



THE NUTHATCH

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 4

AN ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Sept / Oct 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.

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www.oaklandaudubon.org

JOURNEY TO THE CRANES



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Tom Hodgson

The Sandhill Crane is a Michigan success story. From a low point of 27 pairs in 1942, the population currently totals over 24,000. Michigan Audubon's Haehnle Sanctuary in Jackson County hosts a significant number of these cranes each autumn. Visitors from far and near go there each year to see hundreds (sometimes thousands!) of Sandhill Cranes congregating there, majestic in flight and thrilling in sound. Our speaker will tell us how this conservation success came about and, as a bonus, will offer free digital crane images to all attendees.

MUSHROOMS



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010

7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Wendy Walden

October is a good time to go out looking for mushrooms. It's also a good time for a program on mushrooms. Wendy Walden, who was not able to present her mushroom program as scheduled last year, has been rescheduled for October. Wendy is a very accomplished photographer who will introduce us to many of the mushrooms she has found on her photographic forays. Prepare to be amazed at the wide variety of these fascinating fungi.

President's Column



Artist Daniel S. Kilby

It's sometimes difficult to write this column as President because you are so focused on the needs of the organization. With that in mind, you tend to want to always state the obvious (it's at least obvious to me) and it sometimes sounds like a broken record. The club has had two trends that I have noted in my year and half in office. The first is the increase in activity for our field trips. This is very encouraging, especially as a complement to the usually well attended program meetings. For this, I am grateful. At the same time, our membership roll has been decreasing. It's probably a combination of tough times and a lack of involvement from younger folks in organizations like ours. I see this happening to many other organizations. For this, I am agitated.

As you might have noticed (if you have attended a program meeting recently), I always have a word or two to say about recruiting some new members. Obviously, we try to advertise in newspapers and have our website, but too often most people don't see these. What we really have to rely on is word of mouth from our current members. You are the ones that enjoy what we do and see the value of the organization. The programs, the field trips, the Christmas bird count and much more – these are our good points. What I need you to do is to talk up our organization with friends and acquaintances and let them know that we exist and we provide a real value for the small membership fee we request. That would be really helpful.

Meanwhile, the board is taking on a more aggressive stance on advertising and publicity for the organization. Soon, you will see cards on our table at program meetings and field trip leaders will carry these same cards. You can get some and place them in locations which will advertise the group. You can give them to friends and others to let them know who we are and if only a few percent decide to join the club, then we will have succeeded. So give it some thought.

Finally, our annual election of officers is coming up in October. I know the current group of officers and all past groups have done a fine job of running this group. But the current group can't do it forever. We also get burned out, especially if the position becomes a burden. So, take a moment to consider how much time you might be able to "volunteer" in service to the club and let an officer know of your willingness to give back to the organization. In the long run, it's the only way an organization of this type will survive. And I'll see you all on election night.

Thanks for listening to me on the soapbox.

Don Burlett

It's time to renew your membership to OAS!

The yearly dues are quite reasonable considering the benefits.

- (1) The dues are tax deductible
- (2) The monthly meetings are great for meeting people with the same interests in birds, birding and nature. Also there are guest speakers that are informative, entertaining and educational.
- (3) We have birding, butterfly and nature outings led by knowledgeable people.

As with many organizations, our membership has been decreasing. Yet our dues have remained the same for many years. For this club to continue to provide the above benefits, not only am I asking you to renew promptly, but ask people you know to join. It's not easy having to make as many as 60 calls to remind members to renew. Thanks and good birding.

Al Lewis, Membership Officer

Position Filled – Newsletter Editor

I would just like to take a moment and thank everyone for the opportunity to serve you as newsletter editor. As your new editor I hope to continue the quality of content that you have come to expect in the Nuthatch. It was evident to me from the start that OAS was a special group and I look forward to the many memories yet to be made together.

