



WASHTENAW AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2012

Beautiful Day for Butterflies Article and photos by Bryn Martin

I'd never been on a butterfly field trip and I wasn't sure how my 4-year old twins would take to it. Birding with binoculars is still too much of a challenge for them, but the salamander field trip in April had been perfect with hands-on, close-up views. It turns out that the butterfly field trip on July 21 was perfect, too! It may not be perfect for every 4-year old, but mine really got into the hunt, the catch, the identification and the release. It really helped that they got to help with their own nets and use their own observational jars. They felt very involved and special in that they had a "job" to do. I want to extend a thank you to all of the adults on the trip that helped include my little ones and took the time to help them find and observe the butterflies. (Special thanks to Mary Mathias, to whom my girls became a chattering tag-along. I think they really liked that she had a *pink* net!)

Of course, the trip wasn't just about me and my girls. There were over 20 participants on the trip and over 30 species of butterfly counted! There were huge ones that made us ooh and aah like the multiple species of Swallowtail and the Red-spotted Purple. There were little cute ones like the Eastern Tailed Blue. There were a number that made us scratch our heads and wait for identification from the guides Roger Wykes, Roger Kuhlman and John Swales like the various species of cryptic Skippers. (A highlight of the trip, at least for those that know butterfly species well, was finding a Duke's Skipper which is state-threatened.) All in all, a great experience and introduction to the colorful, other-flying things in our area. Other butterflies identified: Common Woodnymph, Clouded Sulphur, Orange, Sulphur, Pearl Crescent, Bronze Copper, Monarch, Viceroy, Buckeye,



Black Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Northern Pearly-eye, Cabbage White, Summer Azure, Great Spangled Fritillary, Question Mark, Northern Broken-dash, Red Admiral, Eyed Brown, Appalachian Brown, Silver-spotted Skipper, Least Skipper, Peck's Skipper, Tawny-edged Skipper, Roadside Skipper, Broad-winged Skipper, Dun Skipper

Additional photos from the trip are included on the final page of the newsletter.

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Dear Friends,

With summer often comes travel to new places or back to our favorite haunts. And with travel comes the luxury of noticing and enjoying our surroundings, which for readers of this letter, usually includes birds. Even if you're destined for an urban landscape, hopefully your eyes will be open for the local residents that you might not see in Washtenaw County.

As our family heads north to Interlochen each summer, I personally look forward to re-sighting some of my favorites. In a housing development that has never reached capacity, the paved road meanders through an open, almost prairie like setting with tall grasses and peaceful solitude. It is here that I hope to spot my Upland Sandpiper. But if I'm not that fortunate, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Kingbirds abound. Being near the wood's edge, it is not uncommon to see a Pileated Woodpecker or two (last summer we found four together), and sometimes a Red-headed Woodpecker if we're lucky. Most of these birds are regularly found in Washtenaw County, but when I'm on vacation I somehow find the time to notice and enjoy them more.

So far this summer, members of Washtenaw Audubon have reported a Bee-eater, a Red Kite, and a Grey Heron in France, a Bristle-thighed Curlew in Alaska, and a Northern Wheatear in Manitoba. But for those of us with less exotic travel plans, there are still birds to enjoy here in our yards and parks. I just spoke with a friend who, while biking out west of Waterloo, met a researcher from Cornell in the field with extensive photographic and sound recording equipment. He was here on a special visit to Michigan to record the behavior and sounds of the Henslow's Sparrow, as well as the Kirtland's Warbler in its special habitat to the north.

I am hopeful that when we reconvene in the fall we'll have many stories and sightings to share.

Do plan on joining us for our meeting at the Botanical Gardens on September 19th. And in the meantime, enjoy the hopefully slower pace of summer.

Happy Birding,

Sue Johnson

Rare Bird Alerts

Michigan Bird Report

<http://birdingonthe.net/birdmail.html>

Scroll down to Michigan, Mich-listers, and SE Michigan

Help us purchase this key property for Haehnle Sanctuary

A remarkable opportunity has materialized for the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary Committee to acquire the only remaining private land projecting into the Sanctuary. The Edward Klee property (see maps) includes 48 acres of wetlands and uplands, and its purchase would ensure protection of the marsh where thousands of Sandhill Cranes normally gather in the fall. About one-third of the property is in the marsh and one-third is wet woodlands and fen, and the remainder is uplands bordering Seymour Road. The uplands have the potential for residential development, but Mr. Klee hoped that his land would be sold to a conservation organization.

