



WASHTENAW
AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

March / April 2022

January-February 2022: Winter Highlights

The Highlights

The depths of winter are hard on birds and birders alike. That said, for those hardy birders that brave often inclement weather, there are plenty of avian gems out there. One such treasure, even if not a species per se, was found on 2/18 among the waterfowl gathered in one of few remaining stretches of open water in the Huron River at Waterworks Park in Ypsilanti. A male **Northern Pintail x Mallard** hybrid was present there (if hard to find) for nearly a week, before departing on 2/24. It was relocated on 2/28 at nearby North Hydro Park, as well as on a small pond in a subdivision on Willis Rd, near Whittaker Rd. Even though both parent species are widely distributed across the Holarctic area, this hybrid combination appears to be relatively rare, and the Waterworks bird made for only the fifth ever in Michigan.



Northern Pintail x Mallard *Anas acuta x platyrhynchos*, Waterworks Park, February 20 2022 (Bruce Moorman)

Much like the myriad of warblers excite birders during spring migration, so does the prospect of encountering one of the so-called 'winter finches' warm our hearts during the colder month of the year. Although this winter season no major finch flight materialized like it did last year, a significant movement of redpolls took place nonetheless. Tucked in among its much more

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President's Letter

Dear Washtenaw Audubon members and friends,

In lieu of my traditional President's Letter, I'll share the highlights of the Upper Peninsula Field Trip that WAS journeyed to on President's Day weekend, February 18-20. Planned by our Field Trip Chair, Matthew Spoor, 19 WAS members made the 5-hour trip to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on Friday, many of us beleaguered by snow squalls and slow traffic. Some of us stopped for the trip's prequel, a feeder in Mackinaw City hosting a male Varied Thrush, a rare Pacific Northwest vagrant. Our car and most of the other participants managed great looks at this gorgeous bird, which was a lifer for many of us.



Varied Thrush (Jennifer Speth)

Saturday morning dawned a bitter cold +2 Fahrenheit, with bright sun, 20 mph winds and blowing and drifting snow. A Snowy Owl flyover in the parking lot at the Plaza Motor Motel was a good omen for the day ahead. We all donned extra layers, and packed into cars, with our caravan totaling 5. Walkie talkies helped us to stay connected and get each car on the birds as soon as possible. We started to worry if we would see anything, as our first stop at the Sugar Island Ferry saw participants falling in waist high snow with high winds, all for a few Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergs and Ravens. As the day progressed, we saw a few more feeder birds, a Redpoll or two, and then some Northern Shrikes and Sharp-tailed Grouse perched and feeding on tree buds. By the time we reached the Dunbar Forest, we all got to see an immature Northern Shrike chasing a Black-capped Chickadee inside and throughout dense brush (the Chickadee lived to sing another day). After our chilly picnic lunch, we encountered our first Snowy Owl near Pickford. It posed for all of us, at a safe distance, on a snow-covered knoll off a busy intersection. It was a perfect photo-op for those of us with cameras.

and a smattering of gorgeous Rough-legged Hawks. We ended our day on Rudyard's famous flats at a home hosting ethereal Snow Buntings, and more Snowy Owls than most of us had ever seen. Throughout the day, we'd seen both large and small groups of Pine Grosbeaks at most every feeder, giving us breathtaking looks and singing their finchy song. They turned out to be the most numerous bird we saw on the trip.

On Sunday, we headed out west to a former site of a lek (display grounds) of Sharp-tailed Grouse. There were lots of Grouse to see, but no lek yet this year. Soon we made our way to feeders at Kinross, for gorgeous views of feeder birds like Pine Grosbeak, and flyover Bald Eagles and Pileated Woodpeckers. Last, we headed to Dafter, home of the famous Dafter Post Office eBird Hotspot. The Post Office sports a good number of fruit trees, mostly crabapples, which attract Pine Grosbeaks, and Shrikes to prey on them. The highlights in Dafter were feeders full of Common Redpolls, Pileated Woodpeckers on seemingly every electrical pole, and a beautiful darkly striped and menacing Merlin. Flocks of Sharp-tailed Grouse flew through local yards and around the town. We departed ways to head home to Washtenaw, as the wind picked up and the day waned.



