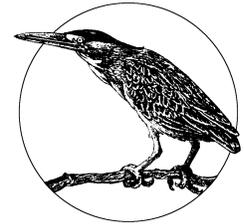


WINGS



ERIE SHORES BIRDING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 272, Monroe, Michigan 48161

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October 2016

SEPTEMBER RECAP

21 people attended the September meeting, featuring Wayne R. Pope. Wayne's presentation on the Birds of the Southwest U.S. included many videos showcasing bird behaviors that many attendees had never seen! He also spoke about using blinds (including your car) and setting up a way to get pictures without showing a feeder so pictures look more natural. Wayne mentioned that people can email him at wayne.r.pope@gmail.com, and he will send photography tips and other useful information. He is holding workshops at Sleeping Bear Dunes all through October (his home base) and you can sign up for a weekend, ½ day or whole day of teaching! See his website for more information and to register: waynerpope.com.

Karen Potts collected dues for the new season and we have 11 rejoining members and 1 new member, Paul Jacyk!

Raffle Winners: Kathy Rohmyer won the loon note cards and bookmark, donated by Lucy Pentz; Rita Montague won the pot holders and bookmark, donated by Carolyn Boellner; Chris Eitel won the Forever bird print, donated by Mollie Wood.

Hospitality: Thank you, Jackie Copeland, for providing all the refreshments for this meeting.

Bird Sightings: Dianne Kovach and Paul Jacyk were able to go to Baypoint Sandbar and saw lots of shorebirds!

Bob Pettit urged everyone who hasn't seen the Crested Caracara in Munising, MI to go – Len, Nancy and Phillip VanDaele got to see it! Everyone is hoping it migrates back to warmer weather with the Turkey Vultures.

Bob also mentioned the Holiday Beach (Ontario, Canada) and Lake Erie Metropark Hawkwatches. There are new counters at Holiday Beach this year. Broad-winged Hawks have been greater than 10,000 at Lake Erie Metropark and less than 10,000 at Holiday Beach as of this meeting. Go to hawkcount.org to see the totals.

Gene Naujock said that Ottawa NWR had Sandhill Cranes and 6 White Pelicans.

Miscellaneous: Anne thanked Rita and Karen for representing the club at Hawkfest September 17th in the rain. Most of the events were moved inside and a group brought their live birds (including a Bald Eagle) for everyone to enjoy.

Chris Eitel mentioned that she is going to Hawk Mountain 11/4 through 11/7/2016 and she has 2 slots open for a 3-night stay. It is a 7-1/2 hour drive and is supposed to be handicap accessible. Let her know if you're interested at the October meeting, or ask a Board member for her contact information.

OCTOBER MEETING

Speaker: Our featured speaker this month will be Gary Siegrist. Gary's program is called "Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs." Influenced at an early age by his uncle Bill Riggs and his friend Harold Wing, Gary developed a passionate love for birds and for the outdoors in general. He turned that passion into a job as a naturalist and stewardship coordinator. He leads birding trips around the state and Midwest. Gary is a past president of Michigan Audubon and Jackson Audubon. Gary lives in the beautiful Waterloo Recreation Area with his wife Nancy.

Raffle: Lucy Pentz has donated two items: a wren on a pinecone figurine, and a bird-themed vinyl shopping bag; 5 bird prints from a mystery donor will also be raffled off.

Annual Raffle: Matted poster of "Ottawa National Wildlife," by artist Adam Grimm, 2-time winner of the Federal Duck Stamp competition, donated by Jack & Janet Volker.

Hospitality: Philip VanDaele will provide refreshments for this month's meeting.

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

FROM THE BOARD

- **Individual dues are \$20 and family dues are \$25.** We LOVE new members! Your dues support bird conservation, as we are a non-profit organization!
- **Karen Potts, ESBA secretary, has a new email address: birdladypotts@me.com.** Remember to update your contacts list!
- The snack sign-up sheet is filled except for April—let Jackie Copeland or any of the Board members know if you'd like to bring treats in April.
- Rita Montague is looking for speakers for November 2016 and March 2017. Please contact a Board member if you know of a speaker!
- 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 birdladypotts@me.com
- Carolyn is happy to accept raffle donations at each meeting (please, no books).

MICHIGAN HIKE 2016

~ CAROLYN BOELLNER

This novice backpacker has two more hikes under her belt. My brother and I took a spring hike in Michigan on the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail. The trail was developed in 1962 as a joint effort between the MDNR and the US Forest service as a trail for horseback riders and hikers and was first used in 1963. Out of that first ride the Michigan Trail Riders Association developed, and they maintain a number of campgrounds along the route. It runs from Oscoda on Lake Huron to Empire on Lake Michigan with additional north and south spurs in the Traverse City area, the main trail being about 220 miles long.

