

the Caller

March 2019, Volume 57, No. 7

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by GRAC, 6152 Georgeann Ct., Belmont, MI 49506-9783

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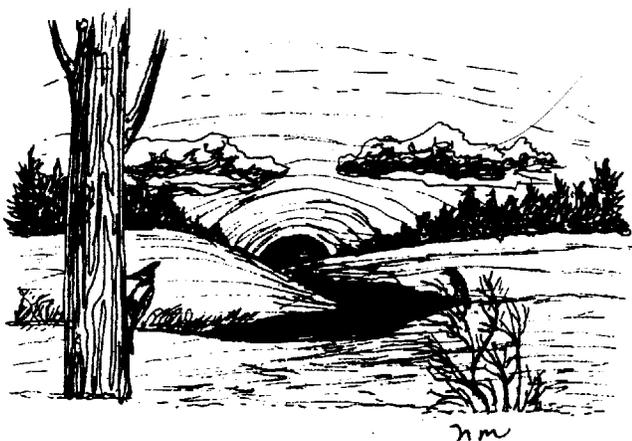
March Meeting Notes

- Date:** Monday, March 25
Time: 7:00 PM social; 7:30 PM program
Location: John Donnelly Conference Center
Aquinas College
Speaker: Jim Bradley,
North Country Trail Association
Topic: Enjoying the North Country Trail

The North Country Trail is a 4,600-mile footpath that winds its way from North Dakota to New York, with miles upon miles of trail weaving through Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas.

Jim Bradley will share photos, maps and videos to introduce guests to the trail, including those parts closest to Grand Rapids.

Jim's chief responsibility as vice president of the North Country Trail Association's West Michigan chapter includes trail development, and he'll share stories of his birding experiences on the trail.



Deadline for April newsletter articles: **March 29**

Send to: newsletter@graud.org

President's Corner

by Sheryl Helmus

The Grand Rapids Area has lots to offer to birders this spring. This newsletter is filled with details about many activities. Find details on the following pages, look them over and find your fill of bird-related fun. Here's a summary of some of the opportunities coming soon:

Our club has weekly field trips every Thursday at Millennium Park. Spring migrants soon will be spotted there. Join an outing and you could be the one to see some of the first arrivals.

GRAC is a sponsor of the Thornapple Woodpecker Festival on April 27 in Middleville. The paved trail along the Thornapple River is a spot in West Michigan where red-headed woodpeckers are regularly seen. With spotters from GRAC and Barry County Bird Club helping, festival attendees are extremely likely to see these colorful woodpeckers as well as many other species of birds. The Village Hall will have speakers including club member Bill Sweetman. Don't miss his 10:00 AM program on Kirtland's Warblers.

Our club's Maher Sanctuary is not far from Middleville. It is located on the southwest corner of 108th Street and Wood School Road on the border of Kent and Barry counties. After leaving the Woodpecker Festival, people may want to swing by this 76-acre natural area that the club owns and manages. A loop trail passes through field, forest and wetland habitat. Birds and native plants abound along the path and boardwalk. Or you could visit the sanctuary for the Saturday workday in April (see page 2) and help spruce up the sanctuary after the snow and cold of winter.

The Michigan Bluebird Society will hold its annual Spring Bluebird Festival on Saturday, March 30 at the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College. Their program line-up is topnotch. I hope many of you can visit for part or all of the day.

Spring flies by in Michigan. Warblers pass through, summer resident birds arrive and nesting begins. Head outside and enjoy it soon. Maybe we'll meet along the trail.



GRAC Field Trips

Contact Becky Kuhn with field trip suggestions/ideas. Watch the *Caller* for future trip announcements. Visit www.graud.org for the most up-to-date trip list. Safety hazards: Driving in a caravan can be hazardous. Get directions from the leader and exercise caution on the road at all times. Have a passenger handle all radio or phone communications. Dress and drive for the weather, particularly in the event of hazardous winter weather. Particularly bad weather may cancel a trip.

