



THE NUTHATCH

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 2

AN ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2010

Mission Statement

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.

Meetings are held at the 1st United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009, Fellowship Hall, Room 152. Lighted free parking and barrier-free access.

Page 2

*President's Message
Web Address
Financial Summary*

Page 3

*Financial continued
OAS Calendar
CBC Results*

Page 4

*CBC continued
Nuthatch Your Way
Focus On...*

Page 5
*Membership App.
Board Contacts*

Back Cover

Upcoming events.



Winter Robin

WWW.OAKLANDAUDUBON.ORG

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS: AN ENDANGERED PARADISE



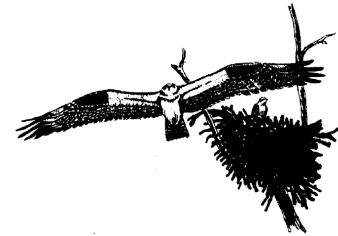
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Randy Baker

The Galapagos Islands constitute one of the most-studied archipelagos in the world. This is also certainly one of the premier ecotourism destinations. Wildlife that cannot be found anywhere else is a sure magnet for people who are looking for a special place to visit.

Naturalist Randy Baker, who has presented a number of interesting programs for OAS, is coming back again, this time with an outstanding program about the rare and exciting wildlife of the Galapagos—and the impact that people have on it.

OSPREY REINTRODUCTION



artist Steven J. D'Amato

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Barb Jensen

As a volunteer with OWSEM (Osprey Watch of South East Michigan), Barb Jensen has been a participant in one of the most successful conservation projects ever undertaken in our state. Kensington Metropark has been a focal point of this program, and many of us have had the pleasure of seeing Ospreys at that location after their long absence.

Join us on April 13 as Barb takes us step by step through the exciting activities that have resulted in the return of this handsome raptor to our part of Michigan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've always been a person interested in words. They are really our form of communication and they are intriguing, in a strange sort of way. Consider the following words. Group – a number of individuals assembled together or having some unifying relationship. Does this sound like Oakland Audubon? I think we have a unifying relationship, in that we all love nature and wish to help preserve it. What about this one? Organization – an administrative and functional structure. I certainly think this one applies to Oakland Audubon, especially since I am intimately involved (with the board) with the administrative side of this “group.” One last one. Society – a voluntary association of individuals for common ends. This is one that I hope applies. The “common ends” is the important part of being a “society,” which we claim to be. But that is the question that we must ask. Are we together for common ends? Does a common end imply something as basic as an interest or does it go further and imply some goals or direction?

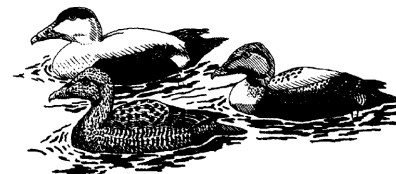
Personally, I've never belonged to an “organization” or “society” without having some goals in mind. These goals usually include both personal and group. If the “group goals” weren't part of the formula, why get together with others except to improve the chances of reaching your personal goals? When it comes to “group” goals, I think we certainly have some that we can list. A desire to share our interest in nature. A feeling that we should help preserve nature so that we (and future generations) can continue to enjoy it. We also support education, since we support an “organization” that does provide educational opportunities for the community, as well as ourselves.

All the jargon aside, I think it is important that we, as a group, understand what our goals are. Audubon Societies have existed for many years and the recurring theme is just as I have mentioned. I try not to lose track of this in the everyday administration of this group. We do work hard to provide educational programs. There, I think we succeed very nicely. Unfortunately, we have not gotten our message out broadly enough. We still do not see families coming to our meetings. Our programs are limited to one night a month and some participation in some

field trips. What else should we be doing as an organization? What else can we do with our limited resources?

I'd like to pose that question. Think about the programs and field trips and see if there isn't something else we should be doing. I understand that there are lots of other organizations with goals that cover some of the topics I've mentioned. National and Michigan Audubon Societies, Sierra Club, etc. Let me know if there are some things that we aren't doing that we should be doing. I don't want to be the one suggesting different things to do. I'd be glad to hear from you. Even if it's just a little thing within the “society,” send me a note or give me a call. I'm interested.

