

# THE NUTHATCH

[www.oaklandaudubon.org](http://www.oaklandaudubon.org)



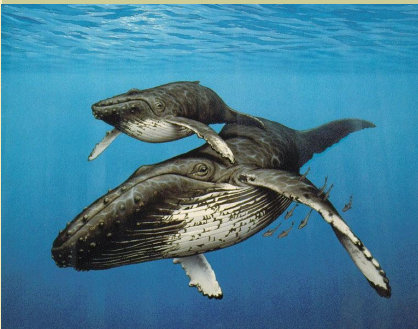
## CRANIAL CAPACITIES OF CORVIDS

**Tuesday, March 8, 2011**  
**Speaker: Dorothy McLeer**

OK, so you know that crows are pretty smart. But when Dr. Star Kraven-Madd of Concorvidae University (our speaker's alter ego) finishes her program, you will not only know what bird-brains crows -- and their jay and raven relatives -- really are, but you'll also have had some laughs along the way.

Don't miss this evening of facts and fun.

## HIDDEN HABITS OF HUMPBACKS



**Tuesday, April 12, 2011**  
**Speaker: Chris Zimmel**

Our February 2010 meeting was snowed out, so we missed our chance to learn about the Humpback Whale, which is found in many of the world's oceans, but is a threatened species nevertheless.

Chris Zimmel, who has volunteered on Humpback research projects with the Dolphin Institute, will share the wealth of information she has gathered. Don't miss this second chance to learn about these magnificent ocean dwellers.

### Inside This Issue:

President's Column	Pg.2
Take Flight With Birding	Pg.3
OAS News	Pg.4
Board Meeting Highlights	Pg.5
Meeting Schedule	Pg.6
Financial Summary	Pg.7
CBC Results	Pg.8
Field Trip Calendar & Reports	Pg.9
Sparrow Quiz	Pg.10
Membership Form	Pg.11



## President's Column



March-April 2011

There are times when being the President of an organization is a pain. What do you do when something is not getting done? Who do you turn to when you need something handled? It's even worse when it's a volunteer-based organization. (I have to add a note that this group is better than most "volunteer-based" groups.) You can't just tell someone to do something unless they genuinely want to do it. And since I've always considered the Presidency a "buck stops here" type-of-job, I usually end up trying to do something myself. At times, that is probably not the best thing but I hate to always ask people for help. Call it a weakness or a fault. Whatever....I do it that way, probably too often. Forgive me.

So why would I enjoy or even be willing to be President of an organization (which I must admit I do probably too often). Have you ever asked yourself "Why does he do that job? Why would he want to spend his time working on this stuff and handling those problems?" And that would be a good question. Why would I want to deal with constant issues (maybe not always crucial but there's always something to deal with)? Is it "megalomania"? Thirst for power? (That sounds awful.)

I guess it started a long time ago when I was in Explorers. Our Post didn't specialize in camping or flying or anything like that, we specialized in service. And I guess it's stuck. I've always been willing to serve as part of any organization I've belonged to. Old time work ethic? Simply my nature? Who can say? But there are other reasons for what I do and why. I can't say enough how much I enjoy being with someone when they see a life bird or a bird they really enjoy. I enjoy those moments when we see something in nature that is amazing or curious, just enough to keep our interest. And, of course, I enjoy getting out into nature to enjoy the many splendors that nature has for us.

I also enjoy the friendship that comes with an organization. The many new friends that I make on the bird trail, at meetings or wherever I travel. People are so interesting and different that it's always fun to meet and get to know new people. Without many exceptions, people are always very nice and worth getting to know.

Now, I'm not saying that there are no headaches with this job. That's just part of life. I deal with the problems and move along so I can enjoy a few good moments now and then. I kid a lot. I like to laugh and have fun with everything and everyone. Don't take me too seriously or I'll end up pulling a prank on you! It's been two years since I took this office and I can honestly say they have flown by too quickly and I've had way too much fun. So let's get out together and you can watch me have more fun with all of you. That's the way it should be.

