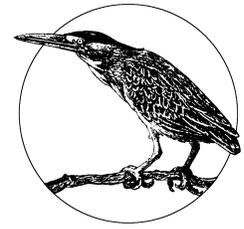


WINGS



ERIE SHORES BIRDING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 272, Monroe, Michigan 48161

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FEBRUARY MEETING: BIRDSONG ID

Speaker: Can't tell a Titmouse from a Chickadee without visual confirmation? The ESBA's own **Bob Pettit** will introduce you to his unique methods of learning songs, and you will delight in the experience of adding another aspect to your birding enjoyment. *Please bring your bird identification guide to this workshop.* A multi-page handout illustrating these methods for learning birdsongs will be distributed. It's a night to not be missed!

Meeting Time: Wednesday, February 18, **Membership meeting at 7:00 pm, Featured Presentation at 7:30 pm**, room 201 Life Science Building, Monroe County Community College.

ESBA FIELD TRIP

Museum of Natural History, Ann Arbor
Saturday, March 28th, 9:30 am

Imagine you are on the Magee Boardwalk...you see movement in the foliage...a glimpse of a wing, a peek at an undertail covert...but it was too brief! It could have been any of 4 or 5 different species, and you wish you could just reach out and *grab that bird* to get a really good, long look.

Well now you can, because Janet Hinshaw of the Museum of Natural History at U of M will lay out "sample skins" of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers for your convenient, leisurely, and close-up inspection!

Please call Anne Smith at 734.621.3209 to RSVP! Lunch at your expense and birding at a local park may follow.

The Museum is located at 1109 Geddes Avenue, in Ann Arbor. It is in the Ruthven Museums Building, on the northwest corner of Washtenaw and Geddes Avenues, on the U-M central campus.

Use the Palmer Drive public parking structure: parking rate is \$1.40 per hour; from Washtenaw Avenue turn onto Palmer Drive, then turn left at the red & white "Public Parking" sign into Palmer Drive Public Parking Structure.

Take the elevator in South Stairwell to Level P4. Follow the sidewalk up the hill along the Dental School Building. The Museum is ahead on the left. The main entrance is between the statues of the black pumas.

On weekends, the Plaza level doors are locked from the outside. To reenter structure, use the level P4 door at the base of stairs.

See the map on page 2.

BIRD NOTES

- Jack Volker's January presentation on his & Janet's trip to Borneo was fabulous! And thank you, Jackie Copeland, for providing refreshments!
- The February Board meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions.
- Underlined items in the newsletter are active links for those who view the newsletter electronically.
- Anne Smith reported a female Red Wing Blackbird in her yard on February 9th! A few other people have spotted the early arrivals...a harbinger of Spring!

ALL ABOUT BIRDWATCHING

Southeastern Michigan and Northwestern Ohio are famous birding hotspots, but many of the local people aren't aware of this, or don't know how to begin birdwatching. Books, binoculars, scopes, sun-protective bug-repelling multifunction clothing, oh my!

Here to help sort it all out is Bob Pettit, one of the original founders of the Erie Shores Birding Association, and educator extraordinaire!

Bob is planning a daylong event to be held at Monroe County Community College on either Saturday, April 11th or Saturday, 18th (final date TBA), to encourage new and experienced birders alike to share their stories, ask questions, practice technique, and of course learn all about the hobby? sport? obsession? that is birdwatching.

This event will be free and fun, and will hopefully be followed by a field trip the following Saturday. Get out your pencils and save these dates—volunteers and participants are required!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Biggest Week in American Birding

May 8 – 17, 2015

Northwestern Ohio

Organized and hosted by Black Swamp Bird Observatory, The "Biggest Week" is a 10-day festival featuring some of the best birding North America has to offer. If you are anywhere else in the world in mid-May, you are in the wrong place. Think about it: A 10-day birding event featuring workshops, guided birding activities, half-day birding bus tours, keynote speakers, and more. Among the myriad of events offered during the festival are workshops, Woodcock Extravaganzas to observe the extraordinary displays of these woodland shorebirds, daily walks at the world famous Magee Marsh boardwalk and other area birding hotspots, evening keynote presentations, birding-by-ear workshops, and presentations on world birding. On top of all of that, birding guru Kenn Kaufman will be teaching several bird identification classes!

