



September / October 2024 Newsletter

## WB&NA is Searching for a New President



Peregrine Falcon (*Jocelyn Anderson*)

Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance seeks a new President who is willing to commit their skills and leadership to the highest possible impact toward our mission, following the upcoming retirement of our current President in Spring 2025. This is an unpaid volunteer position, for two-year terms commencing in July 2025, eligible for renewal – all in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws. A diversity of perspectives and skills within the board leadership is important. In particular, we welcome candidates with varying levels of birding expertise.

In addition, every two years, WBNA seeks the re-election of all Board Officers (including Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary). The current Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary intend to put their names forward for re-election, though interested applicants are encouraged to apply for all positions.

[How to Apply and Job Descriptions](#)

# President's Letter

Dear Washtenaw BNA,

Welcome to fall in Southeast Michigan! Hopefully we'll soon receive some of the crispness and color that fall brings to our beautiful region. Warblers and other migrants have been coming through since mid-August, much to the delight of our members and friends. I was visited by a breathtakingly gorgeous Golden-winged Warbler in my backyard several days ago, which I still can't quite believe. What is it about this black, white, gray and golden bird that can knock your socks off!? I hope we all can get out and see some of the spectacle of migration, thrilling and beautiful. There's nothing like a flock of warblers dangling from vines and falling like leaves in the glowing autumn light.

We had a great turnout of volunteers for our annual Swift Nights Out in October, 3 nights of counting Chimney Swifts at their roosts as they staged for migration. Thanks to all the volunteers who made our event a success. The little cigars with wings move their roosts around frequently before finally departing for the winter, but in mid-August, some of our largest and most spectacular roosts were Mack School, Downtown Ann Arbor over Sottini's Sub Shop, the Northern Brewery Building on Jones Dr. in A2, Ypsilanti's St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Saline First Presbyterian Church, and Milan's City Office Buildings. Check out one of these locations or choose another in the chart provided (see page 3), to witness one of the wonders of the natural world, as they swirl tornado style into their masonry roosts.

We have a great slate of field trips this fall organized by Victor Chen, our Education Chair and leader of our BIPOC walks, and Matt Spoor, our Field Trip Chair. Plan to attend a few if you are able. Likewise, we have some really interesting programs coming up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month through November. Remember, except for September, we've moved our Program location to the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown, where our meeting and presentation space couldn't be better.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on a walk through the woods, with a kaleidoscope of fallen leaves around us. Join me and other enraptured birders at our Thursday morning Arb walks through the end of October.

As always,

I am for the Birds,

Juliet Berger, President

Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance

Semipalmated Plover  
(Kate Jackman)



## Board Members

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The Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance 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.