I believe, first and foremost, this is your newsletter, so here’s what I’m saying: You receive the newsletter, you’re the savvy crowd, and lastly you are the primary source of the newsletter’s relevant and interesting content. Contributions and involvement on your part are the necessary steps needed in providing everyone with a newsletter that we all will be able to enjoy. This is your opportunity to share your articles, ideas, questions, or suggestions. Please send all information to me at the following email address. nuthatcheditor@gmail.com

Mike McCullough



Artist Daniel S. Kilby

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

Albatross
 Blackbird
 Bluebird
 Cardinal
 Chickadee
 Crane
 Crow
 Cuckoo
 Dove
 Duck
 Eagle
 Falcon
 Finch
 Goose
 Grouse
 Gull
 Hawk
 Heron
 Hummingbird
 Jay
 Killdeer
 Kingfisher
 Lark
 Loon
 Magpie
 Mockinabird

G W L K A P S G N I W X A W C R T H I S
 E R A L I S A I E R R I B A H E O C T W
 Y E O O U N K R A L R E R U H C H B O D
 I A D U D G G N T A D D N S S I N R I C
 B G T L S R I F V R I U U N C W R I R N
 K L E V T E I E I N I R C K U A I O F S
 E E A L U U N B A S H D A K P R W F W T
 H S P C O L R L G T H D G S E D D A T W
 E T O T K I T K B N E E I E R I L A O G
 N A O O A B R U E E I N R I E L P O O O
 O R E N K R I O R Y H K B T O L D G W R
 C L H A T C M R Y E I G C W O P S L A P
 L I P W U A U I D A N N Z O E D O V E M
 A N E S P Z N C G I J O N C M C R A N E
 F G L L G I L A M A H R K O S P R E Y E
 W A I I O S G M G A N E M R E L B R A W
 A D C A O W U E W E R H D R I B E U L B
 E B A U S H R K O Y R A L B A T R O S S
 B R N Q E U C E E N P H E A S A N T A B
 K I L L D E E R N C S A N D P I P E R D

Oriole
 Osprey
 Owl
 Partridge
 Pelican
 Pheasant
 Pigeon
 Ptarmigan
 Quail
 Raven
 Roadrunner
 Robin
 Sandpiper
 Sparrow
 Starling
 Swallow
 Swan
 Swift
 Tanager
 Thrush
 Turkey
 Vulture
 Warbler
 Waxwing
 Woodpecker
 Wren

Bird-a-Thoners Nail 161 Species For The WRA

By Mike Mencotti

Macomb Audubon joined this year by Oakland Audubon held the 13th Annual bird-a-thon, raising money for Joe Rogers' Wildlife Recovery Association (WRA) with much success in 2010.

A Bird-a-Thon is like a Walk-a-Thon, but it is much more fun to do. During the weekend of May 7-9, birders hit different areas: Crane Creek in Ohio, Pt. Pelee in Ontario, Macomb County as well as Oakland County. The results were pretty good as we tallied 161 species. Some notable ones were: Peregrine Falcon, Clay-colored and Lark sparrows, Upland and Western sandpipers, Kirtland's and Kentucky warblers.

The weather was challenging, with gale-force winds and highs in the 40s on Saturday. A special thanks has to go out to some fine birders who helped make this a success: Mike and Margaret Goethe and Tom Heatley, Barb Baldinger, Joy Barron, Don Burlett, Ken and Heather Slayton, Colleen Traylor and Mike Mencotti.

Your pledges of either cents-per-species or flat donations help WRA. If you pledge 10 cents a species, you would owe somewhere like \$16.10. But feel free to round up! In past years, we have raised more than \$500 annually for this worthy cause. In the 12 years we've had the fund-raisers, MAS has raised an astounding total of more than \$6,900 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. It needs your help to keep his programs going. Please pledge either by mail or at the monthly membership meeting.

It is certainly not too late to donate or pledge. Your pledge is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Make your checks payable to Wildlife Recovery Association, and mail c/o Mike Mencotti, 25378 Wykeshire, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

***** ELECTION NOTICE *****



The October elections of Board of Directors for Oakland Audubon Society are right around the corner.

The current board positions up for election & incumbents are:

President Nominee - Don Burlett
 Corresponding Secretary Nominee – Nancy Trimmer
 Program Co-Officer Nominee – Margaret Moran
 Field Trip Officer Nominee – Don Burlett

Wetland Aliens Cause Bird Extinction

ScienceDaily (June 11, 2010)

BirdLife International has announced, in the 2010 IUCN Red List update for birds, the extinction of Alaotra Grebe. Restricted to a tiny area of east Madagascar, this species declined rapidly after carnivorous fish were introduced to the lakes in which it lived. This, along with the use of nylon gill-nets by fishermen which caught and drowned birds, has driven this species into the abyss.

