



# EARTHSTAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE MACOMB AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

Volume 45, Number 5, September – October 2018

## Programs

*Monthly programs are held at Sterling Heights Nature Center unless otherwise noted.*

### **Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Annual Bonfire at Lake St. Clair Metropark**

Grab your lawn chair, roasting forks, hot dogs/buns, s'mores fixin's and a beverage and join us for a fun evening around the fire at Lake St. Clair Metropark! Bring a potluck dessert to share if you would like. Mustard and Catsup will be provided. In the event of rain, we'll move inside the nature center and put a fire in the fireplace. Bring a friend!

### **Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Jeevak Badve Presents - "Birds of Southern India"**

Bird lover and photographer Jeevak Badve recently returned from a fascinating bird safari in the remote jungles of southern India. He will recount his adventures living at the edge of the forest and will share his observations and photos of the flora and fauna (mainly birds) that he found. You'll see photos of the Sri Lankan Frogmouth, the Indian Pita, Mottled Wood Owl and many others.

**About Jeevak Badve:** Jeevak is an avid bird lover and photographer. His passion for all avian species stems from a fundamental appreciation of what

these lovely creatures do to master the 3D domain. Everything they do is incredible - from their unique adaptations and behaviors to their ability to survive the raw wild; from their fascinating displays of color and beauty along with everyday elements like taking a bath in a creek... birds never cease to amaze!

## Field Trips

### **Hawkfest at Lake Erie Metropark**

#### **Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am**

Meet down by the boat landing at 10:00am – bring lawn chairs, lunch and beverages and come join us for a nice day on Lake Erie! We'll take some walks and watch the migrating hawks (and other fine feathered friends) while enjoying the day's festivities. We'd love to see *at least* 15 people show up as in prior years. Your attendance matters; let's make these field trips count!

Questions? Contact Colleen at:

[grandmothenature2@gmail.com](mailto:grandmothenature2@gmail.com)

### **\*Pending\* Fall Trip to Tawas**

#### **Friday - Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

We would love to go back up to East Tawas and the surrounding area to enjoy fall migration, as in years past. However, this fall trip is pending **YOUR** feedback and interest. Please contact Colleen **ASAP** so she can plan accordingly. At one time, this was an annual trip - let's make it happen again!

Questions? Contact Colleen at:  
[grandmothernature2@gmail.com](mailto:grandmothernature2@gmail.com)

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## **CCC&C (Cranes, Color, Cabernet & Cider) at Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Audubon Sanctuary**

**Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, Noon – Dusk**

This festival runs from noon until dusk. Colleen plans to be there by 10:00am to ride around on the dirt roads surrounding the sanctuary. Here, we've seen lots of cranes close to the roads for great photo opportunities - in farmers' fields and even in peoples' front yards! It's awesome! This is one of the *best* places to get an up close and personal view of the thousands of Sandhills gathering for their fall migration. Once again, bring your lawn chairs and lunch. See you there! Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Audubon Sanctuary is located 6 miles northeast of Jackson, Michigan, on Seymour Road in Pleasant Lake, MI.

Visit <https://www.haehnlesanctuary.org/> for driving directions.

Questions? Contact Colleen at:  
[grandmothernature2@gmail.com](mailto:grandmothernature2@gmail.com)

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## **Environmental Updates**

**By: Alizah Mooman**

### **Enbridge Line 5 Oil Spill Threat**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, a meeting occurred in Northern Michigan involving federal emergency-responders, regulators and stakeholders to determine preparedness for an oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac. The pipeline of concern is Enbridge Line 5, which would have devastating impacts to the Great Lakes region if a leak occurs. Stakeholders have been concerned about the potential for an oil spill since April 2018, when the Line 5 pipeline was damaged and ruptured by a barge. According to one study, an oil spill from Line 5 could result in \$6 billion in damages.

