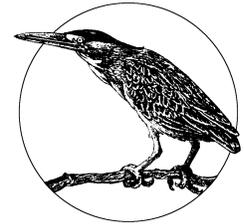


WINGS



ERIE SHORES BIRDING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 272, Monroe, Michigan 48161

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March 2016

FEBRUARY RECAP

Our February presenter, **Rachel Maranto**, from the Michigan Nature Association, provided us with an enthusiastic program looking at some properties throughout the state. MNA is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to preserve and protect rare, threatened and endangered habitats throughout the state. Founded in 1952, it oversees 170 sanctuaries, and is the largest network of natural areas established by a nonprofit in Michigan. The properties range in size from being a few acres to several hundred acres.

Rachel focused her presentation primarily on preserves in counties within a 1-1/2-hour drive from Monroe. We have one preserve in Monroe, the Swan Creek Sanctuary, and in Lenawee County, Goose Creek Grasslands and the River Raisin Sanctuaries can be visited. Some of Rachel's favorites in this area are the Bullard Lake Fen in Livingston County, and the Myron and Isabel Zucker Sanctuary in Lapeer County.

While the sites are open to the public, they are not staffed, and paved parking is not provided, nor are there always established walkways. All sites are "leave no trace" properties with carry in/carry out requirements. Being a nonprofit with limited staff, volunteers are always welcome and opportunities to help can be found on their website. The MNA staff and its volunteers are working toward recording plants, birds and any wildlife throughout the year on these holdings.

A list of the sanctuaries and more information about MNA can be found at www.michigannature.org. Memberships are free for the first year, and look for MNA on social media. Thanks to Rachel for introducing us to some little-known treasures in our state!

Raffle Winners: Phillip VanDaele won the suet cage and suet, donated by Al and Shirley VanDaele; Ed McHale, a guest visiting from Grosse Pointe Audubon, won the *Audubon Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges: Northern Midwest*, donated by Jan Morrow; Rachel Maranto, our featured presenter, won the set of 4 hand-embroidered napkins, donated by Anonymous.

Hospitality: Thank you, Mollie Wood, for providing delicious homemade refreshments for this meeting!

Bird Sightings: From Jerry Jourdan's blog, dated Feb. 14:

This afternoon I got what I wanted [for the Great Backyard Bird Count]. I was under the impression that I had to submit counts during a single 15-minute interval, so I was thrilled when both the **Golden-crowned Sparrow** and **Harris' Sparrow** appeared under the feeders at the same time as the Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Juncos and House Finches were swarming the feeders. I was able to get photos of both through the back windows. Turns out that I could submit a total list for the weekend if I wanted to.

MARCH MEETING

Speaker: March 16th's presenter will be **Jennifer Braatz!** Jennifer has been in love with nature since she was a child. She began volunteering at a local nature reserve in her hometown of Alexandria, Virginia when she was 12 years old. Nature has always been a constant in her life and has played a role in every turn. She has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 2009 as an interpretive park ranger. She is thrilled to be working at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and is excited to share with us what this incredible refuge has to offer.

Raffle: Wooden pileated woodpecker ornament, donated by Terri Janssen; Birding bag, anonymous donor; Bird Stationery, anonymous donor

Semi-Annual Raffle: Beautiful wood-framed picture of an American Widgeon, donated by Gene and Patty Naujock. The winning ticket will be drawn at the April meeting.

Hospitality: Refreshments for this month's meeting will be provided by Jackie Copeland.

Meeting Info: Wednesday, March 16th, **Membership meeting 7:00 pm; Featured Presentation 7:30 pm;** room 201 Life Science Building, Monroe County Community College.

