4/30 was returning to its breeding territory. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the Maple Rd bridge over the Saline River on 4/21 may have been prospecting for setting up shop nearby; another was singing persistently in the pines of the Cedar Lake Campground on 4/30. Among the first warblers to show up in our area, a pioneering **Pine Warbler** that showed up at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens on 3/7 was on the early side even for that species. More in line with their normal pattern, four additional Pine Warblers were reported from throughout the county during the final third of March.

Field Trip Calendar

Moth Night at Furstenberg Nature Area

Friday, June 7, 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Come out and join us as for our first moth night of the year! Check out our [Moth Nights of Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance iNaturalist project](#) to view hundreds of observations with photos, species details, and more for all of our past moth night events.

Why care about moths? Ninety seven percent of all North American land birds rely on animal protein to raise their young. For most birds, that means insects. And for most of them, that means caterpillars. Without abundant moth larva, there is not enough animal protein to raise the young of our beloved birds. It takes approximately 9,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of Black-capped Chickadees from hatching to fledgling! Now, think of all the birds you see out there. It's hard to imagine the numbers required. So, you can see, moths are integral to the reproduction of most of our birds we love. They're our allies in birding and getting to know them is a joy.

They are among the most diverse and successful organisms on earth. Scientists estimate there are 150,000 to more than 500,000 moth species. Their colors and patterns are either dazzling or so cryptic that they define camouflage. Shapes and sizes span the gamut from as small as a pinhead to as large as an adult's hand. Most moths are nocturnal and need to be sought at night to be seen – others fly like butterflies during the day. Finding them can be as simple as leaving a porch light on and checking it after dark. Serious moth aficionados use special lights and baits to attract them.

Once again, Susan Kielb and Heidi Trudell will guide us through the process of attracting, identifying, and enjoying these amazing creatures.

Suggestions for Attendees:

- A headlamp or flashlight would be nice to have.
- Ninja night with moths! Wearing black is the best way to keep moths on the sheet and not your shirt.
- It might be nice to bring a camp chair if you would like to sit.

Directions: Meet at the Furstenberg Nature Area parking lot off Fuller Road ([map](#)).

Grassland Birds at Conservancy Farm

Saturday, June 8, 7:45 am - 10:30 am

We will look and listen for grassland breeding birds such as Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Henslow's Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Directions: Carpool from the Plymouth Park and Ride as parking is limited onsite. We will depart the park and ride at 7:45am.

Leader: Matt Spoor

Prothonotary Paddle

Saturday, June 15, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

It has been a few short years since the beautiful Prothonotary Warbler colonized a stretch of the Huron River from Hudson Mills through Delhi MetroPark and beyond. They sing their cheery song from close to their cavity nests along the river. They are best viewed from the water, and there are always a large variety of other birds to see on this float trip.

The trip is eight miles long, and usually takes about 3 ½ hours to complete, but we'll stop for good birds, a picnic, etc., and your car will be waiting for you at the other end. We will have a picnic spot picked out that is approximately halfway, for those who wish to stay with the group. Bring your own picnic and beverages.

Book your own boat(s) for the "Hudson Mills to Delhi MetroPark Long Trip" directly from Skip's Canoe Livery at www.paddlethehuron.com and review the details on their site. Make sure to select the 9am option on June 15th. On the day of the event, if you are renting a canoe/kayak, we recommend arriving at Skip's by 8:30 to check-in, park, and pick up the required, provided personal flotation device.

Paddlers with their own boats, meet at Hudson Mills, Rapids View area ([map here](#)) to launch by 9:00 a.m.

Evening Birds at Nichols Arboretum

Saturday, June 22, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Dawn begins early this time of year. It's a good excuse to switch things up and explore our breeding birds as they prepare for the evening. Let's get together to go for an evening stroll at the Arb and see what we can find.

Directions: 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.

Leader: Matthew Spoor & Juliet Berger

Restoration Workday at Searles Nature Preserve

Sunday, June 23, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Did you know Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance (formerly Washtenaw Audubon Society) 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. More on this here: <https://tiny1.io/93Ka>

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. ([map here](#))

Nature Walk at Kuebler Langford Nature Area

Sunday, June 30, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will explore the prairie and forest to learn about the natural history and ecology of the plants, fungi, bugs, and birds found in this high-quality habitat. View [iNaturalist observations from the park here](#).

Directions: Meet at the Beechwood Avenue entrance ([map](#)).

