



THE NUTHATCH

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Attracting Bluebirds in Michigan

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Kurt Hagemeister

Who better to tell us all about bluebirds than the President of the Michigan Bluebird Society? Tonight we'll learn how to attract these beautiful birds and why the bluebird is on just about everyone's "favorite bird" list.



*Eastern Bluebird
by Kurt Hagemeister*



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A Visit to the Galapagos

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Sue Wright

OAS member Sue Wright took part in an exciting visit to eight of the Galapagos Islands and tonight she will show us what she encountered on land and sea. Join us to learn about many of the birds and other wildlife for which the Galapagos are famous.



Waved Albatross by Sue Wright

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Birding and Birding Skills

Birding has always been a part of my life. When I was a young boy (hard to imagine that now), I was interested in birds and I began my career as an amateur ornithologist by getting a *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds*, and began my chase to see some of these birds. Unfortunately, my parents weren't into nature activities and I was left to my own ambitions to pursue this goal. I also had no other mentors or clubs that I was aware of to seek out sage advice and help learning what needed to be learned to be a better birder.

I began birding by watching what was around me, collecting feathers, keeping track of local nests, and generally using my observational skills to gather small bits of information about this world of birds around me. In spite of my best efforts, my skills were really not well developed. I never learned the bird songs like people do today. I wasn't even aware that birding tapes or other resources even existed. That was a good while back. So, my list of birds was modest and it eventually became a vacation hobby.

Nothing wrong with that. I was still happy to do the birding I could and add a bird here or there and learn a little. However, when I had time to return to my birding, I found my interest re-ignited. I dove into it with a vengeance and, through some effort, was able to start the process of accumulating a vast store of bird knowledge. A lot of effort and hard work has gotten me to where I am today. And I had help from other, more experienced people.

Now, when you consider where you are as a birder, it will depend on what you have time and interest in. Watching the feeder at home is perfectly fine and can be very entertaining. If your interest ends there, that's great. However, if you have more curiosity and desire to learn about birds and to see some birds in a new light, then you need to seek out the knowledge that will help you achieve your goals. There are books, internet resources, tapes, etc. all over the place that can help you learn about the birds. But, in the end, the test of what you have learned comes with getting out and using those skills to find, identify, and enjoy those birds. Learning their habitats, behavior, and all the other attributes that make them fascinating comes from being in the field.

Amazingly, that's where our organization comes in. We have a number of good birders who contribute their time to lead field trips and help everyone learn about the birds that we live with. We also have programs presented by people with lots of experience with birding and other nature-based topics. I really think that having a chance to talk to someone who knows something that I want to learn about is as good a way to learn as reading a book or internet article. The experienced person can filter out some of the less important bits of information and boil the facts down to the really important stuff.

That's why I wish I had had a mentor to help me learn when I was younger. That's also why you have no excuses. We provide those mentors or help you get help from others that will enrich your birding and nature experiences. Please take advantage of these opportunities while they exist. Nothing lasts forever, as much as we might think, and time flies by so quickly that you suddenly realize you missed something that you wanted. So, be a part of this experience and let us help you with your goals in life from the nature side.

Don Burlett

Page one photo credits: Fawn by Kim Smith; opossum, rabbit, and coyote by Jeff Stacey

THE OAKLAND OWLETS—OAS YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

by Lisa Badgero

On March 14 the Oakland Owlets will be headed west to W. K. Kellogg Biological Station Bird Sanctuary. This is a great place to see different types of birds. We will start by taking a 3/4-mile paved path where we can see captive birds of prey and upland game birds up close, as well as wild and captive waterfowl on Wintergreen Lake. A museum and outdoor educational signage inform visitors about the birds, landscape, and history of the sanctuary.

After seeing the captive birds, we can search for early migrants on the local trails. Please come out and join us for this exciting event!

On April 11, we will have a nature journaling program at Red Oaks Nature Center in Madison Heights. This event will focus on bird feathers and all the ways they help birds survive and thrive. Please come out and join us for this fun and educational event!

For more information about the Oakland Owlets and our events, please see the Oakland Audubon website.