FROM THE BOARD

- Ed McHale from Grosse Pointe Audubon attended our February meeting and even won a raffle item!
- Rita Montague opened the meeting and gave an update on our President Anne Smith's knee replacement last month – she is doing well and hopes to be birding with the rest of us soon!
- World travelers Jack and Janet Volker briefly shared about their recent trips: in Japan, they had 450 species, awesome travel arrangements and hotels, but it was hot; they traveled to Ethiopia in Oct/Nov 2015 and had a wonderful time!
- Rita mentioned that she and husband Jim got 4 life birds in Florida in January!
- LIKE the ESBA Facebook page! You can report your bird sightings, share pictures, and receive notices about upcoming field trips and meetings.
- Carolyn is happy to accept raffle donations at each meeting (please, no books).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

14000 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH
(419) 898-0014; fws.gov/refuge/ottawa/

Sun., March 13 & 27, 9 am & 12:30 pm: Eagle Tour. Reservations required.

Fri., March 18 & 25, 7 pm: Owl Prowl. Great for the entire family! Reservations required.

Sat. & Sun., March 19 & 20, 9 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. Weather dependent. Free.

Internat'l Wildlife Refuge Alliance: Humbug Marsh Unit

5437 W. Jefferson Avenue, Trenton, MI
iwralliance.org

Saturday, May 14, 5—9 pm: Benefit Dinner. Games, raffles, live and silent auctions, entertainment. Held at the Ford Yacht Club, Grosse Ile; \$75 per person or 2 tickets for \$125. Register via the orange Donate button on the website.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Entrance to Magee Marsh, 13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH
(419) 898-4070; bsbobird.org

May 6—15: Biggest Week in American Birding.

If you're signed up for the Biggest Week eNews, you already know that registration is OPEN and events are filling up fast. Go to www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com to see the full schedule of festival events, or go to individual pages to read about field trips, workshops, and keynote presentations. And if you're not signed up for the Biggest Week eNews, now would be a good time to do that so you don't miss any important announcements: [BW eNews signup](#).

Biggest Week Social Media: Facebook [The Biggest Week in American Birding](#)

Twitter [@BiggestWeek](#); **Instagram** [BSBOBIRD](#); **Favorite hashtag** #BWIAB

BSBO NEWS & UPDATES

- A member of Black Swamp Bird Observatory's research team has just returned from an exciting opportunity in the rainforests of Costa Rica. With years of experience and as one of BSBO's premier bird banders, Julie Shieldcastle spent a month between two monitoring stations as part of an ongoing study of land bird populations in Costa Rica.

- BSBO has been battling for more than three years to get the post-construction bird and bat kill numbers from Iberdrola Renewables, owners of the Blue Creek wind energy facility in Ohio's Paulding and Van Wert Counties. More recently, BSBO submitted requests for the bird and bat kill data from the Timber Road wind energy facility. Timber Road, also in Paulding County, is owned by EDP Renewables. Timber Road has been in the news recently as Amazon has committed to purchase energy from a major expansion of this facility to provide power to new Central Ohio data centers.

Please visit www.bsbo.org/responsible-wind-energy.html for complete information on several wind energy projects that BSBO is currently researching or battling, and to make a donation.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATIONS

from www.xerces.org

The Xerces Society is a nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat. Established in 1971, the Society is at the forefront of invertebrate protection worldwide, harnessing the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of citizens to implement conservation programs.

The Society uses advocacy, education, and applied research to defend invertebrates.

Over the past three decades, they have protected endangered species and their habitats, produced ground-breaking publications on insect conservation, trained thousands of farmers and land managers to protect and manage habitat, and raised awareness about the invertebrates of forests, prairies, deserts, and oceans.

Results from a November 2015 survey of monarch butterfly overwintering sites in California show that there are more monarchs overwintering in the state than in 2014. Volunteers with the Xerces Society's Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count visited 187 sites and tallied a total of 271,924 monarchs. Although more monarchs were counted, the average number of monarchs per site is not significantly different than the previous year's count, and the current population estimate represents a 39% decline from the long-term average. The number of monarchs counted this year is but a fraction of the 1.2 million monarchs recorded in the late 90s.

WINGS

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