Don Burlett



## Take Flight With Birding

Despite being in my mid-thirties, I'm by far one of the youngest birders in my area, but I often regret not being young enough – I wish I'd started birding decades ago. Young birders not only have advantages such as better eyesight for finding subtle field marks, better hearing to bird by ear, and better energy for marathon birding, but birding itself can open up many wonderful opportunities for young birders that most of us discover too late.

A young birder can use their birding passion for...

\*Science Projects: Studying birds' behavior, physiology, sounds, migration, reproduction, and other characteristics can be the basis for classroom science projects, science fair entries, or whole science study units that incorporate ecology, food chains, climate, seasons, and other fascinating subjects, all related to birds.

\*Service Projects: Young birders can use their enjoyment of all things avian to complete service projects for the Boy Scouts, religious organizations, or schools. Building birdhouses, maintaining birding trails, or volunteering to lead birding walks, or work at an aviary or bird rehabilitation center are great ways to serve the community and the birds at the same time.

\*Scholarships: An amazing birding experience, finding a rare bird, or reaching a milestone life list number can all be fantastic topics for essays that will make students stand out to colleges and scholarship committees. Some birding organizations also offer scholarships to young birders, and scholarships may be available not only for school, but also for unique birding experiences such as travel and camps.

\*Careers: If you are passionate about your career you will enjoy it all your life, and young birders can use their birding experience to pursue careers in wildlife management, biology, or ornithology. This can lead to work at state and national parks, aviaries, zoos, wildlife rehabilitation centers, and many more wonderful locations that will let them work intimately with birds and even be paid to do it.

I have always had a birdfeeder or two and have casually enjoyed the birds all my life, but it wasn't until I was nearly thirty that I discovered my deep passion for birding. I salute all the young birders who have discovered that same passion long before I did and whose life lists are longer than mine, and I encourage all birders to help the youth of their community take flight by introducing them to birding and all the opportunities it can give them to soar.

– Melissa Mayntz

About.com Guide to Birding / Wild Birds

<http://birding.about.com>

## OAS IS NOW REGISTERED



I want to shed some light on a growing and useful program for bird watchers of all abilities. eBird is an online checklist program that began in 2002 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. The eBird program has grown considerably in membership since its inception. It currently enlists over 1.5 million birders in its membership which is free to everyone. The data generated by a growing community of birders and bird watchers from around the world help support research for things like monitoring migratory patterns, population fluctuations, habitat changes that affect ecosystems, etc. This user friendly system is beneficial also to each participant. Its wide range of features include tracking species on a life list, annual tally, birds in your county, state, and even in your local park or backyard. Additionally, this program can be used to track the most recent sighting of a particular species in your area, which birder spotted it, when it was last identified, and other interesting, useful information.

In conjunction with the presentation on eBird by Darrin O'Brien on Jan 11, 2011, OAS registered with eBird and is prepared to contribute to science by logging the birds we find in the field. Since filling the Field Trip Officer position in October 2010, I have been logging birds for all field trips and OAS events. In less than three months time, OAS has traveled to and recorded birds in six counties in the state of Michigan. We have listed 104 birds during that brief span. This site offers opportunity to share information about bird sightings safely online at a personal, community, and global level. It is an excellent way to document what you see while contributing data for research. Our organization can benefit from the use of eBird by promoting what we do. Each time OAS records a bird, it announces to the vast birding community what species are out there and who is doing the birding. For more participation or additional information, log on [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

Ed Lewandowski

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### ALICE MAROTTI ( HOSPITALITY OFFICER )

By the request of our newsletter editor I have been asked to introduce myself, and so I will. I'm Alice Marotti and I've just taken the position of Hospitality Officer of Oakland Audubon. Sue Meneilley, who held this position for five years, is a hard act to follow, and I will appreciate every bit of help you can give me in providing treats for OAS members after each meeting. Birders, like the birds they watch, are always interested in eating, and we all become more sociable when fed, so I recognize that this is a serious responsibility.

I've been an OAS member since 1973, but I disappeared from meetings after I started working as a school psychologist in 1980. Now that retirement in 2006 allowed me to escape from writing reports, I've been able to return to active participation, even though my birding skills have not kept up with my age.