## **Environmental Concerns Related to Proposed Potash Mining Project**

Michigan non-profit group, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC), filed a petition in July 2018 contesting the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) decision to issue permits for a potash mine in Osceola County. The group alleges that wastewater disposal injection wells could contaminate local groundwater, and suggests the permit review process was flawed and rushed. The DEQ asserts the permit was thoroughly reviewed, and states the project meets regulatory requirements. The Ewart Local Development Finance Authority and many local citizens are in favor of the project, claiming that business development and job creation will skyrocket in the area.

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## **Outlawed Invasive Species Captured in St. Clair County**

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) captured 2,000 pounds of live, illegal red swamp crayfish from a commercial hauler in July 2018 in St. Clair County. The hauler attempted to transport the crayfish to Canada and was denied entry before attempting to return to Michigan. The red swamp crayfish is an invasive species that contributes to excessive erosion, and possession of the species is outlawed in Michigan. The collaboration amongst Canada and U.S. officials during this incident serves as an example of how these international relationships can protect and conserve important natural resources.

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## **Refreshments & Contributions**

We appreciate those who bring refreshments to our monthly meetings. You make our time together even sweeter!

**The following individuals and groups have recently made contributions to The Macomb Audubon Society (continued, next page):**

## **Contributor Level**

Margaret Alyea  
Carolyn & Patrick Harrington  
Tammy Hooten  
Heather & Ken Slayton

**Thank you for your generous support!**

## **Lenox Figurines to be Raffled at Monthly Meetings**

MAS has been gifted a collection of Lenox bird figurines, all with proper certification of authenticity. We plan to raffle off two of these beautiful pieces at each of the next few monthly meetings until the collection has been dispersed to its rightful new owners. We thank you for your generous donations and participation in these monthly raffles which support the operations and efforts of our organization.



Downy Woodpecker and Baltimore Oriole

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## **About Our Organization**

The **Macomb Audubon Society** is a chapter of Michigan Audubon. Programs are normally held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Sterling Heights Nature Center 42700 Utica Rd. (south and east of the Van Dyke/Utica Rd. intersection, north of 19 mile Rd.)**. These and other **Macomb Audubon events are open to the public**.

The Macomb Audubon Society is a non-profit organization with the mission 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

**Support our efforts by becoming a member today! To join, complete the form included on the inside back cover and bring it to our next meeting or follow the instructions for where to send it.**

The Earthstar Newsletter is published bi-monthly (January, March, May, July, September, and November). **If you wish to submit content to be included in the Earthstar, please send by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month to:**

Andrea Rose (Little Bird Nerd)  
[parchmentheart@hotmail.com](mailto:parchmentheart@hotmail.com)

**Members may receive this newsletter by mail, electronically, or both (though we encourage electronic to save trees!)**



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## **A Letter from President, Paul Messing**

The summer seems to be past its peak, the weather cools, and the seasons change once again; it is a great time to share and reflect on experiences with others. I look forward to meeting up in September and catching up with everyone. When we get back to business in October, we will continue the legacy of engaging programs and reports from officers. If you have the time to volunteer as an officer or chair person, we would love to have your support of time and talent to further the Macomb Audubon Society. Let's have a conversation about how to engage in our organization. I look forward to



the continued support from all our volunteers, members and contributors.

In my travels this summer, I had the opportunity to visit perhaps the largest collegiate research institute for birds, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The



setting of this collection of researchers and information is housed amongst a natural setting north of Ithaca, New York. The staff was welcoming, and the building provided bright displays of ornithological collections, fine displays of artwork, and up-to-date space for gathering. A familiar sight to most, a Wild Birds Unlimited sits in the space, and I took the opportunity to broaden my library. I've begun a bit more of a formal training in birds with Cornell's *Handbook of Bird Biology*, which I purchased there, along with a book titled *Into the Nest*. I think I've retained a few things I've read, so ask me what three things they say all birds have in common. It's been exciting to continue to share stories of nesting birds with fellow nature lovers. It seems everyone has a story, and *Into the Nest* gives some added details of many of the most familiar birds we live near.

