

April 2010 Chapter Connection



- **Chapter News & Events**

Decoy Expert to Talk

Join the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo on April 26 for *Waterfowl Decoy Traditions*. Paul Rutgers will present a program on waterfowl decoys, which will cover the history, traditions, and production of decoys. He will also bring examples of new and antique decoys. This program will be held at 7:30 p.m. at People's Church, 1758 North 10th Street, Kalamazoo. Guests and the general public are encouraged to attend. Please bring your own coffee cup to save our refreshment committee from dishpan hands. Handicap parking and access is at the rear of the building.

Arcadia Marsh Field Trip

On April 17 at 8:00 a.m. the Benzie and Manistee Audubon are offering a field trip to Arcadia Marsh, a fresh water estuary. This field trip is a perennial favorite to see waterfowl and returning spring migrants. [Carl Freeman](#) and [John Ester](#) will lead the trip. Please let the leaders know if you are planning to attend the trip. Anyone wishing to carpool from Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary in Manistee should meet there at 7:00 a.m. Participants are asked to meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Arcadia Beach parking lot at the end of Lake Michigan Street on Lake Michigan in the northwest corner of Manistee County. We'll break into smaller groups to car pool to local hot spots from there.

[Michigan Audubon Chapter Information](#)

- **Michigan Audubon News & Events**

Annual Conference and Tawas Point Birding Festival Team Up for an Outstanding Birding Experience

Registration is underway for Michigan Audubon's 2010 Conference. This year we are making the trip to East Tawas to join with the 5th Anniversary celebration of the Tawas Point Birding Festival. The event is May 13 – 16. With the change in venue and time of year, you can expect some great birding opportunities during the event. We're very excited that Kevin Karlson, co-author of *The Shorebird Guide*, will be our Keynote Speaker at the Annual Banquet on Friday evening. To get a

complete listing of all the activities being offered and to register, check the event website at www.tawasbirdfest.com.

Invasive Species Workshop to be Held

On April 10 Michigan Audubon is hosting a "Wand Workshop" at the Convis Township Hall near Marshall. One way to get rid of many of the invasive species that have hit the area is to apply an herbicide to the base of the plant once you cut it. In this workshop participants will create a wand applicator to apply herbicide. After the wands have been built participants will travel a short distance down the road to Baker Sanctuary to look for invasive species and learn the proper techniques to use their wand. The workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The price of the wand kit is \$25. The workshop fee is \$5 for Michigan Audubon members; \$10 for non-members. Registration is required and can be done online at

Register for this workshop http://michiganaudubon.org/news_events/calendar.html?req=calendar/event&eventUniqID=19290-0--&month=4&day=1&year=2010.

- **Michigan Audubon Sanctuary News & Activities**

Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary News

Members of the Jackson Audubon Society are stewards of Michigan Audubon's Haehnle Sanctuary. They have recently created a very attractive e-mail newsletter for the sanctuary. To view a PDF of the newsletter go to <https://secure.digital-community.com/english/michiganaudubon.org/includes/downloads/hnlesanctuarynewsapril2010.pdf>

Programs at the Sanctuaries

Michigan Audubon is hosting educational programs throughout 2010 at three of its' sanctuaries: Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary near Bellevue; Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary in Manistee; and the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary located near Hastings. Check the event calendar on the website for a complete listing of the programs.

2010 Sanctuary Open House Schedule

We had such a good time hosting open houses at some of the Michigan Audubon sanctuaries last year that we'll continue in 2010. The schedule gets underway on Saturday, April 17 when we will visit the Mildred Harris Sanctuary near Kalamazoo. The open house will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Join members of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo for guided walks through the mature beech-maple forest on this 40 acre preserve. The spring wildflowers should be spectacular! Visit the Michigan Audubon website for more information.

There will be an open house and ribbon cutting on June 5 at the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary during the Cerulean Warbler Weekend. Come out to see the improvements that turned the barn into a usable classroom. The Voorhees Sanctuary, located northeast of Marshall, will host an open house in the fall. Students from the Mar-Lee School have adopted this 40 acre sanctuary and will help us show it off. The date for this open house has yet to be determined. Watch future issues of the *Jack Pine Warbler* or the website for updates.

- **Events & Activities of Interest in Michigan**

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory to Host Spring Fling

Spring Fling 2010 kicks off the fourth decade of avian research at Whitefish Point. The Observatory welcomes recreational bird watchers from around the world to Whitefish Point during Spring Fling

2010 weekend, April 23 – 25. Birders can expect excellent birding along with opportunities to learn more about avian migration and conservation in the Great Lakes. Attendees will learn from fellow birders, field trip leaders, and guest speakers. Norman Smith, Director of Blue Hills Trailside Museum and Norman Smith Environmental Education Center in Milton, Massachusetts will be the keynote speaker at this year's festival. You can register or receive additional information by visiting WPBO's website at www.wpbo.org.