Snowy Owl (Bill Vander Molen)



Pine Grosbeak (Bill Vander Molen)

Thanks to all the folks who made the trip, the great spotters, the awesome photographers, and the camaraderie that made it seem almost like the befores. Here is our eBird Trip Report, where you can see all the great birds we encountered on our frozen fantastic foray to the UP. <https://ebird.org/tripreport/38652> Click on individual bird species to see all the fabulous photos.

With spring approaching, we'll have lots of field trips and programs for your enjoyment. Check this newsletter, Facebook, and our website, www.washtenawaudubon.org New on the home page on our website is a link to our YouTube channel, with recordings of past monthly programs. If you missed Matt Hack's program on Tern Research, and Andy Johnson's Whimbrel program, I highly recommend catching up on YouTube.

I hope to see many of you when we reprise our Spring Migration Walks at the Arb, Thursday mornings beginning March 31 and going through the whole of May. I'll be there....

As always, I am for the birds,

Juliet Berger, President

Washtenaw Audubon Society

From the Education Chair – Victor Chen:

Washtenaw Audubon is committed to sharing the love of birds and the outdoors to people of all ages and ethnicities. In September of 2021, we began a partnership with the Ypsilanti District Library by doing an Intro to Birding event, followed by a bird walk at the Whittaker branch. This was followed by a duck walk at Ford Lake in December. This spring, we will be having a migratory bird walk with the downtown Ypsilanti Library on April 30th down the Water Street Trail at 2pm. Additionally, the Ann Arbor District Library (Traverwood branch) will be hosting WAS for a birding event on May 21st at 10am.

In February, WAS held its first ever walk dedicated for the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community and its allies. The event was a safe space where people of color could be together in the outdoors enjoying nature and the company of each other. Our next BIPOC walk will take place on March 26 at Kensington Metropark at 10am. Please check our website for details and updates.



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)

Local National American Butterfly Association Official Counts 2022

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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.

Everybody is welcome to join a count for a half or a full day. Counts generally run from about 9.30 to about 17.00. The various groups usually meet for a picnic lunch at a designated location. Generally, on a local count 35-40 species are found, although on a few occasions we have found 50 or more.

Most of the transects are fairly easy-going, even if sometimes wet, so that wellingtons are sometimes a good idea. The few arduous treks are through fens because of tussock grass, plus some can be hard to reach. These may not be for everybody.

I am sometimes asked about butterfly field guides; the one I would now recommend is the *Butterflies of Indiana* by Jeffrey Belth and published by the University of Indiana Press in 2013. It has excellent accounts of all our local species, apart from the Common Ringlet.

There is an official \$3 dollar fee for each adult participant, although compilers have been known to pay the fees for the group. NABA is a good organization to join; the annual subscription is modest; it offers a quarterly journal of some quality; it has an interactive website called "hot seens", and it produces an annual report of all the butterfly counts in North America (around 450), which is what the \$3 dollar fees support.

Note that all counts are on Saturdays, except July 4 (Monday).

John Swales (995-1139)

Time	Date	Name	Compiler/Contact person
Spring	May 28	SW Washtenaw	Silas Bialecki bialecki.silas.1@gmail.com
4th July	July 2	SW Washtenaw	Silas Bialecki bialecki.silas.1@gmail.com
4th July	July 4	Chelsea	Roger Wykes (734-769-6482)
4th July	July 9	Ann Arbor	John Swales jmswales@umich.edu
4th July	July 9	Toledo	Jackie Riley jriley4@sbcglobal.net
4th July	July 30	Dundee	Marcy Breslow mbreslow@umich.edu
Fall	August 21	SW Washtenaw	Silas Bialecki bialecki.silas.1@gmail.com



Common Ringlet (Frank Model)
(www.naba.org)

Michigan Young Birders Camp (June 26–July 1, 2022)

After two years of offering a virtual camp experience, Michigan Audubon is happy to announce that we're moving back to an in-person Michigan Young Birders Camp for 2022! We are pleased to continue to connect young people with the diverse bird communities of the Great Lakes region for the fifth year. Michigan Audubon hopes to reach more young birders, ages 13–18, during this week filled with exciting bird and conservation adventures.

