



WASHTENAW
AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2014

A Wacky (But not Quacky) One-Road Challenge *Article and photo by Monty Brown*

On the morning of Saturday, March 15, Washtenaw Audubon held its latest One-Road Challenge. For this event, teams of three or more birders compete to identify as many bird species as possible on a public road of their choice within the county. (A few roads are excluded from consideration.) Don Chalfant reports that the original idea for the One-Road Challenge came to Washtenaw Audubon more than a dozen years ago from John Swales and a friend of his.

In the current rules for the Challenge, any species found by no other team receives a bonus point for the team that finds it, and teams that include people who have never participated in any previous WAS event before receive an additional two points for each newcomer but with a maximum of six “newcomer” points.

The day before the 2014 event was one of the few days up to that point in the year with temperatures in the 40s, and the muddy road conditions that resulted were no small part of the challenge. The threat of a mucky mess may have depressed turnout. We had just three teams, although many fine birders, including the formidable Young Turkeys--Benjamin and Matty Hack, Sarah Toner, and Sarah's friend Dana Neufeld from the Upper Peninsula. One of the other two teams featured Ben Lucking, another of our ace teenage birders.

In a bizarre twist, all of the teams began the day birding the same road: Sharon Hollow. After a wrong turn, however, the Young Turks found themselves on Pleasant Lake Road and decided to switch to it instead of Sharon Hollow. Alas, the southwest part of the county proved more popular with birders than with waterfowl. Astonishingly, a grand total of one duck species (Mallard) was observed, seen by two of the teams.

Despite mostly coming up dry looking for waterfowl, all of our teams found some fine birds and had at least three unique species. Team JARM--Juliet Berger, Andrew Pawuk, Rachele Roake, and I--had Wild Turkey, Eastern Screech-owl, Great Horned Owl, and Northern Shrike. The Young Turkeys had Killdeer, Rough-legged Hawk, and Rusty Blackbird. The team of Sandy Bouma, newcomer Graham Lapp, Ben Lucking, Mary Mathias, and Cathy Theisen had Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Song Sparrow, and Purple Finch.

The competition was remarkably close, with just two points separating first from third place. The winning team found 35 species and had 39 total points. The Young Turks came in second with 38 points (33 species), and the third place team, which dubbed itself the Purple Sapsuckers, had 37 points (32 species). Congratulations to Juliet, Andrew, and Rachele, who came in first despite the handicap of having your correspondent on their roster.

Washtenaw Audubon wishes to thank the Classic Cup Cafe on Jackson Road for its hospitality and graciousness. We gathered there after the birding had concluded for a bite to eat, to compare notes, and to tally the figures. Thank you also to all of our participants.



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President's Letter

Good news! We might actually see Spring after all. As a diehard snow lover, I confess to my joy that only wimpy, tired, and dirty snow drifts remain to the north side of our house. Birds are singing, and perennials are trying to make an entrance. That being said, I would like to remind all of us winter-whiners that we do, in fact, live in Michigan and that winter is likely to return!

But now it is April and migration will be fast upon us. I know I don't need to encourage people to break the cabin fever and get outside. But let me instead encourage you to read this issue and visit our website regularly to make note of the multiple opportunities to get outside on your own or with others and enjoy the birds!

Thursday morning (and a few weekend) leader-less walks began on April 3rd and will continue through May 29th. These casual gatherings are a great way to join with others (where leaders always emerge) and enjoy new discoveries with beginners and experts alike! If you have never birded with Karen Markey, you've missed out and it's time to add this to your bucket list: Karen will lead a walk in Hudson Mills on May 11 and to Magee Marsh on May 18. On May 6th, the fabulous Tuesday Evening Birders will resume, led by Dea Armstrong, Mike Sefton, and others! This should be enough to get you started. Call a friend, invite a youngster, and get outside!