Why are we so interested? This is a keystone parcel for the Sanctuary, because it will:

- Ensure that 100% of Mud Lake marsh will stay natural, forever.
- Provide added protection for Sandhill Cranes in the event Michigan follows suit with other states in opening a crane hunting season.
- Protect a threatened ecosystem, a prairie fen of more than 29 acres.
- Protect a spring that flows from the property to Mud Lake Marsh.
- Offer additional wildlife viewing and photographic opportunities for the Sanctuary's visitors.

Michigan Audubon, our parent organization, and Jackson Audubon Society, stewards of Haehnle Sanctuary, have enthusiastically endorsed this venture. Both Audubon societies are established conservation organizations, each with a long history in education, leadership and the preservation of natural areas. Together they have acquired 466 acres at Haehnle through gifts or purchases since the initial gift of 497 acres in 1955. They have restored more than 150 acres of degraded wetland and established 40 acres of native grasses and wildflowers in the upland. Haehnle Sanctuary has become a refuge for a variety of wildlife, including some rare species of plants and animals. The hill overlooking the marsh has a kiosk with informational displays and benches for viewing the large number of cranes that come to the marsh in October and November. Additional activities and restorations have helped establish Haehnle Sanctuary as one of the premier sanctuaries of Michigan Audubon.

Our goal is to raise \$200,000, and we are off to a good start. Through the efforts of Michigan Audubon, Jackson Audubon Society, and Washtenaw we have already raised over \$90,000. We are now seeking funds from other conservation organizations, foundations, and individual donors.

You can help enrich the quality of life in our community and protect vital crane habitat by enlarging the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary. Gifts should be made payable to either Jackson Audubon Society, P.O. Box 6453, Jackson, MI 49204 or Michigan Audubon, c/o Ronald Hoffman, 6142 E Territorial Rd., Pleasant Lake, 49272. In each case place Haehnle Land Acquisition Fund in the memo line. Both are tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organizations. For gifts other than cash (such as stock, bequests, trusts) or for more information, please call Latham Claflin at 517-522-3949. We welcome donations both large and small.

Stinchfield Woods Census Report By Karen Markey

The annual Stinchfield Woods Breeding Bird Census took place on Sunday, June 3, 2012, 7 am to 11 am. Many thanks to our nineteen participating birders: Dea Armstrong, Steve Bergman, Monty Brown, Don Chalfant, Heidi Dodson, Aspen Ellis, Mary Margaret Ferraro, Wayne Fisher, George Kulesza, John and Karen Lowry, Karen Markey, Mary Mathias, Bob Reed, Dan Sparks-Jackson, Toni Spears, Sarah Toner, Anna Walker, and Roger Wykes. We enjoyed a warm, pleasant, and breezy morning. About a third of our big group were participating in the Stinchfield count for the first time ever today. Wow! What a great day to experience Stinchfield!

Seen for only the second time in 15 years was BARRED OWL, and not one but TWO owls, staring right at Anna, Karen, and Toni and voicing a resounding "Who-cooks-for-you!" at a gang of harrassing crows, jays, etc., giving chase. Not far away were Don, Dan, and Mary who heard their unmistakable hoots. Most numerous individuals in a species were American Crow (66), perhaps on high alert for the owls, followed by Black-capped Chickadees (53), Chipping Sparrows (50), and Eastern Wood-pewees (47).

Holding their own in terms of numbers are PILEATED WOODPECKERS at 3, HOODED WARBLERS at 14, Black-throated Green Warblers at 15, Pine Warblers at 44, and Red-eyed Vireos at 53.

No species was conspicuously absent except for Canada Geese, and they are usually heard flying overhead, not residing at Stinchfield. For the second year in a row, numbers of these species continue to be low: Indigo Buntings at 12 (average = 22.2). Wood Thrush at 5 (average 7.6), and Downy Woodpeckers at 4 (average 7.4).

Ending the day at 11 am was a lone Double-creasted Cormorant flying high above our rendezvous spot, a species seen for the first time at Stinchfield. After the count, Roger Wykes lamented fewer species than usual, and he was right. Today's total of 50 species was the second lowest in 15 years -- well below the 15-year average of 56.4 birds. In terms of numbers of individuals, we counted 807 species, the third highest in 15 years, well above the 15-year average of 755.4.

Please mark your calendars now for next year's Stinchfield count on Sunday, June 2, 2012, 7 to about 11 am. Thanks to Dea who helped me compile totals and Aspen who volunteered to add this year's Stinchfield count data to Ebird. Thanks again to all who participated in today's count. Because of our big crew of birders, it was possible to partition the woods into sixths so we could take our time birding, enjoy the day, and, possibly, record such a large number of individuals.

