



EARTHSTAR

Newsletter of the Macomb Audubon Society

<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

Volume 36 Number 2 March - April 2010

Programs

Monday, March 1, 2010

- "Eagles Eagles and More Eagles"

- Dave Best, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will introduce us to three species of sea eagles: Steller's Sea Eagle, African Fish Eagle, and the more familiar Bald Eagle. He will discuss their habitat needs, life history, and conservation issues. In addition, he will share with us his research over the years on these fascinating birds.

Monday, April 5, 2010

"Orchids"

Presented by: Don Drife.

The Orchid Family is the largest family of flowering plants. They occur on every continent except Antarctica. There are 55 species that currently grow in Michigan. Don Drife, Royal Oak Nature Society botanist, grew up in an orchid hunting family and has been studying and photographing orchids in Michigan for many years. He took his first orchid picture 35 years ago and has spent time in the field studying natural history with people like Walter Nickel, Paul Thompson, and George Thomson. Don and his wife, Joyce, pursue orchids together. Come and join Don to learn what makes orchids unique among flowering plants and what habitats they can be found in. This talk will highlight the diversity of orchid species that occur in Michigan.

Field Trips "Journey of the Cranes"

Tom Hodgson will be presenting his "Journey of the Cranes" program on Friday, April 16, 2010 at 7:00 pm. at the Stony Creek nature center.

This is an excellent program on the natural history of sand hill cranes and will last approximately one hour. Attendance is limited to 75 individuals and the cost will be \$3.00 per person. Those interested in attending should phone the nature center at 586-781-9113 so they can be registered for the program.

Field Trips

Dawson's Millpond Beaudette Park Leader: Colleen

March 13 (Saturday) 10 am

I pull into this cute little park on a whim, often, and am never disappointed. Right down the road from Goldner Walsh Nursery on Orchard Lake Rd. in Pontiac, with houses all around and yet the water fowl abound. (Lame, I know - grin) Saw my first horned grebe at this cool little park. You can bring your own lunch or follow me over to China Jade for the best Chinese food this side of San Francisco. After lunch we can go back to the park, over to Loon Lake area, or the Drayton Plains Nature Center. Just pull in and you'll find us. Park in the lot.

Thedford Bog, Canada Leader: Colleen

March 20 (Saturday) 10am

Come and celebrate the Vernal Equinox together. It is a long day but is worth every minute. Thousands of tundra swan pass through this area during their spring migration, as well as many other species of water fowl. Bring a lunch and meet along Greenway Rd., you'll see all the cars lined up along the side of the road. On my way home I like to take the drive along the river down to Sombra then take the ferry back to the USofA. Feel free to follow.

Kensington Metropark Leader: Colleen

March 27 (Saturday) 10 am

Bring your favorite birdseed mix and come and walk the trails around the Nature Center. You will have chickadee, titmouse, nuthatch, and the occasional downy woodpecker eating out of your hand. It is so cool! Bring a lunch. Meet at the Nature Center. Entrance fee required.

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'! Seems all I've been doing lately has been symposium related, which is a good thing. I am hoping a lot of you are on the same track and putting forth lots of effort to get the word out. I can not stress to you enough how important this event is to the future of our Audubon Soc. We want to continue bringing in great speakers for your monthly programs, plan fun field trips, camp outs, putting out the Earthstar, all for your enjoyment. You need to give back and help make this all possible through your effort and participation with this fund raising event and help get out the word. So, if you haven't already, GET THE LEAD OUT, we need your help. And I thank you for your support.

But also remember that some times: The sun is shining, there is a tad bit of newly fallen snow, it is bitter cold, I love it. Aside from writing my Presidents column today I am opting to do pretty much nothing, yep nothing, what a concept. Stoked up the fireplace, did some shoveling, (I love to shovel snow), a little reading, cooking, it's all good. Our 7 tom turkeys are wondering through the woods and pecking under the feeders for fallen seed, Sophie (our cat) is lounging in front of the fireplace --- serenity, peace, calm, easy.

I know quite a few people who are incapable of doing nothing, kicking back, letting it all go for a day or two, just doing what you want. Don't run to the phone, let the answering machine get it. Email, it'll be there tomorrow. As Miss Scarlett would say, "Fiddle-dee-dee, tomorrow is another day." I guess I am one of those lucky people who likes to and is capable of "Turning up the quite" every now and then.

I know I have said this to you before and I'll say it again: Turn off the TV, walk away from the Wii, the computer, the chores, the phone, ect. Enjoy the beauty of this season and rest with Mother Nature. Spring migration will be here before we know it and we'll be fluttering here and there, along with our fine feathered friends, to watch for and welcome their return.

We're not here for a long time so make it a good time. Once in a while, "Turn up the quite", it's good for the psyche.

Peace, Colleen

Field Trips continued

Stoney Creek Metropark Leader: Colleen April 3 (Saturday) 10 am

Always a nice spring day type of place to do some birding and enjoy each others company. Bring a lunch, have some fun, get to know each other. Meet at the Nature Center. Entrance fee required.

Metro Beach Metropark and DNR Point Leader: Colleen

April 10 (Saturday) 10 am

Let's take a hike around Metro, have some lunch, then go over to DNR Point. On the way over to DNR Point we'll stop at the parking lot of the old Bay View Barge (which is no longer in business - cry, cry), always see tons of stuff near the old docks. Meet at the Nature Center. Entrance fee required.