Happy Spring,
Sue Johnson, President

North American Butterfly Association Official Counts Washtenaw County+, 2014

There are three summer counts and one each in spring and fall. All are welcome to join in for all or part of the day. (There is a \$3 dollar fee for each adult participant.) We usually start at about 9.30 and finish around 5. These NABA counts are not only fun, but also provide valuable information about a critical environmental indicator. This year, for example, it will be interesting to see what effect the long, hard winter may have had on local butterfly populations.

Count	Count Name	Dates	Compiler
Spring	SW Washtenaw	Sat., 31 May	Martin Bialecki kilnfired@gmail.com
July 4	SW Washtenaw	Sun. 29 Jun	John Swales jmswales@umich.edu
July 4	Chelsea	Tues. 1 July	Roger Wykes 734-769-6482
July 4	Ann Arbor	Sat. 5 July	John Swales jmswales@umich.edu
Fall	Dundee	Sat. 9 Aug.	Mary Mathias mathiasm@washtenaw.org
Fall	SW Washtenaw	Sat. 23 Aug.	John Swales jmswales@umich.edu

jms (734-995-1139)



Publication

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Bryn Martin
6241 Runnymede
Canton, MI 48187

Rare Bird Alerts

Michigan Bird Report

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

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

Just a reminder with spring migration etc. coming up that U of M's Museum of Zoology would like to have any dead birds you might find anywhere in Michigan. Please put in the freezer ASAP in a good plastic bag (freezer type not thin plastic) with a piece of paper stating the date found, name of finder, and exact location where found (street address, GPS, or distance and direction from closest intersection). We get around 300 birds every year to add to our collection. Even common species are needed (but no more Great Blue Herons or Great Horned Owls please). Thank you all!

Janet Hinshaw ph: 734-764-0457

Bird Division Collection Manager

fax: 734-763-4080

Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1109 Geddes Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079 USA

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.

Arb field trip report (April 12) By Karen Markey

Our group of about two dozen birders enjoyed a warm spring morning birding Nichols Arboretum. We had great looks at a Hermit Thrush on the middle of the trail just past the south end of the boardwalk, two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on pine trees on Dow Prairie's north side, and Brown Creepers here and there (thanks Sarah Toner for finding several). We heard a Winter Wren singing just past the boardwalk's south end; maybe a handful of birders caught sight of this elusive tiny brown blob. The absence of cover made it difficult to find Fox Sparrows. We finally saw several, looking down from the ridge that overlooks the Warbler hotspot. Thanks to Juliet for hearing both Kinglets near the cemetery and helping us find them in the tall pines. Thanks to all members of the group who spotted birds and shared their sightings with fellow birders. Special thanks to Sarah Toner who listed during the trip and shared her list with us here. Let's do this again, but meet the next time on a warm Sunday morning, May 11, 7:30 am, at Hudson Mills.

Additional highlights: Wood Duck, Common Loon 2 (flyover seen by Sarah and a few others), Great Blue Heron, Great Egret (flyover also), Turkey Vulture, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown-headed Cowbird

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Young Birder's Event 2013

Washtenaw Audubon is once again thrilled to have such a variety of outstanding young birders associated with our organization, and the birding community in general. This past summer, two of our young birders, Aspen Ellis and Sarah Toner, attended the Cornell Young Birders Event in Ithaca, New York. Below are their accounts from this amazing weekend. Read and enjoy as they express with great excitement their experiences in this world-class event. Washtenaw Audubon is proud of its continued association with these two young birders, and others who continue to follow the footsteps of the many young birders before them.

Cornell Young Birders Event Recap By Aspen Ellis

The Cornell Young Birders Event was a brilliant culmination to my summer this year, and I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the event and get to know everyone who was there with me. The event only lasted for a weekend, but it was packed full of activities and opportunities to learn about what goes on at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and get to know those who work there. Though we enjoyed some very good birding with some of the best birders around, one of the things that really makes the CYBE unique among opportunities for young birders, in my opinion, is the focus on presentations about the future career possibilities for young birders and ways to get involved with ornithology and citizen science as a young birder.