Besides in my travels, I've enjoyed the pursuit of an increase in attention, care and space for our natural communities, both at work, with a habitat certification renewal, and at Seven Ponds Nature Center, where I represent Macomb Audubon Society on their board. As I interact with so many others in these endeavors, I keep picking up new ideas for what I can do to support the environment around me. I hope everyone continues to learn new things, experience different aspects and enhance their understanding of nature, throughout the year, and with the support and benefit you enjoy with Macomb Audubon Society!



Happy Birding,  
Paul Messing (photos by Paul Messing)

## Editor's Note



Hello all! Thank you for your interest in this newsletter and in our organization! I hope your summer has been full of sunny days, colorful birds, and time for both relaxation and adventure!

Over the past few months, I have been busier than usual with things aside from birding – namely, finishing my yoga teaching certification and gaining experience and opportunity in that area. Because of this, birding has taken *somewhat* of a backseat this summer, though I know I'll start picking up the pace now that fall migration has begun! Even if my pace has slowed, my passion certainly has not. Birding has taken root within me, ready to take flight whenever I have the time to devote to it.

Circling back to the topic of yoga [which may seem unrelated, but bear with me] ... I wanted to share a few thoughts on what draws me to both yoga and watching birds. With each of these passions, I find silence and inner peace as well as a sense of community and belonging. Both require patience, awareness, and a sense of being in the moment. The birds themselves embody many of the qualities we seek in a yoga practice – from grace and adaptability to strength and perseverance... and, of course, beauty! As a yoga teacher, I'm definitely incorporating lessons from the birds. It's really fun to use poses named after birds, like Eagle pose, Crow pose, Pigeon or Sleeping Swan.

When you consider the qualities and characteristics shared by practicing yoga and watching birds, maybe the comparison is not such a "stretch" after all!

Happy Birding (and Namaste),  
Andrea Rose

Follow me at:  
[facebook.com/littlebirdnerd](https://facebook.com/littlebirdnerd)  
[littlebirdnerd.blogspot.com](http://littlebirdnerd.blogspot.com)

# Field Notes from Our Trip to Pointe Mouillee

On Saturday, August 25th, a group of about 15 people met at Pointe Mouillee for our annual field trip by car. This expansive recreation area is typically restricted to travel by bicycle or on foot, so this trip provides an excellent chance to cover more ground and see more birds! Although the weather was windy and cool with impending storms, the group still had fun and experienced some great bird watching. Enjoy a few photos below, as well as the species list from the trip (see page 6). Thank you to Jim Fowler for leading the trip, and to those who helped plan and coordinate, as well as all who attended. We hope to see YOU on our next field trip!



*Photos by Little Bird Nerd (from top, moving clockwise: The group, a Whimbrel, and a Short-billed Dowitcher)*

# Species List – Pointe Mouillee, 8/25/18

1. Canada Goose
2. Mute Swan
3. Wood Duck
4. Blue-winged Teal
5. Mallard
6. Lesser Scaup
7. Pied-billed Grebe
8. Mourning Dove
9. Chimney Swift
10. Common Gallinule
11. American Coot
12. Sandhill Crane
13. Semipalmated Plover
14. Killdeer
15. Whimbrel
16. Ruddy Turnstone
17. Least Sandpiper
18. White-rumped Sandpiper
19. Semipalmated Sandpiper
20. Short-billed Dowitcher
21. Lesser Yellowlegs
22. Ring-billed Gull
23. Herring Gull
24. Caspian Tern
25. Double-crested Cormorant
26. Great Blue Heron
27. Great Egret
28. Snowy Egret
29. Black-crowned Night Heron
30. Osprey
31. Northern Harrier
32. Bald Eagle
33. Downy Woodpecker
34. Peregrine Falcon
35. Eastern Kingbird
36. Blue Jay
37. Purple Martin
38. Tree Swallow
39. Barn Swallow
40. American Robin
41. Gray Catbird
42. European Starling
43. Cedar Waxwing
44. American Goldfinch
45. Song Sparrow
46. Yellow-headed Blackbird
47. Bobolink
48. Red-winged Blackbird
49. Common Grackle
50. Northern Cardinal
51. House Sparrow

