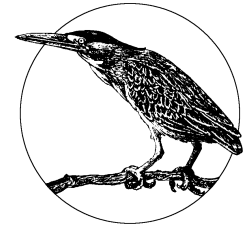


WINGS



ERIE SHORES BIRDING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 272, Monroe, Michigan 48161

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FEBRUARY RECAP

Anne Smith welcomed new attendees Andy, Ken Nowicki, Tim Thompson, Lucy Szostek, and Marianne Anderson. Gene Naujock told us about the new Howard Marsh Metropark: 1,000 acres of former farmland being restored to wetland near Metzger Marsh on Route 2 and Howard Road, which should be completed this fall. A canoe launch is also being installed.

Everyone enjoyed our featured speaker, Jerry Jourdan! Jerry spoke about the shorebirds present in Michigan from January to November (50 species!), and discussed ways to identify them: by habitat, season, month, and plumage. He also gave us help with differentiating Fall juveniles from adults. Jerry suggested getting a good field guide and a spotting scope and just having fun!

Raffle Winners: Bob Pettit won the carved bird, donated by Lou and Marigail Stubleski; Jackie Copeland won the camera tripod donated by Jan Morrow; Patty Naujock won the Carruth figurine donated by Bob Pettit; Anne Smith won the homemade gingerbread donated by Carolyn Boellner.

Hospitality: Thank you, Karen Potts and Jackie Copeland, for providing refreshments for this meeting.

Bird Sightings: Karen and a friend went on a BSBO tour and found a Saw Whet Owl, which was a life bird for Karen! No Northern Shrike was seen after looking twice, but the Ottawa NWR drive was awesome! Gene and Patty had a Cooper's Hawk in their yard, they both saw the Saw Whet Owls and Northern Shrike at Magee Marsh, and Snow Geese in Sylvania, OH. Anne had Red-winged Blackbirds in her yard and so did Karen Potts! Bob went on the Sault St. Marie bird tour with MI Audubon and saw 35 species in 30-degree weather! Highlights included Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, 19 Snowy Owls, a Brown Creeper, White-winged Crossbills (no Redpolls) and Evening and Pine Grosbeaks!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The annual ESBA picnic will be Wednesday, June 21st at Crosswinds Marsh. Plan to bring a dish to share as well as your own beverage, plates, etc. Birding at 5 pm, dining at 6 pm.

MARCH MEETING

Speaker: Let's watch a movie this month! Bring your birding buddies and a good sense of birding humor to watch "Opposable Chums," a film about the oh-so-competitive World Series of Birding, which takes place each spring in New Jersey. International birding teams vie to identify the most bird species in a 24-hour period—it's a day full of competition, camaraderie, and caffeine! Visit opposablechums.com for more information. As seen on PBS and with Pete Dunn, David Sibley, and Kenn Kaufman.

Raffle: Eagle mug, donated by Jan Morrow; Flower pot, donated by Lou and Marigail Stubleski; *National Audubon Society: The Bird Garden*, donated by Anonymous.

Semi-annual Raffle: Metal bird welcome plaque and Forever bird postage stamps donated by Len and Nancy VanDaele. Winning ticket will be drawn at the April meeting.

Hospitality: Mollie Wood will provide refreshments for this month's meeting.

Meeting Info: Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 pm; room 201 Life Science Building, Monroe County Community College.

FROM THE BOARD

- Last Board and membership meetings of the 2016-2017 season will be next month: there are no meetings in May, as we should all be out birding!
- Carolyn received a thank you letter from the Black Swamp Bird Observatory for our \$500 donation, which will be used by their Young Birder's Club.
- Use the ESBA Facebook page to report your bird sightings, share pictures, and receive notices about upcoming field trips. Feel free to propose a group outing, as well!
- Check our website www.esba-monroe.org for field trips, pictures, newsletter archives, birding links, etc. If you'd like to have information or pictures posted, just email the webmistress at birdladypotts@me.com.
- Carolyn is happy to accept raffle donations at each meeting (please, no books).

UPCOMING EVENTS

MACKINAW RAPTOR FEST

kang.machighway.com/~mackinaw

April 7—9: Come enjoy the second annual Raptor Fest, held in Mackinaw City, at the middle tip of the Michigan mitten. Highlights include waterbird counts, hawk watches, owl banding, constellation finding, and live birds of prey. Programs focus on raptor migration and identification, peregrines, loons, owls, bird photography, and how migration data is used. Check out the website for the full schedule and all logistics.

BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING

Black Swamp Bird Observatory/
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH
(419) 898-4070; bsbobird.org

May 5—14: Registration is OPEN and events are filling up fast. Go to www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com to see the massive schedule of festival events, or go to individual pages to read about field trips, workshops, and keynote presentations. Don't delay!

Facebook [The Biggest Week in American Birding](#);

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

Favorite hashtag #BWIAB

OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

March 18 & 19, April 15 & 16, May 5-21 & 27-29: 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.

You can join ONWR for a year for only \$20. ONWR is a busy place and offers lots of programs and activities for nature lovers of all ages: tours to see nesting eagles, tram tours (new: a twilight tram tour!), special speakers and workshops, bird counts, hikes along the dikes, and programs for children aged 3 and up. Some events are for members only, but many are free and open to the public. Currently, tours to see eagles are popular: call to pick a date and reserve your space!

TAWAS POINT BIRDING FESTIVAL

Iosco County, MI
michiganaudubon.org

May 18—20: Come to Michigan's Sunrise Coast to enjoy spring birding at its best, attend presentations on the latest birding topics, hone your birding skills, and learn about avian conservation work in Michigan. Over 160 species were recorded during the festival weekend in 2016. This year's festival will move headquarters back to the Tawas Bay Beach Resort. Don't miss out, spots are limited!

SPRING FLING!

Karen Potts and Rita Montague are signed up to attend **Whitefish Point Bird Observatory's 29th Annual Spring Fling** on April 29th and 30th! Join hawk watcher Josh Haas, featured speaker, for an informative and innovative new way of identifying flying hawks as he releases a brand new DVD entitled "Hawks on the Wing." In addition, our own Bob Pettit will be presenting a program on bird songs! Registration is open NOW, so join Karen, Rita, and Bob and plan to head to the U.P. at the end of April. Check out wpbo.org/events/spring-fling/ for full event details and the schedule.

LIMERICK

Two noddies approach in the blue,
then intense acrobatics ensue.
This form of cavorting
is ritual courting:
How terns of endearment pitch woo.
~ *Anonymous*
*Noddy: a tropical tern with mainly
dark-colored plumage*

WINGS

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Birding Together Since 1986

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