



EARTHSTAR

Newsletter of the Macomb Audubon Society

<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

Volume 36 Number 4, July - August 2010

Programs

July 12th 2010 - Annual Summer Potluck Picnic

6:30 pm, Stony Creek Metropark, West Branch Picnic Area, Area A (Note Change to 2'nd Monday)

Our annual summer picnic at Stony, this feast will feature delicious, delectable, and mouth watering treats. This is always one of everyone's favorite events of the year. Bring your place setting, a beverage of your choice and a dish to pass. Time permitting we will walk and look for Bluebirds, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings and other avian friends we've seen in past years. See you there!

August 2nd 2010 - Ice Cream Social

7:00 pm, Metro Beach Metropark Nature Center

A great way to enjoy a hot August evening with good friends and good ice cream. Bring your own bowl and spoon and a topping to share and, of course, your sweet tooth.

September 13th 2010 - Seventh Annual September Bonfire

7:30 PM, Sterling Hts. Nature Center . (Note Change to Second Monday and change of venue to Sterling Hts.)

Return with us to those nostalgic days of yesteryear as we enjoy Macomb Audubon Society's 7'th Annual Fall Bonfire, starting at 7:30 p.m. Dress for the weather, grab your lawn chair, roasting forks and hot dogs/buns, s'mores fixins', singing voice, guitar or harmonica and your favorite ghostly stories as we forget the daily grind and get lost in the magic of the fire circle. Hot dog fixins' and our usual assortment of beverages and pot luck desserts will be available for all to partake.

In case of rain, we will retire to the Nature Center. Bring a Friend!

Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center News

Camera Club meets the second Monday if each month at 7:00pm

Common Butterflies of Uncommon Beauty and Interest

Intro Thursday July 15 6:30-8:00 pm
Outing Saturday July 17 9:30-11:30 am

Identifying Trees by their Leaves

Friday July 16 7:00 pm

An Evening with Bluebirds

Friday July 23 7:00 pm

Sundays at Shadbush

Sundays at Shadbush are for the family. We offer animal feeding, guided walks, self-guided walks, children's area, and much more. **There is no fee**

Seven Ponds Nature Center

Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 3 10:00 am

Curious Canoers

Saturday, July 10 10:00 am

Earl's Prairie

Sunday, July 18 10:00 am

Golf Cart Tours

Sunday, August 15 10:00 am & 2:00 pm

Family Pond Dipping

Sunday, August 22 2:00 pm

Call 810-796-3200 for more information & fees

Macomb Audubon Society

The Macomb Audubon Society is a chapter of the Michigan Audubon Society. Meetings are normally held the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the **Sterling Heights Nature Center** located at 42700 Utica Rd. (south and east of the Van Dyke/Utica Rd. intersection, north of 19 Mile Rd.) Events of the Society are open to the public.

The mission of the Macomb Audubon Society is to:

- Promote interest in the world of nature and to aid in the conservation of natural resources.
- Provide an outlet for nature activities via field trips.
- Provide an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience through lectures, films, discussions and newsletters.
- Aid organizations that provide people of all ages with opportunities to experience these above given objectives.

People can support our efforts by becoming members. To become a member, complete the form on the inside back cover and send to Macomb Audubon Membership, 6143 Walker Troy MI 48085. Members receive this newsletter, the *Earthstar*.

Earthstar Deadline

We appreciate relevant information or articles of interest to the Macomb Audubon membership for review for publication in the *Earthstar*. If you have material that you wish to submit, please send it by the **12th of the preceding month** to:

Bill Clark
53253 North Ave
Macomb MI 48042
(586) 749-5523
E-mail: wtclark1@COMCAST.NET

Earthstar is published bimonthly by the Macomb Audubon Society, a non-profit, educational organization.