<https://www.michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders/>

WASHTENAW Audubon is pleased to offer full scholarships for young birders to attend birding camps. Please send a letter of interest by April 15, 2022 to president@washtenawaudubon.org.

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numerous and 'common' cousins, up to two (and possibly more) **Hoary Redpolls** were picked out from the flock that frequented the alder trees along the Huron River in Ann Arbor's Furstenberg and Gallup Parks from 1/22 through 2/12. There are only about half a dozen prior records for this denizen of the (very) High Arctic locally, so to have a more or less reliable spot to see them was a treat, indeed.

Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*, Gallup Park, January 22 2022 (Jocelyn Anderson)

Waterfowl through Shorebirds

A possible **Ross's Goose** was reported in the Willis & Whittaker subdivision pond on 2/26, but the observer reported that this bird was killed by a Cooper's Hawk, so a hybrid could not be ruled out completely. A lone **Greater White-fronted Goose** spent several days in Ann Arbor in early February. It was initially located at Mary Beth Doyle Park on 2/4, and then appears to have moved to the Huron River where it was seen in several of the riverside parks from 2/5 until 2/9. A group of four birds was at the subdivision pond at Willis & Whittaker from 2/26 – 2/27.



(Possible) Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*, Willis & Whittaker, February 26 2022 (Anonymous)



Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*, North Bay Park, February 26 2021 (Ben Lucking)

Cackling Geese continued their outstanding showing from earlier this winter season. Other than the singletons at Waterworks Park (1/13) and at Saline-Milan & Maple (2/8), there was a group of six on the Huron River, east of Wagner, on 1/6. By far the biggest concentration, however, was at North Bay Park, where as many as 21 of them spent the last four days of February, making for a record high tally for Washtenaw County. Also at that location, a family group of three **Tundra Swans** loafed around on the receding ice starting 2/24; they were joined by seven more birds on 2/28. The January cold snap that caused essentially all bodies of water to freeze made for impressive concentrations of waterfowl, which included a whopping (and record high) total of 68 Trumpeter Swans in the Huron River between the Arb and Furstenberg on 1/13.

A few scattered **Northern Shovelers** were noted during January-February, with two at the Meyer Preserve (1/1), one in the Furstenberg-Gallup area (1/1 – 1/12), and one (the same?) at Gallup nearly a month later (2/5). **Mallards** are obviously not a regular in this article, but the impressive record high flock of 1,000 at North Hydro Park on 1/27 is certainly worth mentioning! There was a **Northern Pintail** on the Raisin River in Manchester on 1/12, and a lone male spent two weeks at Mary Beth Doyle Park (1/22 – 2/6). A pair of these handsome dabbling ducks made a temporary home at North Bay Park from 2/10 – 2/28, and these two birds were likely also reported from nearby North Hydro Park on 2/28. A group of four male **Green-winged Teal** appears to have roamed around the north side of Ann Arbor in early January; they were seen at Olson Park on 1/1, and then moved onto the Huron River near Wagner from 1/3 – 1/13. Three more of these dapper little ducks were on Little Lake on 2/13.



Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Mary Beth Doyle Park, February 5 2022 (Victor Chen)



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*, Arb-Gallup Bikepath, February 9 2022 (Nui Moreland)

On the rarer end of the *Aythya* spectrum, **Canvasbacks** were limited to a handful of locations along the Huron, with a few dozen as the maximum number present. Uncommon and not easy to separate from its more common congener, **Greater Scaup** were limited to small numbers (up to five) in a handful of locations along the Huron. Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were among the multitudes of waterfowl in Furstenberg Park from 1/15 – 1/16; additional individuals were at Island Park (2/6) and Delhi Metropark (2/7). A hardy female **Ruddy Duck** shuttled between North Bay Park (1/22) and North Hydro Park (1/30 – 1/31); this bird was replaced by a male that frequented North Bay Park from 2/24 – 2/28.

