The Native Fishes of Michigan

Tuesday, January 12, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Bob Muller

Michigan is a fisherman's delight. However, not all of our fishes are candidates for the frying pan. There are many kinds of fishes in our state's waters that most of us never see. Bob Muller of the Royal Oak Nature Society will introduce us to some interesting and surprisingly lovely examples.

Night Crew

Tuesday, February 9, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Leslie Science and Nature Center Presentation

Staff from the Leslie Science and Nature Center in Ann Arbor will have live owls for us to meet as they tell us what makes these birds such an interesting part of our native wildlife. Don't miss this special evening as we get up close and personal with the denizens of the night.
Preparation

As winter unfolds, we start looking at the coming year. Another set of challenges face us and we are already working on them all. What makes them possible is being as prepared as possible. That's what the Board is for and all the various groups that work to provide the activities that make us who we are.

The program committee is obviously prepared, as we already are booking speakers for 2017! Yes, I said 2017. The speaker schedule for 2016 is already filled out and we are already booking speakers far in advance. And we have listened to the feedback we have gotten. You'll be seeing many programs on birds, insects, other animals and other topics. We are working to provide a nice variety of programs — something for everyone.

The Field Trip committee has put together an impressive schedule for the group. We have a number of very interesting trips and we have introduced a new series to be led by Mike Mencotti. These will be very instructive and provide new insights into birds, their behavior and some things about their life during the seasons. You'll also notice the lineup of field trip leaders has grown and we really are expecting great things from these folks. Let's keep supporting their efforts.

The survey that we just conducted this fall has provided some insight — some things we had a pretty good idea about and a few new tidbits. We will be paying attention to these and hope to continue to grow the organization through our programs and efforts. Watch for opportunities to get involved with conservation efforts, educational opportunities and other new efforts.

As always, the website and newsletter are featured items. I can't say enough about the website, especially the photo gallery that continues to grow. Not only birds, butterflies and dragonflies but reptiles and amphibians. Who knows, we might be into insects or plants or many other things over the years to come. You might not need a field guide if you can get to our website. The newsletter is transitioning to a new editor. I did one issue before Mike Dougherty has taken over. We hope he enjoys this work and can stay a little while in this position.

As President, I also have the job to keep some of our board positions filled with active and energetic folks. We still need a Program Officer and a leader for the Young Birders program. We have seen a few responses to my pleas but we don't have the group to handle the Young Birders nailed down. We hope to have a committee of individuals to work with the Owlets leader to get a new set of programs going and to move forward. Please let me know if you want to help. This is a priority for me.

All these things are in preparation for a brand new year. I am personally preparing for a lesser workload this year and some additional travel. That will help me prepare for some work with all these folks. It’s all for you. So come out and see how really prepared we are.

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope the Holidays were enjoyable and relaxing. It's time to get going on those New Year lists and new goals of birds to see. Let us be part of all that. See you soon.

Don Burlett

Page one banner credits:

*Long-tailed Ducks—John Meyland, Dark-eyed Junco—Mike Dougherty, Snowy Owl—Joan Tisdale,*

*Snow Bunting—Joan Tisdale*
UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS
(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Trip Leader(s)</th>
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</table>
| Saturday, January 16          | St. Clair River Trip  
Meet at Lake St. Clair Metropark  
Lunch in Port Huron          | Don Burlett              |
| 8:00 AM—1:00 PM               |                                                                      |                         |
| Wednesday, January 20         | Local Parks—Bird ID and Behavior  
Meet at Beaudette Park off Orchard Lake Rd., Pontiac | Mike Mencotti            |
| 8:00 AM—12:00 noon           |                                                                      |                         |
| Saturday, January 30          | The Pinery Provincial Park  
Sarnia, Ontario  
Meet at Park&Ride I-94, exit 243  
Passport or Michigan Enhanced Driver's License required | Dave Frye, Jim Koppin    |
| 7:00 AM—1:00 PM               |                                                                      |                         |
| Saturday, February 13         | Great Backyard Bird Count Feeder Tour  
Meet at Hawk Woods Nature Center | Kathleen Dougherty       |
| 8:30 AM—12:00 noon           |                                                                      |                         |
| Saturday, February 20         | Sterling State Park/Erie Marsh  
Meet at Sterling State Park  
Pavilion in Lot C-1  
State Recreation passport required | Mike Mencotti, Don Burlett |
| 8:00 AM—12:00 noon           |                                                                      |                         |
| Wednesday, February 24        | Kensington Metropark  
Meet at Nature Center parking lot  
Metropark pass or daily fee | Mike Mencotti             |
| 8:00 AM—12:00 noon           |                                                                      |                         |
| Sunday, March 6               | Shiawassee NWR  
Meet at parking lot off W. Curtis Rd.  
At the start of auto-drive | Don Burlett               |
| 3:00 PM—7:00 PM              |                                                                      |                         |
| Sunday, March 20              | Belle Isle Park  
Meet in Nature Center parking lot  
State Recreation passport required | Mike Mencotti             |
| 8:00 AM—Noon                 |                                                                      |                         |
FIELD TRIP REPORTS

October 11, 2015 – Bay City/Tobico Marsh – 12 participants

The weather was cool early (~50°F) with sunny skies and strong winds. It slowly warmed into the 70’s as the morning wore on. We worked around the pond at the nature center at Bay City SRA, then along the woods working east until we came to the shoreline area. There were some active sparrows, kinglets and other small passerines. At the shoreline we had some ducks and gulls and were surprised by the flying Wilson’s Snipes at the reeds along the shoreline. We worked our way back to the nature center and then headed to Tobico Marsh. In all, 46 species were tallied for the day. Trip leader: Don Burlett.

