



NEWSLETTER

September/October 2021

July-August 2021: Summer Highlights A First Michigan State Record in Washtenaw County!

The Highlight

With the spread of birding to a variety of online venues, more and more often rarities are found “by accident”. Last year, this happened when a photo of the State’s second case of Hooded Oriole was posted to a Facebook



Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*, Koch Drain, July 17 2021 (Michael Bowen) & Bemis Rd Marsh, July 24 2021 (Nui Moreland)

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President's Letter

Dear Washtenaw Audubon friends,

With another summer coming to an end, and COVID still an uncertain specter in our midst, I want to share the growing good news about Washtenaw Audubon's activities over the summer and for the past year. We have resumed field trips, and all are welcome to attend, though some trips are limited to a smaller number of participants. The Fall Migration Arb walks continue every Thursday morning. 24 members came along to Pointe Mouillee with us, and enjoyed the shorebirds, waders and other feathered friends. We will be certain to add new offerings to the list of field trips as fall unfolds.

During July, we also revived a treasured tradition of WAS's past, the Annual Picnic. Close to 50 WAS members and prospective members attended this year. It was so moving to see us all gathered under the picnic shelter at Dexter Huron MetroPark, after over a year of not seeing anyone in groups. This year we honored Andy Dettling, the WAS birder who saw the most bird species in the County for 2020, a never to be repeated 255 spp., and presented him with the coveted Wingnut Award, an actual wingnut attached to a piece of wood! Morgan Chen, then 10 years old, received the Acorn Award, a lovely hand-carved trophy that Andy created, for seeing 217 species in Washtenaw County, more than any other young birder. Congrats to the both of them. I was even honored as 2019's Wingnut recipient, since my party was held virtually due to COVID.

At the Annual Picnic, WAS Board members had the chance to share what we have been doing for you during the time we could not be together in person. Our first ever WAS survey to members and friends gave us lots of info about what you want from WAS in general. Most members want more engagement, more events, more field trips, and more communication about what we are working towards. We'll be putting communication and planning more events on the front burner, going forward.

Other things we've been up to since the pandemic hit in spring 2020: We purchased 6 pairs of high-quality binoculars to lend out to new birders on our field trips, and our Swift Ambassadors put up signs we printed on many Chimneys throughout the County, that are used by Chimney Swifts, to raise awareness about this declining aerial insectivore. Our Board attended Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, led for us by a United Way representative. We committed ourselves to increasing diversity in our membership and to work hard to make all feel welcome at our events. We held 3 Searles Nature Preserve workdays, opening up trails and pulling invasives in this WAS owned gem. We hosted Programs every month via Zoom, expanding our reach to other regions, states and even internationally. We contributed to Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, and other important environmental organizations in our region. Our Field Trip Chair, Matt Spoor, started a series of bird walks for Beginner Birders, to bring the joy of birding to all. We also welcome Victor Chen, our new WAS Education Chair, who has plans to bring the love of birds to underserved groups throughout the County. These are just a few of the many tasks we have been engaged in as an all-volunteer board.

I'll be seeing you at the next Thursday morning Arb walk, searching for that Wilson's Warbler....

As always, I am for the birds,

Juliet Berger, President

Washtenaw Audubon Society



WAS president Juliet Berger speaking at the WAS picnic and some of the avian cookies created by Morgan (and Victor) Chen (Bill Nolting)



birding group. Lightning struck again on July 16, when someone posted a somewhat blurry phone picture of what looked like a white and pink wader in the Koch drain at the southern end of Wilderness Park in Saline. Within 15 minutes it had become clear that the bird in question was, in fact, Michigan's first record for **ROSEATE SPOONBILL!** This juvenile bird represents the first State first record found in Washtenaw County in over 50 years and, needless to say, brought out a big crowd to its hangout. Over the next 6-7 days, over 500(!!!) birders from far and wide came out to take in this stunning bird. Starting 7/21, it started splitting its time between the original spot and the small marsh off Bemis Rd a little over a mile to the northeast (as the spoonbill flies). For the final few days of its stay, it spent all of its time in this marsh, where it was last seen on 7/26.