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 9:00 AM

Leader: Katie Bolt, Jeanne Griffin or Kathy Haase
Recurring Millennium Park Hikes

Hike Millennium Park to see what's hanging around (route varies). A good variety of birds have been reported from this diverse habitat near the river, which includes open and swampy ponds, lowland forest and various secondary growth.

Essentials: Meet at the east end of Veterans Memorial Drive parking area.

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM

(Rain Date: April 13, 9:00 AM)

Maher Sanctuary Workday

Explore the GRAC-owned sanctuary and help to prepare it for the spring season. Details at right.

Saturday, April 20, 7:00 AM

Leader: Steve Minard

Spring Marsh Birds and Hawks

Join us to look for marsh birds at Lane's Landing in the Muskegon State Game Area. Rails should be in the marsh by this date, and Swamp Sparrows should be on territory. We'll see how the winds blow and either head over to the Muskegon Wastewater or Grand Haven to check out Harbor Island and hawk-watch locations to look for migrating hawks. At the wastewater, Northern Shoveler and Ruddy Duck are likely; in Grand Haven, we could see Caspian Tern on Lake Michigan or a Peregrine Falcon at the power plant. Rails also can be seen in Grand Haven. Birders of all skills are welcome.

Essentials: Meet at the Boy Scout Headquarters west off Walker Road just north of I-96 at 7:00 AM. We plan to bird until noon. You may want to bring a snack to hold you over until lunch.

Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 PM

Leader: Steve Minard

Tuesday Evening at Reeds Lake

This trip is an evening walk to the Hodenpyl Woods area at the west end of Reeds Lake. Varied woodland, marsh and lake habitat provides a variety of birds right in town. On this trip, we will concentrate on waterbirds and early warblers. The boardwalk provides good views of the lake and marsh areas so we will visit it. Birders of all skills are welcome.

Essentials: Meet at the East Grand Rapids Utility Building parking lot on Reeds Lake Boulevard north of Gaslight Village at 6:30 PM. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent may be useful. Poison ivy is thick in places.

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 PM

Leader: Steve Minard

Tuesday Evening at Reeds Lake

This trip is an evening walk to the Hodenpyl Woods area at the west end of Reeds Lake. Varied woodland, marsh and lake habitat provides a variety of birds right in town. The second week of May should be near the peak of spring migration, and just about anything is possible here. We will be looking for migrants. Birders of all skills are welcome.

Essentials: Meet at the East Grand Rapids Utility Building parking lot on Reeds Lake Boulevard north of Gaslight Village at 6:30 PM. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent may be useful. Poison ivy is thick in places.

Help Needed!

Maher Sanctuary Workday

by Chris Baer

Save the date: 9:00 AM-noon on Saturday, April 6;

Rain date of Saturday, April 13, same time

Check the website for cancellations.

Soon it will be spring! Birds and flowers will appear along with the sun.

Birds here at Baer's Woods are singing their spring songs and male bluebirds perch near their nesting boxes advertising to available mates. What a beautiful song!

More signs of spring: skunk tracks in the snow, otter slides into the creek, tree and shrub buds swelling, up-and-down spring weather.

Soon the skunk cabbage will poke their noses through the snow. There are several plants down near our creek and we always try to predict which ones will flower first.

For the workday we will replace rotten and damaged boards in the boardwalk. Boards, screws and drill bits will be provided. If you have them, please bring battery-powered drills, rakes, clippers/pruners, crow-bars/wonder bars, kneel pads and hammers. If basic carpentry is not your thing there are always "to-do" tasks at Maher. There will be boardwalk edge to rake, branches to clip/prune and boardwalk nail whacking. Wear appropriate clothing, sturdy shoes and gloves that you do not mind getting dirty.



Field Trip Report: Millennium Park, February

by Katie Bolt

February was an unpredictable month as most have noticed. The walk on Feb. 7 was cancelled due to the ice storm. The deep snow on the 14th required snowshoes but the 21st and 28th were both pleasant walks with sunshine. The lists grew when compared to January, with 17 species on the 14th and up to 22 on the 28th. Most of the birds were the regular Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Northern Cardinals, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Mallards and Mute Swans.

