EARTHSTAR

NEWSLETTER OF MACOMB AUDUBON

www.macombaudubon.net Vol. 53, No. 4 | Jul – Aug, 2026

Programs

**Our monthly programs are on pause for summer. Stay tuned for our next Earthstar issue where we'll give more details for our September 14th bonfire at Lake St. Clair Metropark.*

Field Trips

Water Tower Park / Rowden Park, Lapeer

Sat., July 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Leader: Paul Messing

Macomb Audubon President, Paul Messing, is leading a trip to Water Tower and Rowden Park in Lapeer. The last time we visited this site was back in 2012, and we look forward to revisiting with you!

In the past, the park's plentiful wetland habitat has allowed for both Wood Ducks and Tree Swallows to nest. Boardwalks and causeways allow for close up views to the wildlife.

This trip will last approximately two hours. Pack a lunch for a picnic afterwards. You may also bring binoculars and/or a camera, water, insect repellant, and good walking shoes. RSVP to Paul at macombaudubon@gmail.com or (586) 899-2157.

Columbus County Park

Sat., Aug. 15th, 11:00 a.m.
Leader: Paul Messing

Pileated Woodpecker

Located smack dab between Richmond, Memphis, and Columbus, just outside the northeast corner of Macomb County sits Columbus Park, which has been touted for its

large, old trees and excellent nature viewing opportunities. As an eBird hotspot, it has a hefty 168 species recorded, with at least five varieties of flycatcher and six of vireo. Other frequently seen species include Scarlet Tanager, Bald Eagle, both oriole species, and Pileated Woodpecker.

Meet at the main parking lot at 1670 Bauman Road. This field trip should last about two hours. Come prepared with insect repellant, hiking shoes or boots, and binoculars and/or camera. You're invited to pack a lunch for a picnic after our hike. If you feel like venturing further at that point, we may add on a quick stop or two on the way out, such as Michigan Nature Association sites Bertha Daubendiek Memorial Plant Preserve and/or Trillium Trail Nature Sanctuary. RSVP to Paul at macombaudubon@gmail.com or (586) 899-2157.

Pointe Mouillee by Car

Sat., Aug. 29th, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Jim Fowler

Point Mouillee State Game area provides some of the best shorebird viewing in the state, especially during late summer and early fall. Leader Jim Fowler has been guiding field trips here for many years for various Audubon groups. He has a special permit which allows cars to enter on these trips (travel is usually limited to pedestrian or bike).

A limit of four vehicles may caravan onto the dikes. We can only accept 20 people and ride sharing is required. Reservations will be accepted now through August 25th. Make your reservation by emailing Barb Baldinger at bbwren@yahoo.com. Please include your name and phone number so you can be reached regarding any changes. You will receive an email reply to let you know if you've made the list. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and any optics you like to use (binoculars, camera, scope). Because of the vast expanse of the place, scopes are definitely an asset.

Directions: Take I-75 south to Exit 26, then take S. Huron Road east to U.S. Turnpike. Take U.S. Turnpike south to Sigler Road, then head east on Sigler Road until you reach the parking lot at the end. You may also want to GPS to account for any construction delays. Make sure you target the Sigler Road entrance specifically.

Membership

Macomb Audubon currently has 65 members. The membership list is available for members, contact Brenda at bks171@comcast.net for a copy. If you see other birders out on the trails, invite them to join us at any of our upcoming meetings or field trips. Regular meetings resume October 5th at the Sterling Heights Nature Center. Enjoy the summer and, as always, Nature On! -Brenda Suchenek, Memberships

About Us

Macomb Audubon is a subchapter of Michigan Audubon. Programs are held the first Monday of most months at **Sterling Heights Nature Center**. Our programs foster community and friendship and provide education for all ages. Macomb Audubon events are open to the public. Macomb Audubon is a non-profit organization with a mission 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.

To join, complete the form included on the inside back cover and bring it to our next meeting or follow the instructions on where to send it.

The Earthstar newsletter is published bi-monthly (January, March, July, September, and November). **If you wish to submit content to be included in the Earthstar, please send by the 12th of the month before the next edition,** to Andrea Rose at **littlebirdnerd37@gmail.com**. Members may receive this newsletter by mail, electronically, or both.

Editor's Note

Hello Macomb Audubon friends! It's been a while since I've felt inspired to write anything, well, inspirational… Sometimes life's challenges make it difficult to motivate yourself, let alone others. I've made some changes in the past few months, and, as silly as it may seem, turning 37 was one of them. That number has inexplicably always been my favorite number, and I wanted this year to reflect the magic I attribute to it. So here I am, feeling inspired after a long personal "drought", so to speak. I've been getting back to doing the things I love, such as reading books for fun, birding (of course), and going to the gym. I haven't reincorporated *everything* I used to do, such as writing prolifically or doing yoga, but that's okay, it can be one thing at a time. Whether turning some certain age inspires you or whether it's some other thing, I hope you find your spark and reclaim moments of peace this summer. I'll leave you with a mini challenge:

Go to your favorite park or nature spot. Get settled and take a seat. Take a few grounding, deep breaths and just begin to notice what's around you. Start to blur your gaze so as to take everything in but not hold on too tightly. Even if you're looking at a fairly static landscape, just wait, for *something* is bound to change. Allow those micro-changes in your environment to catch your eye, whether it's a new whisp of a cloud, a passing dragonfly, or the flutter of a bird's wings. Take notice, and stay here for at least a few minutes, just slowing down and getting reconnected.