Belle Isle – November 21, 2015 (19 participants)

A group of 19 birders from Oakland and Washtenaw Audubon tracked around Belle Isle on a cold and snowy day looking at ducks and other species of birds on a cloudy, rainy day (temperatures were in the low30’s). We had a good collection of birds with 47 species sighted during the outing, with large numbers of Canada Goose, Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Trip leader: Don Burlett.
FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Muskegon Area - November 14-15, 2015

We had a surprisingly large contingent of 18 birders travel to Muskegon for a fun weekend of birding. Strong winds from the west had been blowing the previous couple of days, so we were hopeful that a special bird or two rode them into the west part of the state. We discussed strategies at a group dinner on Friday evening.

Saturday morning we headed over to the Muskegon Wastewater Treatment complex. Limitless numbers of Ruddy Ducks were the first to greet us. At the initial stop, we saw our first of several American Pipits of the day. At the second stop we found a Red Phalarope that had been sighted the previous day. Continuing around the lagoons, there was a very late male Blue-winged Teal along with over a thousand Northern Shovelers. There were also plenty of gulls to look through, but we were unable to spot any rarities. The grassy fields were our last stop, and there we found a couple Lapland Longspurs amongst many Horned Larks.

After a quick lunch in town, we did some hiking in Muskegon State Park. Notable sightings included Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and quite a few Golden-crowned Kinglets. We also birded both sides of the channel before heading back for another group dinner.

On Sunday morning, we drove to Holland State Park. It was another windy day and the breakwall was often topped by waves, but our patience was rewarded when a flock of Snow Buntings landed on the beach for a short time before heading out (incredibly) across the lake.

A portion of the group made a detour to Lake Lansing on the way home, and they were lucky enough to pick up three Franklin’s Gulls. It was a fun and productive weekend.

Trip leader: Don Burlett.
SHOW YOUR NATURE-LOVING SIDE!

Oakland Audubon is giving you an opportunity to own an OAS ball cap. The hat is stone color, low profile, unstructured with a buckle back adjustment.

The hats feature an image of a White-breasted Nuthatch with “Oakland Audubon Society” in black lettering. The above design is a preproduction image; the final product will vary slightly. Advance order price is $15.00 each. After the deadline the hat price will be $18.00 with limited availability.

See the ordering instructions below.

Pre-Order Deadline is February 10, 2016 with your check or cash payment.
Make your checks payable to Oakland Audubon Society
Orders can be placed at January and February monthly meetings.
OR mail your order with payment to:

Oakland Audubon Society
PO Box 796
Birmingham MI 48012-0796

Hats are expected to be available for pick-up at the March 8, 2016 monthly meeting

NUMBER OF HATS NEEDED ____________________
NAME_____________________________________

CONTACT INFORMATION
PHONE NUMBER ____________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS ____________________________

Please return your payment and order form by mailing to
Oakland Audubon Society PO Box 796 Birmingham MI 48012-0796
A WINDFALL FOR BIRDS

For many years the name Altamont Pass has been synonymous with the deaths of hundreds of birds, especially raptors. That’s because in Altamont Pass, California, thousands of wind turbines were erected with no concern about their deadly effect on birds.

In 2004, several Audubon chapters in the San Francisco Bay area filed a lawsuit against four Alameda County wind companies, hoping to reduce the deadly toll. As a result of this lawsuit, the chapters ultimately secured a Settlement Agreement that aimed at a reduction in bird deaths of at least 50%, with ongoing monitoring, plus habitat conservation plans to help the bird populations recover.

Unfortunately, one company—Altamont Winds, Inc. (AWI)—backed out of this agreement. This company was documented as having killed more than 350 raptors over a recent 10-year period, including Golden Eagles, American Kestrels, Red-tailed Hawks, and Burrowing Owls.

Over the years, AWI kept asking Alameda County to extend its operating permit so it would not have to abide by the Settlement Agreement. Most recently AWI asked for another 3-year permit renewal, and they were successful by a 3-2 vote. But suddenly, to the pleasant surprise of conservationists, AWI decided to shut down its 828-turbine wind farm effective November 1, 2015.

Part of the reason may have been the progress that AWI saw its rival wind companies making in repowering their wind turbines. Repowering involves replacement of old-style wind turbines with newer, more efficient models, which produce energy with much less avian mortality. Or perhaps AWI felt that getting rid of its outdated turbines would be economically beneficial.

