WINGS

ERIE SHORES BIRDING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 272, Monroe, Michigan 48161

Vol. 27 No. 02 *www.esba-monroe.org* *October 2015*

SEPTEMBER RECAP

Speakers: Barb Jensen and Deirdre Smith talked about Osprey reintroduction and tracking. Due to the reintroduction program, SE Michigan now has 40 Osprey nests! The original goal was 30 nesting pairs by 2020 and that goal was achieved in 2010! Ospreys reside on every continent except Antarctica. Today, Michigan's Osprey numbers are increasing, but we must remain vigilant. You can find more information on their Facebook page—search for "Michigan osprey." If you are interested in tracking the Ospreys that were fitted with trackers, go to www.michiganosprey.org.

Raffle Winners: Barb Jensen won the bird-themed treasure box donated by Rita Montague; Nancy VanDaele won the coffee/tea mug donated by Carol Boellner; Bob Pettit won the candles that were anonymously donated.

Hospitality: Thank you, Jim and Rita Montague, for providing refreshments for this meeting.

ANNE'S ADVENTURES

~BY ANNE SMITH

Midwest Birding Symposium in Bay City, MI – President Anne, Vice President Rita, Secretary Karen and Delegate Jackie attended this symposium from Thursday, Sept. 10th to Saturday Sept 12th. The host hotel was the Bay City Hilton on the Saginaw River. All four ladies birded the Shiawassee NWR auto tour on Thursday before checking into the hotel. Highlights were a juvenile Bobolink and an American Avocet! The Symposium was well attended and the speakers were wonderful. Breakout sessions were held after the morning field trips on many different birding subjects and were very interesting. Bay City was very lovely and also welcoming to us birders!

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Ross and I attended the Birding Expo in Columbus, Ohio the first weekend of October, held at the beautiful Audubon Grange Center. There were representatives from 43 states and 42 countries at the event. Most of the vendors were tour groups from various countries showing slides and speaking about their trips. Many companies donated gifts for a large conservation raffle; the proceeds were to benefit three targeted groups, one local, one national and one international. The main reason for our visit was to join in the Townhouse Meeting for Bird Clubs. Thirty clubs were on site for discussion on membership, young birders and any other questions. The ABA, Birders Digest staff and Columbus Audubon really put a great effort into this successful Expo. I now have several new resources for our club's interests!

OCTOBER MEETING

Speaker: Monica Blackwell, the Associate Curator of Birds at the Toledo Zoo will be this month's featured speaker. She will cover the various avian conservation programs that the Toledo Zoo is currently involved in and will touch on some future endeavors. If you haven't been to the Zoo in a while, the avian variety alone is enough of a reason to visit!

Raffle: Hawk photo, donated by Bob Pettit; Lady's novelty Autumn print socks, donated by Carolyn Boellner; Homemade pumpkin muffins, donated by Carolyn Boellner

Semi-Annual Raffle: Glass hummingbird feeder, donated by Jackie Copeland. $1 tickets available; winner will be drawn at the November meeting.

Hospitality: Phillip VanDaele will provide apple cider and donuts from Erie Orchards and Cider Mill! Yum!

Meeting Info: Wednesday, October 21, **Membership meeting 7:00 pm; Featured Presentation 7:30 pm**; room 201 Life Science Building, Monroe County Community College.

Welcome New Members!

Dianne Kovach, Mike Grosso and returning member Dan Schwab

FROM THE BOARD

- **ELECTION TIME!** Bring your completed ballot to the October meeting or mail it to Karen Potts, 11840 Strasburg, Erie, MI 48133 by Monday, Oct. 26.
- **Individual dues are $20 and family dues are $25.** Bring a check or cash to the October meeting and you'll receive 5 ESBA business cards to share on your birding outings! We LOVE new members! Your dues support bird conservation, as we are a non-profit organization!
- LIKE the ESBA Facebook page! You can report your bird sightings, share pictures, and receive notices about upcoming field trips and meetings.
- 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 ladypotts_1@netzero.net.
- 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/

Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 19 & 20, daylight to dusk: 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.

Thursday, Oct. 22, 9:30 am—12:30 pm: Blue Goose Bus Tour. Join a ranger and enjoy behind-the-scenes access to closed areas of the refuge complex. Destinations vary depending on wildlife use and activity. Reservations required.

Sunday, Oct. 25, 10 am—12 pm & 1—3 pm: Ottawa Tram Tour. Enjoy the breeze while searching for wildlife and admiring beautiful landscapes. This open-air tram tour is great for the entire family! Reservations required.

Sunday, Nov. 1 & Dec. 6, 8 am: Monthly Bird Survey. Meet at the trailhead parking area and dress for the weather. No experience necessary!

Sunday, Nov. 8, 1:30-2:30 pm: New Volunteer Orientation. Learn about volunteer opportunities with the refuge and our friends group, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Friday, Nov. 13, 6:30 pm: Owl Prowl. Experience the refuge at night! Explore the world of owls and learn about their amazing adaptations on this guided hike through the forest. Reservations required.

Sunday, Dec. 6, 12—4 pm: Holiday Open House. Celebrate the holiday season while enjoying a warm fire, festive music, kids crafts, and good company. Enter to win a gift basket too!

Clip-n-Save!

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A Section Hike on the Appalachian Trail

~ by Carolyn Boellner

Take a hike! No, that's not what Dick told me to do. However, I did have the opportunity during the last two weeks of September to take a very memorable backpacking hike with my brother. He's an experienced hiker, having through-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2010. He wanted to redo a portion of it and invited me to join him. He picked one of the less strenuous sections of the trail for us to take, as I'd never done any backpacking. We started our trek at Duncannon, PA, not far from Harrisburg, hiked 80 miles south into Maryland, walked the 40-mile stretch of the trail through that state, and completed the trip at Harpers Ferry, WV in a little over 11 days. It was a wonderful experience and I'm afraid I may be hooked on hiking.

We were fortunate enough to have fine weather—only one period of rain, and that occurred at night when we were under a shelter, so not even our tents got wet. The fall colors were just beginning to appear, the scenery was beautiful, and the trail was easy to follow (although the terrain was quite hilly, there weren't too many strenuous uphill battles). For about 20 miles in Pennsylvania we crossed beautiful farmland and pastures, corn and soybean fields, old stone walls, and stiles over fences. The major part of it was through wooded areas; some parts being lush stands of laurel and rhododendron. I can only imagine how beautiful it must be in spring. The most surprising aspect of the trip was how very rocky the terrain is. There were many huge outcroppings of rock, some of which we had to climb. Much of the trail in that stretch is like walking on a river of rock, so you had to be very careful of your footing. Every day we met other hikers, some of them nearing the end of a through-hike, some section hiking as were we. We must have looked like we knew what we were doing because one asked to join us and hiked with us for two days. On the two weekends we were there, if we were near a town, the trail was pretty heavily used by families, scouts and youth groups. It was such a pleasure to talk to so many of them and to see the trail being used.

Aside from one snake, no exceptional wildlife to report, bears or anything exciting like that - just deer, squirrels, chipmunks and rabbits. The snake was a copperhead, but they tend to be nonaggressive and like most wildlife, give it its space and it leaves you alone. One night we heard both a barred and a screech owl, and I heard another bird calling one evening but have yet to figure out what it was.

The trip was well worth the work of hiking with a loaded pack on my back, and I'm already rested and thinking of the next trip. Come along!

LIMERICK

My husband caught sight of a wing and a beak

Next thing I knew, he was a bird freak

Our hiking boots put away

Awaiting migration in May

Can't remember my last mountain peak

~ *Sara Hopkins*

WINGS
Published by ESBA
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