

# the Caller

March 2021, Volume 59, No. 7

published monthly September – April, bi-monthly May – August, November – December  
by GRAC, 6152 Georgeann Ct., Belmont, MI 49506-9783



[www.graud.org](http://www.graud.org) | [information@graud.org](mailto:information@graud.org)  
[www.facebook.com/grandrapidsaudubonclub/](https://www.facebook.com/grandrapidsaudubonclub/)

## Join us, virtually! March Nature Program

On Monday, March 29, Brian Allen will present on Michigan Birders in Borneo.

Join us at 7:30 PM using this Zoom link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/98451189266?pwd=VVBOVk9FSVZERDZRYjRXaXBvbmFKZz09>

Meeting ID: 984 5118 9266

Passcode: 405373

Program synopsis: "Our trip was in February of 2017 for two weeks. We traveled through the Malaysian province of Sabah on the island of Borneo. We started at Kota Kinabalu and visited the coastal rice paddies for shorebirds then flew to Sandakan for our trip up the Kinabatangan river staying at both the Abai Jungle Lodge and the Kinabatangan River Lodge at Sukau.

Departing the lush river valley, we drove overland to Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre with its amazing canopy walkways and towers and our first Orangutans. From Sepilok it was up into the high elevation at Mt. Kinabalu the highest Asian mountain outside of the Himalayas and home of some of the greatest biodiversity on the planet. We hiked and stayed at the national park and then drove down the mountain to Poring Hot Springs for mid-elevation forests. It seemed that it would be hard to top the places we had visited but our last stay for four nights at the Dermakot Forest Preserve was the best—wild Borneo at its finest. It was here we saw some of the most sought-after birds of the trip and did see what many visitors to Borneo dream about seeing!"

## President's Corner

by Scott Hutchings

### Time to Step Up

It's nominating season again. A particularly tricky one since we're not meeting in person. We especially need to fill three spots on the board and one critical committee chair. It takes a certain amount of work to keep the club going. You may find it as fun and rewarding as I have.

**Secretary:** The secretary takes the minutes at the meetings, which are now on Zoom and can be recorded for convenience. When we return to in-person meetings, we will likely have an online option as well. The secretary also handles club correspondence.

**Board Member at Large:** The at-large board members have no specific duties other than attending meetings. Beyond that, they are free to take on any project that interests them.

**Finance Committee Chairperson:** The finance committee writes the club budget in partnership with the treasurer and other board members.

There are lots of other opportunities to help the club. Check the website for more information. You can reach me to volunteer, nominate someone else or ask questions through the email link on the website.

## Climate Watch Update

A number of our members were able to safely go out and survey this winter for Climate Watch. The winter survey period has concluded. The next survey period will be May 15 through June 15.

GRAC would like to thank:

- Marty Arnold
- Ed and Katie Bolt
- Keith and Sheryl Helmus
- Becky Kuhn
- Tom Leggett
- Tom Morin
- Candy Petrides
- Marilyn and Phil Pikaart

Deadline for April newsletter articles: **April 1**

Send to: [newsletter@graud.org](mailto:newsletter@graud.org)



## February 2021 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 2021 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.

Near normal conditions prevailed the early part of the first week of the month. Winter finally arrived in full force with a very windy snowstorm late on the 4th into the 5th dumping five to eight inches or more over the area with blowing and drifting. An arctic blast arrived on its heels and stuck around through the 17th fueling heavy lake effect snow in favored areas along with some synoptic (areawide) snow events, temps in the teens and single digits and bitter windchills, at times below zero. Even sunny days remained frigid. By the 18th high temps recovered into the mid-20s. After a little wet snow on the 21st-22nd, temps rose into the 30s and 40s with some sunny days triggering snow melt, which finished the month.

Waterfowl continued to winter offshore on Lake Michigan and at Pigeon Lake at Port Sheldon. A Barrow's Goldeneye showed up for a day at Pigeon Lake at Port Sheldon and then moved offshore in Lake Michigan near the Pigeon River outlet. A Varied Thrush visited the Lowell area. Red Crossbills were observed near White River RV Park in Muskegon Co. Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls and a few Evening Grosbeaks continued. The frigid, snowy weather did not deter our intrepid area birders from making the rounds to their favorite haunts searching for the usual suspects and that possible rarity. West Michigan birders are a hardy bunch!