This year's results now make 15 years of Stinchfield data available at the survey web page. See <http://ylime.people.si.umich.edu/stinchfield.html>. If you find listing errors, please contact me with your corrections.

Here is the full Stinchfield Woods list for 2012:

Double-crested Cormorant (1), Turkey Vulture (6), Cooper's Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (2), Mourning Dove (15), Barred Owl (2), Chimney Swift (3), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (7), Downy Woodpecker (4), Hairy Woodpecker (5), Pileated Woodpecker (3), Northern Flicker (1), Eastern Wood Pewee (47), Acadian Flycatcher (12-down), Great Crested Flycatcher (9), Swallow sp. (1), Purple Martin (6), Blue Jay (44), American Crow (66-way up), Black-capped Chickadee (58 = 2nd most NUMEROUS), Tufted Titmouse (40-high), Red-breasted Nuthatch (19-up), White-breasted Nuthatch (22-up), Brown Creeper (6), Golden-crowned Kinglet (3), Blue-grey Gnatcatcher (4), Thrush sp. (1), Wood Thrush (5), American Robin (6), Gray Catbird (5), Cedar Waxing (32), Blue-headed Vireo (2), Yellow-throated Vireo (7), Red-eyed Vireo (53), Blue-winged Warbler (1), Yellow Warbler (2), Black-throated Green Warbler (15-up), Pine Warbler (44-up), Ovenbird (30-down), Common Yellowthroat (1), Hooded Warbler (14), Scarlet Tanager (13), Northern Cardinal (44), Indigo Bunting (12), Eastern Towhee (7), Chipping Sparrow (50-up), Song Sparrow (1), Red-winged Blackbird (7), Brown-headed Cowbird (21), Baltimore Oriole (2), American Goldfinch (44)

Washtenaw Audubon Society

2011-12 Financial Report

Submitted by Elvera Shappirio

Description	Checking	Savings
Balances as of July 1, 2011	837.88	13,516.83
Checking Receipts	7,430.66	
Checking Expenditures	7,243.06	
Transfer from Money Market	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Error		
Savings Interest		7.70
Transfers: CD Interest to Savings		69.24
Balances as of June 30, 2012	2,025.48	12,593.77

Checking Account Receipts

Member Dues	2,694.66
Memorial Donations	0.00
Donations	736.00
Leslie Science Center Audubon Grant	2,500.00 pass through
Leslie Science Center Audubon Grant	1,500.00 pass through
Total Receipts	7,430.66 operating 3430.66

Checking Account Expenditures

Newsletter Printing and Postage	1,112.43
Speakers, Program Expense	25.00
Angell School PTO	300.00
Telephone Service	499.07
Grant: Andrew Johnson	300.00
Grant: Tallamy Lecture	200.00
Liability Insurance	294.00
Banking Costs (Checkbooks)	0.00
Corporate Filing Fee	20.00
Grants: River Rouge Bird Observatory	15.00
Web site Costs	162.00
Christmas Count Expenses	0.00
Property Costs: Searles Drain Fee	46.32
Trip Van Rentals	157.10
Postal Box Fee	82.14
Safe Deposit Box	30.00
Leslie Science Center Audubon Grant	2,500.00 pass through
Leslie Science Center Audubon Grant	1,500.00 pass through
Total Expenses	7,243.06 operating 3243.06

Savings Account Receipts

Interest on Regular Savings Account	7.70
Interest on \$15000.00 CD	69.24

Total Savings Account Interest	76.94
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Investment Account

The investment account includes one CD valued at \$15,000.00

The interest is transferred to the regular savings account on a monthly basis. \$5000.00 promised to Haehnle Preserve purchase 9/30/12
The \$15,000.00 CD matures Sept. 2012

Upcoming WAS Field Trips (August--Early Fall, 2012)

By Monty Brown, Field Trip Coordinator (fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org)

Washtenaw Audubon field trips are free of charge and open to the public unless otherwise indicated. For trips with constraints on the number of participants, WAS members are sometimes given priority in registering (again, as indicated). *For trips that require carpooling, minors attending without a parent must bring a written permission statement signed by a parent.* To receive a standard form for this, contact me at the e-mail address above. Also, if you have a suggestion for a field trip, please send it to me at that e-mail address.