We typically saw several Brown Creepers and saw a Pileated Woodpecker the last several weeks. The eagles were near or on the nest. The duck variety was exciting with Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, Wood Ducks, Redheads, Common Goldeneyes and Lesser Scaups congregating on a small open area of the north Trestle Trail pond. A Carolina Wren sang on the 28th.

Common Mergansers flew along the Grand River on the 21st and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet rounded out that day. Walking with Ed and me were Jeanne Griffin, Kathy Haase, Connie Winter-Troutwine and Amanda and David Whitehouse.

Mackinaw Raptor Fest

April 5-7

Each spring, birders flock to Mackinaw City from a dozen states and Ontario to witness thousands of hawks, eagles and owls migrating through the Straights of Mackinac. You can watch this migration and attend the Mackinaw Raptor Fest Friday, April 5 through Sunday, April 7.

The festival features a live raptor presentation and sessions on hawk and waterbird identification, photography, wind energy and raptors and more. Field trips are scheduled for owl banding, Sharp-tailed Grouse courtship and Upper Peninsula winter birds. Naturalist-assisted outdoor public viewing of hawks and waterbirds will be available Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For more information about festival events, costs and registration: www.MackinawRaptorFest.org.

Membership Updates

Please note there is no new membership news this month. Look for updates in next month's *Caller*.

Butterfly – Flutterbys and Plants

by Ranger Steve (Mueller)

Michigan Botanical Club
2:00 PM on Saturday, March 9
Lake Ontario Hall, Room 164
Grand Valley State University

Discover the wonder and variety of Michigan butterflies with Ranger Steve. Over 150 species live in Michigan. View close-up images of butterflies to learn identification characteristics, preferred nectar plants, larval plant hosts and how to provide landscaping to attract butterflies to your yard.

Explore patterns, colors and characteristics that allow butterflies to thrive. Learn about butterfly association with plants. In addition to beautiful images, a butterfly collection will be displayed with host plant listings.

Those attending will receive Mogen Nielsen's Michigan Butterflies and Skippers book and Ranger Steve's Michigan Butterfly Checklist that divides Michigan into six regions with species abundance ratings for each region. The checklist also includes a phenogram with flight dates and a common behaviors list to assist observers.

The PowerPoint butterfly natural history program will include life cycle, habits, habitats, survival techniques, butterfly role in nature's scheme, butterfly gardening and significance for humans.

Butterfly and butterfly gardening books will be displayed. Ranger Steve will review field guides to help attendees select one that best serves their desire.

Consider participating in one or all of the 2019 West Michigan Butterfly Association Counts. Visit the West Michigan Butterfly Association website for time and location details. Contact Ranger Steve with questions.

- Allegan State Game Area – June 29
- Rogue River SGA – July 3
- Newaygo Manistee NF – July 5
- Muskegon SGA – July 17

Directions: From M-45 (Lake Michigan Drive) turn onto the GVSU campus and follow Campus Drive until you reach a four-way stop. This is Calder Drive. Turn left on Calder Drive and then turn left into parking lot M, where you may park. (Open parking on Saturdays.) If you come from the west, turn south on 48th Avenue and left at the traffic light at West Campus Drive. When the road Ts, go right to Calder Drive and turn left. Park in Lot M near Lake Ontario Hall (directly across the lot from Niemeyer Hall). Free parking.



Harry Stiles Scholarship

This is a reminder that the scholarship fund has up to \$400 available for nature/environmental education and we would love to have some applicants. This scholarship was initially focused on promoting attendance to the National Audubon camps but is not limited to this purpose.

Other uses of the scholarship monies may include fees for birding festivals, Junior Master Naturalist classes offered through the Wittenbach Wege Center, various classes/summer camps available to children and adults through Blandford Nature Center and Ottawa County Parks as well as classes offered through local colleges and universities.

The primary stipulations are that the money can only be used for tuition, not for travel, food or other related expenses and that the recipient provide either a brief presentation at a Grand Rapids Audubon Club meeting or write an article for the *Caller* about how they will use the information gained. The application can be found on the GRAC website. Questions may be directed to Katie Bolt at ksbphd51@gmail.com.

