



EARTHSTAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE MACOMB AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

Volume 38 Number 1, January – February 2012

Programs

Monday, January 9, 2012 - (Note change of date to the second Monday in January) - MADAGASCAR: LAND OF LEMURS, CHAMELEONS AND MORE - Presented by Doug Locke Doug will share photos and stories of his recent trip to Madagascar, an island country located in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa. This isolated island about twice the size of Arizona, the fourth-largest island in the world, has some of the highest biodiversity on the planet. Of roughly 200,000 known species found on Madagascar, about 150,000 are endemic—meaning they exist nowhere else. Unique to the island are more than 50 types of lemurs, 99 percent of its frog species, and 36 genera of birds. Madagascar houses 100 percent of the world's lemurs, half of its chameleon species, 6 percent of its frogs, and none of its toads. Some species found in Madagascar have their closest relatives not in Africa but in the South Pacific and South America. Join us for this photographic tour of a unique island and its fascinating wildlife and culture as seen through the lens of the talented *Douglas Locke - Nature Photographer*.

Monday, February 6, 2012 - TRAIL CAMERAS: A WINDOW ON WILDLIFE - Presented by Gordon Lonie, Naturalist Elusive animals seldom seen in the wild can now be captured on film using unmanned cameras triggered by motion sensors. Wildlife biologists, hunters and naturalists are collecting a wealth of new information about wildlife using these trail cameras. In this program, Gordon Lonie will share the fun he has had camera trapping, and show his trail camera pictures of beavers,

red foxes and white-tail deer.

Join us for this entertaining presentation - *a Gordon Lonie wildlife adventure!!*

Field Trips

Metro Beach

Saturday Jan. 14th. 10 am

Lets go on over and just enjoy the day. Do some birding, take a hike, you know, putz. Maybe we'll spot the Snowy Owls that everyone has been seeing. Bring a lunch and we'll snuggle up at the Nature Center, eat, and watch the birds. Entrance fee required.

Stony Creek

Saturday Jan. 28th. 10 am

Let's go loco, I mean local (haha) again. Meet at the visitor's center right inside the entrance and we'll just cruise around the park. We can stop in at the Nature Center and eat lunch, head out for a hike, whatever we want to do. Just come and join us for a fun and peaceful day. Entrance fee required.

Beaudette Park - Leader: Colleen

Feb. 28th (Saturday) 10am (2 hrs.)

Going back to Beaudette Park in Pontiac. It is such a great birding spot some come on and join the fun. Meet at the damn and we'll spend a couple hours. Afterwards we'll go to China Jade for lunch like we always do. It's just a couple of miles from the park and the food is fabulous.

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Macomb Audubon Society

The Macomb Audubon Society is a chapter of the Michigan Audubon Society. Meetings are normally held the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the **Sterling Heights Nature Center** located at 42700 Utica Rd. (south and east of the Van Dyke/Utica Rd. intersection, north of 19 Mile Rd.) Events of the Society are open to the public.

The mission of the Macomb Audubon Society is to:

- ♣ Promote interest in the world of nature and to aid in the conservation of natural resources.
- ♣ Provide an outlet for nature activities via field trips.
- ♣ Provide an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience through lectures, films, discussions and newsletters.
- ♣ Aid organizations that provide people of all ages with opportunities to experience these above given objectives.

People can support our efforts by becoming members. To become a member, complete the form on the inside back cover and send to Macomb Audubon Membership, 6143 Walker Troy MI 48085. Members receive this newsletter, the *Earthstar*.

Earthstar Deadline

We appreciate relevant information or articles of interest to the Macomb Audubon membership for review for publication in the *Earthstar*. If you have material that you wish to submit, please send it by the **12th of the preceding month** to:

Bill Clark
53253 North Ave
Macomb MI 48042
(586) 749-5523
E-mail: wtclark1@COMCAST.NET

Earthstar is published bimonthly by the Macomb Audubon Society, a non-profit, educational organization.

Hey everybody, how you doin'?

11-12-11: Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy! Project Feeder Watch starts today and I'm on it. It's so much fun and a great excuse to do nothing for a couple of hours except watch the feeders and count the birds. Project Feeder Watch is put on by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and once again I wish all of you would get involved. How often you count is up to you, you can download your tally sheet and report your sightings on line, how easy can it be. You are going to be watching your feeders anyway so why not give Cornell a hand? Get on line, find Project Feeder Watch, sign up, and GET WITH IT. They also have a great site, AllAboutBirds.org, check it out.



Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, this day just keeps getting better. Husband just brought in the mail and my National Audubon magazine. They are proud to announce the relaunch of their website: Audubon magazine.org, check it out. All this checking out websites don't forget to get out, doors that is. It's invigorating and good for the mind.

12-10-11: Cleaning, decorating, doing my Christmas cards, and counting birds, oh yes, and finishing this column. Our annual Christmas potluck was held at Metro Beach this year in the Nature Center. It was a huge success and we all agreed it was a great place to hold this event. I want to thank Chris Becher and Micki Smith for all their hard work in creating such a lovely atmosphere for us. Music, greens and candles on the tables, we even had placemats. It was quite lovely.

Here's some more good news, for the first time in years MAS will have a Michigan State Rep. His name is Ron Lalonde and I want to extend a thank you to him from all of us. Three cheers!!! Along those same lines many thanks to Mary Stoolmiller for her 2 terms as our membership chair and to Beverlee Babcock as our new membership chair. Thanks to Bill Clark for staying on as our Newsletter Editor and to Frank Lautner for staying on as our treasurer. Last but not least, many thanks to Mike Goethe for being our web guru for more years than I can remember and to Angela Slayton who volunteered to take over the position for Mike. In fact all these people deserve three cheers!!! What a fabulous membership MAS has.