Bay City SP and Nayanquing Point WA Leader: Colleen

April 17 (Saturday) 10 am

Always have a great day when we make this little excursion. Meet at the Nature Center at the west end of the parking lot at Bay City SP. Bring food. (I know I keep saying that, but you need to keep up your strength on these outings, he he). Entrance fee required. From there we will continue on to Nayaquing Point WA. Home of the yellow-headed blackbird and many other species.

Seven Ponds Nature Center Texas Hill Country Birding Tour Saturday, April 24 through Friday, April 30

The Texas Hill Country is one of the birdiest regions of Texas, if not the United States. It is a place where east meets west and this is reflected in the great diversity of birds. It is simply a fun place to watch birds. Canyon woodlands of the area host species typical of the southeastern U.S.

The fee for this tour is \$1,625.00 per person and includes room (double occupancy), Transportation from and to San Antonio, meals, park fees, trip materials, and leader fees. This tour is conducted in conjunction with Love Creek Nature Center. Trip leaders are Naturalist Kip Miller Of Love Creek and Seven Ponds Director-Naturalist Mike Chapagne

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Macomb Audubon Society's participation in the 110th Annual Christmas Bird Count was on December 19, 2009 with 43 people in the field and another 7 at feeders. The weather ranged from 23 to 28 degrees with only about one inch of snow on the ground. We had a total of 61 species and 17,214 individual birds. A highlight was the first Spotted Towhee for our Western Macomb County count. We also had Trumpeter Swan for the second year in a row and Golden Eagle for the second time. A new high count of 93 was set for Red-bellied Woodpecker and Winter Wren tied the record at 4. The complete results can be found on our Macomb Audubon website or the National Audubon website: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>. Go to Current Year's Results and enter **MIWM**.

We would like to thank all of the citizen science participants for the time and effort you volunteer each year to make this count a success. We'd especially like to thank those who voluntarily contributed their \$5 fee to National Audubon for the CBC, thus saving Macomb Audubon from covering that expense. Thank you to all of the people who set up the room and hot beverages, contributed soups, chili and various snacks. We would also like Doug Spiller and the Stony Creek Nature Center to know how much we appreciate them hosting the tally. This year's count will be on Saturday, Dec. 18th. Please mark your calendar now and plan to help out.

**Thanks again,
Barb Baldinger, Compiler, Tom Heatley, Co-
compiler**

There are still about 50 members who have not paid dues for the 2010 year

A New Year is here and 2010 membership fees are now due and payable. Send in your renewals as soon as possible so you won't miss any of the upcoming newsletters.

Wildlife and Wind Energy

BEST FRIENDS MAGAZINE September/ October 2009 53

Which animals are most threatened by wind energy? A quick look:

Business in sagebrush territory in a more sensitive manner than they have in the past or might otherwise in the future.

As Molvar says, "The sage grouse could turn out to be the bird that saved the American West from our greed." It could also be the bird that forced the wind-energy industry to live up to its green billing, at least in the West.

~

Bats: Bats are currently the biggest victim of wind energy. It's estimated that, by the year 2020, wind-energy facilities in the mid-Atlantic states could kill tens of thousands annually. The primary reason for bat deaths is the sudden drop in air pressure around wind turbines, which causes hemorrhaging in the bats' lungs.

Birds: The American Bird Conservancy estimates that between 10,000 and 40,000 birds (80 percent of which may be songbirds) are killed each year in the U.S. by turbines.

Lesser prairie chicken: A glut of proposed wind farms in Kansas threatens to severely reduce the available nesting grassland habitat of this bird, the population of which is currently at about 3 percent of what it was a century ago. On a scale of one to twelve, with one being the most endangered, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this year gave this species a ranking of two.

Whooping cranes: So far, no whooping cranes have been killed by turbines, but biologists worry that planned wind farms along their migration routes between Texas and North Dakota could result in a mass loss of their stopover habitat and a consequential reduction in the population of this endangered species. There are only about 400 of these birds left in the wild.

Raptors: Set along a major bird-of-prey migratory route, the 5,200-turbine Altamont Pass Wind Power Resource Area in California is the world's largest wind-energy facility. Its turbines claim the lives of more than 4,700 birds each year, 1,300 of which are raptors

such as golden eagles, red-tailed hawks and burrowing owls.

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:

Jim & Carolyn Stevens, Patrick & Carolyn Harrington, Marjorie Hogan, Tammy Hooton, Fred & Dotte Charbonneau, Barbara Melville, John Bieganowski, Wade & Shirley Leonard.

We would also like to thank Denis & Laura Barbour for renewing at the Supporter Level

We would also like to thank Ralph & Trudy Greory for renewing at the Donor Level

The officers and members of the Macomb Audubon Society would like to welcome our new members 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

January

Alice Forton
Tammy Hooton
Ann Perini
Barb Baldinger
Colleen Traylor

February

Betty Lou Clark
Barb Baldinger
Ann Parini
Sally Soumela
Alice Forton
Beverlee Babcock

Thank you so much, it adds a lot to our meeting

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,
Macomb 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>



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