2019 Birdathon Begins April 15

It might not look like spring is coming, but Birdathon will start on April 15, come rain, shine or snow! It's time to line up your teams and prepare.

A team consists of at least two members to verify sightings. The time allotted for birding is six consecutive hours. (If you need more time - start another team!). Birding counts any time between April 15 and May 31. The geography includes anywhere in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and (new this year) Barry counties. Registration is \$25 per team and fundraising is encouraged.

This year you don't even have to travel. Teams may watch feeders or stroll on your own property.

Entry forms and rules will be updated on the GRAC website by mid-March.

Thanks to all of our participants as well as committee members Ed Bolt, Tom Legget, Rob Peters, Scott Hutchings and Jill Goodell. Contact any of them with questions.

Looking forward to another good year of "fun-raising" and fundraising.

February Finance Report

prepared by Jeff Neumann, Treasurer

Checking Account Balance: \$ 9,584.85

Edward Jones Account: \$42,680.40

Total Assets as of 2/25/19: \$52,265.25

Restricted Funds (included in the total assets)

Maier Sanctuary Fund: \$3,733.53

Junior Audubon Fund: \$4,144.12

Audubon Adventures: - \$ 343.30

The balances in the Maier Sanctuary, Junior Audubon and Audubon Adventures Funds are restricted to expenditures for items related to the respective funds.

In Memory of Yolanda Kozak

GRAC members are saddened to learn of the passing of Yolanda Kozak. She was 83 years old at the time of her Feb. 11 death. As an undergraduate, she was a music major and later earned a Master's degree in Social Work from Michigan State University. She was a social worker for the State of Michigan in Grand Rapids and Battle Creek and later worked for Meijer. She enjoyed designing gardens and achieved Master Gardener status.

After retirement, she volunteered at Mercy Health Saint Mary's Hospital and Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, where she displayed her passion for succulents and cacti. She is survived by many cousins and friends. The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for her on Feb. 21 at St. Isidore Church. Her Grand Rapids Press obituary noted that memorial contributions could be made to St. Isidore Church.

Reminder: Charlotte A. Runnells Volunteer Environmentalist Award

Every two years (or more) the Grand Rapids Audubon Club gives out its Charlotte A. Runnells Volunteer Environmentalist Award. This award is given in honor of longtime member Char Runnells and to those GRAC members whose exceptional courage, initiative and dedication as volunteers have defended our environmental health and natural treasures.

Have a nomination? Please submit them to Ed Bolt (ex-Conservation Committee Chairman) at edwardrbolt@gmail.com, (616) 885-6307 and/or Mary Austin at mary.e.austin@comcast.net, (616) 361-7993.

Past recipients include Runnells, John F. Will, Steve Mueller, Robert Miner, Steve Minard, Joan Wolfe and Mary Jane Dockeray.



Safe Passage Program: Volunteers Needed

by Paula Sullivan

Safe Passage Great Lakes is a project sponsored by Michigan Audubon for the purpose of reducing the number of bird fatalities caused when migrating birds collide with glass on tall office buildings. According to the American Bird Conservancy, up to one billion birds “hit glass and are killed each year in the US alone as they try to navigate around houses, office buildings and other obstacles.” This makes bird fatalities caused by collision the number two killer of birds, right behind loss of habitat.

The reason? Birds can’t see glass. They only see the reflections of the sky, or vegetation and green habitat like plants and trees within buildings. They also are drawn to artificial lighting at nighttime; both reflections and lights cause bird collisions, resulting in bird deaths in the daytime and at night.

Many species are impacted: from sparrows and starlings to nuthatches, robins and warblers like Golden-winged Warblers, Painted Buntings, Canada Warblers, Kentucky Warblers, Worm-eating Warblers, Ovenbirds and Wood Thrush...even woodcock and snipes.

Currently, Safe Passage Great Lakes has participants and collaborating partners in Lansing, Ann Arbor, Detroit and Kalamazoo. Other long-term collision research (and citizen science monitoring) is ongoing in Chicago, Ohio, New York and Toronto. Wouldn’t it be great if Grand Rapids could be added to the ranks?

