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October 2010 Chapter Connection



Michigan Audubon News & Events

Michigan Audubon Website Being Updated

We are in the midst of revamping the Michigan Audubon website. Some changes will be noticeable to frequent visitors to the Event Calendar portion of the website. Due to the changes that are currently taking place, items that you have sent us in the last month may not appear quickly. We are sorry for any delay in getting your information posted.

Crane Viewing Continues Through the End of October

Michigan Audubon and the Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek work together to allow birders to see the largest gathering of Greater Sandhill Cranes in Michigan. On weekends in October the Kiwanis Youth Area (on 15 Mile Rd. between T Drive North and Junction Roads) is open for crane viewing from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Mike Boyce, Resident Manager of Baker Sanctuary, and other volunteers open the property up so those wishing to see the cranes as they return in the evening to roost at Big Marsh Lake may do so. The area will be open October 16 & 17, 23 & 24, and 30 & 31. For more information check the Event Calendar page of the Michigan Audubon website.

Call for nominations to the Michigan Audubon Board of Directors

If you would like to take an active role in shaping the future of Michigan Audubon, join us as a Board Member. The organization is looking for volunteer Board Members that are engaged and excited about the future of Michigan's oldest conservation organization and believe in the mission of connecting birds and people for the benefit of both. Ideal candidates bring strengths in one or more of the following areas:

- **Fund-raising**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Building the Membership Base**
- **Program Planning**
- **Board Policy-Making**
- **Advocacy**

[Board Member Job Description \(PDF\)](#)

Individual's with questions about serving or interested in becoming a member of the board should contact the [Executive Director](#).

Chapter News & Events

Chapters Work Together on Raptor Survey

Copper Country Audubon and the Laughing Whitefish Audubon coordinated the first year in a three-year project called the Keweenaw Raptor Survey. Michigan Audubon is committed to assisting the survey financially for all three years. Max Henschell was hired to count raptors on the West Bluff on Brockway Mountain. A total of 9,579 raptors

were counted heading east between March 15 and June 15 (west bound birds numbered 2,585) . The most common species counted was the Broad-winged Hawk at 4,905 followed by a distant second Sharp-shinned Hawk at 1,584 individuals. More details about the survey can be found at the [Keweenaw Raptor Survey website](#).

The Copper Country Audubon will delve into this survey at their October meeting on the 19th. Joseph Youngman will present Spring Hawk Migration in the Keweenaw Peninsula & Apostle Islands at 7:00 p.m. The program will be held in the Michigan Technological University Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences Building, Hesterberg Hall, Room G002. For more information contact [Dana Richter](#).

Jackson Tower Birds

The Jackson Audubon Society (JAS) will hear about the successful nesting of Peregrine Falcon in downtown Jackson at their next meeting. On Thursday, October 14 Steve Shotwell will present a program on the Jackson Tower Birds. Steve will provide the complete story of the new residents of downtown Jackson. JAS meets at the Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 S. Fourth St. in Jackson.

Black Bear Monitoring

Two separate chapters will hear about Black Bears this month. On Tuesday the 12th at 7:00 p.m. members of the AuSable Valley Audubon & Thunder Bay Audubon will listen to Carl Racchini, retired from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, present a program on Michigan Black Bears. This meeting will take place at Wiltse's Restaurant in Oscoda. For more information on this program contact [Peggy Ridgway](#).

Members of the **Saginaw Valley Audubon Society** (SVAS) will meet on Tuesday the 26th to hear Adam Bump, MDNRE –Wildlife Division Bear and Furbearer Specialist, talk about Black Bears in Michigan. SVAS meets at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center in Saginaw. More information can be found on their website [Saginaw Audubon Blogspot](#).

Chapter Programs & Fieldtrip Schedules

Thank you to all the Chapters that have sent us their new schedules for the season. As soon as the "new & improved" website is active (see MI Audubon news above) your information will be posted on the Event Calendar. If you haven't sent your information yet, there is still time for you to do so. When Michigan Audubon has your information, it gets posted to our website calendar, we provide it to new members joining Michigan Audubon from your area, and we may even promote your programs/trips in our monthly Chapter Connection or on Facebook and Twitter. Who knows, it may even increase your membership numbers! If you have your information on a computer, just send us an e-mail with the information attached. It is as easy as that. Help promote your organization; it's easy! Send info to [Wendy Tatar](#).

[Michigan Audubon Chapter Information](#)

Michigan Audubon Sanctuaries

Open House at Vorhees Sanctuary

An Open House at Vorhees Sanctuary will be held on October 16. This sanctuary has been "adopted" by students of nearby Mar-Lee School. The students in Rockne Finley's class have been creating trails, installing boardwalk where needed, installing bird houses, and creating interpretive signs for this 40-acre sanctuary located northeast of Marshall. The Open House will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and students that have worked on the project will be leading hikes. Mark your calendars now so you can attend.

Gull Identification Program

Field ecologist Dave Dister will present a slide program on gull identification on Saturday, November 6 at the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary in Manistee. The program will address species most likely to be seen in the northwest Lower Peninsula. Gulls are fascinating social birds that typically are easy to observe along shoreline habitats. Dave insists that those who take up gull-watching will never be bored! Field guides devoted to gulls will be available for viewing.

The program, which is recommended for ages 10 & up, will be held at the manor house at Lake Bluff located at 2890 Lakeshore Rd., approximately two miles north of Manistee. The program fee is \$2 per person (age 12 & under free); Michigan Audubon members may attend for free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration for this program is requested and can be done by calling 231-723-4042 or you may send a message via e-mail to [Lake Bluff](#). In your message please include the name of all participants, a phone number and indicate if you are a Michigan Audubon member. If there are children participating, please list their ages.

Help Needed

FRIENDS of Bay City State Recreation Area (a 501 3c organization) and Saginaw Valley Sustainability Society (SVSS) are helping to raise the \$70,000 needed to repair two 30 foot tall wooden towers at Tobico Marsh in the Bay City State Recreation Area. The towers, built in 1976, closed in 2007 due to safety concerns of weathered wooden planks and inadequate bracing. Birders across the state should be familiar with the marsh as it is one of the few sites in the state to see Yellow-headed Blackbirds. According to Jerry Ziarno in the ABA Birdfinding Guide: Birder's Guide to Michigan page 204, the towers provided good views of the open waters in the marsh which "during spring and fall, thousands of waterfowl are present."

To date only \$2,000 has been raised, making \$70,000 seem like a far distant goal. A recent bike race raised \$1,800. On November 5th a fish fry fund raiser is being held at the Bay Lanes "Gutter Room," in Bay City. Other fund raising activities are being planned. The groups would like to reach their goal in two years. If you would like to learn more about the fund raising efforts, check the website of [SVSS](#).

Other Bird-related News

DNRE Requests Trumpeter Swan Observations from the Public

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is asking the public to report any observations of trumpeter swans for a continent-wide census that the DNRE is participating in to determine the population size and distribution of the birds.

"To obtain the best coverage, we are asking the public to report observations of these birds during August and September," said Christopher Hoving, endangered species coordinator with the DNRE's wildlife division.

[More Trumpeter Swan information](#)

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