Day 1 - Friday 8/23/24 20:00 - 21:00	Swift #
1200 N. Main St, Ann Arbor	15
Abandoned Building 301 N. East St, Chelsea	19
Ann Arbor Distilling Co., 220 Felch St, Ann Arbor	3
Burns Park School - 1414 Wells St, Ann Arbor	0
Cranbrook Tower Apartments 2901 Northbrook, Ann Arbor	5
Chimney over Kilwin's Ice Cream Shoppe, 107 East Liberty St, Ann Arbor, or nearby chimneys	not counted
First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor	97
Frat House-Corner of State & E. Madison St, Ann Arbor	not counted
Mack School/Ann Arbor Open - 920 Miller, Ann Arbor	1,871
Milan City Offices and Milan Public Library	130
CHS Group, 211 E. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti	0
Northern Brewery, 1327 Jones Dr., Ann Arbor	158
Saline First Presbyterian Church 143 E Michigan Ave	272
Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington, Ann Arbor	0
Stone Church 218 Adams St. Ypsilanti	99
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Ypsilanti	127
Ypsi Alehouse 124 Pearl St #100, Ypsilanti	4
Ypsilanti Old Train Station, Depot Town	16
Day 2 - Saturday 8/24/24 20:00 - 21:00	Swift #
1200 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor	15
Ann Arbor Distilling Co., 220 Felch St, Ann Arbor	8
Chimney over Kilwin's Ice Cream Shoppe, 107 East Liberty St, Ann Arbor, or nearby chimneys	700+
Burns Park School - 1414 Wells St, Ann Arbor	38
Cranbrook Tower Apartments 2901 Northbrook, Ann Arbor	9
First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor	51
Mack School/Ann Arbor Open - 920 Miller Ann Arbor	1,506
Milan City Offices and Milan Public Library	141
Miller Manor Chimney - view from West Park, Ann Arbor	7
Northern Brewery, 1327 Jones Dr, Ann Arbor	267
Saline First Presbyterian Church	219
Stone Church 218 Adams St, Ypsilanti	134
Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington, Ann Arbor	not counted
The Session Room Ann Arbor	6
Ypsi Alehouse 124 Pearl St #100, Ypsilanti	4
Ypsi Old Train Station, Depot Town	not counted
Day 3 - Sunday 8/25/24 20:00 - 21:00	Swift #
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Ypsilanti	47
1200 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor	29
Cranbrook Tower Apartments 2901 Northbrook, Ann Arbor	16
Ann Arbor Distilling Co., 220 Felch St, Ann Arbor	4
Burns Park School - 1414 Wells Street Ann Arbor	0
Chimney over Kilwin's Ice Cream Shoppe, 107 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, or nearby chimneys	1,385
First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor	12
Freeman Environmental Education Center - 3540 Dixboro Ln, Ann Arbor	0
Mack School/Ann Arbor Open - 920 Miller, Ann Arbor	1,088
Milan City Offices and Milan Public Library	150
Miller Manor Chimney - View from West Park, Ann Arbor	19
Northern Brewery, 1327 Jones Dr, Ann Arbor	252
Northside School (STEAM), Ann Arbor	0
Saline First Presbyterian Church	148
Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington, Ann Arbor	1
Salt City Antiques, Ypsilanti	8
Ypsi Old Train Station area, Ypsilanti	17
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Ypsilanti	272
Chelsea List including others in the 100 block of E. Middle St.	not counted

## Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance 2024 Financial Report

### Summary Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

*Year ended June 30, 2024*

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	
Member dues	\$ 5,320
Gifts, unrestricted	2,820
Interest earned	587
Sales of merchandise	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 8,727</b>
EXPENSES	
Newsletter and brochure costs	\$ 2,068
Grants made	950
Insurance	525
Equipment purchased	35
Program expenses	593
Searle property expenses	409
Other operating expenses	1,480
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 6,060</b>
<b>RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 2,667</b>
Additions to Property and Equipment	35
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,702</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 171,415</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 174,117</b>

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

*As of June 30, 2024*

ASSETS	
Cash in checking account	\$ 16,600
Savings in money market account	13,909
Savings in certificates of deposit	30,779
<b>TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 61,288</b>
Bernard Loates "After Audubon" prints	\$ 2,900
Equipment	\$ 4,489
Searles property	86,940
Wing property	18,500
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$ 112,829</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 174,117</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 174,117</b>

## July-August 2024: Summer Highlights

### The Highlights

As the saying goes, lightning doesn't strike twice, but with regard to birds, this truism clearly does not hold up at all. To prove that point, for the second year in a row, a juvenile **Little Blue Heron** showed up in the pond of the Koch Warner drain of Saline's Wilderness Park on 8/1, staying through 8/12. There are fewer than ten county records for this southern heron, so for a different bird to show up in the same place as one a year and four days prior is quite extraordinary. Starting an impressive rarity streak for this park, in 2021 Michigan's first Roseate Spoonbill was found here, too!



Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*, Wilderness Park, August 12 2024 (Andy Dettling)



Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*, Platt & Morgan fluddle, August 17 2024 (Nui Moreland)

Less than week later, the county's second-ever **Marbled Godwit** was found at the fluddle along Platt Rd, just north of Morgan Rd. The bird stayed for much of the day and was enjoyed by many observers, even if it was quite far from the road. The first county record was in May 2005, so for most this was a welcome addition to their county list, and a handsome one at that.

