



BIRDTRACKS

Newsletter of the Jackson Audubon Society

517.787.3453

www.jacksonaudubon.org

SANDHILL CRANE HATCHING

FALLING WATER TRAIL

Photos & Text ~ Fai Chan



There were two eggs, one was hatched the day before and the other one was just hatching when I got there. While the younger chick was struggling to get out of the shell, the day-old chick went around the nest, rode on his mother's back and followed the other parent to look for food.

When I got there, the wind was blowing with no sun, the younger chick had just his head stuck out of the egg. The mother had to sit on him again to shield him from the wind and keep him warm.



The next time the mother stood up, he got out of the egg a little more. The mother decided to extricate him from the egg shell and she was successful. He was very pale and was weak, and the mother had to sit on him again.

Each time the mother stood up, I could see that his feathers were drying out a little bit more and the color got darker. And he could raise his head.



In order to put him in a spot where his mother could sit on him, as well as on his older sibling together, his mother had to push him around to the spot she wanted with his long beak which to me was not as gentle as picking him up with a human hand.

When I left, he was mostly dry and he could hold his head up. His mother held him up in a sitting position and propped him up with his legs, it seemed. I did not stay to watch his parents eat the egg shell; however, one of the parents found a piece of the left-behind egg shell from which his sibling had hatched, and ate it.



Spring Migration

Two of Jackson Audubon's favorite photographers, Fai Chan and Doug Leffler, captured photos of migrating birds at Magee Marsh, Tawas Point, and Lime Lake on the Falling Waters Trail.
Enjoy!



Prothonotary Warbler



Magnolia Warbler



Palm Warbler



Black & White Warbler



Ruby Throated Hummingbird



Wilson's Warbler



Bay Breasted Warbler



Nashville Warbler



Yellow Warbler



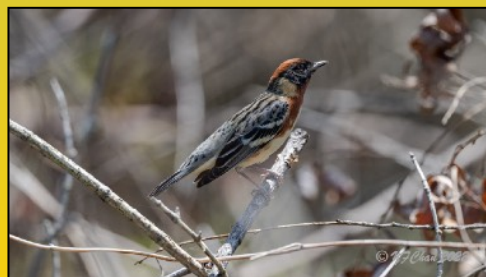
Green Heron



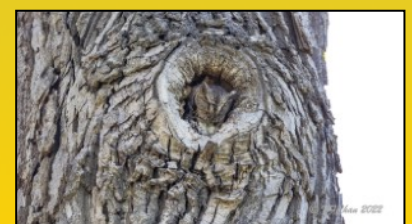
Yellow Warbler



Eastern King Bird



Bay Breasted Warbler



Eastern Screech Owl

HAEHNLE HAPPENINGS 2021-22

Gary Siegrist ~ Chair Haehnle Committee

With Covid restricting so many indoor activities, Haehnle Sanctuary experienced a banner year. Use of the observation hill, benches, and trails was especially high for families with children looking for an outdoor experience.

The work crew has finished clearing non-native invasive plant species, including autumn olive, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and Eurasian bittersweet, along the west boundary from Seymour Road to Eagle Lake. The work crew then moved to the wetland edge around Bogus Lake Fen and back grassland. It's simply amazing what this work crew has accomplished in the last year. While the crew's work will continue, sadly, two hard working members are moving away. Thank you to both Phil Clark and Barb Wilcox.

Through a EQIP grant (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) administered by Natural Resources Conservation Service – United States Department of Agriculture, Haehnle Sanctuary was able to restore 5.5 acres of hayfield to native grassland in the Schroeder Tract. This project consisted of mowing, spraying with herbicide, burning, and planting of native grasses and wildflowers.

We also completed a prescribed burn below the Harold Wing observation hill. Specifically, we established a burn line that included parts of the wet meadow and marsh. With a group of volunteers, we were able to cut a barrier between the rest of the marsh and area to be burned.

2021 saw the planting of oaks next to the restoration of the oak savanna area. This was possible through memorial donations, including former member Paul Brencher, for whom a Burr Oak was planted.

Volunteer Steve Jerant continues to monitor, repair, and install nest boxes for our avian friends, including a pair of newly installed kestrel boxes.