Although this was a Michigan first, its addition was not totally unexpected – Roseate Spoonbills put on an impressive display of post-breeding wandering into the Midwest and the Northeast, prompting the American Birding Association to coin the hash tag #spoonbillsummer. A very enlightening description of the phenomenon was posted on their website [here](#).

Waterfowl through Cranes

Dabbling ducks are, by and large, not widely distributed locally during the summer months, so it was quite surprising to see the variety in this group during July and August. Several small groups of **Blue-winged Teal** were noted in half a dozen location scattered throughout, with 9 at Scio Church & Parker on 7/14 as the maximum. A lone female **Northern Shoveler** at Four Mile Lake on 8/23 was definitely of note, as was a **Gadwall** along Vreeland Rd on 8/31. Quite surprisingly, more than ten **American Black Ducks** were picked out from among groups of eclipse plumaged Mallards throughout July-August. The small “fluddles” along Vreeland Rd hosted a female **Northern Pintail** for the majority of August (8/2 – 8/21), which is exceedingly early for this species. A **Green-winged Teal** at Four Mile Lake on 7/8 was unexpected, the birds trickling into Washtenaw County starting mid-August less so.

The male **Common Merganser** hanging around several city parks along the Huron River in downtown Ann Arbor for the summer months (like in 2020) put on an interesting show case for that species's molt cycle by transitioning from the typical male into a female-type eclipse plumage.



Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Vreeland Rd, August 10 2021 (Victor Chen)



Common Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Nichols Arboretum, August 30 2021 (Bill Nolting)

Ring-necked Pheasants appear to have had a decent nesting season, with five birds reported from Sharon Mills County Park (7/9) and a group of eight birds at Dixboro & Pontiac Trail (7/11). Potentially the release of additional birds for hunting may be a factor here, but most, if not all, of the eight reporting locations are not open to hunting. No longer considered of wild origins by eBird, **Northern Bobwhites** were noted in at least four locations around the County, most notably three of them near Gleaner Hall & Warren, where they were present last year as well. Rare nesters locally, **Black-billed Cuckoos** seemed more wide-spread than typical during the summer, with reports from nearly a dozen sites, in two cases involving two birds. Perhaps (hopefully?) under-reported, the status of **Common Nighthawks** during July is hard to pin down – are these locally nesting birds, late spring migrants, or perhaps early southbound birds after an unsuccessful nesting attempt farther north? Perhaps some additional coverage in the years to come can shed light on that. More expectedly, migrating Nighthawks appeared over the county in well over a dozen locations, with up to five birds reported in several cases. Not terribly surprising given their cryptic nature, only a single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was found, in the area around Scio Church & Lima Center on 7/7. Trinkle Marsh was home to the only **Common Gallinules** of the summer period, with up to two birds present at its local stronghold there. A somewhat odd-ball observation, an **American Coot** was reported from Marshall Park on 8/27. A couple of very intriguing reports for as many as two **Whooping Cranes** hanging out with a small group Sandhills came in on 7/17 and 7/19, but these birds could not be relocated by other birders.

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The Washtenaw Audubon Society is an active chapter of Michigan Audubon formed in the early 1950s. Monthly programs feature guest speakers on a wide variety of natural history and birding topics. We conduct field trips to places in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, and beyond.

Field Trip Schedule

Recurring (through 10/28/21):

Thursday Walks at Nichols Arboretum 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Join us on Thursday mornings at Nichols Arboretum to observe birds and simply enjoy being in the Arb. These leaderless walks are a great opportunity to join with other birders of all skill levels. In addition to the birds, the Arb's trees and other plants offer delights of their own. Meet at the southeastern corner of Dow Prairie at 8:00 a.m.; the walks will end around 11:00 a.m., but participants can leave whenever they prefer.

October 9, 2021 The Big Sit 12:00 am – 4:00 pm

Join long-time field trip leader Don Chalfant and some stalwart WAS birders for this fun outdoor event at Independence Lake County Park. We count as many species as we can from within a 17-foot circle. Great for those with mobility issues, and who enjoy the more relaxed pace of birding in place.