### Non-Passerines

A **Gadwall** was reported from the area of Carpenter & Textile on 8/26, making for one of few local records for August. A few observers noted a small number of **American Black Ducks** towards the tail end of August, but at this time of year eclipse-plumaged Mallards can cause me identification challenges. A female **Common Merganser** hanging out at the Bridge Rd dam on 8/6 added to a recent string of summer records for this species.



Common Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Bridge Rd Dam, August 6 2024 (Bill Nolting)



Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*, Ford Heritage Park, July 7 2024 (Nui Moreland)

A couple of **Northern Bobwhites** were calling from the grassy margins of Ford Heritage Park for a week or so from 7/7 – 7/15. Even if undisputably wild bobwhite no longer occur in Washtenaw County, it was still a welcome sight and sound for many. Possible local nesters, a few **Common Nighthawks** were observed over five locations in early July. With southbound migration ramping up, numbers increased greatly during the final ten days of August, with as many as 36 reported over downtown Ypsilanti

on 8/24. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was vocal at the Maple Rd Troll Bridge from 7/8 – 7/16 and made for one of few non-migrant records away from the western tier of townships.

After going AWOL during June, the Lehman Rd **Common Gallinules** (up to four birds) reappeared in July and were seen through 8/13. Another gallinule was at Trinkle Marsh on 7/2; one more was at the Sharon Hollow Preserve on 7/23. A pair of **American Coots** was still at M-52 & Waldo on 7/17 – given the secretive nature of these birds, it is impossible to confirm whether they nested there or not. Trinkle Marsh also hosted a coot, on 7/21.



Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*, US-12 & Austin, August 23 2024 (Wonwoong Kim)



Least & Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla & pusilla*, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, August 18 2024 (Jocelyn Anderson)

Small numbers of **Semipalmated Plovers** migrated through Washtenaw County from 7/29: one was at the Vreeland Rd fluddle (7/29-8/6), another at the Platt & Morgan fluddle (7/30-8/6), two more were at Braun & Roehm (8/14), and one at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (8/25). The only **Wilson's Snipe** of the fall (so far) was a lone bird at the Vreeland Rd fluddle from 7/31 – 8/1. A **Stilt Sandpiper** delighted observers during the day it spent at the Platt & Morgan fluddle on 8/14. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** came through in quite good numbers, starting on 7/25 – they were found in as many as six sites, with up to nine individuals present at Domino's Farms on 7/25.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** continued their pattern of rather oddball occurrence over the summer – a flock of up to 17 birds showed up and stayed at Whitmore Lake from 7/24 – 8/3; a singleton was at Gallup Park on 7/28. As is to be expected, **Caspian Terns** were a reliable presence at North Bay Park from 7/15 on – as many as ten birds could be seen among the gulls on the logs there. The Bonies at Whitmore Lake were joined by a quartet of **Forster's Terns** starting 7/29; the last bird of this group departed on 8/14.



Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, Gallup Park, July 28 2024 (Joe Ventimiglia)



Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, North Bay Park, July 24 2024 (Chase Masters)

Not usually mentioned in this article, **Great Blue Herons** established a new county high count on 7/16, when 46 birds were counted at the rookery at Six Mile & US-23. As has become the norm over the past few years, Mary Beth Doyle Park was the place to go for **Black-crowned Night-Herons**: up to four birds of varying ages were there throughout the summer. Away from there, juveniles were seen at the Maple Rd Troll Bridge (8/17, one bird) and the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (8/21, two birds). Single **Northern Harriers** stayed into the summer; individual birds were seen at four different locations during August. The first southbound **Sharp-shinned Hawks** was seen at St. Joe's hospital on 8/28. **Red-shouldered Hawks** put in a good showing this summer and were seen in as many as nine spots spread throughout the county. Along with Pileated Woodpecker and the following

species, these woodland *buteos* have clearly benefitted from the maturing of our woodlots. To further illustrate that point, after their banner spring **Barred Owls** remained relatively easy to track down in a number of natural areas throughout the county (six in all).