After we all arrived and made our introductions, the first item on the agenda was a presentation from John Fitzpatrick, the director of the Cornell Lab. He spoke on the state of bird conservation and the perils that birds are facing across the globe today, and deeply moved us with videos of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers and a recording of the last Kauai O'o, calling to attract a female that could never come. Of course, stories like those of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and that of the destruction of neotropical wintering habitat were also shared – but before we could throw in the towel and call it quits with the depressing business of bird conservation and start careers as professional skiers, he started sharing some of the success stories that the Cornell Lab has been involved with. From how eBird data has provided us with invaluable information about stopover sites to the Cornell Lab's work with discovery and documentation of new species, he showed that there are so

(Cont'd next page)

many ways to reverse at least some of the damage that we have done.

Fitzpatrick's talk on hope for the natural world was the start of a running theme for the weekend. This event wasn't just about learning about what we could be doing twenty-odd years down the road in ornithology, but about learning what we could be doing in the very near future or even *now*. Over the following day, we toured the Lab, from the specimen preparation lab to the Macaulay Library, and learned about some of the types of research that were currently being done at Cornell. As we passed by office doors we saw the names of Ed Scholes, the main man behind the recent Birds of Paradise Project; Yula Kapatenakos, who has been doing her Ph.D work gathering genetic information on the rapidly declining Old World Vultures - information that may be vital to the conservation of those birds; Steve Kress, who reintroduced Atlantic Puffins to the Gulf of Maine, and many more. Getting involved with projects such as these was no longer seeming like such a distant possibility. That was just the beginning, though, for as the weekend progressed we heard presentations from undergraduate students at Cornell who were helping to carry out research themselves.

Andy Johnson, a Washtenaw County native, spoke in depth on the work that he'd been doing over the past two years to gather data on the stopover sites of migratory shorebirds as he deployed geolocators on Whimbrels in Manitoba, and even followed them to Chile to learn more about their wintering grounds. Sophomore Benjamin Van Doren told us about the research that he had carried out on morning flight patterns in migratory passerines when he was a sophomore in high school, and how that had led to the work that he is now doing with the BirdCast program run by Cornell, in addition to sharing his experiences with the Birding Club at Cornell. We also heard from Hope Batcheller, a senior, who over the past year has been studying army-ant following birds in Ecuador, and during her years as a high schooler was the first to really record and study fledgling calls of passerine birds in New England (among her many other achievements).

Overall, between birding with the likes of Texas big day legends, the members of Team Sapsucker; exploring the bird division of the Museum of Vertebrates; and hearing from students who were, at such a young age, doing amazing work in ornithology, it was a really useful and informative weekend, and it was great to meet all of the students who had the opportunity to go this year.

Field Trips, Media Archives, Cutting-edge Research, and Cheesecake Brownies *By Sarah Toner*

The Ithaca Bakery was the first highlight of my trip to Ithaca. The cheesecake brownies and half moon cookies were delicious! Of course, ornithology was the primary focus of my trip to Ithaca for the Cornell Young Birders' Event. For a few whirlwind days, we got to learn about the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, explore the area and birdlife around Ithaca, New York, and bird with some of the top birders in the world.

When I arrived at Sapsucker Woods, the Lab's headquarters, I was immediately amazed. Large glass windows overlooked the Sapsucker Woods pond with the Great Blue Heron rookery that is featured on Cornell's webcams. Scopes were set up at regular intervals, providing stunning views of the Green Herons and feeder birds at the shore of the pond. The walls were decorated with paintings and photographs from famous artists: Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Ernest Thompson Seton, and Charlie Harper lined the staircase heading to the second-floor.

We convened on the main floor next to a display with fifty mounted hummingbirds, gorgets shimmering in the lights. The young birders clustered around the exhibit, trying to identify them all. After we were coaxed away, we headed to the auditorium to meet a number of equally fascinating humans. We were introduced to some of the most famous names in the birding world: Chris Wood, a member of Project eBird and Team Sapsucker; Jessie Barry, another Project eBird member and an advocate for young birders everywhere; and John Fitzpatrick, the director of the Cornell Lab.

