



BIRDTRACKS

Notable Bird Sightings in Jackson County - Winter/Spring 2018

Robyn Henise

Sightings reported by Don & Robyn Henise, Ross Green, Gary Siegrist, Bill Sonnett, David Parsons & Bruce Cohen

- White-winged Scoter: found on Portage Lake on March 10th & March 30th.
- Long-tailed Duck: found on Crispell Lake on April 5th, last seen on April 11th.
- Common Loon: there were many Loons seen in the county during the spring migration. There is currently an immature bird on Watkins Lake.
- Red-necked Grebe: found on Lake Columbia on April 26th
- Black-crowned Night Herons: 2 were found at Watkins Lake on May 9th
- Whooping Crane: found on April 13th in the Stony Lake Area. This bird is still present.
- Chuck-wills-widow: This bird continues to show up each year in the Sharonville State Game Area. The first "heard" sighting this spring was on May 12th.
- Peregrine Falcons: The pair that are nesting in downtown Jackson are raising 4 young this year. The chicks were named after the last four Jackson Police Department officers to fall in the line of duty. The names are: Bonneau, Nixon, Carey and Holzapfel.
- American Pipits: 3 were found on April 28th at the intersection of Maute and Camp Roads in Waterloo Township.
- Connecticut Warbler: first one for this spring was seen and heard on May 20th on Glenn Road, one also seen and heard on the New Leaf Trail May 22nd.
- Brown-headed Cowbirds and a Rusty Blackbird: 11 early Brown-headed Cowbirds and a single Rusty Blackbird on January 17th.
- Pine Siskins: Jackson County experienced an invasion of Pine Siskins this past winter. They were just about everywhere in the county.
- Red Crossbills: seen and heard on January 9th at the MacCready Preserve.
- Oregon Junco: This is a subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco. Two were reported in the county during the month of January.



Common Loon (top)
Red Necked Grebe



Pine Siskins



Whooping Crane
Oregon Junco

Project Birdhouse

Steve Jerant - photos by Kimberly Rapert

The Grass Lake Cub Scout Pack 4236 Wolves completed the construction and staging of five nest boxes in April. Jackson Audubon supported this with funding for the purchase of materials and some guidance on ongoing management. This project aligns with JAS mission "to instill in the people of Jackson County an interest, knowledge, and appreciation of birds and other wildlife."

Pack 4236, led by Kimberly Rapert, built the boxes and staged them at the Grass Lake Warrior Trails and Nature Park. She reported, "We had a wonderful experience. First, the boys got to work closely with their parents and learn simple construction. Second, the boys learned about bluebirds, why they need special protection, and learned where to put such houses. In addition to our Earth Day trail clean-up and tree planting event, the boys took an active role in positioning the houses, finding east with a compass (to face them), locating water, nesting materials, and close food for the houses, and worked on putting in the poles and predator defense baffles. Each of the five houses has a boy's initials on it."

JAS stressed the importance of both proper placement and management of the nest boxes. We are confident this will be a successful project, the boys felt a genuine interest in caring for nature.



Tuesday Morning Group Field Trips

Last summer, after the demise of Dahlem's Tuesday Group, Mickey Kress and I discussed the possibility of how we could keep these field trips going under the Jackson Audubon Society umbrella. We put together a schedule and with the approval of the JAS board, kicked off the JAS Tuesday Morning Group in the autumn of 2017. Since then we have scheduled trips about every two weeks. As we come up on the first year anniversary of the program it's a good time to look back on how we are doing. We've had some not so good trips, like Hawkwatch with a visibility of about 100 yards. But we've also had some very good trips, like Nan Weston for the wildflowers or the excellent presentation Robert Ayotte did at Hidden Lake Gardens. The group participated in some indoor trips as well: the University of Michigan's skins collection and the MSU Museum.

As we look ahead to scheduling of the 2018-19 season, we will be repeating some of the favorite local sites but also expanding our reach into other locations. In addition, we'll be visiting the newly opened University of Michigan Museum of Natural History when that facility opens in 2019. I'm excited to see how it has evolved! We hope to see you on Tuesdays - If you have suggestions reach out at jacksonaudubon@gmail.com.