Possibly indicating a nearby breeding attempt, a pair of **Merlins** was seen regularly in Ann Arbor's Pittsfield Village neighborhood from 7/26 on. Nearby, individual Merlins were seen at the Ann Arbor Landfill (8/23) and Mary Beth Doyle Park (8/25) – given the proximity of these sites to one another, these observations any well involve the same birds. Another pair was roosting on a high voltage powerline stanchion along Tower Rd, just north of Joy on 8/26. Unsurprisingly, the North Quad **Peregrine Falcons** were eBirded throughout the summer months. Away from there, one buzzed the shorebirds at the Vreeland Rd fluddle on 7/30 and another was over Independence Lake on 8/30.



Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, August 21 2024 (Bill Nolting)



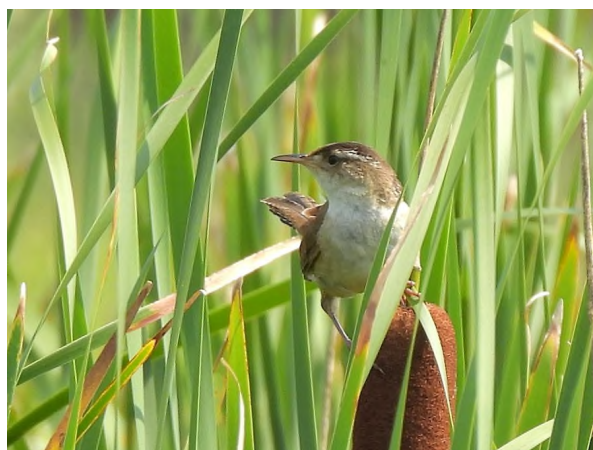
Merlin *Falco columbarius*, Pittsfield Village, July 28 2024 (Margaret Klauscher)

## Passerines

The fall migration pattern for **Olive-sided Flycatchers** pretty much was according to the norm, with the possible exception of an early bird that was reported from Gallup Park from 7/14 – 7/20. Other than that, single birds were seen at seven or eight different sites, where they sometimes stayed for rather extended periods of time. Similarly, the first of the fall's **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** appeared right on cue on 8/9 – slightly over half a dozen more were noted in the following weeks. **Blue-headed Vireos** were heard singing in at least five different locations well into July this year, indicating that at least some males may have set up territories and attempted nesting. The first of the fall's **Philadelphia Vireos** appeared on 8/23 at the Cherry Hill Preserve, where it stayed until the end of the month. Additional birds were at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens on 8/25 and in Whitmore Lake on 8/29.



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*, Chery Hill Preserve, August 27 2024 (Rita Laurance)



Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*, Conservancy Farm, July 21 2024 (Bill Nolting)

An early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was picked out among the other migrants at Chery Hill Preserve on 8/30. The last **Red-breasted Nuthatch** of the "spring" was at the Whitmore Lake Preserve on 7/1. After nearly two months of no reports, a smattering of "fall" reports came in: in Lodi Twp (8/20), at Crooked Lake (8/23), and at Orchard & Glendale in Ann Arbor (8/24) – perhaps these birds were dispersing local nesters, or maybe they are the vanguard of a coming irruption later this year; time will tell! A few **Brown Creepers** were noted in July, both on 7/13: at Crooked Lake and at Jackson & Longman on the west side of Ann Ar-

bor. **Sedge Wrens** were actively singing for a good portion of the summer in most, if not all, of the spots where they have been reliable in recent years (and where they were very much in evidence during the spring). **Marsh Wrens** continued to be vocal throughout the summer and were detected in nearly a dozen marshes over the summer – the maximum number was five, at LeFurge Woods on 7/9.

