



June 2015

BIRDTRACKS

Newsletter of the Jackson Audubon Society

517.787.3453

www.jacksonaudubon.org

Magee Marsh ~ Spring Migration

Ellen Rathbone ~ photos Fai Chan

From a human's point of view, the day was looking pretty grim - chilly and rainy. From a bird's point of view, it was much the same. From a *birder's* point of view, however, the day was looking pretty good. Cool, drippy days tend to make the birds come down low in the vegetation and stick around (rather than continuing their northward migration). So, when eleven of us arrived at Magee Marsh in the early morning on May 5, conditions were pretty good for seeing the warblers we came to observe.

The least birdy among us spent time trying to get those perfect National Geographic photos of the birds...with limited success. Man-handling a large lens in low light, especially one that prefers to focus on branches rather than birds, can be frustrating. The truly birdy among us, however, had a stellar day: 103 species (23 of which were warblers).

Some highlights of the trip included: golden-winged warbler, black-throated greens and black-throated blues, black and whites, prothonotary, northern parula, a flock of dunlins, a chilled green darter dragonfly, and the remains of a dead opossum draped in a tree.

Some of the best birding is when a light rain / mist occurs in spring migrations and that day was no exception. By the time we left Ohio we had tallied 103 species and 23 warbler species. Great looks at most of the migrants as the rain drove the birds to eye level. For those of us that went, what a great day!



Bay Breasted Warbler



Hooded Warbler



Blackburnian Warbler



American Redstart



Magnolia Warbler



Baltimore Oriole

Michigan Audubon Thanks Gary Mason



Gary Mason, VP of Jackson Audubon, was awarded Michigan Audubon's **Very Important Birder** certificate at the March JAS meeting. Gary posted on **eBird** the most birds at the Kate Palmer Sanctuary by the end 2014 and won a two-night stay at the Otis Farm Sanctuary cabin. Gary identified 99 bird species at the Kate, increasing our knowledge base of birds more than two-fold. The important information that Gary recorded will go into a 2016 brochure being developed that will allow us to list birds by date as well as native wildflowers blooming at the Kate.

Please contribute your knowledge of birds and blooms by walking through the Kate and reporting to Pegg Clevenger. All submissions are appreciated.

Nancy Lapinski Memorial Grove Dedication



Friends, family and volunteers from Jackson County's environmental organizations gathered on May 9th at the Nancy Lapinski Memorial Grove to honor her life of service to environmental causes in Jackson County. Jack, Natasha, and Maria Lapinski and their families heard fond memories and stories of Nancy's dedication and service to local environmental causes over the years.

Jack Lapinski with daughters Maria Lapinski LaFaive, Natasha Koss and Nancy's friend Louise Hefka in front of memorial plaque

Brenda Dziedzic Butterflies in the Garden

734-788-0539

www.ButterfliesInTheGarden.com

Facebook - Brenda's Butterfly Habitat



On April 9th Brenda Dziedzic presented the above program. Her book "Butterflies in the Garden" is available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon. Her Butterfly House opens June 4th, hours are 10-4. She gives away caterpillars. Host & nectar plants can be purchased at the greenhouse.

Barson's Greenhouse
6414 Merriman Rd.
between Ford and Warren Rds.
north of the airport



HAEHNLE WILDFLOWER WALK

July 25, 10:00 A.M.

Lathe Claflin

In 2001 Haehnle Sanctuary initiated the first of its three grassland plantings that represent native prairie habitats. Each of these areas was restored by removing all existing plants and then restoring the open land with native grasses and forbes. More than 40 native forbes and four grasses were seeded here. The grassland below the Wing Overlook is the showcase with all four grasses (big and little bluestem and Indian grass were seeded, switch grass already existed) with more than 40 native flowering species recorded to date. Many of the flowering plants such as lanced-leaved coreopsis, black-eyed susan, and showy goldenrod are common, but others are unusual and even rare. Among the latter are rosin weed, cup plant, white false indigo, rattlesnake master, pale purple coneflower, and lead plant. These flowers have a high floristic rating and help give the prairie its high floristic quality index. Some examples of the wild flowers are shown in the accompanying pictures.