Volunteers are needed to walk the perimeters of predetermined buildings in Grand Rapids, once or twice a week, looking for dead birds and documenting the findings. This data would contribute to research conducted by Michigan Audubon, Michigan State and Grand Valley State University.

Volunteers are needed during spring and fall migrations, making our target dates March 15-May 31 for spring and Aug. 15-Oct. 31 for fall.

This is an early-morning commitment between sunrise – 8:00 A.M. for about 30-45 minutes, working in teams of two.

Because this is part of a research project, volunteer monitor training will be provided by Michigan Audubon. If you think you would like to be part of a team, please contact Paula Sullivan at psull789@gmail.com or (616) 551-3430.

For more information, please refer to Michigan Audubon’s Safe Passage Great Lakes webpage:

<https://www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/safe-passage-great-lakes/>

Additional resources:
www.abcbirders.org

Bird–building collisions in the United States: Estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability, Author(s): Scott R. Loss, Tom Will, Sara S. Loss, and Peter P. Marra. (2014). *The Condor*, 116(1):8-23. Link: www.bioone.org/doi/pdf/10.1650/CONDOR-13-090.

www.flap.org

A Note from Ranger Steve about Safe Passage

Science requires physical evidence. I wrote a Nature Niche for the January *Caller* titled “Birds Collide with Buildings” that touched on the issue. The last three paragraphs specifically address the Dark Skies – Safe Passage Initiative. I plan to elaborate on the birds collected in a future Nature Niche. Please support the program and thank you to Paula for her leadership with the local efforts.

I hold a salvage permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan DNR. I can list people on the permit to collect the dead birds and Dr. Michael Lombardo, of Grand Valley State University, holds a permit where participants can be listed. The birds collected in our area will be deposited at GVSU. It will be great to have people collecting birds in the Grand Rapids area to document the collisions.

Ranger Steve (Mueller)

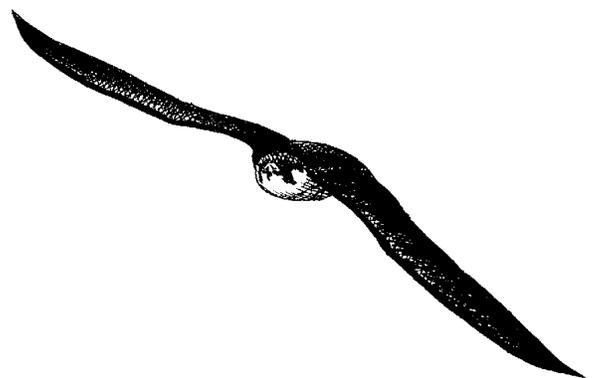
Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary

13010 Northland Dr.

Cedar Springs, MI 49319-8433

(616) 696-1753

Odybrook@chartermi.net





February 2019 eBird Summary

Very Unusual and Rare Sightings by Carol VanOeveren

The following is an overview of the very unusual and rare eBird sightings for February 2019 for Allegan, Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties. This report does not include rare birds that are flyovers, unchaseable, on inaccessible private property and those with sketchy details.

We finally got a reprieve from the relentless arctic blast that hammered the state the last week of January. Temperatures rebounded into the thirties and even forties with rain the 2nd through the 4th, but that led to melting snow, localized flooding and then refreezing as the temps dropped. A near- to below-normal pattern followed through the remainder of the month with several significant weather events: a catastrophic ice storm on the 6th and 7th paralyzed the area around Grand Rapids and northeast of town with widespread power outages lasting several days; a snow/mixed precip storm hammered the area again late on the 11th through the 13th; and an intense “bomb cyclone” storm with wind gusts over 50 mph and mixed precipitation moved in the last weekend of the month.

Waterfowl were in abundance at Pigeon Lake, Port Sheldon (this location remains unfrozen in the winter due to the warm water discharge from the power plant so waterfowl tend to congregate here) on Feb 2. Along with a Harlequin Duck and four Black Scoters, twenty other waterfowl species were seen by seven observers. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S52303353> for the entire checklist and numerous photos. This location and the Pigeon River outlet were hotspots throughout the month. **Long-tailed Ducks** showed up at several unusual inland locations in Kent Co – on the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids and near Millennium Park, Roselle Park and the lake at Versluis Park. Weather definitely influenced the number of birders and observations in the field.