Leader: Matthew Spoor

Weekend Walk for Birds at Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Sunday, July 7, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

With so many different habitats to explore, a morning walk at Matthaei never disappoints. Winter, summer, spring, and fall, the botanical gardens have it all! Check out the [potential birds for this hotspot here](#).

Directions: Meet at the steps to the conservatory. Matthaei members park for free with metered parking for everyone else. Free to park a bike there and it's a beautiful ride along the bike path from Geddes to the gardens.

Leader: Matthew Spoor & Juliet Berger

Evening Birds at Nichols Arboretum

Saturday, July 13, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Dawn begins early this time of year. It's a good excuse to switch things up and explore our breeding birds as they prepare for the evening. Let's get together to go for an evening stroll at the Arb and see what we can find.

Directions: 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.

Leader: Matthew Spoor & Juliet Berger

Nature Walk at Bird Hills Nature Area

Sunday, July 14, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will explore the various habitats of this 146-acre preserve to learn about the natural history and ecology of the plants, fungi, bugs, and birds found in this special place.

Directions: Meet at the Newport Rd Bird Hills parking lot ([map](#)).

Leader: Matthew Spoor

Butterfly Walk at Leonard Preserve

Sunday, July 21, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Please join Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance and resident butterfly experts at the Leonard Preserve in the Manchester area. We will observe and catch butterflies to study and release. The Leonard Preserve is also a fabulous place for birding, so bring binoculars too! A clean plastic jar and any butterfly nets you have could be used as well.

Leader: Roger Kuhlman

Moth Night – National Moth Week

Friday, July 26, 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate National Moth Week with a moth party! Moths are among the most diverse and successful organisms on earth. Scientists estimate there are 150,000 to more than 500,000 moth species. Their colors and patterns are either dazzling or so cryptic that they define camouflage. Shapes and sizes span the gamut from as small as a pinhead to as large as an adult's hand. Most moths are nocturnal and need to be sought at night to be seen – others fly like butterflies during the day. Finding them can be as simple as leaving a porch light on and checking it after dark. Serious moth aficionados use special lights and baits to attract them.

Join us as longtime friends of WBNA, Susan Kielb and Heidi Trudell, guide us through the process of attracting, identifying, and enjoying these amazing creatures.

Directions: Natural Area Preservation parking lot at 3875 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor.

To become a member of Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance, please complete the form below (or a copy) and mail it with a check or money order payable to **Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance—WB&NA Membership, P.O. Box 130923, Ann Arbor, MI 48113.**

____ Renewal ____ New Member
 Additional Donation \$ ____

Membership Dues

____ Individual Household	\$25 (online only \$20)
____ Student	\$15 (online only \$10)
____ Senior	\$15 (online only \$10)
____ Patron	\$50

Name: _____
 Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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:** WB&NA will only use your email address to communicate with you about WB&NA programs, field trips, or matters of interest to you, such as membership renewal and emailed WB&NA newsletters (in color!). We will not give your email address to anyone else.

WB&NA Monthly Programs

Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance has resumed in-person programs, although most of them will also be viewable on Zoom as hybrid programs, as well. Please check the website or Facebook before you come to the downtown Ann Arbor District Library for a program, as occasionally a program may be moved from in-person to Zoom only, or back to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, for various reasons.

Wednesday, June 19, 6:00 p.m.

Birds Vocalizing (Who cooks for you?), with Don Chalfant

Join Don Chalfant for an interesting evening of his bird photographs, along with their songs and calls. Don is a longtime member of the Washtenaw Bird and Nature Alliance, a former president, and popular speaker and field trip leader. He set a number of past Washtenaw County Big Day records. Don cleverly spends the winter months at his other home in Florida.

This will be a hybrid in-person (at the downtown Ann Arbor Library) and virtual meeting. A live stream of this event will be available at the AADL website (www.aadl.org) approximately one hour prior to the start

Wednesday, July 17, 6:00 p.m.

Program to be announced

Stay tuned to our website and social media for announcements about the upcoming July program!

Sunday, August 4, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Annual Picnic & the Coveted Wingnut Award Ceremony

In lieu of an August Program, please join us for the Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance Annual Picnic! In addition to connecting with fellow bird and nature enthusiasts, we will present the 2023 Coveted Wingnut Award to the individual who identified the most bird species in Washtenaw County last year.

Bring a dish to share and drinks for yourself, and feel free to use the onsite grill. Although there is no electricity, we have our own picnic shelter for the entire group! Nearby, you'll find restrooms and the Huron River to cool off. We'll be at Shelter B – Dexter-Huron Metropark is located at 6535 Huron River Dr, Dexter, MI 48130.

Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance

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