*Bald Eagle by
Joan Tisdale*

CORNELL LAB YOUNG BIRDERS EVENT

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is hosting their annual Young Birders Event from July 16–19, 2015 in Ithaca, New York. The Young Birders Event aims to bring together teenagers (students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors) who are interested in pursuing a career with birds. The participants will meet people who have successful careers that involve birds in a variety of ways, from ornithological researchers to tour leaders, to audio specialists and computer scientists. To apply fill out the application form and **return it by April 1, 2015**. Sixteen young birders will be selected and notified in mid-April. Please share this information with any young birders you know!

For more information and to apply, please visit <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/yb2015/>

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(Details of these outings are on the Field Trips page of our website at www.oaklandaudubon.org)

Date	Event	Trip Leader(s)
Saturday, March 7 8:30 a.m. — noon	U of M Museum of Natural History	Don Burlett
Saturday, March 21 8:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Belleville Lake/Huron River	Jim Koppin
Saturday, April 11 8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.	Chrysler Grounds Survey	Don Burlett
April 18-19 weekend	Berrien County in Spring	Don Burlett
April 25-26 weekend	Whitefish Point Spring Fling	Kathleen Dougherty/Don Burlett

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 22, 2015

Our Facebook “likes” total has reached 409.

The Young Birders Club has been sharing events with the Detroit Audubon Society’s young birders group.

Our recent Christmas Bird Count is the subject of a YouTube video, which will be added to our Facebook page and website.

Plans are being made for a membership survey, something that we have not done for several years.

Doris Applebaum
Secretary

2015 Membership Renewals

Memberships run from January 1 to December 31 each year. Our renewal campaign has begun for 2015, so we ask that you consider renewing now. Please use the form on page 15.

Welcome to Our Newest Oakland Audubon Members!

Rae and Adasyn Bullard, Matthew Porter, Vernon Siple Family, and Bruce White

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

November 22, 2014—Belle Isle Field Trip—Leader: Don Burlett

To say that the weather was iffy would be an understatement. Participation was very good considering the icy roads in the area. On the island, the roads were almost sheer ice. But with a little discipline, driving around was not an issue. For the participants, the rewards were good. The highlights, beyond the normal collection of ducks and swans and gulls, were Peregrine Falcons seen at the east end of the island and the American Pipits observed near the beach area on the way out. We did not get Fox Sparrow but we had a wonderful time watching a group of Cedar Waxwings bathing in the channel near the old zoo site. And, as usual, a group enjoyed lunch together to compare stories and notes.

December 20, 2014—Christmas Bird Count

This year's Christmas Bird Count was held a little later than usual with our typical first Saturday falling later. There were 62 participants on this census involving hard work, some early owling and lots of miles driving and hiking, resulting in a tally of 67 species. Among the highlights were a Northern Shrike, Common Loon, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, Pine Siskin, and Common Redpoll.

The day's activities were followed by a rousing Tally dinner with fine food provided by our Hospitality Chair, Alice Marotti and her husband Arthur. Big thanks go out to Scott Jennex (compiler), Ed Lewandowski (Field Trip Officer), and Kathleen Dougherty (who arranged for the room at the WINT Nature Center at Independence Oaks). Also, many thanks to our area leaders for pulling together groups and coordinating all the hard work in the field. A full listing of species is provided in the online version of The Nuthatch.

January 11, 2015—Wild Card Field Trip (Crosswinds Marsh, Lake Erie Metropark and Pointe Mouillee SGA)—Leader: Ed Lewandowski

This was our first attempt at a "Wild Card" field trip – that is, a field trip that is not designated until the week before the trip. The decision was based on recent sightings and weather conditions. Well, in spite of the planning, we found ourselves at Crosswinds Marsh to start the day, only to discover that the water was completely frozen. We still ventured forth and got some nice birds including Eastern Bluebird, Bald Eagle, and some gulls.

We then headed to Lake Erie Metropark in search of water birds. Indeed, we found thousands of ducks and lots of swans. At least 150 Tundra Swans could be found in the small patches of open water. A large number of Great Blue Heron hung around the edges of the open water and at least 30 Bald Eagles also relaxed on the ice.