Snowy Owls continued at the following locations: **Kent:** one at the Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport. **Muskegon:** one at Muskegon Wastewater. **Ottawa:** one at the Coopersville/Garfield farmland W of 68th Ave, two along 72nd Ave between Cleveland and Taft Sts, one at 128th Ave and Bingham St area, one along Byron Rd near Zeeland Executive Airport.

Find of the month: A **Bohemian Waxwing** was found amongst 100s of Cedar Waxwings along the Grand River channel at the Grand Haven boardwalk by Lisa Casler Feb 25. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S53144403> to view Judi Manning's photos.

Other notables: a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Macatawa Legends Golf Course in Ottawa Co Feb 4, one 126th Ave and 66th St in Allegan Co, up to 36 at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Feb 15-27; up to four **Ross's Geese** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Feb 6-19; one **Harlequin Duck** at Pigeon Lake/Pigeon River outlet Port Sheldon Feb 2-16; up to four **Black Scoters** at Pigeon Lake Feb 2-3 and one Feb 16; a **Northern Shrike** continued since Jan at Harbor Island Grand Haven Feb 14, one at Roselle Park Feb 23; a wintering **Hermit Thrush** at DeGraaf Nature Center in Ottawa Co Feb 19; a **Swamp Sparrow** continued since Dec at a residence S of Holland in Allegan Co through the month; **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** still reported in good numbers in the area.

Please note: Due to health reasons, until further notice, I will no longer compile a monthly eBird report for the *Caller*/website or search the eBird sightings for posting on the GRAC website. Please follow the county eBird links provided on the bird sightings page for sightings in the area.

23rd Annual Wege Speaker Series

Join conservation-minded people on Thursday, April 11 for a conversation with Mustafa Santiago Ali. As a special guest lecturer for the 23rd annual Wege Speaker Series, Ali will discuss environmental social justice, including how economic factors impact people's access to clean water and healthy food and the effects of severe weather. The event will be held at the Aquinas College Performing Arts Center, 1703 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.

Ali is senior vice president of Climate, Environmental Justice & Community Revitalization for the Hip Hop Caucus and former environmental justice leader at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has appeared on MSNBC, CNN and Democracy NOW. He has been featured and cited in over 250 news publications including GQ, New Republic and the Washington Post. He has been a guest lecturer at over 100 colleges and universities. He is a board member of the National Wildlife Federation, Union of Concerned Scientists and Climate Hawks Vote.

Partners in sponsoring his visit include the City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Latina Network, Grand Rapids Urban League, Michigan Audubon and Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

The public is invited to this free event. A reception will follow. RSVP by April 4 to www.aquinas.edu/wegespeaker.



Ranger Steve's Nature Niche

Morning's First Arrivals

by Ranger Steve (Mueller)

Does the early bird get the worm? I recorded the order bird species arrived at feeders or flew through the sanctuary one morning between 7:00 and 8:30 AM. I expected arrival to begin shortly after 7:00 AM in mid-February. Table 1 (on page 8) shows the first arrival time for each species on three dates.

After observing one morning, I thought it necessary to get additional data because one day's observation might be quite different from other days. It would be good to gather arrival times and the order species arrived for many days to determine if there is a pattern. I would like to have gathered data for 20 or 30 days so it would be more statistically reliable.

Each succeeding midwinter day, the sun rises a little earlier so it is expected to change bird wake-up and activity times.

With previous casual observation, I noticed Northern Cardinals are among the first arrivals at daylight and last to depart at dusk. The number of birds at the feeders are most abundant midday. Squirrels impact bird use. It seems like birds and squirrels take turns but I do not think it is by choice. There are 18 squirrels that visit and when they are present, birds tend to stay away. As soon as squirrels leave birds come to feed.

A factor that affects bird activity is foot-candles of light. That is the amount the light produced by a candle at a distance of one foot. More candles produce more light at one foot. As daylight breaks, the area lightens with increased foot-candles of light. Various species become active at different light levels. Some are late sleepers until it is brighter.