## Proud Supporters of Macomb Audubon Society

Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center,  
 Sterling Heights Nature Center,  
 Seven Ponds Nature Center,  
 Stony Creek Nature Center,  
 Burgess Shadbush Nature Center,  
 Wild Life Recovery Association,  
 Michigan Nature Association,  
 Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy,  
 Michigan Audubon RRBO

### Board Members & Committee Chairs

President	Paul Messing:	<a href="mailto:macombaudubon@gmail.com">macombaudubon@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> VP (Programs)	Holly Vaughn Joswick:	<a href="mailto:vaughnh@michigan.gov">vaughnh@michigan.gov</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP (Membership)	Beverlee Babcock:	<a href="mailto:beverleebabcock4@gmail.com">beverleebabcock4@gmail.com</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> VPs (Field Trips)	Colleen Traylor & Micki Special:	<a href="mailto:grandmothernature2@gmail.com">grandmothernature2@gmail.com</a> & <a href="mailto:maxfiles1@gmail.com">maxfiles1@gmail.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Laura Barbour:	<a href="mailto:denilaur@sbcglobal.net">denilaur@sbcglobal.net</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Micki Smith:	<a href="mailto:micki35@wowway.com">micki35@wowway.com</a>
Treasurer	Brandy Ciaciuch:	<a href="mailto:mamachach38@gmail.com">mamachach38@gmail.com</a>

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**Visit your local backyard birdfeeding experts at one of our local Wild Birds Unlimited stores in**  
**-Grosse Pointe Woods or**  
**-Macomb**

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### Committees

Car Pool Coordinator	<b>Vacant</b>
Christmas Bird Count	Barb Baldinger: <a href="mailto:barbarab@tir.com">barbarab@tir.com</a>
Conservation/Legislation	Alizah Mooman
Historian	<b>Vacant</b>
Hospitality (Refreshments)	Betty Ebert & Alice Forton
Hospitality (Door Prizes)	Denis & Laura Barbour
Earthstar Newsletter Editor	Andrea Rose Meldrum: <a href="mailto:parchmentheart@hotmail.com">parchmentheart@hotmail.com</a>
Michigan Audubon Rep.	Ray Lalonde
Newsletter Production, Mailing	Denis & Laura Barbour
Publicity Chairperson	Holly Vaughn Joswick
Seven Ponds Representative	Paul Messing
Web Editor	Paul Messing
Volunteer Coordinator	<b>Vacant</b>

Contact the Macomb Audubon Society via e-mail at:  
[macombaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:macombaudubon@gmail.com)  
 To join the Macomb Audubon mailing list please e-mail  
[macombaudubon-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:macombaudubon-subscribe@yahoo.com)

### **Macomb Audubon Society Dues**

Please make checks payable to **Macomb Audubon Society** and send to: Beverlee Babcock  
 Macomb Audubon Membership 50229 Pepper Tree Dr. Macomb MI, 48044.

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

Family membership applies to family members living at the same address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Check One \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$20.00

Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$15.00

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

Contributor----up to \$49.99 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior single Membership \$12.00

Supporter-----\$50 to \$99.99 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior couple Membership \$15.00

Donor-----\$100 and over \_\_\_\_\_ (senior is over 60)

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 to receive the Earthstar by Email \_\_\_\_\_ By Hard Copy \_\_\_\_\_ Both Versions \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Macomb Audubon Society*

C/O 1156 Avon Manor Rd.

Rochester Hills Mi. 48307-5415

<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