During January, up to four **Ring-necked Pheasants** were observed at six locations throughout the county; the following month, that number was down to two, each of them hosting a pair. A very tardy (and hardy) **Horned Grebe** delighted observers at North Hydro Park from 1/18 – 1/30. A handful of **American Coots** appeared at the start of February.



Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, Vreeland Rd, February 5 2022 (John Christensen)



Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, North Hydro Park, January 20 2022 (Geoffrey Clarke)

North Hydro Park hosted a pair (2/1 – 2/18), and single birds were at Mary Beth Doyle Par (2/6) and Delhi Metropark (2/25). Nearly unheard of not that long ago, **Sandhill Cranes** are now part of our wintertime avifauna. Flocks of up to 90 birds were present in and over much of Washtenaw County during the first two weeks of January, after which the cold snap appears to have largely pushed them out to warmer locales. However, by the start of February, small groups were already making their way back to our area and were reported from dozens of sites. Always a sign of the coming of spring, **Killdeer** started arriving in mid-February with a bird along Harris Rd.

Gulls through Falcons

Not usually thought of as a winter gull species, a group of some 15 **Bonaparte's Gulls** on Portage Lake (1/1 & 1/2) was quite a surprise. Significantly more expected was the fact that the main hotspot for unusual, wintertime gulls was the landfill in Salem Township. Unfortunately, access to the site has been restricted and gull watching can now mostly be done from the side of Six Mile Rd only. Still, a good variety of *larid* treasure was found there during January. On 1/8, both an adult “**Thayer's**” **Iceland Gull** and an adult **Glaucous Gull** were photographed. Ten days later, on 1/18, both of the black-backed were present, with an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and an adult **Great Black-backed Gull**. A first cycle individual of the latter species was seen flying past the Foster Nature Area of 1/5, making for one of very few county records away from the Salem Landfill or North Bay Park.



Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, Portage Lake, January 1 2022 (Russell Ryan)



Greater Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Salem Twp Landfill, January 18 2022 (Ben Lucking)

The occurrence of **Turkey Vultures** largely followed the pattern noted for Sandhill Cranes. During the first part of January, a few birds hung around here and there, but were pushed out by the mid-January cold. By the time February rolled around, numbers started building again and TUVUs were noted over dozens of locations. A sign of the species's continuing increase, there were a whopping 11 **Bald Eagles** around the Bridge Rd dam and North Hydro Park on 1/3, setting a new County high count. Throughout the period, about a dozen sites hosted up to three **Northern Harriers**. It appears to have been a very good winter season for **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, with dozens of locations hosting individual birds. The same held true for **Red-shouldered Hawks**: based on the spread of reports, there were likely some 15 individuals present in the County during January and February. Centered around



Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*, Vreeland Rd, February 5 2022 (Jackie Rutherford)



Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*, Whitmore Lake, February 11 2022 (Jocelyn Anderson)

Superior Twp, a handful of **Rough-legged Hawks** appear to have roamed rather widely. The bird at Warren & Dixboro on 1/3 may well have been at Domino's Farms on 1/8. By the same token, a dark morph bird spent several days in the general area of Vreeland & Prospect (1/6 – 1/8); a different, light morph bird was at Vreeland & Gotfredson from 1/12 – 1/16. During February, additional Rough-legs were noted at US-23 & I-94 (2/6), at US-12 & Austin (2/14), and (still?) along Vreeland Rd (2/19).