If the sky is clear there will be more light to produce a higher foot-candle luminance. It is obvious that on cloudy days there are fewer foot-candles of light. I did not measure foot candles of light to compare with bird arrival times. That would be interesting to see how light levels affected early morning bird-activity times.

Another factor that makes a difference for bird arrival is their location in the time zone. Birds living at the same latitude but at the eastern edge of the time zone experience sunrise an hour earlier than birds living at the western edge. For convenience, time zones are set for a middle longitude and the time is accepted as the same for the whole zone. Birds do not use our clocks. They use foot-candles of light in the area where they live.

It gets light almost an hour earlier on the east coast of North America than it does at the Lake Michigan shoreline. Birds living on the east coast become active earlier in the day. North-south latitudes affect daylight hours.

We are familiar with the land of the midnight sun in the Arctic Circle summer and 24 hours of darkness in winter. Here summer daylight is about 16 hours and winter light about eight hours. Near the equator light and dark remains close to twelve hours all year.

Table 1 (on page 8) shows first arrival time for each species. The arrival sequence is numbered. It was not the same. If I gathered data for many days, it would provide a more reliable record for determining if species have a consistent sequence for arrival.

Outlier data needs to be ignored. It is possible that an individual for a species could arrive unusually early or late for an abnormal reason. Having many day's data would allow us to see the abnormal and ignore it. Other outlier data I needed to ignore was first arrivals recorded much later in the day. I did not watch the feeder continuously after 8:30 AM. Arrival times recorded for bird species later in the day most likely were not first arrivals. They might have come a few minutes after I stopped watching at 8:30 AM. Times later in the day are outlier data that cannot be included when determining nature niche activity.

Natural history questions or topic suggestions can be directed to Ranger Steve (Mueller) at odybrook@chartermi.net - Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary, 13010 Northland Dr. Cedar Springs, MI 49319 or call (616) 696-1753.

Help Us to Spread the Word About GRAC – It's Easy!

by Tricia Boot, *Caller* Editor and Publicity

There is no lack of interested nature lovers and birders in our community, but it is a challenge to reach all of those who may be interested in joining our club.

A robust and engaged membership helps ensure a sustainable and strong GRAC. With very little effort and almost no time you can help us to grow our membership and connect local folks with meaningful educational programs, fields trips and more.

Here are a few easy ways to help spread the word:

- Like us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same:
www.facebook.com/grandrapidsaudubonclub/
- Share GRAC's Facebook events (programs and field trips) and other posts with your own social network
- Send interesting bird and nature photos to newsletter@graud.org for use on the club's Instagram page (@grandrapidsaudubonclub)
- Request copies of program flyers (by emailing the address above), and post at your favorite coffee shop, break-room at work, etc.

Your efforts are appreciated and make a difference!



Table 1: Bird species first arrival and squence between 7 and 8:30 AM

	12-Feb-2019	12-Feb-2019	Feb 14 2019	14-Feb-2019	Feb 16 2019	16-Feb-2019
	Time	Order sighted	Time	Order sighted	Time	Order sighted
Mallard	7:15	1			8:27	10
Black-capped Chickadee	7:30	2	7:33	1	7:29	2
Northern Cardinal	7:30	3	7:27	2	7:42	8
Tufted Titmouse	7:32	4	7:37	3	7:34	4
Dark-eyed Junco	7:35	5	8:23	6	7:28	1
American Goldfinch	7:40	6	7:38	4	7:39	7
Mourning Dove	7:45	7	8:27	7	7:36	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7:46	8	8:29	8	7:35	5
Hairy Woodpecker	7:53	9				
White-breasted Nuthatch	7:55	10			7:33	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8:02	11	8:16	5	8:15	9
Downy Woodpecker	8:04	12				
End observation	8:30	12 species	8:30	8 species	8:30	10 species
Outlier data for species seen after 8:30 AM						
Great Blue Heron	12:20					
Downy Woodpecker			12:30		11:32	
Hairy Woodpecker					10:45	
American Crow			8:33			
White-breasted Nuthatch			12:30			
House Finch	12:27					
Common Redpoll					11:30	