President's Letter

I hope everyone is heading into summer with the same energy we had at the end of spring. Macomb Audubon stayed active with meetings and events through June. Back in May, we participated in the Michigan Audubon Birdathon to help raise money for Whitefish Point Bird Observatory and other conservation efforts. Jackson Aububon, Macomb Audubon, and WPBO were all winners! Jackson Audubon raised over $1,400, more than the other teams to earn a top prize in that category, and our very own Macomb Audubon took the top spot for most species for the day, 96. Highlights include the waterbirds that set us apart, 300+ Double Crested Cormorant at the rookery, terns, including Caspian, Forster's and Common. Even our gulls and Spotted Sandpiper were unique to our team. Four Green Heron and five Great Egret topped the charts, in terms of the numbers. As far as raptors were concerned, four Bald Eagle in the nest exceeded all the others, as well as four Red-tailed Hawk. Other groups had their own unique birds such as 26 Field Sparrow in Jackson and eight Hooded Merganser in Capital City. Macomb Audubon tallied over 1,000 individual birds for the day just at Lake St. Clair Metropark. Capital City's count took place at Capital City Bird Sanctuary and Jackson's at Haehnle Sanctuary.

For me, this event highlighted the diversity of birds across the state, especially when I saw what the team at Whitefish Point had tallied for their observation during the count week. I also kept an eye on what birds were being seen at Tawas Point. Any team that assembles to count at that location would be stiff competition against any other team in the state. All-in-all, it was a win for conservation and birds as a whole. Thanks to all that participated and helped to fundraise! I'm looking forward to doing it again next year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer! There are a couple field trips set up if you would like to meet up and go birding at some new, rewarding locations. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing people on September 14th for our end-of-summer bonfire behind the Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center. Regular meetings begin on the first Monday in October at the Sterling Heights Nature Center.

Water Tower Park, by Paul Messing

Happy Birding,

Paul Messing, Macomb Audubon President

Partners, Contacts, Support

Organizations We Support:
Burgess Shadbush Nature Center,
Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center,
Michigan Nature Association,
Seven Ponds Nature Center,
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy,
Sterling Heights Nature Center,
Stony Creek Nature Center,
Tomlinson Arboretum,
Wildlife Recovery Association

Visit your local backyard bird feeding experts at Wild Birds Unlimited in Macomb or Grosse Pte. Woods

Contact Macomb Audubon at:
macombaudubon@gmail.com
with questions, suggestions, or to join our mailing list.

Board Members & Committee Chairs
President: Paul Messing - macombaudubon@gmail.com
1st VP (Programs): Mike Champine - mikechampine02@gmail.com
2nd VP (Membership): Brenda Suchenek – bks171@comcast.net
3rd VPs (Field Trips): Wade Leonard - wadeleonard1922@att.net

Recording Secretary: Laura Barbour - denilaur@sbcglobal.net
Corresponding Secretary: **Vacant**
Treasurer: Brandy Ciaciuch - mamachach38@gmail.com
Facebook Rep: Barbara Baldinger - bbwren@yahoo.com

Committees
Car Pool Coordinator: **Vacant**
Christmas Bird Count: Brian McGee - brianmcgee@wowway.com
Conservation/Legislation: Beth Noren - maxgoodbird@gmail.com
Historian: Michael Ciaciuch
Hospitality (Refreshments): Michael Ciaciuch
Hospitality (Door Prizes): Denis & Laura Barbour
Newsletter Editor: Andrea Rose - littlebirdnerd37@gmail.com
Michigan Audubon Rep: **Vacant**
Newsletter Production, Mailing: Denis & Laura Barbour
Publicity Chairperson: Holly Vaughn Joswick
Seven Ponds Representative: Paul Messing
Web Editor: Henry Messing
Volunteer Coordinator: **Vacant**

Macomb Audubon Society Dues

Please make checks payable to **Macomb Audubon Society** and send to:
Brenda Suchenek, Macomb Audubon Membership, 48143 Lincoln Drive, Macomb Township, MI, 48044

Your name and the names of family members (please print)
Family membership applies to family members living at the same address

---

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ (check one)
Total amount enclosed $_____
Amount of donation over membership $_____ (optional)
Contributor - up to $49.99 Supporter - $50-$99 Donor - $100 and up

_____ Family membership $20.00
_____ Individual membership $15.00
_____ Student membership $10.00
_____ Senior (60+) single membership $12.00
_____ Senior couple membership $15.00

Macomb Audubon shares its membership list with members. Check if you want your phone number **left off** the list ____
Email address _____ (optional)
Check here to receive the Earthstar by email _____ hard copy _____ both versions _____
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
C/O 1156 Avon Manor Rd.
Rochester Hills Mi. 48307-5415
http://www.macombaudubon.org