We started our hike in Oscoda on May 10, an overcast day in the low 50s—not a bad hiking temperature, and overcast or not, any day overlooking one of the Big Waters is a good day. For the first several days we went through the mixed pine and hardwoods of that area with lots of low bush blueberry scrub. Much of this section follows the beautiful Au Sable River within the Huron National Forest. As we headed west toward Mio, we were in some prime Kirtland Warbler area and were fortunate enough to see several. On Sunday, Mothers' Day, we hiked through a magical cedar bog on a boardwalk through areas of dense moss and the fragrant cedars. This leads into the town of Luzerne on Rte. 72. I have to admit, it does not in the least bit resemble Luzerne, Switzerland, but it's a lovely area in its own way. There's a fully equipped truck stop there with showers and laundry facilities for freshening up, a place to charge cell phones and resupply food and water. My brother treated me to a great fish dinner from their deli for my Mothers' Day meal.

We hiked on along the Au Sable toward Grayling and there my son Andrew joined us for the last three days of the hike. West of Grayling the trail goes through some beautiful rolling countryside through mixed hardwoods and farmland. A few miles outside of Kalkaska, there's a swamp area to hike through that is labeled Mayhem Swamp on the trail map. It's both creepy and beautiful. You walk through what would be like the Dismal Swamp in a scary movie, but it's filled with deer, birds and it is so very quiet. We passed by a number of old hunting cabins and shelters, leading me to wonder why anyone would want to sit and wait for prey there. We got our feet pretty wet, and did I mention that the mosquitoes had hatched? The swamp walk was probably about two miles long and it was a sunny day. I can only imagine what it would look like on a dark rainy day or night. We'd seen bear scat several times during the walk, and on that morning we saw some very fresh bear tracks, but an actual spotting eluded us. We hiked into Kalkaska where our ride home met us. We'd completed about 120 miles of the trail, and after consulting an extended weather report decided the final 100 miles would have to wait; cold weather and snow were on the way.

While this trail has by no means the number of climbs as the Appalachian section I hiked last fall, this 10-day hike presented its own challenges. It's primarily used by horses, which means you're hiking in a narrow trench much of the time with scrub on either side of it. Also, much of it is sand, which doesn't make for an easy walk. However, the beauty of the area overrides the difficulties. The forest, farmland, riverside and lake walks of Michigan are so wonderful. We had great weather; only a little mist on the first day and the last, and the rest of the time it ranged from the low 60s to mid-70s. The trees were not fully open so there was lots of dappled sunlight, and many of the spring wildflowers were in bloom: hepatica, spring beauty, violet, trailing arbutus, and trillium. We saw many woodpeckers, an eagle, rose-breasted grosbeaks, deer, and bear markings. The scenery of Michigan is so wonderful—it's a great hiking experience!

GETTING OUT THERE!

Annual ESBA Picnic at Crosswinds Marsh Recap: 20 people attended the picnic in June on a very hot and muggy day—at least it didn't rain! It was a nice time dining and talking about birds, but too hot to actually go birding!

Road Trip: This past April, Rita and Karen attended their first Bird Watcher's Digest Reader's Rendezvous trip to Delaware for their Red Knot Rendezvous! They rented an SUV and headed out two days before the festival started. Dignitaries like Bill Thompson III and American Birding Association president Jeff Gordon and his wife Liz hosted field trips to various hot spots in Delaware to look for Least Bitterns and shorebirds. Karen and Rita got to visit Bombay Hook NWR and Prime Hook NWR during the trip! Rita got 4 life birds (Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, Blue Grosbeak and Seaside Sparrow) and Karen got 3 (the Red Knot, of course; her nemesis American Oystercatcher, and Seaside Sparrow). Participants were well fed and impressed with this well-organized event!

Good Works: Karen and Jan did 4 weeks of bird surveys at Oakwood Metropark for Detroit Audubon in June. Jan got a life bird, Yellow-breasted Chat, that another compiler group shared with us! Detroit Audubon plans to do this survey every year, if anyone else is interested in volunteering. It takes walking through some high weeds to get to the survey points, and Karen was thankful Jan was able and willing to do it! The best bird heard (but not seen) by Karen was a Bobolink!

Old Nursery Rhyme:

If I Were a Bird
If I were a bird, I'd sing a song
And fly about the whole daylong.
And when night came
Go to rest, up in my cozy little nest.

WINGS

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