Finally, we headed to Pointe Mouillee State Game Area in search of recently reported Snowy Owls. A walk part of the way to the outer dikes produced a Snowy Owl hunkered down on a muskrat mound. Additionally, we got Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier and American Kestrel along the way. All in all, a great start to the season and we had an astounding 24 people along for the fun. Just wait for the next "wild card" trip.



Snowy Owl by Jeff Stacey

FIELD TRIP REPORTS (*continued*)

January 24, 2015—St. Clair River Field Trip—Leader: Don Burlett

Our annual migration up the river began at Lake St. Clair Metropark, in search of a Great Horned Owl. Our bad luck was that the owls were not on the nest and weren't to be found. As the water in the lake was frozen, we immediately headed for the river. We had no luck finding a Snowy Owl near the air base as we drove through. Then the river was frozen over until we reached St. Clair. Then, the river opened up and we had lots of ducks and other birds. The view of a Bald Eagle and three American Crows riding a piece of ice down the river was cute. We got some nice ducks and some other species. At Port Huron, we had a pair of late arriving Peregrine Falcons, who showed up just as we were about to leave the area near the bridge. However, the highlights of the day were the two scoter species, White-winged and Surf, and the female King Eider spotted by Jim Koppin. That proved to be a very rewarding stop on the trip. We finished off the day with lunch at the Thumb Coast Brewery with our co-hosts from the Blue Water Audubon group. We'll obviously want to do some more birding with this group. Nineteen people enjoyed the trip and hopefully will be back next year.

UPDATE FROM TOURNAMENT CENTRAL

by Dave Frye

The 2014/2015 Our Favorite Bird Tournament has now progressed past the opening two rounds and here are your "Sweet Sixteen":

Waterfowl and Shorebirds

Common Loon (1) vs.

Wood Duck (5)

and

Black-Bellied Plover (11) vs.

Ross's Gull (7)

Raptors, Owls, Woodpeckers, Woodcreepers, Ground Fowl

American Kestrel (9) vs.

Red-Shouldered Hawk (13)

and

Pileated Woodpecker (3) vs.

Red-Headed Woodpecker (15)

Perching Birds

Scarlet Tanager (9) vs.

Black-Billed Cuckoo (5)

and

Belted Kingfisher (6) vs.

Golden-Crowned Kinglet (7)

Warblers, Sparrows, and Grassland Birds

Cerulean Warbler (1) vs.

Indigo Bunting (13)

and

Blackburnian Warbler (6) vs.

Northern Parula (2)

Pick me,
pick me!



Looking back on the results from the first two rounds, one could characterize the action as a "Feast of Upsets," as top-seeded birds like Cedar Waxwing, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Bufflehead, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Peregrine Falcon all went down to defeat. Check back in our next issue to see which bird comes out on top this year!

OAKLAND AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 20, 2014

DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL

Canada Goose - 620
Mute Swan - 91
Wood Duck - 8
Gadwall - 6
American Black Duck - 16
Mallard - 434
Bufflehead - 10
Common Goldeneye - 196
Common Merganser - 252
duck sp. - 20

TURKEYS

Wild Turkey - 75

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS

Great Blue Heron - 1

LOONS

Common Loon - 1

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture - 5

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES

Bald Eagle - 3
Northern Harrier - 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 4
Cooper's Hawk - 19
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1
Red-tailed Hawk - 77

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

American Kestrel - 2

CRANES

Sandhill Crane - 5

GULLS

Ring-billed Gull - 5512
Herring Gull - 334
Glaucous Gull - 3
Great Black-backed Gull - 20
gull sp. - 7

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon - 220
Mourning Dove - 610

OWLS

Eastern Screech-Owl - 11
Great Horned Owl - 9
Short-eared Owl - 1

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher - 1

WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker - 5
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 104
Downy Woodpecker - 181
Hairy Woodpecker - 30

WOODPECKERS (cont'd)

Northern Flicker - 6
Pileated Woodpecker - 6

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike - 1

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES

Blue Jay - 426
American Crow - 420

LARKS

Horned Lark - 9

CHICKADEES, TITMICE, AND NUTHATCHES

Black-capped Chickadee - 627
Tufted Titmouse - 192
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 8
White-breasted Nuthatch - 195

