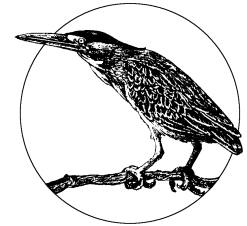


WINGS

ERIE SHORES BIRDING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 272, Monroe, Michigan 48161



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SEPTEMBER RECAP

22 people attended the September meeting, including two newcomers, Mary Amanda Brockman, and her son, Daniel. Jamie Platt was the featured speaker. His presentation, *The Secret Life of Birds*, taught us that birds' energy is measured in joules, and birds use a variety of methods to conserve their energy. For example, Vultures lower their body temperature at night, and in the morning you can sometimes see them in the "heraldic" position—wings held out to gather energy from the sun. Hummingbirds and Black-capped Chickadees also lower their temps at night; in hummingbirds this is called torpor. Did you know that woodpeckers have a harpoon on the end of their tongues and their tongue wraps around inside their skull to the nostrils? Jamie got some good questions from the group – 1) Does feeding birds supplement their natural diet, or alter/replace it? Feeding is supplemental because they know where and how to find insects and berries. 2) How does a hummingbird know when to head south? They know to get going when the hours of darkness become longer, because they can't be in torpor that long.

If you want to get ahold of Jamie Platt to discuss his ornithology lectures, classes, or tours, email him at L1Lmontana@aol.com or call him at 734.846.8318. His Facebook group is called Hells Birders; simply send a request to join this Ann Arbor-based group!

Raffle Winners: Len VanDaele won the hummingbird hand towel, donated by Carol Boellner; Jake Myers won the tabletop bird figurine, donated by Lou and Marigail Stubleski; Theresa Pritchett won the beverage coasters, donated by the Boellner's neighbors.

Hospitality: Thank you, Jackie Copeland, for providing refreshments for this meeting. Volunteers are needed to provide snacks for the February and March meetings.

TIME TO VOTE!

The time has arrived for ESBA elections, where we nominate and elect half of our esteemed Board members. Nominations were made last month, and voting will be done at the October meeting. You may bring your completed ballot with you, or pick one up at the meeting.

The following positions will be elected:

- Vice President (incumbent Rita Montague)
- Secretary (incumbent Karen Potts)
- Delegate (incumbent Bob Pettit)
- Delegate (nominee Theresa Pritchett)

OCTOBER MEETING

Speaker: Scott Carpenter, "What if Tomorrow Were Different" Cities across the country have improved their quality of life and changed their image for the better by embracing their natural resources—particularly their waterfronts. In each case, change began with someone asking, What if Tomorrow Were Different? Metroparks of the Toledo Area has embarked on an ambitious plan to place a park within five miles of every resident of Lucas County, connect these parks with trails and activate them with memorable outdoor experiences. Plans include the largest coastal wetland restoration currently underway on the Great Lakes, new waterfront parks in downtown Toledo—even tree houses in the globally rare Oak Openings.

Scott, a resident of Oregon, Ohio, is director of public relations for Metroparks of the Toledo Area, a regional park district with 12,000 acres and 160 miles of trails in Lucas County. A former newspaper reporter and editor, he is the author of the book *Lake Erie Journal* (2000). In July, he marked his 20th year at Metroparks.

Raffle: Kitchen towels, made and donated by Marigail Stubleski; Framed Hummingbird photo, donated by Jackie Copeland; Halloween plate and candy, donated by Dick and Carolyn Boellner

Semi-annual Raffle: Pyrex cutting board with chickadee design, donated by Len and Nancy VanDaele.

Hospitality: Dynamic Duo Anne Smith and Jackie Copeland will provide cider and donuts thanks to the donations of several ESBA members! Yum!

FROM THE BOARD

- **Individual dues are \$20 and family dues are \$25.** PLEASE pay your dues promptly! Your dues support bird conservation, as we are a non-profit organization.
- We are looking for speakers! Contact Rita Montague at rmontag2@comcast.net with any ideas or suggestions.
- Have pictures you want to share with others? Just Like the ESBA Facebook page and you can share pictures, report your bird sightings, and receive notices about upcoming field trips and meetings.
- Don't have a Facebook account? Check out our website www.esba-monroe.org for field trips, pictures, newsletter archives, birding links, etc. If you'd like to have your pictures posted there, email them to the webmistress at birdladypotts@me.com.

