



THE NUTHATCH

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 3

AN ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

May/June 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

Page 3

OAS Website
Save Those Stamps

Page 4

Bird Names Quiz

Page 5

Bird-a-thon Notice

Page 6

Meeting/Field Trip
Schedule
Nuthatch Your Way
Position Open -
Newsletter Editor

Page 7

OAS Board Members
Membership Form

Back Cover

Meeting Schedule

WWW.OAKLANDAUDUBON.ORG

“CONFESSIONS OF A COMPULSIVE LISTER”

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 7:30 PM

Speaker: Don Chalfant

Do you have a birding list? Year list? Yard list? County list? Even if you maintain all these lists and more, chances are you don't know about nearly as many lists as Don Chalfant does. Don is an outstanding birder; as of June 2009, his Michigan life list was at 362 and his American Birding Association area list was 757. He knows birds, and, boy, does he know birding lists!

Listing as a compulsion may sound a bit crazy, but it can be very entertaining, as Don will show us when he visits us on May 11. Join us then, and be prepared to smile.

“JUNE BIRD WALK”

ROUGE RIVER BIRD
OBSERVATORY

U. of M. - DEARBORN

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 7:00 PM

Our annual nature walk will take place at the Rouge River Bird Observatory on the campus of the University of Michigan – Dearborn. **NOTE THE EARLIER MEETING TIME.** Please park in the parking structure near the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) and meet in classroom 119 in the EIC. We will have refreshments afterwards in the classroom. See the website for details and maps.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

E-mail, Websites and Other Technology

I like to think that I'm old school. At least I'm getting old enough to make that claim. I'm not much on using Facebook, Twitter or even cell phones. (I have a cell phone and use it for calls but don't surf the web or even store phone numbers in it.) I like to use phones or personal conversations to get things done. Sounds pretty old school to me.

However, I find that without my computer and e-mail, communication these days almost grinds to a halt. I realize that e-mail has become a major tool in the communication area. (Maybe Twitter and other tools may take the place of e-mail in the future but right now, e-mail's very useful.) I also realize that websites have become a very important tool for communication and dissemination of information. If you're not using these two tools, you are falling behind in the communication world. Communication has become fast paced, requiring quick response and paying regular attention to your computer.

We have been pushing the use of these tools as we move forward as an organization. The website has become a very important tool for passing along information. A shining example is the Photo Gallery that Joan Tisdale has created on our website (www.oaklandaudubon.org). Here is an extremely impressive collection of photos from Oakland Audubon members (Joan Tisdale, Robert Epstein, and Allen Chartier) that is of great educational value. Without a website to post this information on, these pictures would need to be published and sold and mailed and all that stuff or they could be e-mailed one photo at a time. That's just a lot of work to get this information out to members. However, with the website, we can post all this information so that members can peruse and study at their leisure. That makes this tool so valuable.

E-mail can be used effectively to pass along messages and other information but is not much more than a stored phone message without the actual contact between communicators. (It does allow the attachment of additional information, like documents, photos, etc.). I guess our use of e-mail reflects a change in society with regard to communication. However, it has become so common that it is nearly impossible to stay on top of things without using it.

Other forms of technology including GPS units, digital cameras and recorders, digital projectors and others are now almost invisible because of the ease of use and availability. We almost can't live without these conveniences.

In the end, the technology will take over. The younger generations welcome all the technology and incorporate it into their lives. Maybe we will have to incorporate it ourselves to get in touch with these folks. Maybe we will eventually convince them to come outside and enjoy nature for a few moments also. But for now, we will be happy to use a couple of tools and try to keep things moving forward.

Oh, and before I go, be sure to let me know that you can get your newsletter via e-mail or from our new and improved website. Thanks.



artist: Carol E. Edwards

DB

OAS WEBSITE

The OAS Website has a new look. The site has been updated with new pages and information and improved navigation. Be sure to regularly check the News and Chatter section on the Home page for OAS news and field trip updates. You can find out the latest bird sightings by using the new List Servers page. We've also greatly expanded the Photo Galleries page. Take a look at the new "Birds of the Great Lakes Region." It includes photos of over 290 bird species and should be a useful reference tool when birding in Michigan and neighboring states and provinces. And when you have a moment, please give us your opinion of the updated website and any suggestions for further improvement.

SAVE THOSE STAMPS!

For more than 20 years, OAS has been sending canceled stamps to Audubon of Florida. They in turn sell stamps by the pound to a stamp dealer and use the proceeds to help offset the cost of maintaining their raptor rehabilitation facility.