Wild Lupine



Rattlesnake Master



Butterfly Weed

These native flowers bloom all through the spring, summer, and fall and peak activity is mid to late summer, which is unlike your common garden flowers. This makes the Overlook grassland an exciting place to visit. Currently, wild lupine is making a spectacular showing. The time for the walk should be during the peak bloom time. During the walk we will describe how the area was restored, point out many of the native flowers/seed heads with emphasis on the more unusual flowers, and discuss interesting details about as many flowers as time allows. The walk will begin at the Tobin Childs kiosk at 10:00 a.m. which is at the top of the hill at the main entrance off Seymour Rd. I hope to see you there.



Lead Plant



Rosin Weed



Showy Goldenrod

NEW OR USED BIRD FEEDER DONATIONS

Kate Palmer/Trinity Lutheran School Partnership

You can help Jackson Audubon motivate a new generation to learn about birds. The Kate Palmer Sanctuary is collecting your no-longer-used or new bird feeders to give to Trinity Lutheran students and families. The school is next door to the Kate, and Jackson Audubon has engaged The Dahlem Conservancy to create an evening presentation for the students, parents, and neighbors this fall.

Guests will learn about the importance of protecting the sanctuary, what birds reside there and also how to attract and feed birds in their own back yards. Opening young eyes to the beauty and identification of winter birds and a walk through the Kate could be the start of a lifetime of respect and love of nature.

Please call Pegg Clevenger, 750-4299 to make your donations, and she will pick them up from you.

Jackson County Tower Building Falcons

Four Peregrine Falcon chicks hatched May 3-5 on the Jackson Co. Tower Building nest. Parents, Big Red and Chayton have nested successfully since 2012, hatching 21 chicks.

The birds' sexes will be determined when they are banded in late May or early June. Names will be determined by Citizen Patriot/MLive readers - winning names will be announced once they are banded.

Watch the falcon chicks grow up at tinyurl.com/JaxBackOffBub

Feeder Maintenance

Cleaning your bird feeders regularly helps keep your backyard birds healthy.

Cleaning seed feeders

Moldy or decomposing seeds and hulls that accumulate on feeder trays can make birds sick. Bird droppings and other contaminants may also spread infectious bird diseases. Clean your feeders about once every two weeks, and more often during times of heavy use or wet weather. Wash each feeder thoroughly in hot, soapy water. Dry the feeders thoroughly before refilling.

Clean the ground below your feeders, too, to prevent a build-up of hulls, uneaten seeds, and other waste. Moldy or spoiled food is unhealthy both for birds and for your outside pets. And bird food scattered on the ground can attract unwanted rodents.

Maintaining hummingbird feeders

Change sugar water at least every three to five days to prevent mold and deadly fermentation, and more frequently during hot weather. Clean feeders at least once a week with hot water and a bottle brush. Don't use soap or a detergent. You can also clean hummingbird feeders by filling with a dilute bleach solution, but make sure to rinse them very thoroughly and allow them to air dry completely before refilling.

2015 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Field Trips

Saturday, July 25 — Wildflower trip to Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary. Meet at the parking lot on Seymour Road at 10:00 a.m. or carpool from Eastside Meijer parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Call Lathe Claflin for more information.

Events

Saturday, June 6 — Audubon Potluck at Connie's house on Crispell Lake. Bring a passing dish and a nature item for the raffle. Fun begins at 11:00. Call Connie (517- 529-9031) or (517-230-2707) for directions.

Saturday, August 15 — Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies Festival at the Dahlem Center. There will be free programs, booths, and guided bird and dragonfly trips. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Connect With Us Online!

We have two excellent ways for you to learn about and connect with JAS online. We invite you to "Like" our Jackson Audubon page on Facebook. This is a great place to learn about upcoming events, post pictures from our sanctuaries or share about things you have seen in nature around Jackson County.

Our newly updated web page (jacksonaudubon.org) has a fresh new look and updated content. It is a good source of information about JAS and it has links to many other web sites regarding local birdwatching and other outdoor activities. We will continue to add content and functions as we move forward, so we encourage you visit to the site regularly. Whether in the field or online, we invite you to connect with us and be an active part of Jackson Audubon Society!

Annual Audubon Potluck

Saturday June 6th ~ 11:00 a.m.

The annual Audubon potluck will take place at Connie's house on Crispell Lake. The party starts at 11:00, food served around noon.

Bring a passing dish along with a nature item for the raffle.

Connie has many birds and butterflies along with a beautiful garden to enjoy. Come & relax with your friends.

2023 Crispell Rd.

Call Connie at 517-529-9031 or 517-230-2707 for directions.

Jackson Audubon Society
P.O. Box 6453
Jackson, MI 49204

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Jackson Audubon Society is a chapter of Michigan Audubon Society

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