HIKING IN UTAH

~ by Carolyn Boellner

If you have not visited any of the national parks in Utah and an opportunity presents itself, I would encourage you to jump at the chance. They are full of some remarkable landscapes and vistas.

Dick, Andrew and I visited five national and one state park in Utah during the first two weeks of August to do some hiking. We drove to the southwestern part of the state, first to the town of Springdale at the south entrance of Zion National Park. We spent three days there, climbing both the Angels Landing and Observation Point trails. Both gave spectacular views of the canyon and the rock formations formed over millions of years by the seemingly gentle flowing Virgin River.

Next we visited Arches National Park with its many beautiful and unusual arch and rock hole formations. Many are easily seen with short walks, while others require hikes or back road drives.

At the visitors' center in Springdale we were told that Dead Horse Point State Park was not to be missed, and he was right. We spent most of a day there hiking along the ridge of a magnificent canyon formed by the Colorado River. The panoramas and multi-colored rocks are a draw there.

Bryce Canyon is not to be missed with its spires, beautifully colored red rocks and weirdly shaped rocks that are otherworldly in appearance. While you can drive through Bryce and make stops at overlooks, there is shuttle service available.

The second week we spent in the southeastern part of the state, lodging in the town of Moab. The town is a Mecca to outdoor lovers. The area provides opportunities and supplies for hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, biking, mountain biking and ATV use to name some. From this base we visited our final two areas.

Capitol Reef National Park is a much less-visited park, but not lacking in scenery and beauty. Uplifting and folding created many of the formations there; the layers look like rainbows of colored rocks heaved up from the earth.

Our final stop was Canyonlands Park. It covers a huge area with four distinct regions. We visited two. The Island in the Sky was the first district we visited, and is the most visited. It's a huge mesa with wonderful overlooks into canyons, and glimpses at remarkable rock formations.

Our last day was spent hiking in what is called the Needles area, so named because of its colorful rock spires. After hiking up a section of rocks and then down the backside, we came upon what appeared was going to be a five-mile walk through a rather mundane brushy desert area. So much so that one couple hiking ahead of us turned around in search of a more scenic route. They were greatly mistaken. After about a mile we walked quite suddenly into a series of narrow slot canyons just wide enough to pass through. A wonderful hike for our final day.

We barely made a dent in what is there to be seen, and it left us determined to return to see more of this breathtaking area!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ESBA's Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 16th. Watch the November newsletter for more info!

2017 MEANDERINGS

- Jim and Rita Montague enjoyed Rita's post-retirement trip to southeast Arizona in March and April this year. They graciously invited Karen Potts, Anne Smith and Jackie Copeland to visit and bird areas such as Madera Canyon, Ramsey Canyon Nature Preserve (while staying at Ramsey Canyon Cabin), Ash Bed and Breakfast, Tony and Julie Battiste's Bed and Breakfast (where they host Elf Owls in their yard, a life bird for all 4 ladies!), Sweetwater Wetlands, Patagonia Lake State Park (where they took a pontoon ride!), Fort Huachuca (all 4 ladies got golden lifer ELEGANT TROGAN and Anne and Karen discovered many butterflies (14 new species for them), and finally Mt. Lemmon! Thank you Rita for an amazing time in Arizona!
- Rita and Karen attended Spring Fling at Whitefish Point, Upper Peninsula. This was Karen's second time and Rita's first! Rita got life bird Spruce Grouse and both got awesome pictures of the male performing for the group right beside the road and 2 females in trees on the same road not paying him any attention while eating. They attended the banquet, and keynote speaker Josh Haas was excellent. Also, they attended Bob Pettit's birdsong class.
- The June 21st picnic at Crosswinds Marsh was well attended, including a raccoon that wanted to join the club! Several screens were missing from the pavilion and he tried several times to join in the fun!
- Jan Morrow, Karen Potts, Anne Smith, Jackie Copeland and Anne's carful of other birders enjoyed a trip to Pointe Mouillee, sponsored by Detroit Audubon on August 5th.
- Rita and Karen attended Hawkfest at Lake Erie Metropark on Sat., 9/16. Interesting captive raptors and falcons, Josh Haas' presentation on hawk identification, and other animal presentations were great!
- Rita recently was in Duluth, MN visiting an old friend. While there, they visited nearby Hawk Ridge on two occasions. It's a beautiful location, nestled on the shores of Lake Superior, and fortunately the skies were clear both days. The highlight of the visits was a good look at a speeding Peregrine Falcon.

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