Now firmly established as an annually breeding species in Washtenaw County, **Northern Mockingbirds** were in evidence in at least seven sites throughout the county. As usual, the majority of these were in the southwestern townships, but there appears to be a slow spread to other parts of the county as well. With nesting season upon us, singing activity dropped off significantly, as evidenced by the fact that only one **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported, along Vreeland Rd on 7/6. By the same token, only one **Clay-colored Sparrow** was encountered, even if there are several known colonies in Washtenaw County these days – this bird was at Rolling Hills County Park on 7/2. **Vesper Sparrows**, however, continued to be vocal, particularly along Vreeland Rd, where three or four territories were established. The most recent eBird report was from 8/17. Extending their strong spring showing, up to five **Henslow's Sparrows** continued to sing in at least seven of the sites they were found during the spring months. Clearly, this is excellent news for a bird that is a species of concern in Michigan.



Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*, Sharon Mills CP, August 18 2024 (Sue Kurtz)



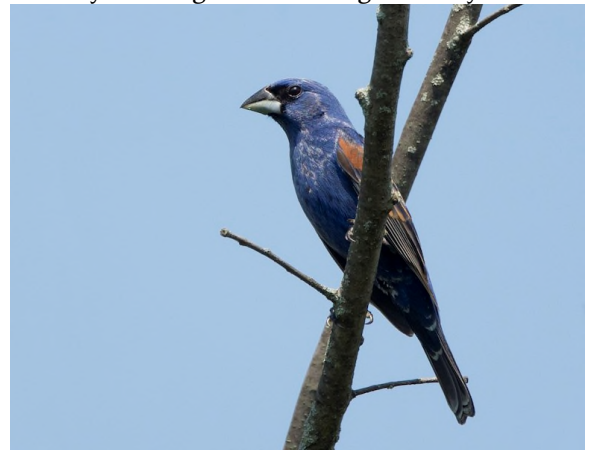
Henslow's Sparrow *Centronyx henslowii*, Sharonville West, July 6 2024 (Benjamin Kenway)

**Yellow-breasted Chats** are notoriously secretive and skulking, so it should come as no surprise that reports dropped off significantly once males stopped singing – only the (likely) pair at Sharonville West was seen during the summer months, on 7/6.

July was an exceedingly quiet month as far as wood-warblers were concerned – only eight species were eBirded during the month, indicating that the lack of singing negatively affected detection by local birders, considering the number of breeding species is around 15 or so. By contrast, species diversity increased by some measure, up to 28 in all, with the arrival of migrants from farther north. The **Northern Waterthrush** that was at the Matthaai Botanical Gardens on 8/13 was likely the first of southbound migrants. An increase in coverage at both the Cherry Hill Preserve and the Botanical Gardens resulted in the uncovering of **Golden-winged Warblers** in these locations – both hosted fine-looking males, on the final two days of August at the former, and on 8/31 only at the latter. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was still singing heartily at the Forest Nature Area on 7/3, other than that the only sighting was at Hudson Mills MP on 8/11. More evidence of how good the birding was at the Cherry Hill Preserve during the final week of August was the presence of a male **Mourning Warbler** there on 8/28. Another was at Nichols Arboretum on 8/29, to the delight of the participants of the weekly Thursday morning Arb walks organized by WBNA.

The Embury Rd area was the place to go for **Cerulean Warblers** – up to four males were on territory there through at least 7/24. Nearby Park Lyndon North hosted another male until 7/14. Mid-August saw the arrival of the first southbound **Canada Warbler** – over the next two weeks observers spotted them in four locations, but odds are that number will increase as more birds head south during September. Wilson's Warblers arrived a week later and were slightly more common: one or two spent varying amounts of time in a half dozen different spots.

The Sharon Mills CP **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen throughout the summer and likely nested successfully yet again. By all appearances, **Dickcissels** had an okay nesting season, even if they were not particularly widespread. There were three males at Steinbach & Textile through 7/21, at least two at the Sharonville SGA until 7/22, and as many as ten birds at what appears to now be their main Washtenaw County colony at Sharon Mills CP. These birds were present through at least 8/12.



Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*, Sharon Mills CP, July 12 2024 (Michael Bowen)



## Field Trip Calendar

### Thursday Fall Migration Walks at Nichols Arboretum

**Sep 26 – Oct 31, 8:00 am - 11:00 am**

Join us Thursday mornings through October at Nichols Arboretum as we search for fall migrants. 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 flora offer delights of their own.