Now, bring on a foot of snow so we can all go out and play. Build snowmen and forts and stuff. Yeah!!!!

Happy, safe, healthy, and fun, fun, fun, Holidays to all.

We're not here for a long time, we're here for a good time!

Peace, Colleen

(field Trips continued)

Higgins Lake Winter Weekend

February 10th-11th (Fri-Sun)

Higgins Lake Winter Weekend Environmental Conference is a blast. The cost for the weekend is \$190.00 which includes 6 meals, lodging, programs and classes, cross country skiing, birding and nature hikes. pretty much anything your little heart desires. It is so much fun, all you have to bring is yourself and your stuff. Bedding and towels and whatnot are provided also. Bring your skis and snowshoes if you have them. Please let me know, if you have never been, if you are interested so I can get your address and have the brochures sent directly to you. Email: grandmothernature2@gmail.com or call me: 248-627-6872. ASAP because the brochures are usually sent out at the beginning to mid-Jan. I promise that if you go once you will go every year!!!!

Belle Isle Park - Leader: Colleen

February 4th (Saturday) 10am (4 hrs. or so)

Love Belle Isle at this time of year for all the waterfowl. Cross the bridge and make a right, look for all the people standing around with scopes and binoculars that will be us. Bring a lunch and we'll eat in front of the feeding station at the nature zoo. This is also the weekend of their event, Shiver on the River with free entrance to many of the buildings and all kinds of activities going on. It's great, we even got to go into the Detroit Yacht Club, what a beautiful building.

Meetings are held the first Monday of most months at 7:30 PM at the Sterling Heights Nature Center in The Sterling Heights Nature Center is located on the NE side of Utica Rd, east of Van Dyke and North Of 18 Mile Rd. The street address is 42700 Utica Rd.

The officers and members of the Macomb Audubon Society would like to thank the following members for Joining or renewing on the contributor level: Jeanne Rogers, Gary & Betty Pieper, Roger & Eugenia Bajorek, Dick & Marge Oelsner, Richard & Carolyn Mikula, Doris Applebaum, David & Elaine McDonald, Brian & Diane McGee, Paul & Jill Messing, William Kiley, Sally Suomela.

Refreshments

Thanks to the following members who brought refreshments to the meeting. It adds so much to the fellowship.

November

Fran Lautner, Geri Bosma, Alice Forton Betty Ebert, Bob Zake.



Christmas Pot Luck





Bird Count Pot Luck and Tally



We're Proud Supporters of
 Metro Beach Nature Center,
 Sterling Heights Nature Center,
 Seven Ponds Nature Center,
 Stony Creek Nature Center,
 Burgess Shadbush Nature Center,
 Wild Life Recovery Association,
 Michigan Nature Association,
 Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy.

For the best bird seed
 At the best prices
 Uncle Luke's feed store
 6691 Livernois
 Troy Michigan

To contact the Macomb Audubon Society by e-mail the address is angela_slayton@hotmail.com
 To join the Macomb Audubon Mailing list please send an e-mail To: macombaudubon-subscribe@Yahoogroups.com

Macomb Audubon Society

Board Members & committee Chairs

President	Colleen Traylor (248) 627-6872
1 st VP (Programs)	Christine Becher (810) 796-3505
2 nd VP (Member Ship)	Beverlee Babcock (586) 263-7666
3 rd VP (Field Trips)	Colleen Traylor & Charles Smart
Recording Secretary	Laura Barbour (248) 853-5465
Corresponding Secretary	Micki Smith (586) 791-9623
Treasurer	Frank Lautner (586) 791-7913

Committees

Car Pool Coordinator	Frank Lautner
Christmas Bird Count	Barb Baldinger (586) 263-6530
Environmental & Conservation	Randy Baker
Historian	Michael Mroz (586) 596-2776
Hospitality (Refreshments)	Betty Ebert & Alice Forton
Hospitality (Door Prizes)	Denis & Laura Barbour
Earthstar Newsletter Editor	Bill Clark----- (586) 749-5523
Michigan Audubon Rep.	Ray Lalonde
Members-at-Large (2 positions)	Heather & Ken Slayton
Newsletter Production, Mailing	Denis & Laura Barbour
Seven Ponds Representative	Dave & Elaine McDonald
Web Editor	Angela Slayton (586) 876-3484
Volunteer Coordinator	Margaret Goethe

Macomb Audubon Society Dues

Please make checks payable to **Macomb Audubon Society** and send to: Beverlee Babcock
 Macomb Audubon Membership 50229 Pepper Tree Dr. Macomb Mi, 48044.

Your name and the names of family members (Please Print)

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Check One _____ Family Membership \$17.00

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____ Individual Membership \$14.00

Amount of donation over membership \$ _____ (optional) _____ Student Membership \$ \$10.00

Contributor----up to \$49.99 _____ Senior Membership \$10.00

Supporter-----\$50 to \$99.99 _____ (single or couple over 60)

Donor-----\$100 and over _____

Each year Macomb Audubon makes a membership list available to members. Check here if you wish to have your telephone number **left off** the list _____

Email Address _____ (optional)

Check here if a Michigan Audubon member _____

Check here if a National Audubon member _____

I (we) are interested in becoming a Macomb Audubon volunteer. Please contact me _____

Macomb Audubon Society

Sterling Heights Nature Center
42700 Utica Rd.,
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