After introductions, we headed into the Louis Agassiz Fuertes room, a meeting room decorated with many of his stunning prints. John Fitzpatrick, known as "Fitz," talked about how birds can save the world by inspiring conservation. After Fitz's talk, we toured the Lab. As we visited the offices and conference rooms at the lab, we noticed that many had floor-to-ceiling glass windows overlooking Sapsucker Woods, making us wonder how the staff get any work done when they can bird from their office windows. In the editing and server room for the Macaulay Library, which houses digital versions of 175,000 animal sounds, we learned how the sound archivists record, process, and preserve recordings, antique and new, that are submitted from all over the world. In addition to the digital server archive, the Macaulay Library also stores original media, such as reels of film or cassette tapes. Among the mismatched VHS cassettes sharing shelves with 8-track cassettes, Jessie pointed out a specific 35mm film reel.

4 "That film reel, fourth from the right, is the famous recording of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker." I could

barely read the faded cursive on the label, but I was suddenly struck by a sense of history. This film reel had been in Louisiana, in the presence of an Ivory-bill, and it had captured the only recordings that we have of the bird. This film reel contains the tangible, physical record of a live Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Cornell might not have been able to save the Ivory-bill, but they were able to capture a fragment of its life, and this fragment was sitting on a shelf right in front of me, holding the spirit of the bird.

Friday evening was set aside for the exciting “Night at the Museum.” Irby Lovette, the director of the Lab’s Evolutionary Biology program and curator of their collection, quizzed us on the new taxonomy of warblers that he had co-authored, asking us to organize the skins of 12 species correctly on a phylogenetic tree. He then gave us a quick primer on study skins and extinct birds before letting us loose in the bird specimen collection, where each new drawer revealed birds from all over the world: a Taiga Great Horned Owl from the Arctic; a Victoria Crowned Pigeon and a Nicobar Pigeon from Oceania; and hummingbirds from all over South America, shining gems lying in rows on the trays. We pored over the specimens, finding our favorite birds and exclaiming over the new and fascinating treasures in every drawer. All too soon, it was time to close the drawers and leave, even though we had only begun to explore the amazing discoveries in each new cabinet. Even though we got back to the hotel quite late every night, we couldn’t resist staying up for another hour to listen to night flight calls, talk about birds, and watch migrants fly across the moon.

Saturday was devoted entirely to birding. Guided by Chris Wood, Jessie Barry, and Marshall Iliff, we got to explore the best hotspots around Cayuga Lake: Montezuma NWR, Cayuga Lake, and Myers Point, Chris Wood’s local birding “patch.” Early in the morning, we met Ben Clock, from the Macaulay Library of Sound Recordings, at Myers Point. Ben passed out shotgun microphones and recorders so we could try our hand at some bird recording. Just like photography or drawing, recording is an art: it’s easy to get a recording of a bird, but hard to get a *good* recording, particularly when the groundskeeper has decided to do loops around the park in a truck for no reason. Despite the traffic, we enjoyed recording a group of American Crows, practicing aligning our mics with the birds and adjusting the mic’s sensitivity, which is much more difficult than it first seems. Once the recording is started, the slightest rustle of clothing will be picked up by the microphone, so everything must be set before hitting “record.” After the birds quieted down, we switched to videography, trying out incredible videocameras on Ring-billed Gulls, Mallards, and Semipalmated Plovers on the beach. Here, too, it was easy to get a recording, but hard to get a good recording. Birds in flight, for example, have to be focused manually, and I have a new respect for the people who film passerines moving through the trees.

After Myers Point, we visited the north end of Cayuga Lake, home to Montezuma NWR. We birded Montezuma NWR all day before returning to the Lab, tired but happy from the multitude of shorebirds at our last stop, including American Golden-plover and Wilson’s Phalarope. Later that night, we were given a sneak preview of eBird’s latest tool, the eBird Hotspot Viewer, which lets eBirders compare personal Hotspot lists, view rare bird documentation for the hotspot, and compare hotspot diversity across any scale.