"No hope now remains for this species. It is another example of how human actions can have unforeseen consequences," said Dr Leon Bennun, BirdLife International's Director of Science, Policy and Information. "Invasive alien species have caused extinctions around the globe and remain one of the major threats to birds and other biodiversity."

Another wetland species suffering from the impacts of introduced aliens is Zapata Rail from Cuba. It has been uplisted to Critically Endangered and is under threat from introduced mongooses and exotic catfish. An extremely secretive marsh-dwelling species, the only nest ever found of this species was described by James Bond, a Caribbean ornithologist and the source for Ian Fleming's famous spy's name. And it's not just aliens. Wetlands the world over, and the species found in them, are under increasing pressures.

In Asia and Australia, numbers of once common wader species such as Great Knot and Far Eastern Curlew are dropping rapidly as a result of drainage and pollution of coastal wetlands. The destruction of inter-tidal mudflats at Saemangeum in South Korea, an important migratory stop-over site, correlated to a 20% decline in the world population of Great Knot. Huge flocks of these birds once visited northern Australia, but annual monitoring by scientists has found corresponding declines in numbers.

"Wetlands are fragile environments, easily disturbed or polluted, but essential not only for birds and other biodiversity but also for millions of people around the world as a source of water and food," said Dr Stuart Butchart, BirdLife's Global Research and Indicators Coordinator.

Turning the tide

However, the Red List update shows that we now know, more than ever, that conservation works. Azores Bullfinch has been downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered as a result of conservation work to restore natural vegetation on its island home. SPEA (BirdLife in Portugal) and RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) have worked together with others to turn around the fortunes of this species in what is a model for other projects.

"This is a clear example of conservation action succeeding in turning the tide for a highly threatened species," said Andy Symes, BirdLife's Global Species Program Officer. "Where there is commitment and financing we can save species. We have the knowledge and will, but there needs to be better funding globally to address the loss of species."

In Colombia, Yellow-eared Parrot has also been the beneficiary of conservation through work by Fundación ProAves. Protection of its nest sites and education programs in local communities telling people about its uniqueness has led to a steady increase in numbers, resulting in downlisting to Endangered.

"These successes show what is possible, and they point the way forward to what needs to be done by the global community," said Dr Butchart. "2010 is the International Year of biodiversity; world leaders failed to stem the decline of biodiversity. We cannot fail again."

"The monitoring of bird species is a key contribution to the monitoring of biodiversity worldwide. We must praise BirdLife International, their Partners and all ornithologists around the world for their massive effort to better understand the current extinction crisis and also their efforts to save some of the most threatened species," said Dr Jean-Christophe Vie, Deputy Head of IUCN's Species Program.

OAKLAND AUDUBON EVENTS CALENDAR 2010 / 2011

(Check the OAS Website for details)

Tuesday September 14, 2010 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Cranes Speaker: Tom Hodgson
Tuesday September 18, 2010 10AM-3:00 PM	FIELD TRIP	Hawkfest Lk. Erie Metropark Joan Tisdale
Tuesday October 12, 2010 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Mushrooms Speaker: Wendy Walden
Saturday October 16, 2010 9:00 AM	FIELD TRIP	Mushroom Hunt Highland State Recreation Area
Tuesday November 9, 2010 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Southeast Asia Speaker: Steve Pike

Saturday December 18, 2010 All Day	NAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	New participants call Scott Jennex, 248-212-9582
Tuesday January 11, 2011 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	eBird: Observations Speaker: Darren O'Brien
Tuesday February 8, 2011 7:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Birding Australia & New Zealand Speaker: Don Burlett

OAS BOARD MEMBERS

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THE NUTHATCH YOUR WAY
(Help OAS Reduce Costs)

A reminder note to our members - please contact OAS President Don Burlett to indicate how you would like to receive the Nuthatch. We are trying to reduce costs and would like to have as many members as possible either get the newsletter from the website or have it e-mailed directly to them. Please take a moment to consider how much money we could use for other programs if we reduce newsletter mailing costs. We look forward to hearing from you.

OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM / Sept-Oct 2010

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

MOBILE: (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

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

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAIL TO:

OAS MEMBERSHIP

26430 Raine, Oak Park, MI 48237