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper - 8

WRENS

Carolina Wren - 1

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 5

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

Eastern Bluebird - 50
Hermit Thrush - 1
American Robin - 22

STARLINGS

European Starling - 6598

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing - 128

BUNTINGS AND SPARROWS

American Tree Sparrow - 151
Song Sparrow - 6
Swamp Sparrow - 4
White-throated Sparrow - 13
White-crowned Sparrow - 1
Dark-eyed Junco - 569

SALTATORS, CARDINALS, AND ALLIES

Northern Cardinal - 243

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES

Purple Finch - 9
House Finch - 217
Common Redpoll - 18
Pine Siskin - 44
American Goldfinch - 348

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow - 986

Total species: 67

Total Individuals: 20,207

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	Carolyn Beauvais	(248) 644-4989	carolyn.beauvais@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Young Birders Club Rep.	Lisa Badgero	(248) 765-4848	mcarthurl2001@yahoo.com
Hospitality Officer	Alice Marotti	(248) 545-4165	amarotti@aol.com
Publicity/Fundraising	Phil Bugosh	(248) 763-3163	peb729@gmail.com
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Nuthatch Editor	Kim Smith	(248) 420-6105	kimcsmith79@gmail.com
Seven Ponds Rep.	Don Burlett	(248) 236-9486	baikalteal13@netzero.net

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tues., Mar. 10	7:30 p.m.	Attracting Bluebirds in Michigan	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., April 14	7:30 p.m.	A Visit to the Galapagos	First United Methodist Church (see below)
Tues., May 12	7:30 p.m.	The Singing Insects of Michigan	First United Methodist Church (see below)

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.

NATURE NOTES *by Allen Chartier*

What's the best way to find salamanders? Where should I look, and when? What are the most common kinds of salamanders in Michigan?

On April 18, 1980, my wife, Nancy, and I attended an Oakland Audubon field trip led by legendary botanist Don Drife to find the rare Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*). The location was a woodlot behind the Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield (now apparently developed), and the field trip was attended by Don's brother Carl and their wonderful parents, Malcolm and Elaine (now both deceased). OAS was a family affair back then! We did not find any Twinleaf in bloom, just leaves, but Carl was actively turning over logs looking for salamanders. Eventually, he showed us our first ever live salamander, a Red-backed (*Plethodon cinereus*). And that began our interest in salamanders.

Salamanders are extremely interesting amphibians, but are often overlooked as their relatives the frogs and toads are much more conspicuous with many more species. There are approximately 650 species of salamander in the world. This number has increased from about 500 a couple decades ago due to genetic studies "splitting" species, and discoveries of secretive species. Unlike many groups of vertebrates, which are more diverse in the tropics, salamanders are more diverse in temperate regions, being found mostly in Europe, northern Asia, and with fully 1/3 of the salamanders of the world found in the United States! At least 35 species (5%

of the world's total) are found in and around the Great Smoky Mountains. The standard field guide for U.S. reptiles and amphibians (Conant and Collins 1991) is fairly helpful though outdated. An excellent, though now somewhat taxonomically outdated reference covering just salamanders is Petranka (1998). Salamanders found in Mexico and Central America are rather poorly

known as many are found only at single sites (e.g., one volcano). Some references for these species include Leenders (2001) and McCranie and Wilson (2002). Some U.S. species also have very small ranges, but many are fairly widely distributed.

In Michigan, there are 11 species, most widely distributed but found mostly in the southern parts of the state. The seven widespread species include Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*), Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Blue-spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*), Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*), and Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*). Rare and locally distributed species include Western Lesser Siren (*Siren intermedia nettingi*), Small-mouthed Salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*), Marbled Salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*), and Northern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*). Harding (1997) provides excellent detailed information on all these species.