GRAC CALENDAR

March

- 7 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hikes (recurring 14, 21, 28)
- 25 GRAC Board Meeting
- 25 Membership Meeting and Nature Program

April

- 4 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hikes (recurring 11, 18, 25)
- 6 Maher Sanctuary Workday (rain date is April 13)
- 20 Field Trip: Spring Marsh Birds and Hawks w/ Steve Minard
- 29 GRAC Board Meeting
- 29 Membership Meeting and Nature Program

Mission Statement:

The Grand Rapids Audubon Club brings together people who enjoy nature, especially wild birds. We seek to protect and improve our natural environment and to advance nature education throughout West Michigan.

Grand Rapids Audubon Club Membership Application

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State / ZIP+4 _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

(Providing your E-mail address ensures that you will receive E-mail notification when the latest edition of the *Caller* newsletter is posted on the GRAC website.)

Individual	\$ 20.00	_____
Family	25.00	_____
Senior (65+)	12.00	_____
Student (14+w/ID)	12.00	_____
Sustaining	30.00	_____
Patron	60.00	_____
Individual Life Membership	400.00	_____
Donation <i>(General Fund, Jr. Audubon, Sanctuary, Scholarship and/or Audubon Adventure)</i>		_____
Total Amount Enclosed		_____

Make checks payable to:
Grand Rapids Audubon Club, Inc.
 Send application and check to:
Cynthia Davidek, Assistant Treasurer
832 Fairmount St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1506

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

GRAC Board Meetings are held at 6:00 PM prior to each month's general membership meeting.

Junior Audubon Meetings are held Saturdays at various locations.

General Membership Meetings are held the last Monday of the month (Sept. – May) at 7:30 PM at the John F. Donnelly Center of Aquinas College located at 157 Woodward Lane SE. December (Christmas Bird Count) and May (Annual Banquet) meetings are held at different locations and times. Upcoming field trip information is published in each newsletter. See the GRAC website for the complete field trip list. Any additions or deletions to the above calendar will be noted in future issues of the newsletter.

Serving You

GRAC Board and Committee Chairpersons are listed below for

Grand Rapids Audubon Club Board of Directors and Special Committees

The Board of Directors consists of the Executive Council, the Immediate Past President and Chairpersons of the Standing Committees. In addition to the Board Of Directors, "Special Committees" and "Resident Agent" are also listed below.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 5 officers + 4 elected board members
- President – Sheryl Helmus
- Vice President – Scott Hutchings
- Secretary – Tom Leggett
- Treasurer – Jeff Neumann
- Ass't Treasurer – Cynthia Davidek
- Board Member – Landon Bell
- Board Member – Keith Helmus
- Board Member – Becky Kuhn
- Board Member – Jan Lewis
- Field Trips – Becky Kuhn
- Finance – Keith Helmus
- Fund Development – open
- Historian – Linda Damstra
- Hospitality – Bea VerBurg, Henry Raad and Rosemary Radius
- Insurance – Jill Goodell
- Junior Audubon – open
- Library – Norine and Jim Shea / Fidencio Paradez
- Maher Sanctuary – Chris Baer
- Membership – Theresa Dykhuis
- Nominating – Scott Hutchings
- Publicity – Tricia Boot
- Scholarship – inactive
- Special Events – open
- Website – Fred VanOeveren

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

(non-voting member)
 John Chronowski 2016-17, 2017-18

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Aud. Adventures – Mary Austin
- Audio/Visual – Robert Riepma
- Bird Reports – Carol VanOeveren
- Caller* Editor – Tricia Boot
- Caller* Publisher – Peggy Falk
- Christmas Count – Tom Leggett / Steve Mueller
- Conservation – open

SPECIAL COMMITTEES / CHAIRPERSONS

(non-members of Board of directors in this capacity)
 Aud. Adventures – Mary Austin
 Insurance – Jill Goodell

RESIDENT AGENT

Larry Burke

Grand Rapids Audubon Club
3426 13 Mile Rd. NE
Rockford, MI 49341

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Grand Rapids Audubon Club

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