



# THE NUTHATCH

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## Thailand: The Land of Smiles

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Don Burlett

Yes, Thailand is called “the Land of Smiles.” And for nature lovers and tourists, there are plenty of reasons—beautiful temples, wonderful natural areas, nice weather, tasty food, friendly people, and lots of great birds. Come along for a tour of various parts of Thailand and learn a bit about the many bird families found in Thailand.



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## Glacier National Park

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Gordon Lonie

Much has been written about the melting of the glaciers in Glacier National Park. However, there is much more of interest in the park than just its namesake. Retired naturalist Gordon Lonie will show us the many sights of one of our most spectacular national parks.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Evolution – On Many Scales

Evolution is a concept that has been widely accepted by the scientific community. It is the slow change of any population or organism that allows it to survive in perpetuity. We all know of the Hawaiian finches that evolved from a single species and now show significantly different forms and food preferences. We feel it happening all the time, even now as the populations of birds change and locations change. On the timescale of our lives, these changes are less noticeable in nature. But in looking back in time, we can see the changes.

The same can be said for countries, governments, etc. These all change as the necessity calls for it. So too must an organization like ours. As we move along year after year, the nature of our organization changes. New members come along to replace those that leave the organization. The same is the case with the leaders of the organization. The recent departure of several members of the board points to this fact. So we adapt to the new people who come on board. They bring new perspectives and ideas for the organization. This is all healthy because the needs of the members will also change with time. And, if we are to remain relevant and to provide the service toward our stated mission -- “to provide, on a local level, access to the natural world through educational programs such as meetings, field trips, and a newsletter” and “to advocate the preservation of wildlife habitats and endeavor to create interest in native birds, other animals and plants in Michigan” -- then we should evolve with the nature of our world, the organizations and government that rule our area and the people who we seek to serve.

I am always asking for feedback from our members. I want to know what their interests are, what we are doing to provide what they want and how we can do better at reaching our goals. We will be conducting a membership survey this fall to ask these very questions. Please do take a few moments to reflect on your Oakland Audubon membership and the organization. We want and need your input to make sure we are doing our best for all your interests.

I also suggest that you take a moment to talk to a board member and learn about them and how they are working within the organization to help with our goals. They'd be glad to know you are interested and would appreciate the feedback. Only good can come from a real interaction between the organization's governing group and the membership at large.

So, welcome to another program year with Oakland Audubon. We hope that our programs, field trips, newsletter, and website are serving you and your interests. Let us know so we can evolve in the best ways possible.

Don Burlett

*Page one banner credits: Saw-wing Moth by Caryle Spence, Checkered White and Mourning Cloak by Robert Epstein, White-lined Sphinx Moth by Joan Tisdale*

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at [www.oaklandaudubon.org](http://www.oaklandaudubon.org))

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
Saturday, September 5 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.	Hudson Mills Metropark	Karen Markey
Saturday, September 19 12:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Nuthatch Open	Jeff Stacey
Sunday, October 11 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	Bay City SRA/Tobico Marsh	Don Burlett



*Blue-ringed Dancer damselfly by Joan Tisdale*

## OPTICS EXTRAVAGANZA

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

At our September membership meeting we will be having a special display of birding optics for you to try out. We've assembled a collection of binoculars and spotting scopes from our members who have agreed to allow us all to examine them and ask questions. If you're thinking of upgrading your optics or just wondering how other brands compare to yours, this is the perfect opportunity to get your hands on them for a few minutes. We plan to have them set up by 7:00 pm, so come early and have some fun before the meeting.



*Photo by Gerlos*

*via Flickr Creative Commons License*

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### April 11, 2015—Chrysler Survey—Leader: Don Burlett

It was a very nice April day when we revisited the Chrysler grounds to continue to support their Wildlife at Work certification. We surveyed the grounds near the ball field and also went into the evaluation drive where the Great Blue Herons have a heronry. We were rewarded for our efforts with a variety of birds. On the water near the heronry, we had Pied-billed Grebes, Wood Ducks, Mallards, and Ring-necked Ducks. We also had Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Flyovers included Double-crested Cormorant, Sandhill Crane, and Ring-billed Gull. Passerines included Woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Northern Flicker), chickadees, titmouse, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, lots of Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and sparrows (Song, Swamp, Chipping). All totaled, we had 9 birders and 41 species on a limited visit.