*Marbled Salamander. I'On Swamp, South Carolina. January 26, 2015.
Photo by Allen T. Chartier.*



*Red-backed Salamanders found under the same log at Highland State Recreation Area, Oakland County, Michigan. 13 April 1986.
Photo by Allen T. Chartier.*

NATURE NOTES *continues on next page >>>*

NATURE NOTES (continued)

My favorite place to look for salamanders in Oakland County is the Highland State Recreation Area, where in early April I have found as many as five of the seven widely distributed species in a single day. Other times only one species (usually Red-backed) can be found. Salamanders have diverse breeding strategies, which guides how you need to look for them. The Mudpuppy and Lesser Siren are completely aquatic their entire lives, and are mainly seen by fishermen who accidentally catch them. The Eastern Newt is mainly aquatic, with many individuals spending their entire lives in small ponds, but a terrestrial form (called a

Red Eft) can sometimes be found under logs in woodlands. The “mole salamanders” in the genus *Ambystoma* spend most of their lives underground, and emerge in early spring after rains fill up their vernal ponds, where they migrate (sometimes in large numbers) to lay their eggs. These species are most easily seen during these migrations in early spring, and at night, but can also sometimes be found under logs in the daytime near these vernal ponds. In early April, the breeding Spotted Salamanders at Hudson Mills Metropark (Washtenaw County) can often be watched migrating as the park staff have at times generously kept the park open at night during the peak of breeding.



*Red-backed Salamander in Southfield, Oakland County, Michigan. April 18, 1980.
Photo by Allen T. Chartier.*

summer and early fall. Turning over logs, loose bark, and leaf litter in early spring in almost any woodlot in Michigan is likely to result in a Red-backed Salamander sighting. The Four-toed Salamander is uncommon and lays its eggs among moss overhanging vernal ponds, so is semi-aquatic, but is also often found in similar situations to Red-backed.

Lungless salamanders in the genus *Plethodon* with just one species in Michigan, the Red-backed (including two color morphs; red-backed and “lead” backed) are the most frequently encountered species. They spend most of their lives underground, but forage for food on the floor of rich woodlands at night in spring, and lay their eggs under logs in late

In conclusion, I’d like to leave salamander searchers with three cautions. First, never ever collect any salamanders; leave them all where you found them. Second, be very careful when turning logs, bark, or rocks as there may be salamanders on the log rather than on the ground, and it is vitally important to replace these important components of their habitat exactly as you found them. Remove all salamanders from under a log, roll the log back, and put the salamanders at the edge of the log so they don’t get crushed, and can find their way back underneath. And third, please do not wear any chemicals such as insect repellent (especially DEET), hand lotion, or hand sanitizers when searching for salamanders. You will almost always handle them, so if you have anything on your hands the salamanders will absorb it into their skin, and could easily die from these toxins. When spring arrives, happy salamandering!

References

- Conant, R., and J.T. Collins. 1991. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians: Eastern and Central North America*. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, MA.
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- Leenders, T. 2001. *A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*. Distribuidores Zona Tropical S.A. Miami, FL.
- McCranie, J.R., and L.D. Wilson. 2002. *The Amphibians of Honduras*. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. Ithaca, NY.

**OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Assets (as of 1-1-2014)

Charter One Bank checking account	\$ 6,129.05
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Income

Dues	3,990.00
Donations	16.00
October Sale	159.00
Symposium proceeds	234.00
Young Birders Club	200.00
Bank rebate	25.00
 Total Income	 \$ 4,624.00

Expenses

Bank charges	49.00
Charitable contributions	100.00
Hospitality	112.42
Mail fees, postage	258.00
Michigan corporation fee	20.00
Printing	642.81
Programs and field trips	432.00
Rent	670.00
Young Birders Club	97.25
Website	288.00
 Total expenses	 \$ 2,669.48

Net Worth as of 12-31-2014

\$ 8,083.57

Elaine M. Ferguson, Treasurer
January 18, 2015

ENJOY THE SNOWIES WHILE YOU CAN

by Doris Applebaum

During the winter of 2013-14, there was an incredible southward flight of thousands of Snowy Owls into the lower 48 states. It provided many birders an excellent opportunity to see some birds that rarely visit this area in such tremendous numbers.

The event also provided researchers with an unprecedented chance to fill in some gaps in the natural history of this species, thanks to modern technology. While hundreds of the owls were banded—a tried-and-true tracking method but one with limited return results, 22 others were outfitted with a solar-powered tracking device that provided downloadable information as often as every 30 seconds.

Among other things, the researchers learned that the owls, almost all of which were juveniles, exhibited considerably varied travel patterns. Some were stay-at-homes and rarely ventured from a chosen location, while others were tracked over several hundred miles.