Tuesday Group at Watkins Lake

2118-19 MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Meetings and programs are held at Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 S Fourth St, Jackson, except where otherwise noted. Regular meetings will begin with a social time at 6:30 p.m. with a short meeting and program at 7:00 p.m. Bring "recyclables" (magazines, feeders, etc.) to the program.

Please note - Meetings are cancelled in the event JPS schools are closed due to inclement weather.

Programs - Field Trips - Events

Saturday, June 23 Martin/Audubon Potluck 11:00 am at Connie Spotts' house at 2023 Crispell Road. Bring a passing dish and an item to raffle. Call 517-230-2707.

Saturday, August 11: Birds Blooms and Butterflies, (plus Bats & Bees!) at the Dahlem Conservancy from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Registration is on the Dahlem website or call 517-782-3453.

Tuesday, September 11: Clayton Daughenbaugh (organizer of southern Utah Wilderness Alliance) will present, "An American Icon: Utah's Red Rock Canyonlands." The talk will include the land and wildlife of Utah and how we can help save this large national treasure.

Tuesday, October 9: Holly Vaughn of Michigan DNR presents, "Owls of Michigan." Holly' will talk about the eleven Michigan species of owls, and include their biology, behaviors, and diet.

Tuesday, November 13: Annual Meeting and Program. Lathe Claflin presents, "Birding Eastern Panama." We will see Harpy Eagles and Sapphire-throated Hummingbirds, and more birds of the area. *There will be a brief membership meeting prior to the program for the purpose of electing our board.*

2019 Events

Tuesday, January 8: Barb and Joe Rogers present, "Live Birds of Prey". The Rogers have been involved with rehabilitating raptors for over 35 years and were involved with the peregrine falcon reintroduction in the UP. THEY WILL HAVE LIVE BIRDS AT THE PROGRAM.

Friday, February 8: Andy Walz presents "Alaskan Grandeur." Want to go to Alaska or have you already been there? Join us as we recall those memories or dream of going to such a beautiful place. This annual program is at Vista Grand Villa. Bring a dessert to share that does not require table service .

Tuesday, March 12: Courtney Bailey, master gardener and co-owner of Summit Landscape and Garden Center, presents, "Invasive Plant Removal, and Incorporating Native Plants into Your Landscape." Courtney will discuss identification and removal of invasives and placing native plants into a groomed landscape, with a focus on pollinator-friendly gardening practices.

Tuesday, April 9: Gary Siegrist presents, "Fifty Years of Habitat Restoration at Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary."

Field Trips

Regular Tuesday morning field trips continue through the year. For scheduled outings, visit the JAS website: <http://jacksonaudubon.org>, email Steve Jerant Jackson_audubon@gmail.com, or call him at (734-883-9514).

Saturday August 4th & Tuesday August 14th: Pointe Mouille Shorebird Trips. Contact Don and Robyn Henise (517) 817-0309 for more details and to sign up. Space is limited.

Saturday, December 15, 2018: Waterloo Recreation Area Christmas Bird Count. Contact Gary Siegrist (517-522-5990) for more information.

Sanctuary Events

Saturday, September 29, 2018: Workbee at Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary, 9:00 – 12:00 am. Meet at the Wing Overlook kiosk on Seymour Road. Call Gary Siegrist (517-522-5990) for more information.

Saturday, October 6, 2018: Workbee at Kate Palmer 9-12 am. Call Allen King (517-936-1535) or go to the Jackson Audubon website: <http://Jacksonaudubon.org> for more information.

Saturday, October 27, 2018: Cranes, Color, & Cabernet at Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary. Visit the Jackson Audubon website: <http://Jacksonaudubon.org> or call Gary Siegrist at 517-522-5990.

Jackson Audubon Society
P.O. Box 6453
Jackson, MI 49204

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Jackson Audubon Society is a chapter of Michigan Audubon Society

Jackson Audubon Society Mission:

To promote among the people of the Jackson Area an interest, knowledge and appreciation of birds, wildlife and the environment.



Michigan Audubon - Connecting Birds and People for the Benefit of Both