### April 18-19, 2015—Berrien County Weekend Trip—Leader: Don Burlett

On Saturday, we headed to Berrien County because it is a popular location for early spring migrants. We started at the beach in New Buffalo and there were no surprises waiting for us this time. But we did see Common Loon, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes and some gulls and ducks. We next headed to Buffalo Road, a sprawling area of farm fields. Here we encountered a large number of Brewer's Blackbirds and breeding-plumaged Lapland Longspurs. Unfortunately, no Smith's Longspurs were present. We then went to the Galien River Floodplain. Here, we were rewarded by a few warblers (Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated, Pine, and Louisiana Waterthrush). We also got a few raptors (Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Cooper's, and Broad-winged Hawks, and American Kestrel). Also, we got a number of looks at Brown Thrashers which were plentiful.



*Brown Thrasher by  
Joan Tisdale*

After enjoying a warm morning, we headed to the Galien River Park's Canopy Boardwalk. We discovered cool temperatures and a few nice birds. Then we headed north up to St. Joseph to the high school grounds where we eventually caught up with a Fish Crow that had been reported in the area. Now that was a reward! We also birded Tiscornia and Warren Woods. It was a nice Saturday afield.

On Sunday, we headed to the SW Michigan Regional Airport to look for Western Meadowlark, which we heard but didn't see. From there, we went to Sabo Nature Center near Kalamazoo and then to the Kalamazoo Nature Center. We added a number of species and ran our total for the weekend to 81 species. It was a nice trip and fun to socialize in the evening.

### April 24-26, 2015 – Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Spring Fling—Leader: Don Burlett

This was a loosely organized field trip, allowing people to come along and select the field activities and lectures they were interested in. A small core of people hung out and did a number of things together. We left on Friday morning and headed north. Along the way we found a large group of Tundra Swans in a field, a few ducks (Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Mallard) and some raptors for the day (Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Broad-winged, Red-tailed, American Kestrel, and Merlin). We also added a few game birds (Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse) and were greeted at Whitefish Point by a group of Fox Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins.

Saturday began with an early breakfast and a walk around the point. What was surprising was the amount of ice on Lake Superior and the amount of snow still on the ground. Felt like winter birding to us! Common Loons, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers and ducks (Mallard, Bufflehead, Greater Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks) were there.

With migration taking place, a number of raptors were in the area including Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned and Rough-legged Hawks, and American Kestrel. One nice reward for being out was a male Evening Grosbeak singing near the Observatory office. We attended several seminars before lunch and did some afternoon birding around the area. In the evening, after an enjoyable lecture on Project Snowstorm, we went to the observation platform to watch for migrating owls but to no avail.

On Sunday morning, we got to the office early to see a banded Boreal and Northern Saw-whet Owls. Very nice up-close looks at these two small owls. We had a walk with Scott Weidensaul before rounding out the weekend with a little local birding. For "winter-type" birding, it was good to have 78 species for the weekend.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS *(continued)*

### May 2, 2015 - Point Pelee Field Trip—Leader: Don Burlett

A nice May day greeted us as we gathered to head across to Canada. We found this to be an odd day for birding. We got a few really nice birds but it was one of the worst spring warbler days we could recall. Incredibly, we had a single Yellow Warbler for the entire day! Wow, never would have imagined that at Point Pelee. But it did make sense as there had been almost a week without south winds. Everything was bottled up across the lake. We did get a Common Nighthawk sitting on a stick just off a trail. We also had an Eared Grebe just out into the water. An Orchard Oriole rounded out the Point Pelee birds.

We also went to Hillman Marsh to check out the shorebirds and got a number of Black-bellied Plovers there amongst a number of other shorebirds. A daily tally of 63 species was the result of some hard work.



*Black-bellied Plover by Joan Tisdale*

### May 9, 2015 - Magee Marsh Field Trip—Leader: Don Burlett

Magee Marsh was Magee Marsh – packed with people and things going on. Of course, warblers were around but the numbers were a bit low. Also, there were some species that just didn't show up. We did get our usual collection of warblers (Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Palm, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Prothonotary, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded) without any real eye-poppers. Typical were only two vireos, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and others. At least the thrushes were well represented – Veery, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, Hermit, and Robin.