For the last few years, Haehnle Sanctuary has been involved with Project Wingspan. This is a multiyear landscape scale project administered by Pollinator Partnership to help support pollinator habitat across Midwest and Great Lakes Region. Haehnle has allowed the collection of seeds from certain key wildflower and shrub species. In return, Haehnle has received specific wildflower seed to help enhance our restoration efforts of both the back grassland and oak barrens/savanna.

I am happy to announce that the Bogus Lake Fen restoration project has come to a close. The last twenty-five acres of glossy buckthorn has been eliminated. It's also a bittersweet moment as Tom Eitniet from USFW has retired. Tom has been a friend to the sanctuary by working almost ten years on buckthorn eradication around the fen. Through Tom's advice and grant monies the sanctuary was able to complete the project.

At this year's workbee, and with help from Tom Hodgson, the sanctuary installed a bat house in the grassland near the Harold Wing Observation Hill. Tom did all the research, ordering, and even helped with the installation. He was also the driving force for getting the kestrel boxes put up in a timely manner last summer. Thank you, Tom, for all your great ideas.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that have helped make Haehnle Sanctuary a shining star within the Michigan Audubon sanctuary system. If you would like to learn more about volunteering opportunities at Haehnle Sanctuary, please contact Gary at gwsiegrist@gmail.com.

Stay safe and enjoy nature.

Waterloo Area Christmas Bird Count 2021

Gary Siegrist

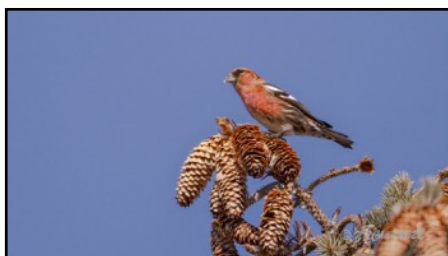
The 2021 Jackson Audubon Christmas Bird Count started out on an ominous note with early morning freezing rain. The rain made it impossible to go owling, reflected in low numbers for the different owl species. Overcast skies continued all day and temperatures hovered in the low thirties. The weather didn't stop the 33 participants from locating 64 bird species and a total of 7715 individuals.

We also had 4 (Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-wing Crossbill, Eastern Towhee, and Brown-headed Cowbird) count week species. This year brought many good finds especially since we had open water to view the many waterfowl (11) species. All three swan species, Mute (9), Trumpeter (2), and Tundra (4) were located on area lakes. Northern Shoveler (4) have only been seen on three other CBC's. Other good birds included Common Redpoll (2), Field Sparrow (1), Merlin (1), Hermit Thrush (1), Gray Catbird (1), and Swamp Sparrow (1). High counts this year included Belted Kingfisher (5), Pileated Woodpecker (8), Red-breasted Nuthatch (10), Brown Creeper (10), and Caroline Wren (11). The ten Brown Creepers is the highest number ever recorded for the species. Species that had the highest number of individuals were Sandhill Cranes (1717), Canada Goose (1519), and European Starling (698). Low numbers for House Sparrow (220) and American Kestrel (1) may just be a weather-related phenomenon. Disappointing, no Ruffed Grouse or Ring-necked Pheasant again were counted on this CBC. This is a troublesome trend as both species were a constant count species until the last few years.

With another successful Christmas Bird Count behind us, remember to mark your 2022 calendar for 54th consecutive count. This year's CBC is scheduled for December 17th, 2022. Thank you to those volunteering for the JAS CBC. If you have questions or would like more information concerning 2022 CBC. Please email Gary Siegrist at gwsiegrist@gmail.com.