Don Burlett

**OAS WEB SITE**

www.oaklandaudubon.org (and links)

**OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY****2009 FINANCIAL SUMMARY****Assets (as of 1-1-09)**

Bank of America bank account	\$3,563.39
U.S. Postal bulk mail account	<u>146.70</u>
Total Assets	\$3,710.09

Income

CBC Fees	0.00
Dues	2,505.00
General Donations	0.00
Memorial Donations	0.00
Monthly Meetings	<u>46.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,551.00

Expenses

Bank charges	39.36
CBC costs	20.00
Charitable contributions	100.00
Hospitality	20.12
Internet Website	855.81
Mail costs, fees, postage	514.75
Mich. Corporation fee	20.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Printing	565.25
Programs	280.00
Publicity	0.00
Rent	400.00
Total Expenses	\$2,815.29

Net Worth as of 12-31-09 **\$3,445.80**

Joan M. Tisdale, Treasurer
January 8, 2010



OAKLAND AUDUBON EVENTS CALENDAR 2010

DATE/TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Tuesday March 9, 2010 7:30 P.M.	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Galapagos Islands Speaker: Randy Baker
Tuesday April 13, 2010 7:30 P.M.	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Osprey Reintroduction Speaker: Barb Jensen
Tuesday May 11, 2010 7:30 P.M.	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Compulsive Lister Speaker: Don Chalfant
Tuesday June 8, 2010 7:00 P.M.	MEMBERSHIP MEETING SPECIAL TIME!	NATURE WALK Location: TBA

“Come forth into the light of things, let Nature be your teacher.”

William Wordsworth

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

CBC RESULTS - 110th SEASON - 2 JANUARY 2010

80 participants (Territory leaders, field participants, and feeder watchers)

This Christmas Count was by far one of the coldest on record. Prior to this year, the last extremely cold count day was back in 2000. Oakland Audubon’s counters are a brave group, and they went out to spot any bird looking for food in 7° temperatures with 25 mph winds. Despite the adverse conditions the teams of counters were able to find 55 species totaling 11,762 individuals. With the help of only 26 feeder watchers several unexpected species were also listed. They were: Great Blue Heron, Carolina Wren, and a pair of Great Horned Owls. For the first time in a long time, one *Common Loon and **Chipping Sparrow were also sighted by Margaret Moran’s team. Doris Applebaum’s team found a **Bald Eagle. And last but not least, 6 **Snow Geese were seen by Sue Hibbard’s team. It just goes to show you never know what you will see during the Christmas Bird Count. (Last year White-winged Crossbills were seen.)

The species list is as follows: 1 *Common Loon, 1 Great Blue Heron, 5 Turkey Vultures, 22 Mute Swans, 16 Canada Geese, 697 Mallards, 1 Bald Eagle, 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 15 Cooper’s Hawks, 1 accipiter sp., 5 Red-shouldered Hawks, 55 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 buteo,sp., 92 Wild Turkeys, 1 count week *Sandhill Crane, 135 Ring-billed Gulls, 26 Herring Gulls, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 100 gull sp., 120 Rock Pigeons, 324 Mourning Doves, 17 Eastern Screech-Owls, 4 Great Horned Owls, 2 Barred Owls, 2 Belted Kingfishers, 8 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 117 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 178 Downy Woodpeckers, 44 Hairy Woodpeckers, 5 Northern Flickers, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, 29 Horned Larks, 388 Blue Jays, 363 American Crows, 793 Black-capped Chickadees, 283 Tufted Titmice, 11 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 229 White-breasted Nuthatches, 6 Brown Creepers, 1 *Carolina Wren, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 90 Eastern Bluebirds, 4 *Hermit Thrushes, 401 American Robins, 263 Cedar Waxwings, 4,180 European Starlings, 389 Northern Cardinals, 209 American Tree Sparrows, 14 Song Sparrows, 5 White-throated Sparrows, 483 Dark-eyed Juncos, 9 Purple Finches, 253 House Finches, 567 American Goldfinches, 3**Chipping Sparrows, 6 **Snow Geese. (Species listed as * or ** are unusual and need documentation forms filled out on count day.)