Overall, it was less than hoped for but still a good day. We had 90 species for the day.

### May 16-17, 2015 - Michigan Audubon Tawas Festival—Leader - Don Burlett

This was another loosely organized weekend trip. With various field trips and seminars, it was a little difficult to nail down one group. However, a core of several people made up the "main group" and we proceeded.

Friday night started with the Birder's Social, featuring a very interesting and amusing Bill Thompson III.

On Saturday morning, we did a carpool trip led by Matt Hegwood to a grassland area near Oscoda (an airport area) and nearby Clark's Marsh. This began by us seeing a late (really late) Snowy Owl. He was a mature, pure white male. Wow!! Then we added Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper and more. Great stuff. At Clark's Marsh we added a number of warblers and other woodland birds. The afternoon had a few seminars and some other interesting information. We also mixed in a walk to Tawas Point looking for migrants. A Golden-winged Warbler was one of the highlights of this walk. After dinner, we took a bus to Tuttle Marsh where we added a few marsh species and, most importantly, both American Woodcock and Whip-poor-will. A fine evening by any standards. Overall, it was a most productive day, netting 114 species and getting many species we missed a week earlier.



*Upland Sandpiper  
by Robert Epstein*

Sunday morning, we walked to the Point and found even more species that had eluded us the day before. These included Pine Siskin, Cedar Waxwing and others. This included 22 warblers for the weekend. All totaled, a fine weekend with 132 species. That, in spite of fog that made some birds difficult to see, on both Saturday and Sunday. We highly recommend this outing. It's a great location and easy birding all around.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS *(continued)*

### **May 23, 2015 – Port Huron State Game Area Field Trip—Leaders: Dave Frye and Don Burlett**

We met at a parking lot near McDonald's off I-69 and headed north to several spots. The first stop was Shoefelt Road. Here we were immediately greeted by an Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Blue-winged Warbler. More warblers and thrushes were about. A Summer Tanager was another highlight of this stop. Thanks to Allen Chartier's great ears, we found a number of nice species. After this stop, we headed to the Black River trail off Rt. 136. A number of local species including Mourning Warbler were about. Also heard was a Cerulean Warbler. We had 15 warblers for the day. After a quick lunch, we headed to the Ruby Hemlock Grove via a trail along the river. A number of other species were present. We ended the day doing some field and road walking in the northern part of the area, off Hewitt and Graham Roads. It was a nice, sunny day and we totaled 76 species for the day.

### **May 31, 2015 – Wild Card Field Trip – Nyanquing SGA/Shiawassee NWR—Leader: Ed Lewandowski**

When the day dawned for this wild card field trip, it was actually a good thing that the trip was indeterminate beforehand. The weather was rainy, cool and windy in the Oakland County area but it had cleared out farther north. So the courageous five birders who showed up headed north after a brief stop at Ortonville Recreation area for Cerulean Warblers.

At Nyanquing SGA, we were rewarded for our determination to go birding. We immediately had a Glossy Ibis, then a Least Bittern, then American Bittern (three in total – at times suspended in air with the wind that was howling) and then 8 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. We also added several gulls, four terns, Sandhill Cranes and a number of other species. It was just great in spite of the wind blowing.

After a good session there, we broke for lunch at the "Turkey Roost" restaurant. Good food and good times. After that, we headed to Shiawassee NWR and had more great birds as we walked the Bayou trail up to the observation tower. A highlight was a group of young Hooded Mergansers with their mom.

A fine day with 79 species, in spite of the weather that surely deterred a number of possible participants.

### **June 6, 2015 – Orion Oaks Grassland Bird Field Trip—Leaders: Nancy Tar and Dave Frye**

This trip, in coordination with Oakland County Parks, has become a staple of the late spring. The grassland habitat is very nice, along with some nice woods. As usual, a number of birds were observed including Field, Song, Vesper and Chipping Sparrows, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Towhee, Great Crested Flycatcher and Broad-winged Hawk. This trip was well attended (22 participants) and totaled 46 species for the morning session.