Gary Siegrist, Compiler

Christmas Bird Count, Waterloo



Male & female White Winged Crossbills

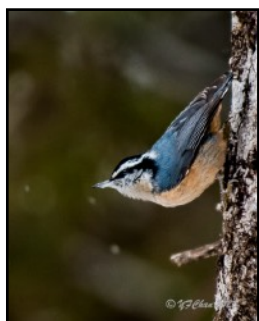


Trumpeter Swan



Red
Breasted
Nuthatch

Recreation

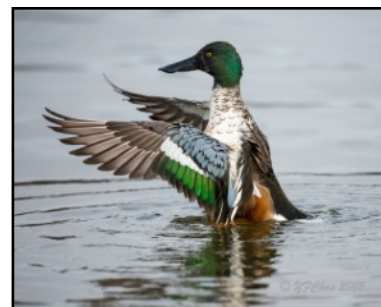


Area Belted Kingfisher



Northern Shoveler

State





Cornell Lab of Ornithology Nest Watch

Steve Jerant



R. Greenwood

While most of you may have heard of eBird, you may not know about The Cornell Lab of Ornithology program NestWatch. As the name suggests, NestWatch is a nationwide program that enables anyone to record observations about bird nests. Like eBird, it allows thousands of participants to collect data about birds.

Tim Lenz, Maccaulay
Library

This Cornell Lab program is another example of *Citizen Science* which is a process where average people, with no scientific training, can participate in the scientific endeavor by observing the natural world and recording data that can then be used by scientists. By carefully determining what data items should be collected and providing recording methods, we citizens can provide scientists with millions of observations and measurements.

To participate in NestWatch you will need a user ID on the Cornell Lab system. If you already use eBird or Merlin, you will use the same account. Just go to nestwatch.org and sign in or create your new ID. To begin data collection, you will need to review the etiquette guidelines for nest observation and then take a short quiz. Next you record your observations of the nests you see or manage. Finally, you record that data into the online system so that your work can contribute to this large database of the reproductive trends of our avian friends.

You can record your observations in two ways:

- Use the paper record form, then enter the data into the NestWatch website.
- Use the NestWatch app to record the data which is then automatically uploaded to the NestWatch database.

I know that there seems to be an app for everything these days and a great deal of them are useless or just a method to do location or other user tracking. However, this is a great example of productive use of the app concept: data access/entry on a mobile device. So, if you are comfortable using a smartphone it really is the way to go. By entering the data real-time into your handheld device, you have an efficient and timely method of collecting and recording your data. The app even supports an offline mode so if the location you are monitoring does not have access to the cellular network, you record observations and then synch up when you are back in a service area. Or install it on your tablet and take that outdoors to record your observations. A bigger screen is always better.

So, whether you are keeping track of that Robin nest above your front door, documenting that hummingbird nest you found, or managing a Bluebird trail, NestWatch is a great way for you to help scientists collect important data on this critical part of bird's lives.

Resources for Nestwatch:

<https://nestwatch.org/>

This is the website for the NestWatch program. Even if you don't want to participate in NestWatch, it is also a great resource for nesting. You can learn about different birds nesting strategies, how to identify nests or chicks, and nest box plans that you can download and use to make your own boxes.

<https://michiganbluebirds.org/>

The Michigan Bluebird Society is primarily focused on Blue Birds but has lots of great information on cavity nesting birds.

Welcome New Members

Penny Rund	Betty Desbiens	Chris Newhouse	Joan Sampieri
William Holmberg	Jerry Freyberg	Tammy Freyberg	Richard Lambert
Thomas Hunsdorfer	Brenda Ortega	Joann Ballbach	Jeff Creech
Kevin McFeters	Susan Lux	Kirby North Ancona	Lee Kline
Carolyn & Michael Horne			

Purple Martins Return

Connie Spotts

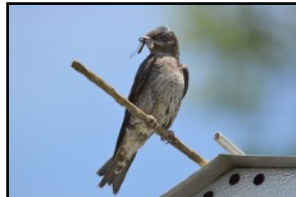
2021 Purple Martin Report

First Martins were sighted on April 4, 170 young fledged from 90 adults. 260 total birds on site.

2022

A rare first male Martin has been sighted at Gillette Lake on March 23. Earliest ever.

Please feel free to come out and view the Martins. Call me at 517-230-2707. Hope to see you soon.



Zebra Swallowtail

Butterflies

Connie Spotts

Another butterfly and moth season is over and soon I will be checking leaves for caterpillars.