President's Corner

Hey everybody - How you doin'?' Well you missed a good one if you missed the June 7 th. meeting. We were locked out of the Nature Center and the speaker couldn't make it for his program on Wolves - YIKES! However, as we held our impromptu meeting in the parking lot of the Nature Center, the ever resourceful Heather Slayton started making phone calls. Eventually Joel Casey from the Dept. of Parks and Recreation called Heather back and had a room where we could hold our meeting at the Recreation Center just down the road. We all jumped in our cars and headed on down the road, happy to have found a place to hold the meeting. Now we still had the case of the missing speaker and no program - GASP! Not to fear. Randy Baker stepped up with an awesome program. You just had to be there, that's all I can say. We were totally entertained and had a wonderful time as always. We learned a lot that evening and were once again reminded that this wonderful society of ours is made up of many resourceful and dedicated members. So, much thanks and appreciation to Heather Slayton, Joel Casey, and Randy Baker. You guys saved the day, or should I say the meeting.

Anyone have tons of Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds still lurking about? Our yard is full of them which is very unusual this time of year. In all the years we have lived here (21) they are usually gone by now. They flit through in May for a week or 2 and then good-bye, see you in the fall. They're eating us out of house and home, even eating the Suet which is something we have never seen before. Any suggestions on how to deter these mobsters of the feeders, short of a pallet gun?

We're not here for a long time we're here for a good time, but these Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds are starting to - - -

Peace, Colleen

I'll be bringing Bloodroot plants to the July Picnic if anyone would like any I'll have plenty to go around. In fact, if you have any plants you would like to share bring them along. We can have a plant exchange. It's the best way to fill up the garden.

Bird sightings from the Twas Trip



Wilson's Snipe



Canada Goose

Photographer was Mary Buchowski (Sgt Boo) for this totally awesome trip

. . . The Wilson's Snipe was sighted at the Harrisville Marina. The American Bittern was sighted at

McGee Marsh in Tawas, MI. Also seen was the Canada Goose protecting their young along side the road....The trip was was too awesome not to tell!!!

Mary



American Bittern



Chris Becher, provisional interpreter at Metro Beach MetroPark Nature Center, won the Outstanding Part time/Seasonal Interpreter Award at a Regional meeting of the National Association for Interpretation (NAIS) in Midland, Michigan.

This award is given to a member who has demonstrated outstanding creativity and/or effectiveness in interpretation in a part time position.

We can all be very proud of Chris.

BIRD-A-THONERS NAIL 161 SPECIES FOR THE WILDLIFE RECOVERY ASSN.

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 sparrow. 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, Tom Heatley, Barb Baldinger, Joy Barron, Don Burlett, Kena dn 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 fundraisers, 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.

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



A Huge THANK YOU To Betty Ebert and her friend Alice Forton for always being the smiling faces behind our refreshment table at all of our membership meetings. Betty and Alice make sure we have hot coffee, tea and hot chocolate set out for us to enjoy every month, buy the condiments, plates, napkins etc and set a lovely table complete with table cloth and often fresh cut flowers from their own garden. They arrive early to start the coffee and get the tables set up and then stay late to make sure it's all put away. They're always there to chat with as we pick our goodies off the smorgasbord that is brought every month, often one or both of these ladies also bakes something wonderful to add to the collection. These ladies are the unsung heroes of our organization and really deserve our gratitude. After all, food and refreshments are close to us birders' hearts. The next time you see one of them please make sure you thank them for all they do ... and then sign up to bring a treat to the next meeting :-). Thank You Betty and Alice for all you do, We love you!!!

Heather Slayton

Humming Bird Hat



On my recent birthday, my son-in-law who lives in upstate New York, knew I was in the Macomb Audubon and liked watching birds. So, he made me a Humming Bird Hat. You can get up close and personal wearing one of these. My Daughter said they tried it out at home where they have Humming Birds that come around like bees and it worked great. We only get one or two during the day so I might have to stand for quite a while to attract the birds around here.

Bill Clark

Plants to Attract and Feed Hummingbirds

Trees and Shrubs

- * Azalea
- * Butterfly Bush (Buddleia)
- * Cape Honeysuckle
- * Flame Acanthus
- * Flowering Quince
- * Lantana
- * Manzanita
- * Mimosa
- * Red Buckeye
- * Tree Tobacco
- * Turk's Cap
- * Weigela

Feeding the Eagles!

Comox, B.C., Vancouver Island, Jan. 2009.

In January the weather was so cold that the bald eagles were cruising over our houses looking for helpless cats to make a quick meal. Some kind souls decided to feed the eagles down at Goose Spit so they would survive the cold spell. Here's what happened... A former teaching colleague took these photos in front of his home. They are incredible!



