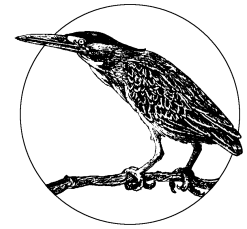


# WINGS



## ERIE SHORES BIRDING ASSOCIATION

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March 2015

### FEBRUARY RECAP

Bob Pettit's birdsong ID workshop was well attended, regardless of the winter snow conditions. We had 5 visitors, some of which came all the way from Jackson! Thanks for the tips, Bob, and the excellent handouts!

**Raffle Winners:** Rita Montague won the bluebird mug donated by Carolyn Boellner; Anne Smith won the plaque donated by Lucy Pentz; Jackie Copeland won the bookmarks donated by Barb Liedel.

**Hospitality:** Refreshments for this meeting were provided by Jackie Copeland and Anne Smith.

### MARCH MEETING

**Speaker: Josh Haas**, president of the Battle Creek Audubon Society, is an entertaining speaker with a passion in all things birds. Josh's program, "One Man, One Bike, 200 Birds," follows Josh as he rode his bike throughout Barry County, MI in 2013 in search of as many birds as possible. During his Big Green Big Year he had big days and not-so-big days but all along the way, he filmed and photographed at key times in the field.

Josh is well known for his bird photography and co-owns Glances at Nature Photography ([www.glancesatnature.com](http://www.glancesatnature.com)) where he sells his work, provides lessons and workshops, and leads trips all around the Midwest.

Josh's photos and videos, combined with many engaging stories, make this program an entertaining must-see!

**Meeting Info:** Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, **Membership meeting 7:00 pm; Featured Presentation 7:30 pm;** room 201 Life Science Building, Monroe County Community College.

### ESBA FIELD TRIP

[Museum of Natural History](#), Ann Arbor

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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!

**Feel free to invite friends, and 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.

### Biggest Week Reminder

Be sure to visit [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com) to see the incredible schedule of events that will be offered May 8-17! Don't miss out!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

14000 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH  
(419) 898-0014; [www.onwra.com](http://www.onwra.com)

**Sat., March 21 & 22, 8 am—4 pm: Self-guided Auto Tour.** Visit areas of the refuge normally closed to the public. Remember to stop in the Visitor Center to enter your sightings at the eBird kiosk. Free.

**Wed., March 18, 9 am & 12:30 pm: EAGLE TOURS.** Spots available; call to register. Free.

**Sat., March 21, 12:30 pm: EAGLE TOUR.** Spots available; call to register. Free.

## ESBA Field Trip Day

4139 Girdham Road (2 miles west of Toledo Express Airport), Swanton  
(Entrances off Wilkins Road, SR 64 and SR 2)

**Saturday, April 18**

If you haven't been to **Oak Openings Metropark** in Swanton, OH, in a while, now is your chance! From [www.metroparkstoleado.com](http://www.metroparkstoleado.com): "Oak Openings is a birder's paradise. It is the nesting place of bluebirds, indigo buntings, whippoorwills and many other species, as well as an excellent location to see migrating songbirds in the spring." After lunch, birders will then visit Wildwood Metropark (Toledo). Both parks have wonderful Windows on Wildlife to enjoy birding from indoors, in case of inclement weather. Let Anne (734.621.3209) or Karen (313.802.1081) know if you plan to attend!

## RUSTY BLACKBIRD SPRING MIGRATION BLITZ

Rusty Blackbirds have experienced steep population declines and conservationists are looking for birders like you to help understand this commonly overlooked species. In 2014, the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group launched the Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz that challenged birders to scour the landscape for Rusty Blackbirds during this species' northward migration. Michigan clearly emerged as an important migratory pathway for Rusties, but more birders are needed this year to re-visit potential hotspots and search new areas that were missed in 2014.

Anyone can participate and it's easy to get involved: just go birding! From March through June look and listen for these "squeaky-hinge" birds and report your sightings on [eBird.org](http://eBird.org) (if you do not use eBird but still want to participate, please contact Rachele at [rroake@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:rroake@michiganaudubon.org)). For more information on identifying Rusties, finding Rusty habitat, and how to submit your sightings, please visit [www.rustyblackbird.org](http://www.rustyblackbird.org).

This year, Michigan Audubon is sponsoring a contest for great prizes! Prizes will be awarded for: most checklists submitted, most checklists submitted at an Area of Importance, most total Rusty Blackbirds reported, and most hours spent surveying for the Blitz. To enter the contest, please fill out the brief sign-up form [online](#). The contest runs March 1st through May 10th. Winners will be announced at the [Tawas Point Birding Festival](#), but you do not need to be present to win. Good luck!

From [www.michiganaudubon.org/get-involved/citizen-science](http://www.michiganaudubon.org/get-involved/citizen-science)

## POTTS ON THE MOVE

David and Karen Potts (and puppy Festus) completed their third Winter Texas vacation in Jan/Feb 2015—8 weeks this time!

David parachuted while in Lexington, TX after weather problems canceled his jump twice in 2014. Karen flew from Texas to Florida to meet Jan Morrow, Rita Montague (and her husband Jim), and Dianne Kovach and attend the 2015 Space Coast Birding Festival in Titusville! Karen got 3 life birds (Florida Scrub Jay, Eurasian Wigeon, and Long-tailed Duck (female))!

David and Karen spent 2 weeks at Padre Island National Seashore, 10 days at Big Bend National Park Chisos Mountains (again!), were able to visit the famous birding spot of Portal, Arizona (where she photographed a Blue-throated Hummingbird!) and spent a week in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona. Karen totaled 10 new life birds during their 8 weeks. Whew!

## WINGS

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