This past summer was a very exciting time. I learned that you can buy almost anything from Luna moths to Zebra Swallowtails. My goal this year was to get a colony of Zebra Swallowtails going at the campgrounds. I buy eggs and larva at a butterfly/moth farm in Kentucky. I found that I needed a federal permit to buy the Zebras from another state even though they are a MI butterfly. Most of the other insects that you buy do not need a permit. It took some time but now I have 20 chrysalis waiting to become butterflies. Since Paw Paw trees are their host plant, they are quite rare. I have planted 28 of these trees to help bring them back to MI. Surprisingly, there were very few Giants, Black Swallowtails, and Spicebush this past year. I did have a great crop of Pipevine Swallowtails.

Anyone interested may join our Southern Mid Michigan Butterfly/Moth group. We had ten people come to learn and have a plant exchange. If you are interested in the group, call me at 517-230-2707.

Let's make a difference!

2022-23 MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Meetings and programs are held at Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 S Fourth St, Jackson, except where otherwise noted. Regular meetings will begin with a social time at 6:30 p.m. with a short meeting and program at 7:00 p.m. Bring "recyclables" (magazines, feeders, etc.) to the program. Please note - Meetings are cancelled in the event JPS schools are closed due to inclement weather.

PLEASE NOTE: COVID19 PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS WILL BE OBSERVED AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN COMPLIANCE WITH CDC GUIDELINES

Meetings ~ Programs

Tuesday, Sept. 13: Gary Siegrist presents, "North to Alaska, the Adventure is on." From Anchorage to Denali and Kenai Peninsula, come explore the beauty and see some of the largest mammals as well as birds of the area.

Tuesday, Oct. 11: Doug Leffler presents, "Antarctica - The Amazing Seventh Continent." Doug takes us on a cruise from Ushuaia, Argentina to Antarctica, featuring fantastic photos of the scenery and wildlife of the region.

Tuesday, Nov. 8: Dr. Curtis Blankespoor, a major authority on Common mergansers, gives us a detailed look at the secret lives of this beautiful and intelligent bird. Curtis has trapped, banded, and relocated over 500 diving ducks as part of his swimmer's itch research. There will be a brief annual meeting prior to the program.

2023 Programs

Tuesday, Jan. 10: Terry Grail presents, "A Bird in the Hand." Terry has birded all 83 MI counties and recorded 323 species in his Big Year, 2021.

Friday, Feb. 10: "Natural Beauty Close to Home." Come enjoy a pictorial celebration of the natural beauty of Jackson County. This program presented by Gary Mason, will include hotspots such as the Falling Waters Trail, Kate Palmer and Haehnle Sanctuaries. Plants, birds, animals and insects in all seasons will be featured. This program takes place at Vista Grand Villa.

Tuesday, March 14: Lynn Ward, Jackson County Michigan Bluebird Coordinator, presents "Hot off the Press", a documentary film on the life and nesting cycle of Eastern Bluebirds. The film will show never before seen footage of Bluebirds and their young.

Tuesday, April 11: Allen King, Steward of Kate Palmer Sanctuary, presents "The Kate: Jackson County's Little Treasure." We will explore the unique history and changing seasons. The 53 acres owned by Michigan Audubon has the richest wildflowers in the area.

Workbees/Activities/Events

Saturday August 13, 2022: Birds, Blooms & Butterflies at the Dahlem Center. 9:00-3:00

Saturday, September 17, 2022: Haehnle Work Bee, 9-12:00. Call Gary Siegrist at 517 522-5990 for more information. Masks required per COVID 19 protocol.

Saturday, October 15, 2022: Kate Palmer Workbee- 9:00-12:00. Check JAS Website for information.

Saturday, December 17, 2022: Waterloo Recreation Area Christmas Bird Count. Contact Gary Siegrist at 517-522-5990 for more information.

Regular Tuesday morning Field Trips continue through the year. For scheduled outings, visit the JAS website: jacksonaudubon.org, email Steve Jerant - jacksonaudubon@gmail.com or call him at (734) 883-9514.

Jackson Audubon Society
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Jackson Audubon Society is a chapter of Michigan Audubon

Jackson Audubon Society Mission:

To promote among the people of the Jackson Area an interest, knowledge and appreciation of birds, wildlife and the environment.



Michigan Audubon – Connecting Birds and People for the Benefit of Both