October 9, 2021 eBird October Big Day

In addition to the Big Sit, there will be other birding outings planned to celebrate and contribute to the eBird October Big Day – please check the WAS website for more details and announcements.

October 16, 2021 Workday at Searles Preserve 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Join WAS members for an afternoon's work clearing woody invasives at the Searles Preserve owned by WAS. Some tools will be provided, but make sure to bring gloves, your favorite pruning shear or saw, and a snack & drink. Please dress for the weather!

November 20, 2021 Birding Belle Isle 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

This is a traditional trip to look for ducks, raptors and whatever is hiding around this wonderful island in the Detroit River. We'll meet at the Nature Center at the east end of the island and carpool from there. For those interested, we will have lunch afterwards to compare notes and chat. A state recreation passport is required. This is a joint trip with Oakland Audubon, led by Jeff Stacey.

December 4, 2021 Looking for Ducks at North Bay Park

Save the date! Newly announced WAS Education Chair Victor Chen will be leading this walk around the North Bay Park boardwalk at Ford Lake, in a joint venture with the Ypsilanti District Library. Meet at the Grove St parking lot – additional details will be posted on the WAS website.

December 11, 2021 Gull Trip to the Salem Landfill

Hopefully, this long-running outing for local *larophiles* can go through this year after an enforced hiatus – if we cannot arrange for permission to enter the Salem Landfill property, an alternate location may be used. This will be a limited-space field trip, so registration will be required and may be limited to WAS members only. Please keep an eye on the WAS website for more developments.

December 18, 2021 Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendars, folks (if you hadn't already done so)! Saturday, December 18 is the 76th edition of the Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count. Join us for the whole day or a few hours of censusing birdlife in a 15-mile diameter circle centered on Foster Rd Bridge. More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter, as well as on the WAS website.

**Did you know you can save dozens of birds every year
 by fixing windows around your house or office?
 Visit birdsmartglass.org to see how!**



Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, Dixboro & Pontiac Trl, July 11 2021 (Bonnie Penet)



Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Sharon Mills County Park, August 14 2021 (Dan Fox)

Shorebirds through Terns

Late summer is often the best time of year for shorebirds, and this year was no exception to that rule. During a brief two-week window in early to mid-August, good numbers of **Semipalmated Plovers** moved through our area, with a couple of spots hosting as many as six birds, which is an excellent tally. One of the summer's hottest sites for shorebirds (and dabbling ducks) was a fluddle on the north side of Vreeland Rd, between Hickman and LeForge. On 7/30, a molting adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was found here, which hung around for another day after that. Just shy of three weeks later, a juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** appeared in the same spot; it stayed until 8/21. The other hotspot, at Morgan & Platt, was an equally non-descript fluddle – a one-day wonder duo of **Bairds Sandpipers** was here on 8/30, delighting the lucky few that made it there to see them. **Pectoral Sandpipers** appeared starting with a singleton at Domino's Farms on 7/15; a group of as many as five birds were at the "Stilt" spot for the last week of July. During August, half a dozen other sites also held Pecs, maxing out at six birds. Fall is often significantly better for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** than spring, and this year was no exception. A flock of seven flew in with the Vreeland Rd Stilt Sandpiper and five of them stuck around for essentially all of August. The flock of seven birds at the Morgan & Platt fluddle on 8/11 turned out to be there for that day only. Three birds at Four Mile Lake and one at Thurston Pond (both on 8/10) completed this summer's reports. Last, but certainly not least, a pair of **Sanderlings** at the Morgan & Platt fluddle on 8/11 rounds out the *calidris* sandpiper observations.



Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*, Vreeland Rd fluddle, July 31 2021 (Jocelyn Anderson)



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Vreeland Rd fluddle, July 24 2021 (Victor Chen)

Southbound **Short-billed Dowitcher** reports were limited to a group of five at Morgan & Platt (8/10) and a single bird along Vreeland on 8/25. Not often noted outside of spring, **American Woodcocks** at Ford & Prospect (7/27) and in Nichols Arboretum (8/31) were rather unusual. A **Wilson's Snipe** found at the Ann Arbor Airport on 7/14 presented a bit of a head-scratcher as far as its timing was concerned: late migrant or early migrant? One other snipe was at the Vreeland Rd fluddle from 8/22 - 8/27.