Alice Marotti

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On behalf of the OAS board, we would especially like to thank Sue Meneilley for all of her hard work and dedication to the organization. Alice, put it best when she said, "She will be a hard act to follow". So that being said, let's all be sure to give Alice our support as she takes the outstanding hospitality OAS is known for forward.

Thanks Again.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2011**

Field Trip Officer Ed Lewandowski has been reporting results of OAS field trips to eBird since October 2010. As of January 2011, we had seen 104 species of birds on our field trips. Ed believes we are the only Audubon group in Michigan reporting to eBird.

Ed is looking for additional field trip leaders. A leader does not have to be an expert birder. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Ed.

Membership Officer Dave Frye is preparing a membership directory, which is expected to be available at our membership meetings beginning in April.

This year the Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 17. A CBC Committee is being formed to spread the work among several people for this major event.

The board decided to hold our June membership meeting/nature walk at Hawk Woods Nature Preserve in Auburn Hills.

Mike McCullough has created "appreciation cards" that OAS members can leave at restaurants. This can be a good way of getting some publicity for OAS. The cards will be used on our field trips and will also be available at membership meetings for members to leave at restaurants when they eat out.

Doris Applebaum  
Recording Secretary

**OAS BOARD MEMBERS**

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## “Coming This Spring” OAS Young Birder Program

Join us as we introduce our love for the natural world  
to the next generation of great birders.

(date & time to be announced)

(please check the website for further updates)

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
TUES., MAR. 8	7:30 pm	Cranial Capacities of Corvids	First United Methodist Church, (see below)
TUES., APR. 12	7:30 pm	The Hidden Habits of Humpbacks Chris Zimmel	First United Methodist Church, (see below)
TUES., MAY 10	7:30 pm	Adventures of a Young Birder Harold Eyster	First United Methodist Church, (see below)
TUES., JUNE 14	7:00 pm	OAS Nature Walk	Hawk Woods Nature Preserve
TUES., SEPT 13	7:30 pm	A Birding Excursion to Southern Africa Barb Baldinger	First United Methodist Church, (see below)

### Membership Meetings & Programs 2011

#### MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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, Fellowship Hall, Room 152. 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. (Barrier-free access located at entrance off first parking lot on Pleasant St.) 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.

## OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY 2010 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Assets (as of 1-1-10)

Charter Bank checking account	\$3,249.10
U.S. Postal bulk mail account	<u>106.91</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,356.01</b>

### Income

CBC Fees, donations	768.00
Dues	3,255.00
General Donations	75.00
Memorial Donations	0.00
Membership Meetings	50.00
Miscellaneous	<u>15.34</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,163.34</b>

### Expenses

Bank charges	27.00
CBC Fees, dinner, postage	971.49
Charitable contributions	100.00
Hospitality	7.78
Mail costs, fees, postage	436.89
Mich. Corporation fee	20.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Printing	590.00
Programs	386.00
Publicity	165.76
Rent	400.00
Website	<u>287.88</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,392.80</b>