### **June 13, 2015 – Oak Openings (Toledo) Field Trip—Leader: Don Burlett**

Another trip that we have done several times in recent years is a visit to the grassland and woods of this Toledo Metropark. We met at the Nature Center and proceeded directly to the Girdham Road area to search for specialties of the area. We were immediately greeted by a handful of Red-headed Woodpecker, Chipping Sparrow and other birds. As we continued to walk, we found the resident Lark Sparrows around. We also did well with cuckoos (both Yellow-billed and Black-billed), flycatchers (Great Crested, Willow, Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Wood-Pewee), woodpeckers (Hairy, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Northern Flicker), vireos (Yellow-throated, Warbling, Red-eyed) and sparrows (Lark, Field, Grasshopper, Chipping, Song). We also added both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. We did search high and low for a previously reported Blue Grosbeak but to no avail. The ten birders totaled 52 species for this early summer day.

### **July 11, 2015 – Indian Springs Metropark—Leaders: Joan Tisdale and Doris Applebaum**

A group of ten folks spent a warm and sunny morning and early afternoon searching the ponds and fields for butterflies and dragonflies. We saw a total of 15 species of butterflies and 17 species of damselflies and dragonflies. Common Wood-Nymph and Clouded Sulphur butterflies were abundant and many Eastern Tailed-Blues and Great Spangled Fritillaries were seen as well. Everyone enjoyed finding dragonflies on the ponds and in the fields and watching several species mate and the female deposit her eggs in the pond. Calico Pennants and Widow Skimmers were abundant and a Frosted Whiteface was a "life" dragonfly for many attendees.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

**Date: April 23, 2015**

The name of our bank (Charter One) will be changed to Citizens Bank, but we don't expect any change in our account.

Carolyn Beauvais has unexpectedly had to resign as Program Officer. Margaret Moran and Doris Applebaum will revert to their previous positions as Program Co-Officers until a replacement is named.

Membership Officer Dave Frye reported that our membership number is healthy again, on a par with last year. This includes 37 new members, many more than last year.

We will do more publicizing of this year's Nuthatch Open than in previous years. We also plan to do more publicizing of our Young Birders Club.

We were disappointed to learn that a moratorium on wind-power development in Huron County, which we supported, was passed—but the company that is planning a wind development was given an exemption (!).

At the September membership meeting, we plan to have a table with various kinds of binoculars and spotting scopes available for people to check out personally—more useful than looking at pictures in a magazine article or catalog.

**Date: June 20, 2015**

We are searching for a new Program Officer to replace Carolyn Beauvais, who had to resign unexpectedly. Before leaving, Carolyn scheduled the Leslie Science Center for a program with live owls for February 2016, and she paid for the speaker fee as a donation to OAS.

We are also losing our newsletter editor, Kim Smith, who will be leaving Michigan for a new job. A search is under way for her replacement.

Membership Officer Dave Frye reported that while our overall membership number is down from 2014, there are 40 new members included in the total.

Field Trip Officer Jeff Stacey reported that field trips have been scheduled through the end of 2015. Planning for the Nuthatch Open on September 19 is under way.

It was decided that beginning in 2016, for field trips or other events that have a limited number of participants, priority will be given to OAS members as opposed to nonmembers.

A committee will be formed to come up with ideas on how OAS might help fund important conservation/wildlife projects.

Social Media Administrator Janet Hug reported that our Facebook page now has 457 "likes."

Website Co-Editor Joan Tisdale plans to begin a new photo gallery in the fall, featuring reptiles and amphibians.

OAS has received a donation of \$500 from the Chrysler Foundation. This is a thank-you for helping their World Headquarters obtain a "Wildlife at Work" certification, by conducting surveys to verify the wildlife and plants that can be found on that property.

OAS members will be invited to participate in a computer-generated membership survey, expected to start in mid-September.

Plans are well under way for the display of optics (binoculars and scopes) to be available at the September 8 membership meeting.