A very early **Bonaparte's Gull** was flying over Four Mile Lake on 7/23; even if not unprecedented, this is one of a select few July observations for this species in Washtenaw County. A couple of weeks later, a small group of six birds was over Ford Lake (8/4 – 8/7) and another “Bonie” was over Four Mile Lake 8/17 – 8/20. Although they are not a local rarity per se, a whopping 31 **Herring Gulls** at North Bay Park on 8/8 is definitely a sizeable gathering for the summer months. Joining these birds was an equally impressive congregation of **Caspian Terns**: starting with a group of seven birds on 7/27, numbers built up to 27 birds on 8/19, before slowly decreasing again. Away from Ford Lake, only single birds were noted, at Wildwood Lake (8/11), Whitmore Lake (8/12), and South Pond (8/25). Sightings of any of the smaller tern species are always of note locally, but this August only single **Forster's Terns** were observed at North Bay Park (8/7) and Whitmore Lake (8/13) – neither of these birds stuck around for more than a day, unfortunately.



Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, North Bay Park, August 7 2021 (Victor Chen)



Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* & Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*, North Bay Park, August 7 2021 (Bill Nolting)

Cormorants through Falcons

Generally, **Double-crested Cormorant** is not a species ‘worthy’ of mention in this article, but some 120 birds roosting on the islands and driftwood at North Bay Park on 8/20 was an unusually large group away from Lake Erie. A few scattered July reports of **Least Bitterns** came in from Trinkle Marsh (7/4) and the Saline Fisheries Research Station (7/5); other than that, the territorial birds at LeFurge Woods were present throughout July and August. Indicating a good amount of post-breeding dispersal, **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found in half a dozen locations, mostly of single birds hanging around for a few days. Exceptions were two birds at North Bay Park (8/7 – 8/24) and multiple birds of multiple ages at Mary Beth Doyle Park (8/6 – 8/30); on 8/18, a whopping 5 different birds were photographed there, an all-time high tally for the species in Washtenaw County. The **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at a complex of ponds at Tuttle Hill & Merritt was last seen on 7/8.



Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*, LeFurge Woods, July 5 2021 (Norka Saldana)



Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Mary Beth Doyle Park, August 18 2021 (Nui Moreland)

Last period's highlight, the **Mississippi Kite** at Cherry Hill Preserve, was last reported on 7/4. A surprising total of five single **Northern Harriers** were reported on five different dates; by and large, this species is a migrant in our area, but some of these birds may have attempted to nest. An early migrant, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. There were three reports of **Red-shouldered Hawks** during the summer months, all of single birds: over the Cherry Hill Preserve (7/1), along Hankerd Rd (8/19), and at the Ann Arbor Landfill (8/20).

Interestingly, **Barred Owls** were by and large only reported from their usual haunts in the northwestern corner of the county; given the widespread spring observations, this is likely a reflection more of reduced observer efforts than of a lack of these handsome owls. Throughout July and August, family groups of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted at scattered locations, involving up to four birds. A **Merlin** was at Silver Lake on 8/29, probably an early migrant. The **Peregrine Falcon** pair (and their off-spring) were clearly wandering around – one or two of these handsome falcons were seen around town, but also farther afield at Ford Lake and along Vreeland Rd.



Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Sharon Mills County Park, July 22 2021 (Michael Bowen)



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Vreeland Rd, July 31 2021 (Russell Ryan)

Passerines: Flycatchers through Wrens

Right on cue, the first **Olive-sided Flycatcher** showed up at the West Lake Preserve on 8/16, followed by four additional birds in the remaining weeks of August. A (very) early **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** stopped by Eberwhite Woods on 8/11; four more appeared in the final few days of August, which is more in their regular migratory window. Not surprisingly, the only **Acadian Flycatcher** reports came from the northwestern portion of the county, with as many as five along Embury Rd on 8/4; the final sighting for this species was on 8/21. Extending their good spring showing, **Alder Flycatchers** stuck around into July, in Dolph Park (7/3) and at Independence Lake (7/7).