Oakland Audubon wishes to thank all participants for their part in this year’s count, and for taking time out of their busy lives to participate in the oldest, most impor-

tant citizens science survey conducted in the world by the National Audubon Society.

Thank you: Territory Leaders: **Doris Applebaum, Christine Bommarito, Don Burlett, Mimi Cramer, Kathleen Dougherty, Carl Drife, Sue Hibbard, Scott Jennex, Rick LeDoux, Margaret Moran, Ed Scharrer, Joan Tisdale, Bill Volz, Sue Wright.** Field Participants: **Lew Cantor, Phil Cramer, Debbie Culloty, Pete Cushman, Kay and Joyce Delasko, Patricia and Sara Demaria, Joanne and Jessica Drife, Ryan Dziedzic, David Frye, Jean Gramlich, Audrey Grier, Frank Hibbard, Linda Johnson, Jeff Knobbe, Bruce Kochenderfer, Mary Kramer, Cindy, Nate, and Kelsey Krupp, Allan Lake, Susan Meneilley, Diane Pruden, Donn Resnick, Sandy and Carla Rigsby, Susan Rofe, Tory Scharrer, Edie Schmitz, Ann Sibole, Nancy Tar, Nancy Trimmer, Mary Trombley, Claudio Vacas, Mary Vanderlinden, James Walsh, Blanche Wicke, Wayne Wilson.** Feeder Watchers: **Barbara Barnes, Diane and Mike Bennett, Mary Boberg, Joann Bonomo, Linda D'Orazio, Diane and Kerry Dougherty, Ron and Crystal Haase, Damon Hartley, Marcy James, Leland Laurence, Mike Mansour, Gretchen Michaels, Sunnie Morris, Janet Newman, Carol Rogus, Roberta Sibley, Alice and Paul Tomboulion, Jack and Rosalie Ward, Caryn and Joel Womble.**

Welcome Scott Jennex as he will be the new OAS Christmas Bird Count Compiler.

Thank you for all your support throughout the years.
Sincerely, Nancy Tar

THE NUTHATCH: YOUR WAY

Our goal is to reduce the costs of mailing and printing. Are you willing to accept your newsletter via e-mail or our web site? Please take a minute (just a single minute) to be courteous and either send Don Burlett an e-mail with your choice, drop him a line, or call and leave a message with that information. It would be so helpful and would also encourage us that the members do actually read the newsletter and are willing to respond.

Please respond to Don Burlett at:
baikaltea13@netzero.net
or
3655 Brauer Rd.
Oxford, MI 48371
or
(248) 236-9486



FOCUS ON... RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Which bird is the true harbinger of Spring? The common misconception would have it be the American Robin. But, as many reports throughout the winter, and results of many Christmas Bird Counts show, we know this is not true. The American Robin will stay in the northern climes all winter, if it has open water and food. The Red-winged Blackbird on the other hand truly migrates south and will return as early as February when snow and ice are still present.

There are 14 Red-winged Blackbird subspecies, and the race, *A. p. phoeniceus*, is the common breeding species in Michigan. *A. p. arctolegus* is known to winter in Michigan, but the breeding status of this race is unverified. Red-winged Blackbirds have varied breeding habitats which include: fresh and saltwater marshes, swamps, wet meadows, streamsides, dry fields, and pastures. They will also nest in urban areas where proper habitats exist. It has been recorded in Michigan that this species will claim their territory and nest successfully in loose colonies along roads and highways. An interesting note: It has been found that individuals wintering in the most southerly areas of Michigan are most likely migrants from farther north since they are of the subspecies which is not known to breed in the state.



Feeding mostly on the ground, 75% of the Red-wing's diet is seeds of grasses, grains, and weeds. It will also, in summer, eat insects such as beetles, caterpillars, and grasshoppers--not to mention the occasional spider, millipede and snail.

So look for the blazing-red epaulets of the Red-winged Blackbird among the cattails. Spring is just around the corner.

(Information for this item was found in National Geographic's *Reference Atlas to the Birds of North America* and *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Michigan* edited by Richard Brewer, Gail A. McPeck, and Raymond J. Adams, Jr.