Doris Applebaum, Secretary

## OAS BOARD MEMBERS

### Elected Officers

President	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea13@netzero.net
Secretary	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elaine Ferguson	(248) 470-2212	elaine127.ef@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Dave Frye	(248) 627-5650	kestrel11dcf@gmail.com
Field Trip Officer	Jeff Stacey	(248)798-0508	jdstacey@ameritech.net
Program Officer	OPEN		

### Appointed Officers

Program Co-Chair	Doris Applebaum	(248) 542-2506	ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
Program Co-Chair	Margaret Moran	(248) 646-7387	marmo48009@sbcglobal.net
Young Birders Club Rep.	OPEN		
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity/Fundraising	Phil Bugosh	(248) 763-3163	peb729@gmail.com
Web Co-Editor	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea13@netzero.net
Web Co-Editor	Joan Tisdale	(248) 258-6585	tisdalej@att.net
Social Media Administrator	Janet Hug	(248) 736-2839	jkissnhug@comcast.net
Nuthatch Editor	OPEN		
Seven Ponds Rep.	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikaltea13@netzero.net

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## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., Sept. 8	7:30 p.m.	Thailand: The Land of Smiles	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., Oct. 13	7:30 p.m.	Glacier National Park	First United Methodist Church (see below)

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December, June, July and August) at 7:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham, Children's Center (Room 132). The facility is located on the south side of Maple Road between Southfield and Cranbrook Roads. There is plenty of lighted, free parking and barrier-free access. Our meetings are free and open to the public. For meeting cancellation information, check our website, call a board member or call the church at (248) 646-1200.



*I know that mockingbirds mimic the songs of other species, but are there other birds that do this too? What are the reasons for this behavior?*

The Northern Mockingbird is in the family Mimidae, which contains 34 species – 18 mockingbirds, 14 thrashers, and 2 tremblers – all found in the New World (North, Central, and South America and the West Indies). Three species breed in Michigan, the Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, and of course Northern Mockingbird. They are currently classified as most closely related to the Starlings and Mynas; more on them later. The family name is derived from the word “mimic”, and all species in this family are known for their rich, varied, and complex songs, and most species are known to mimic the songs of other bird species, to varying degrees, and other sounds as well. According to the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Cody 2005) the White-banded Mockingbird of southern South America is the best mimic, while the Bahama Mockingbird is not known to mimic other species. It is generally thought that a rich and varied song is a sign of fitness, and thus the evolutionary pressure of sexual selection has resulted in males improvising by adding imitations to their song repertoires to impress females. Mimids are also unusual among songbirds in that females of a few species also sing the primary song, but do not incorporate mimicry in their repertoires.



*Northern Mockingbird  
by Robert Epstein*

Thrushes (family Turdidae) are also well known for their beautiful, varied and complex songs, and a few species are known for their mimicry skills. Comprising more than 300 species in four subfamilies,



*European Starling by Allen Chartier*

they are found on six continents, and at least 78 species are known to incorporate mimicry in their songs (Collar, N.J. 2005). Among South American thrushes, mimicry is limited, with one notable exception. The Lawrence’s Thrush (*Turdus lawrencii*), a little-known Amazonian species, is known to have individuals incorporating imitations of 35 other species in their vocal repertoires, and imitations of 173 species of a broad range of taxonomic groups documented for the species! Also, the quality of the imitations is extremely good, making the Lawrence’s Thrush one of the most accomplished mimics in the world. Other extremely accomplished mimics are in the Lyrebird family (Menuridae), consisting of two species found in Australia. The more

accomplished of the two, the Superb Lyrebird, has not only a stunning visual display which is generally lacking in most other mimics around the world, but its song often consists of 70-80% mimicry, going on for several minutes at a time, and frequently also incorporating man-made and mechanical sounds (Lill 2004).

*Continued on next page—>>*

## NATURE NOTES *(Continued)*

Starlings and Mynas (family Sturnidae) are also well known as mimics; everyone knows about the Hill Myna sold in pet stores that can imitate human speech. But as birders, we're also familiar with the imitations of our introduced European Starlings that seem to occur just a tad too early for the real species to turn up. For example, they will imitate Killdeers and Eastern Meadowlarks in January, and Eastern Wood-Pewees in March, perhaps remembering these sounds from previous years. They can also imitate human speech in captivity.

But evolution by sexual selection on expanding vocal repertoires is not the only explanation for mimicry. We also know that parrots (family Psittacidae) can be trained to imitate human speech, but in the wild they are almost never heard to use mimicry. And jays and crows (family Corvidae) also use mimicry,

with the well-known example of Blue Jays using imitations of raptor voices to scare other birds away from food sources. And once again, crows and ravens can be trained to imitate human speech.