Whatever the reason, it’s good riddance to several hundred bird-killing turbines, and congratulations to the Audubon chapters whose persistence produced such a positive impact on the birds of the Bay Area.

(Information for this article came from an e-mail sent out by Golden Gate Audubon Society, received in early November 2015.)

Article submitted by Doris Applebaum
Illustration by Mike Dougherty
OAS BOARD MEMBERS

**Elected Officers**
- **President**: Don Burlett (248) 236-9486 baikalteal13@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-Officer**: Doris Applebaum (248) 542-2506 ibis4247@sbcglobal.net
- **Program Co-Officer**: 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 baikalteal13@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**: Mike Dougherty (248) 972-7802 mikeodoc@comcast.net
- **Seven Ponds Rep.**: Don Burlett (248) 236-9486 baikalteal13@netzero.net

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Jan 12</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Native Fishes of Michigan</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Feb 9</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Night Crew</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church (see below)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
A Special Honor

At the last OAS Board Meeting, the following was submitted for review.

I believe that the Oakland Audubon Society should recognize past and present, Mr. Allen Chartier's contributions to local conservation efforts and to the Birding Community on the whole. We value his knowledge and personal commitment to the preservation of our natural world and appreciate his generous support and participation with us in activities aimed at promoting its betterment.

His efforts well qualify him for Life Membership status in Oakland Audubon Society. Please consider this proposal favorably at an upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

The Board vote was unanimous and the Oakland Audubon Society is pleased to grant the status of Life Member to Allen Chartier and once again thanks him for his hard work and contributions.

He joins the two other Life Members of the OAS - Julie Craves and Betty Challis.

Photo by Janet Hug
NATURE NOTES by Allen Chartier

We’re giving Allen a well-deserved break for this edition of Nuthatch. He is, however, looking for your questions for future editions! So, please feel free to send him requests for future columns related to nature topics. The topics don’t need to be limited to birds. He only asks that your questions be specific and focused enough to be answered in a page or so. We’re sure there are plenty of questions out there that you’ve always thought and wondered about, and now is your opportunity for answers! Don’t be shy!

If you have a question you would like Allen to answer in a future Nature Notes column, you can email it to him at amazilia3@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

November 19, 2015

The board unanimously decided to confer OAS Life Membership on Allen Chartier in recognition of his many contributions to local conservation efforts and the birding community.

A new kind of addition to our field trip schedule: several Wednesday birding visits to local areas, led by Mike Mencotti.

OAS will have a ball-cap type of hat featuring our name and logo available for purchase in 2016.

Our newsletter, which has been bimonthly for many years, will change to a seasonal schedule (4 issues per year) beginning in March 2016.

Our Facebook page “likes” number has increased to 544.

The new Reptiles & Amphibians photo gallery on our website already has 29 species and more will soon be added.

Results of the OAS member survey were discussed. The board will use the results to see where member services can be improved.

OAS will participate in the Earth Day celebration at Chrysler World Headquarters next April. Programs have been scheduled for membership meetings through November 2016.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary
Your Membership at Work

As was noted in the last issue of *Nuthatch* in the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting, a contribution of $500 was given to the Rouge River Bird Observatory (RRBO) to help support the important work they do. We received the thank you letter below from the RRBO.

The following is a description of the mission of the RRBO from their website (www.rrbo.org):

The Rouge River Bird Observatory was established in 1992 to explore an understudied yet increasingly important area of research: the importance of urban natural areas to birds. In our increasingly urbanizing world, habitat fragments in metropolitan areas become more critical to birds. Understanding how birds use them is essential for conservation. RRBO is a donor-funded project of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center.

Victors for Michigan
TRANSFORMING STUDENTS. POWERING OUR REGION

October 22, 2015

Oakland Audubon Society
e/o Mr. Don Burlett, president
P.O. Box 796
Birmingham, MI 48012-0796

Dear Mr. Burlett,

Thank you for your recent gift from the Oakland Audubon Society to the UM-Dearborn Rouge River Bird Observatory and for being a victor for Michigan!

Every gift matters to this campus. Your gift will help us continue to support the RRBO’s research on urban natural areas to birds. Thank you.

If you ever have any questions about this or any other fund or program on our campus, please do not hesitate to contact me apcaldwe@umich.edu, (313) 583-6428.

Go Blue!

April Caldwell
Donor Relations & Stewardship Officer
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 several months so the pressure is low when this position is filled.

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 Co-Coordinator of the Young Birders Club is suggested to be a member. 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!

Tina Fitzgerald
Antonio Xeira
Brian Nolan

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

OAS members on last year’s St.Clair River field trip
Photo: Mike Dougherty
BIRD ID QUIZ

Who Am I?

(A) _____________________________  (B) _____________________________

(C) _____________________________

Last month’s bird quiz answers:
A – Purple Finch
B – House Finch
C – Pine Siskin

Photo credits: A) Robert Epstein  B) Joan Tisdale  C) Robert Epstein
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.

Oakland Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Your donation is 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.