Likely nesting there, a **White-eyed Vireo** was present near Lyndon Township Hall from 7/14 – 8/6. Oddball **Blue-headed Vireo** reports came in from Marshall Park (7/6 – 7/7) and Bird Hills Park (7/21); more in line with the norm was one at Nichols Arboretum on 8/27. The only **Philadelphia Vireo** of the period was at Nichols Arboretum starting 8/29.



Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, August 18 2021 (Karen Markey)



Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*, Scio Church & Parker, July 17 2021 (Cindy & Mike Venus)

A few (nesting?) **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted in July, but as of the start of August southbound migrants started trickling in – perhaps an echo effect of last year’s irruption? Quite a few **Brown Creepers** continued into the summer months, with birds reported from some ten locations. Similarly, **Sedge Wrens** continued their banner spring into summer – reports came in from seven sites, with as many as four birds at the DeVine Preserve and the Ann Arbor Airport, and a whopping 10 at Sharonville SGA on 7/31. **Marsh Wrens** likewise had a good nesting season, with singing birds at a dozen locations, maxing out at eight birds at LeFurge Woods and six birds at Trinkle Marsh.

Passerines: Mimids through Blackbirds

Northern Mockingbirds continued at many of the places they were found during the spring period and were observed at a few scattered locales elsewhere. A completely unexpected summertime find was a **Pine Siskin** at Eberwhite Woods on 7/21 - there is only one other July record for this finch, from July 10, 2012. **Grasshopper Sparrows** largely went quiet after June. There was one singing bird along Meyers Rd on 7/12 and up to 3 birds at the Sharonville SGA throughout July. The same was true for **Clay-colored Sparrows**: only one male was heard at Rolling Hills County Park, on 7/25. By contrast, **Vesper Sparrows** were observed in many of the places they were found during the spring period, with a fledgling photographed at the Conservancy Farm on 7/30. A handful of good-sized **Henslow’s Sparrow** colonies existed in the county this year: up to five birds at the Conservancy Farm (7/1 – 7/29), a whopping 8 birds at the Sharonville SGA (7/5 – 8/3), and three more at the Ann Arbor Landfill’s hayfields (8/4 – 8/18). In addition, there were one or two singing males at four or five other spots. Only three **Orchard Orioles** were noted: in Dexter (8/6), at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (8/6), and at Furstenberg Park (8/17).



Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*, Eberwhite Woods, July 12 2021, (Benjamin Hack)



Henslow's Sparrow *Centronyx henslowii*, Sharonville SGA, July 17 2021 (Forest Jarvis)

Passerines: Warblers through Cardinals

Spring migration is often considered the best time to see wood-warblers, but oftentimes these snazzy little birds are more numerous and move through for longer in the fall period. During July 13 mostly breeding species were noted; starting in August, migrant species mixed in, and the July species total doubled to 26. Nesting locally, **Ovenbirds** were still singing into July at a handful of places; by the last week of August an influx of migrants from farther north was noted, mostly around Ann Arbor park properties. On 8/1, an early (likely migrating) **Northern Waterthrush** was at Eberwhite Woods. Always a treat, a handful of **Golden-winged Warblers** showed up around Ann Arbor at the end of August: at Nichols Arboretum (8/26), Matthaei Botanical Gardens (8/28), and Mary Beth Doyle Park (8/30). Likely a very late spring migrant, a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Matthaei Botanical Gardens on 7/1 made for one of very few July records. Territorial **Prothonotary Warblers** persisted in half a dozen locations and they can now safely be considered a rare to uncommon breeding species in Washtenaw County. A straggler was seen in Nichols Arboretum on 8/31. A couple of southbound **Mourning Warblers** appeared in the Arb on 8/28 and stayed until at least 8/31. Not surprisingly, most of the summer records for **Hooded Warblers** came from their breeding stronghold in the northwestern portion of the county. The handful of late August records likely pertains to migrating birds from farther north. The only observations of **Cerulean Warblers** came from the small area centered around Embury Rd in Lyndon Township, with a bird on 8/17 being quite late.



Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*, Nichols Arboretum, August 27 2021 (Bill Nolting)



Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea*, Park Lyndon County Park, August 17 2021 (Michael Bowen)

One of the people looking for the Saline spoonbill turned up a **Northern Parula** in Wilderness Park on 7/17, quite an unusual date for that species. More in the realm of normalcy were two birds at Nichols Arboretum from 8/27 and one at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Possibly nearby nesters or failed breeders, there were four records for **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, all in July: near Lyndon Twp Hall (7/10 – 7/18), along Embury Rd (7/18), and at the Bemis Rd marsh (7/21). **Blackpoll Warblers** started trickling in on 8/25 with two at Mary Beth Doyle Park, and two more at Nichols Arboretum on 8/28 – 8/29. **Pine Warblers** nest in scattered evergreen stands around the county, but none were noted after 7/25 when the males stopped singing. Quite early for this usually late migrant, a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at North Bay Park on 8/19; a few more seen at Loch Highland (8/26) and along Vreeland Rd (8/31). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Stinchfield Woods on 7/20 may have involved a bird trying to nest there, as this species has done in the past.

Two handsome **Canada Warblers** graced the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (8/25 – 8/30); another duo was in Nichols Arboretum (8/26 – 8/29). Two of their congener, the **Wilson's Warbler**, were at that hotspot as well (8/26 – 8/31); another one was in Whitmore Lake on 8/28. **Dickcissels** extended their excellent spring showing into an equally solid breeding season. Up to ten birds (on 7/9) were seen during July at the Sharonville SGA, and small colonies of 3-4 birds were at four other locations. Unfortunately, this local increase in breeding birds is likely related to the drought conditions in their core range, so what is good for us Washtenaw birders may not be such good news for these birds.



Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*, Nichols Arboretum, August 29 2021 (Russell Ryan)



Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*, Nichols Arboretum, August 31 2021 (John Christensen)



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The birds Washtenaw Audubon pledges to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. As we honor and celebrate the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Washtenaw Audubon considers the work of inclusion, diversity, and equity a top priority moving forward. We hope that, in doing so, we can bring creativity and energy to our work in Washtenaw County and beyond for birds and people alike.

[Read our full statement at washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Nyctanassa violacea, Tuttle Hill & Merritt, July 3 2021 (Sharon Korte)

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, P.O. Box 130923, Ann Arbor, MI 48113.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	Membership Dues
Additional Donation \$ _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Household \$25 (online only \$20)
Name: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15 (online only \$10)
Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$15 (online only \$10)
Phone: _____	Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Washtenaw Audubon's in-person programs at the Botanical Gardens are on hold until the University allows gatherings to take place. To view our online Zoom programs, you will need access to an internet-capable computer, phone, or similar device. An announcement of the web address to view the program will be on our web site, Facebook page, and on the Birders email list a few days before the program. We may also add more online programs for April and the future, which will be announced on the same internet platforms.

October 20, 7:30 p.m. Birding Ecuador - with Ben Lucking

Join Ace Birder Ben Lucking for a trip to Ecuador, a bird-rich country with diverse ecosystems. Ecuador has 1600 bird species and has more biodiversity per square kilometer than any country in the world. Ben found over 500 species, most of them lifers, during his recent trip. His program will include many excellent photos. Ben Lucking was born in England but has spent most of his life in the Dexter, Michigan area. He's been birding with Washtenaw Audubon for many years. He is a recent graduate of the University of Exeter.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/99959530793>

Meeting ID: 999 5953 0793

Passcode: 289387 (NOTE: UMICH Zoom now requires us to use passcodes for security)

Or dial-in: 312-626-6799

November 17, 7:30 p.m. Birding Costa Rica - with David Dister

Dave's fabulous photos make this a much-anticipated program. In-person at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens if the vagaries of COVID-19 permit. Hopefully, we will find it safe to conduct in person programs by this time, and the University of Michigan will re-open the Matthaei Botanical Gardens facility for our use. Dave Dister recently published A Field Guide to the Birds of Mason County, MI and Ludington State Park. Copies of this book will be available at the program.

December 15

No Program due to the Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 18, 2021

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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