Check out <http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com> and watch Jerry Jourdan's slide show on the Biggest Week, entitled *Spring's Guilty Pleasure*. This website will also give you access to the extensive festival schedule, and allow you to register for events.

Of special note this year is a performance by R. Bruce, an internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter of humorous songs. He has performed across the U.S. as well as in Australia, Canada and the UK. His albums receive daily airplay on satellite and Internet radio. In 2011 he stopped touring and in essence, R. Bruce "broke-up." He began to pursue birding with a passion in both the US and Australia. He thought he had retired....Then in 2014 for reasons that have never been made clear, he reunited with himself for what may be the first, ever, solo reunion tour. Don't miss it!

Still not convinced? Then consider that Magee Marsh was voted *USA Today's* BEST BIRDWATCHING DESTINATION! Congratulations, Magee Marsh!

American Birding Expo

October 2-4, 2015

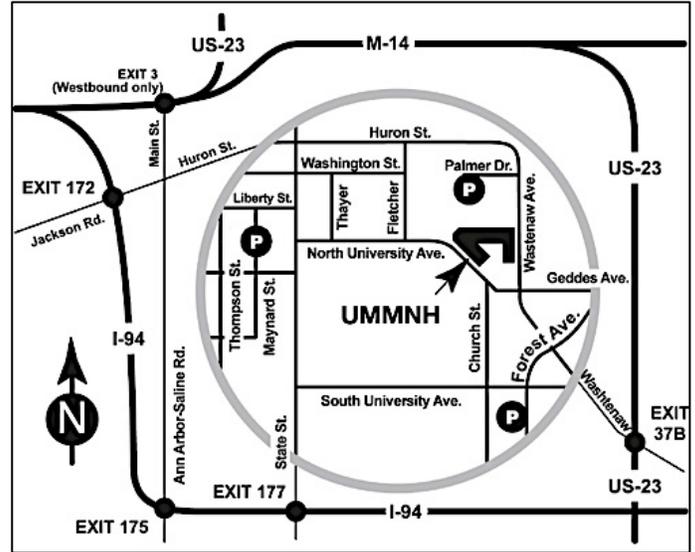
Columbus, Ohio

The American Birding Expo is *not* a birding festival. Rather, it's a retail trade show for birding consumers where you can "try before you buy," and speak personally with industry experts and professionals from across the globe.

This event is free and open to the public, and will feature more than 75 vendors, including birding and nature tour companies, birding destinations from all over the world, optics manufacturers and retailers, artists and photographers, non-profit organizations, backyard birding products, birding gear companies, and more! In concert with all of the commerce at the Expo will be a massive bird conservation fundraising project to support three separate causes: one local, one North American, and one international.

Please visit <http://www.americanbirdingexpo.com> to learn more about this one-of-a-kind event for bird watchers, scheduled for October 2-4, in Columbus, Ohio, at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, only 10 minutes from downtown.

Museum of Natural History: Area Map



Looking for Something to Read?

Wildlife writer and bird tour guide, Ian Parsons, has recently published two new books, available on Amazon for \$9.99 each. The first, *A Birding Miscellany*, combines Ian's love for birds with his love for trivia, resulting in an eclectic mix of fun lists and facts.

A Journey through a Birder's Thoughts documents Ian's twelve-month journey around a reservoir in the European birding paradise of Extremadura, and is also a journey through the author's thoughts on all things bird.

Always use smile.amazon.com to support a charity of your choice when shopping on Amazon!

WINGS

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Editor/Graphic Design..... Terri Janssen

Contact Info

Anne rrrrseng@aol.com
Rita montag2@comcast.net
Carolyn cmboellner@aol.com
Karen ladypotts_1@netzero.net
Terri taw0417@hotmail.com