Interestingly, there was relatively little indication that the owls preyed on small mammals for their dinner. Unlike their home territory in the Arctic, where lemmings provide the basic owl fare, the main prey in the lower 48 appeared to be gulls and waterfowl.

Eventually the winter ended and the time to return north arrived, but they didn't all make it back home. Banded owls were found to have been killed in a variety of ways, including drowning, getting hit by a jet plane, and falling into an open-pit gold mine. In all, it was estimated that several hundred of the owls failed to survive the winter.

In addition to man-made dangers, climate change is something that the owls may find difficult to survive in the long run. Their typical breeding habitat of tundra is predicted to become covered with shrubs and trees, and their food supply is expected to dwindle as the lemmings on which they depend lose their habitat also.

And most disturbing, the worldwide population appears to have been wildly overestimated. Analysis of breeding habitat in the past couple of years indicated that instead of the previous estimate of 200,000-300,000 individuals, the number of breeding pairs may be 30,000 or less.

During the 2014-2015 winter, eBird reports indicated that another nice southern flight of Snowies was underway, giving birders more opportunities to see these impressive birds. Here's a thought: anytime you get a chance to see a Snowy Owl, enjoy the moment. There may be a lot fewer such chances in the future.

(Much of this information is based on an article in the February-March 2015 issue of *National Wildlife* magazine, published by the National Wildlife Federation.)



CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE MONARCHS



Monarch butterfly by Joan Tisdale

On February 9, 2015, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced a major program designed to engage Americans in the effort to save the drastically declining Monarch butterfly. In 1996 there were a billion

monarchs, but their population is now estimated at only 33 million. These iconic butterflies are known for their 3,000 mile annual migration across the continent, as well as for their dependence on milkweed plants.

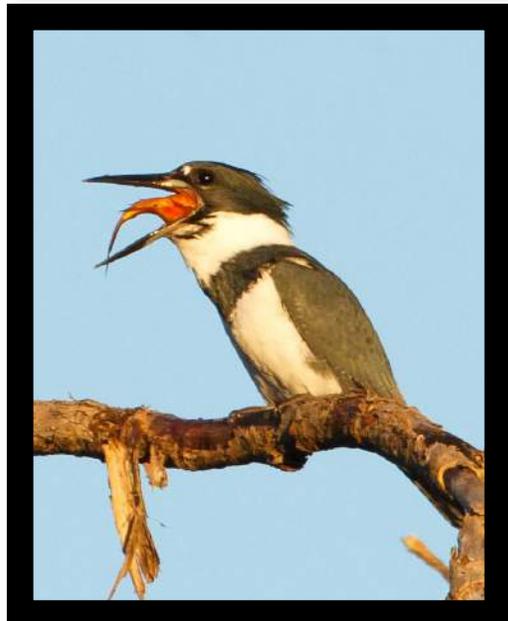
The precipitous decline in Monarchs is thought to be due to habitat loss in their breeding grounds in the U.S. and Canada and in their wintering grounds in Mexico. Agricultural pesticides have destroyed much of the milkweed that is an essential part of the Monarch life cycle, and illegal logging in Mexico is having a major impact on their wintering grounds.

From their new website: “Monarch declines are symptomatic of environmental problems that also pose risks to food production, the spectacular natural places that help define our national identity, and our own health. Conserving and connecting habitat for monarchs will benefit many other plants and animals, including critical insect and avian pollinators, and future generations of Americans.”

Please visit their new website to see how you can help in this monumental effort: <http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch>



Monarch caterpillar by Caryle Spence



*Belted Kingfisher with prey,
by Jeff Stacey*

BIRD ID QUIZ

Who am I?



(A) _____



(B) _____



(C) _____

Photo credits: (A) Joan Tisdale, (B) Robert Epstein (C) Don Burlett

Jan/Feb Answers

(A) Horned Grebe; (B) Pied-billed Grebe; (C) Eared Grebe



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.

Please make checks payable to:
OAKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mail to:
OAS MEMBERSHIP
2780 SCENIC MEADOWS DRIVE
ORTONVILLE, MICHIGAN 48462

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