Curious about what birds you may see? Explore photos taken at the Arb in the months of September and October here. Or view an eBird illustrated checklist for September at the Arb here.

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.

All are welcome and encouraged to join us. 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.

### Restoration Workday at Searles Nature Preserve

**Saturday, 9/28, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Saturday, 10/26, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Saturday, 11/23, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

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://tinyl.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. Please bring leather work gloves, 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](#)).

### Weekend Walk for Birds at The Arb

**Sunday, 9/29, 8:00 am - 10:30 am**

September is the peak of fall warbler migration and Nichols Arboretum is the best place in Ann Arbor to find them! Join us as we walk this familiar hotspot to see what gems we will find.

Curious about what birds you may see? Explore photos taken at the Arb in the months of [September and October here](#). Or, view an eBird illustrated checklist for [September at the Arb here](#).

**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

### Moth Night at Natural Area Preservation

**Friday, 10/4, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Join us as the City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation hosts our LAST moth night of the year at South Pond Nature Area. 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.

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

Longtime friends of WBNA, 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:** Natural Area Preservation parking lot at 3875 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor ([map](#)).

### The Big Sit! at Independence Lake County Park

**Saturday, 10/12, 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. More information on The Big Sit! here. Join 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, 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.

**Directions:** 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. ([map](#))

**Leader:** Jacco Gelderloos

### **Waterfowl at Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve** **Sunday, 10/27, 9:00 am - 11:30 am**

This gem features beautiful rolling land covered in a mixture of open meadow, mixed hardwoods, low wetland areas, open water, and the property's most popular feature, Watkins Lake. Watkins Lake has been designated a Waterfowl Refuge by MDNR due to the significant habitat provided for migrating and breeding birds; many species of ducks, geese, grebes, and more may be seen, especially in spring and fall. The park also has historical significance as being part of the Underground Railroad and being awarded membership to the Network to Freedom program through the National Park Service ([read more here](#)).

**Directions:** A Recreation Passport is required for each vehicle entering the park. Meet at the main parking lot on Arnold Rd ([map](#)).

**Carpooling:** For those interested in carpooling, we will depart from the Miller Road Park and Ride ([map](#)) at 8:15 am.

**Leaders:** Juliet Berger and Matthew Spoor

### **Waterfowl Walk at Crosswinds Marsh** **Sunday, 11/17, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Join us for this Wayne County waterfowl hotspot. Crosswinds Marsh is one of the largest man-made wetlands in the country. It was built to replace the wetlands that were going to be paved over to expand Wayne County's Detroit Metro Airport. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality required the airport to move away any threatened or endangered plants and animals and create one-and-a-half acres of new wetlands for every one-acre impacted by the construction.

**Directions:** Drive I-275 to Exit #8 (Flat Rock / Will Carleton Road). Exit highway and head west on Will Carleton Road. Drive 3.5 miles to Haggerty Road. Turn right (north) onto Haggerty Road. Drive approximately ½ mile to the park entrance, located on the left-hand side. The address is 27600 Haggerty Road in New Boston. The address is 27600 Haggerty Road in New Boston.

**Leaders:** Matthew Spoor & Juliet Berger

### **Belle Isle State Park with Oakland Bird Alliance** **Saturday, 11/23, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Join WBNA friends and Oakland Bird Alliance for a tour of this State Park, a gem on the Detroit River. We'll search for waterfowl, gulls, waders, raptors and other goodies on the river and in the woods. We'll tour mostly by car but will stop and get out with scopes and binoculars. A mile long walk in the interior is planned for migrating songbirds and other feathered friends.

**Directions:** Meet at the Nature Center parking lot ([map](#)) at 8 am sharp. For those interested in carpooling, we will meet at the Plymouth Road Park and Ride ([map](#)) for a 7:00 am departure. A State Park Recreation Passport is required to drive on the island.