Barred Owls were limited to their regular haunts in the State Recreation Areas in the northwest of the County. The only exception to this pattern was a bird heard along Huron Parkway several times during January. As is the case during most recent winters, as many as 3 **Short-eared Owls** continued to be present over the fields at Vreeland & Gotfredson. Another bird was seen at the Chelsea State Game Area's fields just to the west of Four Mile Lake. Probably northbound **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in a residential neighborhood off Green Rd (2/18) and along Embury Rd (2/22).

Quite notably were the **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** that stayed into January (one or two birds at some nine locations), and even February (singletons at three sites). The family group of five **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Independence Lake settled in for the duration and was observed throughout the period. A few more of this handsome woodpecker were seen at a handful of scattered sites throughout the county.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*, Packard & Independence, January 17 2022 (Martha Hitchiner)



Merlin *Falco columbarius*, Vreeland & Gotfredson, January 24 2022 (Ben Lucking)

Like Sharp-shinned Hawks, **Merlins** had a banner winter season. During January, there were more than ten scattered all over the county, but that number had dropped by the time February rolled around – by then, only five sites still hosted these feisty little falcons. Two individuals at Gallup Park terrorized the local bird population there for some time. Away from their nesting location on U of M's Central Campus, **Peregrine Falcons** were at Domino's Farms (1/8), Dexter-Chelsea & Freer (1/14), and Wagner & Waters (1/26).

Passerines: Flycatchers through Finches

To prove the point I made in the previous Rarity Article, the Foster Nature Area **Eastern Phoebe** stayed until the incredibly



Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*, Foster Nature Area, January 6 2022 (John Christensen)



Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Corthylio calendula*, Foster Nature Area, January 5 2022 (Benjamin Hack)

(though not unprecedented) late date of 1/13. After that, the cold weather either forced it to leave, or proved fatal. A rather notable three **Northern Shrikes** were observed: at the Clark & Avis Spike Preserve (1/5), Mill Creek Park in Dexter (1/20), and, once again, at Delhi Overlook (2/12 – 2/19). Staying with its companion from December, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** dallied at Foster Nature Area through 1/9 – on both 1/1 and 1/5 a second individual was noted as well!

The three **Winter Wrens** present in January were joined by the first northbound birds in February, when individuals were turned up in seven locations. Birders looking for the redpolls at Furstenberg Park turned up a **Gray Catbird**, which spent 1/17 – 1/18 there. Interestingly, another (or the same?) catbird was found nearby along the Arb-Gallup Bikepath on 2/12. Bucking a recent trend, no reports of **Northern Mockingbirds** came in from the Manchester area; one was seen at Willow & Macon (1/21) and another was at Huron River Dr & Whittaker (2/28). Joining the flocks of other open-country passerines, an **American Pipit** spent two days along Vreeland Rd from 1/23 – 1/24 and made for only the second ever winter record locally.



American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, Vreeland Rd, January 24 2022 (Bill Nolting)



Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*, Gallup Park, January 22 2022 (Jocelyn Anderson)

Purple Finch reports were limited to one or two birds coming to feeders at five rather widely spaced set-ups; that said, the bulk of them were in the northwestern quarter of the county. As mentioned in the Highlights section, **Common Redpolls** moved into our area in a big way, increasing in number steadily until as many as 80 were in a single flock, in addition to smaller numbers in 10+ locations here and there. By February, the flock that roamed the Furstenberg-Gallup area had boomed to a whopping 180 birds (a new County high count)! Although they were widely distributed, **Pine Siskin** numbers were nowhere near their close relative's above, with flock size topping out at 15 or so.

Passerines: Longspurs through Wood-Warblers

A few **Lapland Longspurs** were at Domino's Farms from 1/5 -1/7, and again from 2/3 – 2/7. Two of them were at the intersection of Willow & Carpenter on 1/24. Not surprisingly, the bulk of the birds (and observations) came from the Vreeland & Gotfredson area, where as many as 19 were noted during their stay from 1/25 – 2/20. These birds were joined by larger numbers of their close relative, the **Snow Bunting**, at both Domino's Farms (up to 24 from 1/6 – 1/7 and 10 from 2/3 – 2/7) and at Vreeland & Gotfredson, where as many as 80 were seen during their stay between 1/8 and 2/23. Other than that, there was a sizable flock of 60 in the fields near Parker & Pleasant Lake (1/21), one bird at Geddes & Harris (2/6), and two more at Sharon Mills County Park (2/13).