Any foreign stamps are welcomed in this project, as well as any U.S. commemorative stamps. Commemoratives are available for only a relatively short period and so are considered valuable to stamp collectors. They often honor a person (recent examples are World War II cartoonist Bill Mauldin, four famous members of the U.S. Navy, and 10 famous abstract artists). A stamp may also commemorate a state that is celebrating an anniversary (Hawaii, Oregon, and Alaska are recent examples).

Commemoratives also include such stamps as the sets of 10 that depict various natural areas (Great Lakes sand dunes or the Kelp Forest, e.g.). There are many other examples as well, like the "Year of the Tiger" and the set of 16 stamps remembering early TV shows. These are only a few of the recent possibilities—and any commemorative stamps from years gone by are very welcome also.

The stamps known as definitives are not included in this project. These are small, usually square, stamps that often show a U.S. flag, though they may show something like the current 1-cent Tiffany lamp or the 2-cent Navajo jewelry. Definitives are available for extended periods of time and there are so many in circulation that they are not valuable to stamp collectors.

OAS is always looking for stamps to send to Florida. If you would like to be part of this project, take your stamps to any OAS event. You don't even have to cut the stamp from the envelope. Bring in the entire envelope if you wish, but if you do cut the stamps off, try to leave at least ¼ inch on each side. Do not remove the stamp entirely from its backing on the envelope.

You can give the stamps to Doris Applebaum, or to any other OAS officer, who will get your stamps to her. She sends packets of stamps periodically to Audubon of Florida. If you are not sure whether a stamp is useful for this project, bring it in anyway. Doris looks over every stamp to make sure it is proper before sending it on its way.

This is a very easy and inexpensive way to help a worthwhile project connected with birds. So—save those stamps!

NAMES, NAMES, NAMES – DO YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES?

Over the years, many birds have had names that were changed. Many were common names used to describe the bird. Some were humorous names, some very serious. Whatever the reasons, these names keep changing and keeping up is important. For example, the Baldpate is now the American Wigeon and the Bluebill is a Scaup. So here are some names for birds, old names and new names. See if you can match up the old name and new name of these birds. Good luck!!

Old Names

1. Little Flycatcher
2. Snakebird
3. Black-breast
4. Goosander
5. Hairbird
6. Lawyer
7. Bull head
8. Whistler
9. Yellowhammer
10. Cherry-bird
11. Shore Lark
12. Mudhen
13. Bog-pumper
14. Titlark
15. Butterball
16. Snow bird
17. Arkansas Finch
18. Ortolan
19. Reedbird
20. Tell-tale
21. Spine-tail
22. Sea Dove
23. Mexican Starling

New Names

- a. American Bittern
- b. Bufflehead
- c. Northern Flicker
- d. Chimney Swift
- e. Cedar Waxwing
- f. Willow Flycatcher
- g. Common Merganser
- h. Water Pipit
- i. Common Goldeneye
- j. Black-bellied Plover
- k. American Goldfinch
- l. Anhinga
- m. Chipping Sparrow
- n. Black-necked Stilt
- o. Sora
- p. Greater Yellowlegs
- q. Dunlin
- r. Dark-eyed Junco
- s. Dovekie
- t. Eastern Meadowlark
- u. Bobolink
- v. American Coot
- w. Horned Lark

The answer key is provided on page 6.

(Information from: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/research/pubs/banks/obsall.htm>)



OAKLAND AUDUBON SIGNS UP FOR BIRD-A-THON FOR WILDLIFE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION

By Mike Mencotti

Oakland Audubon will join Macomb Audubon for its 13th Annual bird-a-Thon, raising money for Joe Rogers' Wildlife Recovery Association (WRA), on the weekend of May 7-9, 2010.

A Bird-a-Thon is like a Walk-a-Thon, but it is much more fun to do. During the weekend of the North American Migration Count, birders will donate their lists to the Bird-a-Thon in hopes of amassing as many species as possible. Virtually any area in the "MOO" (Michigan, Ontario and Ohio) is included. In years past, more than 175 species have been recorded.

Your pledges of either cents-per-species or flat donations help WRA. If you pledge 10 cents a species, you would owe somewhere around \$17.50.

In past years, we have raised more than \$600 annually for this worthy cause. In the 12 years we've had the fund-raisers; we have raised an astounding total of more than \$7,000 for WRA.