Dahlem Conservancy Offers Birding 101 Class

Whether you like watching birds in your backyard or are planning to travel the world to see 10,000 species, you will want to join Dahlem Conservancy Naturalist Gary Siegrist in discovering the secrets of becoming a better birder. This 3-part workshop includes two classroom sessions (April 21 & 28 @ 7:00 p.m.) and one weekend fieldtrip (Saturday, May 1st) to a birding hotspot. Topics include: use of binoculars and field guides, bird identification, behavior, habitat, and when, where, and how to find them. Cost is \$25 individual Dahlem Center member, \$40 family Dahlem Center member; \$35 individual non-member, \$55 family non-member. Advanced registration is required, so call 517-782-3453 to reserve a seat today!

Darwin Exhibit at MSU

Birds in the Development of Darwin's Theories on Evolution, an exhibition at the MSU Museum in East Lansing runs through June. This exhibition will showcase examples of birds from the Museum's extensive ornithology research collection, including species that Darwin encountered in Patagonia and some extraordinary domestic pigeon and chicken breeds that he studied while investigating artificial selection.

No one has had a greater impact on ornithology than Charles Darwin (1809-1882). Darwin collected 38 new bird species during his time on the Beagle voyage (1831-1836). Most of these were from the Galapagos Islands, the most noted of which - Darwin's Finches -- are frequently cited as a prime example of evolution. This exhibition was made possible by a grant from MEEMIC Insurance Company. For more information on this exhibit and the MSU Museum call 517-355-7474.

- **Travel with Michigan Audubon**

Drummond Island Adventure

It's not too late to join Michigan Audubon as we bird Drummond Island. There are two options to this tour, a three day tour which includes a boat trip to Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge on May 21 or the two day tour May 22 & 23. The Wa-Wen Resort and R.V. Park will be our base of operation on Drummond. Complete tour details can be found on Michigan Audubon's website where you can also register for the trip.

Birding SE Arizona

Did you know that there are two breeding seasons in the southwestern part of the country? The second occurs just after the "wet season" in that area and the birding is incredible. Join Michigan Audubon and tour guide Bill Sweetman as we travel for *Second Spring in SE Arizona*, August 3 – 10.

The tour starts in either Tuscan or Phoenix, depending on the best flight prices, and we will be birding all seven days! The trip price includes ground transportation from the departure point in AZ, all lodging, breakfasts (some continental), daily picnic lunches, all entry fees and leadership. The cost of the trip is \$1,265 double occupancy for Michigan Audubon members, \$1,295 for non-members, single occupancy add \$300. A \$200 deposit holds your reservation, with final payment due July 1. To make sure you don't miss out on this incredible trip, call Wendy at 517-886-9144 to register. Additional trip information, including the complete proposed itinerary, is

available on the Michigan Audubon website.

• Birding News of Interest

If you no longer wish to receive these e-mails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

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Preventing Window Collisions

The American Bird Conservancy has just created a PDF with important information on how to make the windows in your home safer for birds. Some of the solutions used to prevent strikes by birds are quite easy to do. To view or download this PDF go to

www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions_flyer.pdf



Report Shows Climate Change Threatens Hundreds of Species

Climate change threatens to further imperil hundreds of species of migratory birds, already under stress from habitat loss, invasive species and other environmental threats, a recently released report by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar concludes. *The State of the Birds: 2010 Report on Climate Change*, follows a comprehensive report issue released a year ago showing that that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline.

The report is the product of a collaborative effort as part of the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, between federal and state wildlife agencies, and scientific and conservation organizations including partners from American Bird Conservancy, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Klamath Bird Observatory, National Audubon Society, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. To view the complete report visit www.stateofthebirds.org.

• Online Chapter Event Calendar

Add your chapter events to the Michigan Audubon online calendar. To see the calendar listings for chapters go to:

[Chapter Programs & Activities](#)

Send your chapter program schedule to wendy@michiganaudubon.org or submit individual special events by using the on line form found here:

[Submit Your Chapter Event](#)

The website also has an area dedicated to information about chapters. Each chapter is listed and there is a link to an information splash page. If your chapter has a website, there is a link to it from your splash page. We can add additional information to these pages. Just let us know and we will gladly post contact information or other details about your chapter. To check your chapter's listing go to:

[Chapter Information](#)

As always, please let us know if there are ways we can assist your chapter, affiliate organization, or partner group. Give us a call or drop us an email anytime!

Sincerely,
-- Michigan Audubon