The **Chipping Sparrow** at a feeder along Tubbs Rd successfully overwintered; it was present there through the end of February. Another bird stopped by a feeder at Plymouth & Ford on 1/2 but turned out to be a one-day wonder. Quite unexpectedly, since none had been reported after 11/9, three **Field Sparrows** popped up on the local birding radar in January – individuals were at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1/9), on private property along Stark Strasse (1/14 – 2/1), and in Manchester (1/20 – 2/26). The first two observations may involve the same bird, given how close these sites are to each other. The Dexter area hosted two **Fox Sparrows** during much of January, both at feeders. Likewise, a bird attended a feeder on Gale Rd through 2/3. Away from human-provided food sources, there was one along the Arb-Gallup Bikepath (1/14); possibly the same bird was photographed at Furstenberg Park on 1/28. Interestingly, all **White-crowned Sparrow** observations were of duos – two sets of two were present in January, two more sets showed up in February. Five scattered reports **Swamp Sparrows** were posted during January, with two birds at two of the sites. By February, only one bird was left, found at North Bay Park on 2/27. Half a dozen or so **Eastern Towhees** (re-)appeared in January, after having been absent in December. Like many of the uncommon sparrow species listed

above, several of these birds were attending feeders, but there was one at the Arb (1/2) that likely moved on the Arb-Gallup Bikepath, where it stayed from 1/9 – 1/18, and where it may have been relocated on 2/14.



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*, Vreeland Rd, January 5 2022 (Jackie Rutherford)



Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*, Loch Highland, January 22 2022 (Cathy Theisen)

Often one of the earliest harbingers of spring, male **Red-winged Blackbirds** showed up remarkably early, with as eight of them at the Chelsea SGA on 1/12. Similarly, **Brown-headed Cowbirds** arrived locally in decent numbers during January as well – the largest group was one of 11 crowded onto a feeder near Dexter on 1/7. The first northbound **Rusty Blackbird** was noted at Waterworks Park on 2/21; additional Rusties were at McKinley and Island Lake Rd (4, on 2/25) and along Vreeland Rd (2, also on 2/25). **Common Grackles** remained into January at three sites, with two along Lodi Ln on 1/1 the maximum. After the *parulid* bonanza in the early winter period, only one species, the **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, remained into winter proper. Extending their good December showing, they were still being seen in six places during January, with an impressive three at Four Mile Lake on 1/23. Perhaps the cold snap during that month forced some of these birds south (or proved lethal), because numbers were much lower during February and likely involved the first northbound migrants, as evidenced by four at Waterworks Park on 2/21.



Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus carolinus*, Loch Highland, January 7 2022 (Cathy Theisen)



Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*, Pierce Lake, January 19 2022 (Keith Roath)

May 14, 2022 **Washtenaw County May Count**

Please join dozens of enthusiastic volunteers for the Washtenaw County May Count, on International Migratory Bird Day. This event is a day to be out there counting all the birds we can find, and it's a super fun big day! Juliet Berger is the organizer, for this countywide count, which uses eBird to benefit bird science with its comprehensive results. The Compiler divides the county into townships, each of which has an Area Leader. Leaders recruit additional volunteers to count birds throughout their area. For names and contact information for the Compiler and the Area Leaders, visit the WAS website, and please consider volunteering. There will be a signup form to facilitate volunteering. We will post detailed instructions on the WAS website on count day logistics. Please check back here for more information about how to participate as the date gets closer. Note: Please also see the WAS website for new documents describing the count procedures. Area leaders will be posted closer to the event date.