**Net Worth as of 12-31-10** **\$4,126.55**

Joan M. Tisdale, Treasurer  
January 10, 2011

**OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
12/18/2010**

<b>DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL</b>	<b>CHICKADEES AND TITS</b>
Canada Goose 62	Black-capped Chickadee 896
Mute Swan 36	Tufted Titmouse 332
Wood Duck 3	<b>NUTHATCHES</b>
American Black Duck 4	Red-breasted Nuthatch 11
Mallard 919	White-breasted Nuthatch 180
<b>PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES</b>	<b>CREEPERS</b>
Ring-necked Pheasant 1	Brown Creeper 9
<b>TURKEYS</b>	<b>KINGLETS</b>
Wild Turkey 119	Golden-crowned Kinglet 8
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>	<b>THRUSHES AND ALLIES</b>
Turkey Vulture 21	Eastern Bluebird 118
<b>HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES</b>	Hermit Thrush 3
Sharp-shinned Hawk 3	American Robin 206
Cooper's Hawk 16	<b>STARLINGS</b>
Red-shouldered Hawk 2	European Starling 7202
Red-tailed Hawk 74	<b>WAXWINGS</b>
<b>FALCONS AND CARACARAS</b>	Cedar Waxwing 1085
American Kestrel 1	<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>
<b>GULLS</b>	Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
Ring-billed Gull 3	<b>BUNTINGS, SPARROWS</b>
Herring Gull 2	American Tree Sparrow 351
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>	Song Sparrow 7
Rock Pigeon 228	Swamp Sparrow 2
Mourning Dove 702	White-throated Sparrow 12
<b>OWLS</b>	White-crowned Sparrow 5
Eastern Screech-Owl 25	Dark-eyed Junco 765
Great Horned Owl 9	Snow Bunting 125
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>	<b>SALTATORS, CARDINALS, AND ALLIES</b>
Belted Kingfisher 1	Northern Cardinal 580
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>	<b>SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES</b>
Red-headed Woodpecker 9	Purple Finch 15
Red-bellied Woodpecker 124	House Finch 364
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1	Pine Siskin 2
Downy Woodpecker 222	American Goldfinch 623
Hairy Woodpecker 35	<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>
Northern Flicker 15	House Sparrow 1057
Pileated Woodpecker 2	
<b>CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES</b>	<b>TOTALS: 17656 Individuals</b>
Blue Jay 470	<b>55 Species</b>
American Crow 523	
<b>LARKS</b>	
Horned Lark 65	

# OAKLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP CALENDAR 2011

(Check the OAS Website for details)

[www.oaklandaudubon.org](http://www.oaklandaudubon.org)

Date	Location	Trip Leader
Sat., March 19, 2011 8:00AM—2:00 PM	Oakland County Parks	Don Burlett
Wed., March 30, 2011 6:00PM—9:00 PM	Civic Center Park “American Woodcock Trip” (tentative)	Ed Lewandowski
Sat., April 2, 2011 8:00AM—12:00 PM	Young/Family Birders Outing (tentative)	Don Burlett
Sat., April 9, 2011 9:00AM—4:00 PM	Tobico Marsh and Environs	Don Burlett

## Field Trip Reports

### Gull & Waterfowl Trip – January 15, 2011

A group of 6 hearty birders toughed out the morning winter conditions including snow, wind and cold (25-30°F) to land a pretty successful day. We travelled to several different locations: the Hoffman Memorial Access Site in Bolles Harbor, Erie Marsh Preserve, Whiting Power Plant, and Lake Erie Metropark. We found 7 different raptors (Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Roughleg, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel and Cooper’s Hawk), a variety of ducks, gulls and wintering species along with a pair of owl species. All totaled, we observed 54 species of birds on the day. A very fine outing for a winter day. Leader – Ed Lewandowski.

### Washtenaw County / Ann Arbor – January 29, 2011

16 hearty souls went into battle today with great anticipation. We tallied 40 species on the day.

Highlights: Delhi Overlook - no shrike in the morning (did get bluebirds, lots of cedar waxwings, and the usual in that location). Huron River - Mute Swans, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Black Duck, Mallard.

Gallup Park - not much, Arb - Common Redpolls, Pine Siskin, House Finch, White-throated Sparrow, etc.

Matthei Botanical Gardens - Belted Kingfisher, Hooded Merganser (very frightened) Vreeland Road - Roughleg near Harris Road, the other birds (bunting, lark, longspurs) were there but way, way back and too difficult to see. Easton Road - great looks at Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Horned Lark. Leader – Don Burlett

## Sparrow Identification Quiz

Who am I?



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



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



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

### Jan / Feb Answers

A) Lincoln's Sparrow    B) Savannah Sparrow    C) Fox Sparrow



# OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check ( X ) 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!

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER:

\_\_\_\_ TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

\_\_\_\_ LEAD A FIELD TRIP/PRESENT A PROGRAM

\_\_\_\_ FILL AN OPEN POSITION

\_\_\_\_ POSITION ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE LINE:

\_\_\_\_ MEMBER RENEWAL

\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER

\_\_\_\_ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

## *OAS Membership Fees*

- INDIVIDUAL \$10
- FAMILY \$15
- 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:  
OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAIL TO:  
OAS MEMBERSHIP  
2780 SCENIC MEADOWS DRIVE  
ORTONVILLE, MICHIGAN 48462