**Leaders:** Don Burlett & Jeff Stacy

### **Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count** **Saturday, 12/21, all day event**

Save the date for the 79<sup>th</sup> edition of the Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count. This day-long census of the birdlife in a circle centered around the Foster Rd bridge is a small part of a huge and long-running citizen science event organized by the National Audubon Society. Keep an eye on the CBC page on the WBNA website and join us for a day of birding, capped off by the traditional potluck-tally event at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

**Compiler:** Jacco Gelderloos



#### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

The birds Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance 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 B&NA 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 washtenawbna.org](http://washtenawbna.org)

## Education Chair Update

The past summer was filled with educational opportunities. On July 18, Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance partnered with the Huron River Watershed Council and the Parkridge Community Center in Ypsilanti to do a joint bird and water field trip for the summer camp students. At North Bay Park, the students got to take water turbidity measurements and look for common birds in the area. Many students even witnessed a Great Blue Heron swallow a juvenile snapping turtle! Later in the month, WBNA held a birdwatching booth at the Ypsilanti District Library STEM day. At this event, students and families could try their hand at finding birds around the library. We hope to continue these partnerships in the future as they are great opportunities to work with youth in underserved areas.



Our BIPOC walks continue once a month and we are trying to do joint walks with different groups of color. This summer, we held a walk with the Taiwanese walking group of Ann Arbor at Gallup Park. In addition to meeting many folks from all over, another highlight was getting to see a hummingbird clearwing moth at Cherry Hill Preserve. Be on the lookout for more walks happening this fall and winter!



Scenes from the walk with the Huron Watershed (top) and the Taiwanese Walking Group (bottom left) (*Victor Chen*); Hummingbird Clearwing Moth (*Nui Moreland*)

If you have BIPOC walking groups that would like to join up with our group, or have educational opportunities that you'd like WBNA to help out with, please e-mail Victor at [education@washtenawbna.org](mailto:education@washtenawbna.org).

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—WBNA 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:** WBNA will only use your email address to communicate with you about WBNA programs, field trips, or matters of interest to you, such as membership renewal and emailed WBNA 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 Youtube 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, October 16, 6:00 p.m.**

**Birding Taiwan, with Victor Chen**

Join Victor Chen for an informative presentation on the birds and beauty of Taiwan. Victor teaches chemistry at Thurston High School in Redford and is the education chair of the Washtenaw Bird and Nature Alliance. He leads educational programs and BIPOC walks for WBNA, hoping to bring more youth and people of color to the outdoors. Although he has visited his extended family in Taiwan in the past, this was his first time as a birder. In this presentation, he will share some of the birds and other natural beauty he saw during his family's trip to Taiwan.

**Wednesday, November 20, 6:00 p.m.**

**Recent Bird Strike Research & policy, with Heidi Trudell**

Join us for a look back at how far window collision prevention has come, updates on policies, and new technologies being explored. 44% of window strikes happen at homes, and 56% happen at low-rise buildings. Birds that survive impact have a less than 40% chance of recovery. Over a billion birds are killed each year in the US alone, when they collide with glass structures; with native bird populations in steep decline, it's critical to take immediate action to reduce the human threats to their survival. Learn more about what government organizations, nonprofits, academic researchers, and industry partners are doing to move towards a safer world for birds. Bird safe building codes are being passed all across the continent, it's up to individuals to educate their representatives on the topic and push for better standards.

Heidi Trudell is tired of picking up dead birds. As a biologist turned architectural consultant, Heidi has been involved with bird/window collision research and prevention since 2003. They have been consulting with architects, the glass industry, municipalities, and campuses globally since 2015, and as of March 2024, have accepted a position as a technical advisor within Guardian Glass as Bird Friendly Specialist. Their passion for bird conservation has led to serving on Safe Passage and conservation committees for organizations in the Great Lakes region, as well as starting the Facebook groups "Just Save Birds" and "Dead Birds 4 Science!" For wildlife emergencies, see [ahnow.org](http://ahnow.org) - or the Animal Help Now app.

## Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance

P.O. Box 130923

Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0923