*Blue Jay by Joan Tisdale*

So, in conclusion, quite a number of songbirds are known to use mimicry in their vocal repertoires, for various purposes, including additional families of birds not mentioned above. But in general, a comprehensive explanation of avian vocal mimicry has not yet been put forward and accepted. An interesting place to listen to a lot of bird songs online is Xeno-Canto ([www.xeno-canto.org](http://www.xeno-canto.org)). A good place to start would be to "explore" "by taxonomy" and find the

Mimidae in the list, where you will find more than 1400 recordings of 33 species (<http://www.xeno-canto.org/explore/taxonomy?f=Mimidae>).

### References

Cody, M.L. 2005. Family Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers). Pg. 448-477. In del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., and Christie, D.A. eds (2005). *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. Vol. 10. Cuckoo-shrikes to Thrushes. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.

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Lill, A. 2004. Family Menuridae (Lyrebirds). Pg. 484-495. In del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., and Christie, D.A. eds (2005). *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. Vol. 9. Cotingas to Pipits and Wagtails. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.

*If you have a question you would like Allen to answer in a future Nature Notes column, please send it to Don Burlett.*

**OFFICER/CHAIR POSITIONS  
AVAILABLE**

If you are motivated to contribute to the Oakland Audubon Society, there are a few positions open as these folks are moving on for different reasons. Here is a listing of open positions and a brief description of the roles. Please contact Don Burlett if you have interest. We want motivated people who want to make a difference in our organization.

**Program Officer** – This job involves scouting out speakers for programs and working with a small committee to assure that our monthly program schedule is flush with good programs. Our current schedule is complete for the next 10 months so the pressure is low when this position is filled.

**Newsletter Editor** – This position calls for a computer-literate person to work with Microsoft Publisher to assemble the 5 newsletters issued each year. The role involves working with the board and others to keep the information flowing. We produce both a color electronic version and a printed black-and-white version, which is printed commercially and mailed out. Communication skills are important for getting this job done.

**Co-Coordinator of the Young Birders Club** – This position involves working with another coordinator to assemble programs that will attract young birders to participate in nature/birding activities. Some publicity and communication skills will be useful. This will be coordinated with the President. An imagination and understanding of young people is essential for this role.

Please contact President Don Burlett to express interest in any of these positions. The Program Officer spot needs to be an Oakland Audubon member while the other two spots are suggested to be members. You can always join when you take a spot also.

**MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE**

Our membership drive for 2016 has begun!  
Please use the form on page 13 to pay your dues.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST  
OAKLAND AUDUBON MEMBERS!**

Connie Zatsick  
Gerald Tongo  
Linda & Casey Seley  
Barbara & Jim Reed  
Jonathan Rea & family  
Angela Rayner & family  
Benjamin Prowse  
Jacqueline Mannino  
Guadalupe Cummins  
Maryann Anderson

Thanks to everyone who helps sustain OAS with your membership contributions. We would be nowhere without you!



*American Lady by Janet Hug*

## BIRD ID QUIZ

Who am I?



(A) \_\_\_\_\_



(B) \_\_\_\_\_



(C) \_\_\_\_\_

*Photo credits: A by Joan Tisdale; B and C by Robert Epstein*

### **May/June Answers**

(A) Louisiana Waterthrush; (B) Northern Waterthrush; (C) Ovenbird



# OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate with an (X) in the box any personal information above you do not want listed in the OAS membership directory.

Check also if you are a member of:

\_\_\_\_ National Audubon Society

\_\_\_\_ Michigan Audubon Society

**OAS needs and welcomes volunteers — please participate if you can!**

Check if you have the skills to help:

\_\_\_\_ Become a board member

\_\_\_\_ Lead a field trip or present a program

\_\_\_\_ Fill an open position (Position: \_\_\_\_\_)

Please check appropriate line:

\_\_\_\_ Member renewal

\_\_\_\_ New member

\_\_\_\_ Change of address

## *OAS Membership Fees*

- Individual      \$15
- Family          \$20
- Contributing    \$25
- Supporting      \$50
- Benefactor     \$100

## *Our Mission*

- To provide, on a local level, access to the natural world through educational programs such as meetings and field trips.
- To advocate the preservation of wildlife habitats and endeavor to create interest in native birds, other animals and plants in Michigan.

Please make checks payable to:  
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