**Sun.,
August 26**

Shorebirds and Waders at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area: Leader: Jim Fowler

Pointe Mouillee, on Lake Erie near the mouth of the Huron River, is one of the premier destinations in the Midwest for viewing shorebirds and waders, but access is limited. Jim Fowler knows this territory as well as anyone and leads several field trips each year at this location. PLEASE NOTE: This trip has limited space, and registration is mandatory. To register, send your name(s) and a contact phone number to fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org. Registered participants will meet at the Pointe Mouillee SGA parking lot on Sigler Road at 8:00 AM and from there will consolidate into four vehicles. Bring insect repellent, wear a hat, and dress for warm weather--there is no shade or shelter at Pointe Mouillee. Bring all the food and fluids you think you will need to sustain you for approximately five hours of birding.

**Thursdays,
August 30
through the
end of
October**

Fall Migration Walks in Nichols Arboretum

This is the seventh year of these popular, leaderless walks to observe the spring and fall migrations at The Arb. Every Thursday morning from August 30 through the end of October participants will gather at 8:00 at the end of the Riverview Drive cul-de-sac (off Geddes Road) near the eastern edge of the arboretum. The assembled birders will choose a route or routes and head out in search of migrants, many of which will be in their first-year plumage. Along the way, participants can enjoy marvelous fall scenery and crisp air. The walks go until roughly 11:00, but everyone can join or leave the group as his or her schedule requires.

These walks are a great, low-key way to get started in birdwatching. All are welcome; it is not necessary to be a member of Washtenaw Audubon.

Park and meet at the Riverview Court cul-de-sac off Geddes Road at 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday,
October 14**

The Big Sit (Independence Lake County Park)

Leader: Don Chalfant

WEEKEND WALKS AT THE ARB?

As you may recall, this spring we experimented with three weekend walks at Nichols Arboretum. This idea was suggested to us as a way to help less-experienced birders who cannot attend weekday morning walks. The idea was that they and other birders could gather at the Arb on these weekend dates, and proceed as our Thursday morning walks do, with no leaders per se, but with more experienced birders who happen to be available helping others to find and identify birds.

If you attended any of these events, please send your impressions and comments to fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org. If this seems to be popular, we will continue it, otherwise we will focus our efforts elsewhere.

NABA (North American Butterfly Association) 2012 Counts

In 2012, we plan to run five counts in Washtenaw County and one (mostly) in Monroe. These counts record good numbers of species and individuals seen, but we could do better with more participants and more extensive coverage. (At present, we only include parts of the count circles, largely on selected tracts of public land.) With members' help we could extend coverage and thus provide improved scientific data on butterfly populations—a key environmental indicator. Beginners are always welcome. (However, it should be noted that a few sites require some fairly arduous 'trekking' and 'bushwhacking', but young-at-heart Roger Wykes always manages to do it!)

Spring Seasonal

SW Washtenaw Count, Sunday May 27th; Compiler, Martin Bialecki (kilnfired@gmail.com)

July 4th

SW Washtenaw Count, Sunday July 1st; Compiler, John Swales (jmswales@umich.edu)

Chelsea Count, Wednesday July 4th; Compiler, Roger Wykes ((734)-769-6482)

Ann Arbor Count, Saturday, July 7th; Compiler, Roger Kuhlman (rkuhlman@hotmail.com) or John Swales.

Fall Seasonal

Petersburg-Dundee Count, Saturday August 4th; Compiler, Roger Kuhlman.

SW Washtenaw Count, Sunday, August 19th; Compiler, John Swales.

To become a member of Washtenaw Audubon Society, please complete the form below (or a copy) and mail it with a check or money order payable to **Washtenaw Audubon Society - WAS Membership
PO Box 130923, Ann Arbor, MI 48113**

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

Membership Dues:

ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ _____

Individual/Household \$25
(on-line only \$20)

Name: _____

Student \$10
(emailed newsletters only)

Address: _____

Senior \$15
(on-line only \$10)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Patron \$50

We encourage you to join at a lower rate if the suggested rates would otherwise preclude your membership, or at a higher rate if you possess the means.

Note: WAS will only use your email address to communicate with you about WAS programs, field trips, or matters of interest to you, such as membership renewal, and emailed WAS newsletters (in color!). We will not give your email address to anyone else.

WAS Monthly Programs--Updates in next newsletter/website

WAS monthly events usually are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Programs begin at 7:30pm at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Free and open to the public. Call 677-3275 if you have questions about the program.

Please note: *The Matthaei Botanical Gardens now charges for parking at the rate of \$1.20 an hour, enforced 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm. Members of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum will continue to park for free. This fee will bring the Garden's policies into alignment with other University of Michigan venues, and provide revenue to maintain the Gardens. If you arrive at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm Washtenaw Audubon program, you will only have to pay 90 cents to park for the 45 minutes before enforcement ends at 8pm. The parking kiosks accept coins, bills and credit cards.*



*Additional photos from
the Butterfly Field Trip
on July 21.*

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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