On the last day, we headed out to a woodland preserve near Ithaca and saw a few cool warblers such as a Hooded Warbler, a Blackburnian Warbler, and a Canada Warbler; however, when we reached a damp hemlock forest, with an abundance of old, rotting logs near a creek, our birding turned into salamandering. Excited, we began to flip over logs, posting one person as a lookout to spot and capture the surprised salamanders. Our first log revealed a Spotted Salamander, but it darted into its burrow before we could capture it. Subsequent logs yielded Slimy Salamanders, Red-backed Salamanders, Dusky Salamanders, Red-spotted Newts, a Blue-spotted Salamander, and a Woodhouse’s Toad! Our forage in the forest uncovered other new and exciting things: Wild Cucumber, an edible plant; numerous young newts, or Red Efts; and a Brown Creeper!

Back at the lab, as we gathered for lunch, Richard Moncrief, the Zeiss representative, began passing out binoculars. It took us a minute to realize that they were gifts. Gifts! We were awestruck! We all agreed to the terms: if we upgrade to a better pair, we will give the Zeisses to another young birder. My friend Drew had dropped his pathetically dilapidated Bushnell binoculars in poison ivy the day before, and he was positively thrilled to have his dream of new, high-quality binoculars realized. We thanked Zeiss profusely before sprinting out to bird with our new binoculars. We loaded into our vans for one last birding adventure, in search of an Olive-sided Flycatcher that eBird whiz Marshall Iliff had had that morning.

After a thorough search of the area, we couldn’t find the Olive-sided, but we left happy. We had met new friends, young and old; we explored classic tools; and we learned about revolutionary new science. I look forward to returning to explore more of Ithaca, hopefully with more brownie cheesecake!

Upcoming WAS Field Trips (April--June, 2014)

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.

Thursdays in April and May **Thursday Spring Migration Walks:** Join us on Thursday mornings in April and May at Nichols Arboretum to observe migrants making their way north. These leaderless walks are a great opportunity to join with other birders of all skill levels. Park and meet at the Riverview Court cul-de-sac off Geddes Road at 8:00 a.m.; the walks will end around 11:00.

Sun., April 27 **Weekend Arb Walks:** Same as the Thursday Spring Migration Walks (see above). April 27 meet at 4 PM. May 4 and 17, meet at 8 AM.
Sun., May 4
Sat., May 17

Tuesdays in May **Tuesday Evening Birders:** Leaders: Dea Armstrong, Mike Sefton, and others. Dea and Mike will take turns leading these outings along with other top birders. They will scout locations and scan bird reports during the day, and then in the evening take the group to where the action is. This is a carpool event with multiple stops. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Miller Road/M-14 park-and-ride lot, where everyone will consolidate into fewer vehicles and prepare for a 6:15 sharp departure.

Saturday, May 10 **International Migratory Bird Count:** Washtenaw County organizer/compiler: Juliet Berger. Participation in this international event mainly occurs at the local level. The compiler divides the county up into sections which has a leader. For names and contact information for the section leaders, visit our website. This event is NOT just for expert birders. It is a great way for less experienced birders who are willing to help to learn from others with more advanced skills.

Sunday, May 11 **Hudson Mills Metropark:** Leader: Karen Markey. Target birds include cuckoos, woodpeckers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and tanagers. There is a vehicle fee to enter. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Activity Center at 7: 30 AM. The trip will last roughly until 11:00.

Sunday, May 18 **Magee Marsh and Metzger Marsh, NW Ohio:** Leader: Karen Markey. Magee Marsh is an internationally renowned migrant trap where birds stop to refuel before their long flight across Lake Erie. Warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, and thrushes are just some of the many types of birds you can see there. Birders may see more than 100 species. Meet at the park-and-ride lot at Plymouth Road and US 23 at 5:50 a.m. to arrange carpools for a 6:00 sharp departure. Or meet the group at the warbler sign near the boardwalk entrance at Magee Marsh at 8:30 a.m. Karen plans to return in late afternoon, but individual drivers and their carpools may arrange to come back sooner.