Meetings are held the first Monday of most months at 7:30 PM at the Sterling Heights Nature Center in Sterling Heights, MI.

The Sterling Heights Nature Center is located on the NE side of Utica Rd, east of Van Dyke and north of 18 Mile Rd. The street address is 42700 Utica Rd.,

The officers and members of the Macomb Audubon Society would like to thank the following members for joining or renewing on the contributor level: John Denomme, Ronald & Sandra Wuerfel,

We would like to welcome our new members: John Denomme, Jenny & Tony Nielsen, Geri Bosma, Kathleen Kennedy, Nancy & Martin Smith

Wild Bird Center of Chesterfield
The Ultimate Backyard Nature Store
50750 Gratiot - Near Kmart at 23 Mile Rd
Ph. 586-949-9453 No Waste Seed, Optics
Feeders, Baths, Nest Boxes, Books & More
Bring in this ad to receive 20% off any one
regular priced item. Dave Tipton Member MAS

Refreshments

May
Margaret Goethe
Margaret Alyea
Heather Slayton
Alice Forton
Arlene Lynch
Micki Smith

June
Tammy Hooton
Alice Forton
Heather Slayton



We're Proud Supporter of:

Metro Beach Nature Center,
Sterling Heights Nature Center,
Seven Ponds Nature Center,
Stony Creek Nature Center,
Burgess Shadbush Nature Center,
Wild Life Recovery Associaton,
Michigan Nature Association,
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy.

**FOR THE BEST BIRD SEED
AT THE BEST PRICES
UNCLE LUKES FEED STORE
6691 LIVERNOIS
TROY, MICHIGAN 48098**

To contact the Macomb Audubon Society by email the address is macombaudubon@gmail.com. To join the Macomb Audubon mailing list please send an email to macombaudubon-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

**Macomb Audubon Society
Board Members & Committee Chairs**

President — Colleen Traylor (248) 627-6872
1st VicePresident (Programs) — Christine Becher (810) 796-3505
2nd VP (Membership) — Mary Stoolmiller (248) 879-6004
3rd Co-VPs (Field Trips) — Colleen Traylor ... (248) 627-6872 and Charles Smart
Recording Secretary — Laura Barbour.....(248) 853-5465
Corresponding Secretary — Micki Smith.....(586) 791-9623
Treasurer — Frank Lautner.....(586) 791-7913

Committees

Car Pool Coordinator — Frank Lautner (586) 791-7913
Christmas Bird Count — Barb Baldinger....(586) 263-6530
Environmental & Conservation — Randy Baker
Historian — Michael Mroz.....(586) 596-2776
Hospitality (Refreshments) — Betty Ebert, Alice Forton
Hospitality (Door Prizes) — Dennis Barbour, Laura Barbour
Earthstar Newsletter Editor — Bill Clark.....(586) 749-5523
Michigan Audubon Rep. — vacant
Members-at-Large (2 positions) — Heather Slayton & Ken Slayton
Newsletter Production, Mailing — Denis & Laura Barbour
Seven Ponds Representative — Dave & Elaine McDonald
Web Editor — Mike Goethe
Volunteer Coordinator — Margaret Goethe

Macomb Audubon Society Dues

Please make checks payable to **Macomb Audubon Society** and send to: Mary Stoolmiller
Macomb Audubon Membership, 6143 Walker Troy MI 48085

Your name and the names of family members (Please print)

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____ FAX: _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Check one: ___ Family Membership \$17.00

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ ___ Individual Membership \$14.00

Amount of donation over membership \$ _____ (optional) ___ Student Membership \$10.00

Contributor..... up to \$49.99 ___ Senior Membership \$10.00

Supporter..... \$50 to \$99.99 (single or couple over 60)

Donor..... \$100 and over

Each year Macomb Audubon makes a membership list available to members. Check here if you wish to have your telephone number **left off** the list. _____

Email Address: _____ (optional)

Check here if a Michigan Audubon member _____

Check here if a National Audubon member _____

I (we) are interested in becoming a Macomb Audubon volunteer. Please contact me. _____

Interests or skills:

Macomb Audubon Society

Sterling Heights Nature Center
42700 Utica Rd.,
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