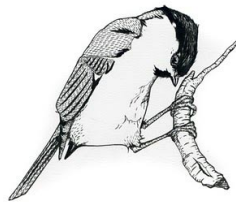
The WRA is an organization devoted to helping injured raptors, in hopes of releasing them in the wild. Also, Joe Rogers, WRA's director, had devoted much of his life to educating in his unique, high-energy way many students of all ages.

As with many nonprofit organizations, the WRA is walking that fine line of insolvency and solvency. School budgets and grants have all but dried up. The WRA needs your help to keep the programs going. Please pledge either by mail or at the monthly membership meeting.

Your pledge is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Amount of pledge. _____ per species, or a flat donation of _____

Make your checks payable to Wildlife Recovery Association, and mail c/o Mike Mencotti, 25378 Wykeshire, Farmington Hills, MI 48336



Artist: Carol E. Edwards

OAS WEBSITE

www.oaklandaudubon.org (and links)

OAKLAND AUDUBON EVENTS CALENDAR 2010
 (check the OAS Website for details)

Wednesday May 5, 2010 8:00 PM	FIELD TRIP	Woodcocks Heritage Park Leader: Mimi Cramer
Saturday May 8, 2010 8:00 PM	FIELD TRIP	Woodcocks Heritage Park Leader: Mimi Cramer
Tuesday May 11, 2010 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Compulsive Lister Speaker: Don Chalfant
Saturday May 15, 2010 8:00 AM	FIELD TRIP	Magee Marsh Leader: Don Burlett
Saturday May 22, 2010 7:00 AM	FIELD TRIP	Tawas Point Leader: Don Burlett
Saturday May 29, 2010 8:00 AM	FIELD TRIP	Pt. Huron SGA Leader: Don Burlett

Tuesday June 8, 2010 7:00 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING <i>SPECIAL TIME!</i>	Nature Walk Rouge River B.O. U-M Dearborn/BSBO
Saturday August 7, 2010 10:00 AM	FIELD TRIP	Butterflies Indian Springs Metropark Leader: Doris Applebaum
Tuesday September 14, 2010 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Cranes Speaker: Tom Hodgson
Tuesday October 12, 2010 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Mushrooms Speaker: Wendy Walden
Tuesday November 9, 2010 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Southeast Asia Speaker: Steve Pike

THE NUTHATCH: YOUR WAY

Our goal is to reduce the costs of mailing and printing (and reduce paper waste). Are you willing to accept your newsletter via e-mail or get it from our website? 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 the information. It would be so helpful and would let us know that the members do actually read the newsletter and are willing to respond.

POSITION OPEN – NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Our newsletter editor has had to step down and the organization needs to find someone interested in being our new newsletter editor. The job involves gathering articles and other information from members of the club and the board and putting it together as you see it every two months. There is plenty of support as articles are regularly provided. Editing of the newsletter is done by a support group and the newsletter is then printed by our outside printer. Also, an electronic copy is provided to the website manager for uploading to the OAS website.

The requirements are a computer with either Microsoft Word or an equivalent program, an interest in doing this work, and the willingness to contact people to make sure all the information necessary gets into the newsletter. Please contact Don Burlett or another board member if you are interested.

Name Quiz Answer Key: 1-f, 2-l, 3-q, 4-g, 5-m, 6-n, 7-j, 8-l, 9-c, 10-e, 11-w, 12-v, 13-a, 14-h, 15-b, 16-r, 17-k, 18-o, 19-u, 20-p, 21-d, 22-s, 23-t

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

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OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM May-June 2010

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: (____) _____
 MOBILE: (____) _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE LINE:
 MEMBER RENEWAL
 NEW MEMBER
 CHANGE OF ADDRESS

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAIL TO:
 OAS MEMBERSHIP
 26430 RAINE STREET
 OAK PARK, MI 48237-1026

Please advise of any personal information you do not want in the OAS membership directory.

CHECK ALSO IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF:
 NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
 MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYBLE IN SEPTEMBER FOR THE NEXT YEAR. OAS IS REGISTERED IN MICHIGAN AS A TAX-EXEMPT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. DONATIONS ARE TAX-EXEMPT.

OAS NEEDS AND WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS!
 PLEASE PARTICIPATE!

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:
 BENEFACTOR \$100
 SUPPORTER \$50
 CONTRIBUTING \$25
 FAMILY \$15
 INDIVIDUAL \$10

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER:
 TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER
 LEAD A FIELD TRIP/PRESENT A PROGRAM
 FILL AN OPEN POSITION
 POSITION (_____)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT AL LEWIS (248) 544-4391