Sunday, June 15 **Stinchfield Woods Annual Census:** Leaders: Karen Markey and Rachelle Sterling. Stinchfield Woods is 777 acres of conifer plantations and stands of native hardwoods. The census on this property typically yields species such as Pine and Black-throated Green Warblers, Solitary Vireos, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Wild Turkeys, Hooded Warblers, Ovenbirds, and Acadian Flycatchers. The count starts at 7:00 a.m. Participants will assemble at the top of the hill near the caretaker's house and the observatory, and divide into groups. After hiking the trails and recording observations, everyone will reassemble late in the morning to compile a list of all birds seen or heard. If interested contact Rachelle at rachelle.sst@gmail.com.

May 23-25, 2014: NEW BIRDING TRAIL DEDICATION!

Please consider attending the dedication of the new Beaver Island Birding Trail. It starts Friday evening, May 23rd, and ends the afternoon of Sunday May 25th. There is no fee for attending the various speaker presentations and guided field trips offered to birding hot spots throughout the island. Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy some of Lower Michigan's most pristine nature!

The Beaver Island Archipelago is identified in bi-national reports as ranking amongst the highest for biodiversity of all the Great Lakes islands. Despite its relatively small size it contains examples of some of Michigan's finest natural communities including Great Lakes dunes, marshes, bogs, fens, coniferous swamps, northern coniferous forests, and mixed hardwood forests.

The great diversity of ecosystems on the Beaver Island Archipelago supports a great diversity of species. It contains four areas designated as Important Birding Areas by BirdLife International and provides significant habitat for colonial waterbirds, Neotropical-Nearctic migratory songbirds and near shore fish populations. It contains many threatened and endangered plant species such as Michigan monkey-flower and Pitcher's thistle.

Unfortunately, Beaver Island is listed in the Top Ten Most Threatened Islands in the Great Lakes. Developing its potential as a destination for naturalists will increase the value that is placed on these assets, and hopefully promote their preservation. The B.I. Birding Trail was created to promote the island's conservation efforts while supporting the regional and local economy. The Beaver Island Association and Saving Birds Thru Habitat are spearheading the efforts.

So, to have fun AND help birds, register soon! The schedule and registration for the dedication dinner, speaker presentations, and field trips, is on the Dedication page of www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.com. For a map with descriptions of the various birding Hot Spots on the island, go to the Conservation page. Also on the Conservation page is a checklist of the bird species seen on the island. Warblers will be in their highest concentration at the end of May!

Information about transportation to the island and lodging is available on the Dedication page of the website. For an overview of the fascinating history and ecosystems of the island, watch the video at www.agreatlakesjewel.org. If you have any questions, contact WAS member Barbara Lucas at blgreensource@gmail.com. Hope to see you 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.*

May 21

Monsoon Birds of South India: Join Mary Mathias for a program on her adventures birding in the southwestern, coastal state of Kerala, India (Western Ghats) during the monsoon season. Nearly constant torrential rains failed to dampen Mary's quest for elusive species, including endemics and several birds that are nearly extinct and rarely photographed. Mary is employed by the Washtenaw County Division of Environmental Health, producing content for "Issues on the Environment" on local NPR station 89.1FM.

June 18

Florida Flora and Fauna: Join Don "The Man" Chalfant for a program on the beautiful flora and fauna of the Sunshine State, which, in his constant search for innovation, Don says will be different from our usual programs. Don "The Man" Chalfant is a retired Ann Arbor teacher, avid birder and photographer, and boasts one of the largest Washtenaw County life lists, as well as impressive Michigan and ABA lists. Don has the signal distinction of being the only part-time Florida resident to have seen over 400 species in Florida, one of many reasons that he has earned the soubriquet "The Man."

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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