



November/December 2013

### Successful Ornithology Class Scheduled. (March)

When two individuals who love birds and love to teach folks about birds get an opportunity to work together to offer an in-depth bird course, those who enroll should be ready for an excellent learning experience. Last year's inaugural class was well received and so will run again this year. Reviews such as "incredibly enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructors!" , "...loved the field trips!" were the norm in the class evaluations. Class size is limited but we do have a few more spaces. See <http://www.lesliesnc.org/events/raptors> for sign up information .

**Class description:** Instructors Francie Krawcke, Leslie Science and Nature Center (LSNC) Raptor Program Director and an enthusiastic environmental educator, and Deaver Armstrong, Ann Arbor's City Ornithologist and experienced Washtenaw Audubon field trip guide, have designed a two-month class that is a great way to learn about birds and bird-watching. Novice bird watchers, educators, and environmental consultants will all find this course useful. The class will cover basic bird anatomy and physiology, behavior, taxonomy, reproduction, vocalizations, and bird identification in a relaxed, interactive atmosphere. These topics will be covered in the "lecture" component on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 PM, starting on March 4th, 2014 (March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, & 29 ). The Saturday morning field trip meetings to various local sites (usually starting around 9 am and finishing by noon) will introduce participants to the local birds and provide some details about how the birds interact with each other and their various habitats. (March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 26, & May 3; field trip start times vary due to lengthening of day and field trip destination.) Because we are fortunate enough to be having classes at Leslie Science and Nature Center, the class component will often use live birds in demonstrations. The field component will focus more on groups of birds as they migrate into our area, moving from winter resident species, to waterfowl, to water birds, etc. From time to time other experienced field trip leaders will join us. Dea and Francie recognize that not everyone in the class may be able to make it to every event but reference materials will be provided so "catching-up" will never be a problem. Perfect for the beginner or intermediate birder alike! Please join us!

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**Extra! Extra!** Massive invasion of irruptive Snowy Owls! Get out there and see them yourselves if you haven't yet! Best locations in the area seem to be Willow Run Airport and Vreeland/Gotfredson Road.

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**Borneo/Malaysia!** Many spots still open on the WAS international field trip to Borneo this upcoming June. Please consider joining us for this amazing opportunity! Rockjumper Tours will be our guides and they did a fantastic job for us in South Africa a few years ago. Accommodations are excellent. Additional information on pg.3.

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### Washtenaw Audubon **MASTER BIRDER** Certification

Washtenaw Audubon will offer those who wish to pursue a rigorous bird education program an opportunity to obtain a Washtenaw Audubon Master Birder certification. Like the similar Master Gardner program, applicants are asked to participate in an approved ornithological course (similar to the Leslie Science Center Course or Cornell's at home study program) and complete 40 hours of service in a bird-related activity such as leading birding field trips for a local Audubon Society, working with breeding bird surveys, doing bird related volunteer work at Leslie Science and Nature Center or the Bird Center of Washtenaw County or other similar activities. Interested individuals should contact Dea Armstrong, at [ddarm@umich.edu](mailto:ddarm@umich.edu).

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Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of another year and enter the season of Thanksgiving, I want to take this time to express my thanks for this wonderful organization.

First, I want to thank you, our membership, for your support of and participation in such an important mission. In our consumer-focused society, your appreciation and passion for birds and their environment is a bright spot in our community. Thank you for your financial support through membership that allows us to do what we do. Thank you for the ways you choose to become involved on our leaderless walks, bringing snacks to meetings, and leading or participating in our bird counts. And thank you for your nature-focus and conservation ethic that you willingly share with those around you.

Next, I would like to thank the members of the Washtenaw Audubon Board, without whom there would be no Washtenaw Audubon Society. As I hope you are aware, this board bears no resemblance to a corporate board. There are no perks or stock options. This group of dedicated volunteers exemplify selfless commitment- many have rolled up their sleeves for Washtenaw Audubon for more years than we can track. All volunteers, this group keeps WAS humming by organizing fabulous field trips at home and abroad, recruiting speakers and offering the outstanding monthly programs many of you enjoy, tracking and organizing our much needed membership and finances, offering outstanding educational programs, preparing bi-monthly newsletters, and offering a large portion of their free time to meetings and administrative details. My sincerest thanks to each of you- you are a generous and wonderful team!

Whether you have your own thankful list, or agree with some of mine, I hope you will consider giving back to Washtenaw Audubon. Why not sign up to bring snacks or offer to lead a field trip? If you're unsure how you can help, speak to a board member about your interest in offering your time. And of course, financial gifts are critical to sustaining our organization. Because we want our membership dues to be within reach of all in our community, if you can afford more, please consider rounding up your membership dues at your next renewal, or making a year-end gift to WAS. Gifts to Washtenaw Audubon help support our programs, offer our young birders the chance to attend national camps and conferences, and impact the progress of local preservation and conservation efforts. As a community of birders we can impact our broader community in many meaningful ways. I hope you'll join us!

Happy Holidays,

Sue Johnson



## Publication

WAS Newsletter is published in Jan., March, May, July, Sept. and Nov. Email or send submissions by the 15th of the month prior to publication to:  
Bryn Martin  
6241 Runnymede  
Canton, MI 48187

## Washtenaw Audubon Library

If you are thinking about a birding trip to either a distant land, or some specific place in the USA, remember that we have a library that may have just the book you want to see or borrow for the trip. This offer is normally for members only. A list of our books should always be up on our website. Call or email Sherri Smith, 734 994-6287 or [grackle@umich.edu](mailto:grackle@umich.edu).

## Rare Bird Alerts

### Michigan Bird Report

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

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

## Borneo Trip Details

When: June 20 (8AM)--June 29, 2014

Cost: 11 participants \$ 3,735 per person sharing  
Single supplement \$ 325.00

What's included: All accommodation on a twin/double sharing basis, all meals, bottled water, all transportation during the tour, boating excursions on the Kinabatangan River, entry permits, gratuities for hotel staff, servers, porters, drivers and local guides, guiding services and costs of a local Malaysian guide and a Rockjumper leader

What's *not* included: Any international or domestic flights (and associated taxes), any visas, drinks

International flights: Once we get our group together, we will work out a group-flight, however, you are free to organize on your own as well.

How to reserve a spot: Send an email to Bryn Martin: brynmartin@sbcglobal.net (or call him--734-454-0439). Trip is limited to 11 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Additional details: Plan to see 225-250 bird species, including 40-some endemics and many mammals.



Check the WAS website for all upcoming field trips. Details will be posted there.



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

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues:

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

\_\_\_ Student \$10  
(emailed newsletters only)

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

\_\_\_ 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

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 994-3569 if you have questions about the program.

**Please note:** *The Matthaei Botanical Gardens 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 park for free. This fee brings the Garden's policies into alignment with other University of Michigan venues, and provides 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.*

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### January 15

**Connecting Habitats and Hemispheres: the biology and conservation of migratory shorebirds:** Speaker Andy Johnson. Migratory shorebirds traverse hemispheres to survive, but in a human landscape, their extreme survival strategies make them incredibly vulnerable. From researchers, policy-makers, subsistence hunters, and land owners, and from arctic Canada and Russia to coastal China and South America, connecting people may be the key for conservation. Andy Johnson is a senior in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University, and a keen birder.

### February 19

**Natural Wonders of Hawai'i:** Join Doug Leffler for a program on the beauties of the 50th state. Doug will cover the geology, flora, and fauna of this lovely island state, giving us a brief respite from the frigid reality of our Michigan winter. Doug Leffler is a retired aerospace worker, avid photographer, and world traveler.

### Washtenaw Audubon Society

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