***** We need Area Leaders in several townships. Please volunteer for this role if you are able by contacting president@washtenawaudubon.org *****

Washtenaw County May Count Compilers: Juliet Berger and David Amamoto

May 15, 2022 **Spring Migrants and Summer Residents at Hudson Mills Metropark 8:00 am**

Target birds include cuckoos, woodpeckers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and tanagers. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Activity Center at 7:45 a.m. The trip will last roughly until 11:00 a.m. This field trip is free of charge, but a Metroparks Pass is required for admission to the park. Leader: Karen Markey

May 22, 2022 **Weekend Walk for Birds at Nichols Arboretum 8:00 am**

Join us as we search for late migrating warblers and others as they make their final push north. We will also enjoy the beautiful songs and sounds of local breeding birds on territory. Meet at the east end of the arboretum at the Dow Prairie entrance. From Geddes Ave., turn north onto Riverview Dr. and stay right until it terminates at Riverview Ct. cul-de-sac. Check the website for a link to the map if you have never been there. Leader: Matthew Spoor

June 11, 2022 **Prothonotary Paddle 9:00 am**

As many of you know, we typically have a number of singing males of the beautiful Prothonotary Warbler along a stretch of the Huron River in Hudson Mills and Delhi Metroparks. They are best viewed from the water, and there are always a large variety of other birds to see on this float trip. The trip is eight miles long, and usually takes about 3 ½ hours to complete, but you can stop for good birds, a picnic, etc., because your car will be waiting for you at the other end. We will have a picnic spot picked out that is approximately halfway, for those who wish to stay with the group. Bring your own picnic and beverages. Please let us know if you are attending and book your own boat(s) for the "Hudson Mills to Delhi Metropark Long Trip" directly from Skip's Canoe Livery at www.paddlethehuron.com and review the details on their site. Make sure to select the 9am option on June 11th. On the day of the event, if you are renting a canoe/kayak, we recommend arriving at Skip's by 8:30 to check-in, park, and pick up the required, provided personal flotation device. Paddlers with their own boats, meet at Hudson Mills, Rapids View area to launch by 9:00 a.m. We'll meet the Skips party downstream a bit. See the WAS web site for more details. Join the flotilla! Leaders: Juliet Berger & Matthew Spoor

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 currently on hold; we intend to resume in-person/hybrid Zoom programs in May. 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 add more online programs for April and the future, which will be announced on the same internet platforms.

April 20, 7:30 p.m.**Birding is for Everyone - with Dr. Jeff Galligan & Dexter Patterson**

Join us for this educational and engaging session on how you can help make your local birding community more welcoming for all birders. Dr. Jeff Galligan and Dexter Patterson will share tips and tricks that will allow you to start having more success and fun when you go birding and offer advice on making your birding events more inclusive and welcoming. Jeff and Dexter firmly believe we need more equity and inclusion in the birding community across the board. That was their inspiration and spark to start the BIPOC Birding Club of Wisconsin. Their birding club is a community of People of Color and Allies working to combat access and inequality in the birding community in the State of Wisconsin. They hope to collaborate and encourage other birding organizations across the country to do the same. Birding is for everyone, even you! Jeff and Dexter will be joining us via Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 999 5953 0793

Passcode: 289387

Or dial-in: 312-626-6799

May 18, 7:30 p.m.**Identifying Spring Warblers & Vireos – with Josh Haas (in-person event)**

Most southern Michigan birders would agree Warblers and Vireos are just plain tough; in part due to limited time with these colorful neotropical migrants each migration season. Many northern breeding birds spend as little as a couple weeks in our region. Join us as we welcome Josh Haas who will feature many of the Warblers and Vireos we see from late April into May with a focus on differentiating families & species by field mark, habitat, song and most importantly; behavior. Josh will walk through first narrowing things down by family and how to pull out enough pieces of the puzzle for positive ID. In addition, he will feature species songs as well as tips on learning birdsongs and how to hone in on individuals amongst the chorus. Not only will we get to see some of Josh's finest warbler and vireo images, he will also feature videos of some of these birds hunting and singing.

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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