**Notables for the month:** Twenty-four **Snow Geese** in field along Meinert Park Rd W of Whitbeck Rd in Muskegon Co Feb 23; flock of up to 28 relocated along Butzer Rd Feb 24-25 just S of initial location. Twelve **Greater White-fronted Geese** (found by Jason Carlson) at same initial location as Snow Geese Feb 22-23 relocated along Butzer Rd just S of initial location late Feb 23 and up to five continued Feb 27. Up to three female **American Wigeons** (last seen Feb 25) and a male **Northern Pintail** (last seen Feb 20) continued to winter at Riverside Park south in Grand Rapids. A male **Blue-winged Teal** wintering at Riverside Park south Feb 2-27 – perhaps same individual that was at Richmond Park in late Dec. An adult male **HARLEQUIN DUCK** continued since Jan at Pere Marquette Park Feb 11. Up to seven **Surf Scoters** continued since Jan at Muskegon Lake channel/Pere Marquette Park vicinity Feb 28, one continued since Jan at Holland SP Feb 21.

**White-winged Scoters** continued at various locations along the lakeshore through the month with a high count of 85 at Muskegon Lake channel/Pere Marquette Park vicinity Feb 28 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S81657572> to view Tori Martel's photo of an adult male). Up to four **Black Scoters** continued since Jan at Muskegon Lake channel/Pere Marquette Park vicinity Feb 28, two continued since Jan at Holland SP Feb 23, one at Lake Macatawa Boardwalk West Feb 28. An adult male **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** (found by Ty Wagenmaker) at Port Sheldon Pigeon Lake Feb 8 was relocated Feb 13 by Curtis Dykstra on Lake MI near Pigeon River outlet and continued Feb 20 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S80651499> for digiscoped diagnostic photo). The **SMEW** at Lake Allegan continued Feb 2 (see Jan summary for discussion). A **Common Loon** continued wintering at Versluis Lake in Kent Co Feb 27. Up to three **Double-crested Cormorants** wintering at Port Sheldon Pigeon Lake. A **Turkey Vulture** along 120th Ave N of the Grand River in Ottawa Co Feb 25 – returning about expected time. Up to two **PURPLE SANDPIPERS** continued since Dec at Pere Marquette Park Feb 6, one (found by Joe Malott/Rebecca Young) at Pigeon Lake/Pigeon River outlet at Port Sheldon Feb 14-20. Three **Iceland Gulls** continued since Jan at the Muskegon Wastewater Feb 18. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Wastewater Feb 1 and 18, one at Pere Marquette Park Feb 7 and 23, one at Port Sheldon Pigeon Lake Feb 25, one at Grand Haven SP Feb 28. Two **Glaucous Gulls** continued since Jan at the Wastewater Feb 10, one continued since Dec at Holland SP Feb 25, one at Grand Haven SP Feb 10, one at Muskegon Lake channel/Pere Marquette Park vicinity Feb 22. At least one **Snowy Owl** continued since Nov at the Wastewater through the month, up to two continued since Dec at 128th Ave/Bingham St area in Ottawa Co Feb 14, one along I-96 near Coopersville Sewage Ponds Feb 10, one at Winans St/136th Ave in Ottawa Co Feb 19-22, one along Meinert Park Rd W of Whitbeck Rd in Muskegon Co Feb 20. At least two **Short-eared Owls** continued at the Allegan SGA Todd Farm 116th Ave/62nd/60th St area Feb 2, one continued at the Wastewater Feb 8. Several reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** wintering in the area. A **Northern Shrike** continued since Dec along 110th Ave btw 22nd and 20th St Feb 8, one continued since Dec at Outdoor Discovery Center in Allegan Co Feb 11, one at 160th Ave/Pierce St in Ottawa Co Feb 15, one at Muskegon Lake channel Feb 21. **Winter Wrens** wintering at various locations. Two **Hermit Thrushes** wintering at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co, one along Gulliford Trl SE near Lowell Feb 10, one at Hemlock Crossing Park in Ottawa Co Feb 21.

*Continued on page 3*



*Continued from page 2*

A female **VARIED THRUSH** (found by Dr Greg Forbes) visiting a feeder at a private residence (search by permission only) near Lowell Feb 15-27 – Dr Forbes mentioned this bird may be same individual that was present in early Feb (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S80653655> and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S82423588> to view photos taken Feb 4 {Forbes} and 27 {C Putnam} respectively). A **Gray Catbird** continued to winter since Jan along Black Lake Rd S of Pontaluna Rd in Muskegon Co. Feb 4. A **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** continued since Dec at residence along S Hampton St in Holland Feb 14. Unprecedented numbers of **est 400 Lapland Longspurs** and **est 250 Snow Buntings** at 128th St/Bingham St area in Ottawa Co on Feb 20 on Ottawa Co Parks field trip; large numbers of both species along with Horned Larks also reported at various other locations, likely drawn to manured fields. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Millennium Park Feb 3 – wintering. A **Pine Warbler** at Kitchel-Lindquist Dunes Preserve in Ottawa Co Feb 2, one at a residence along Engman Rd in Muskegon Co Feb 7 – both presumed wintering. A **Swamp Sparrow** continued since Jan at Reeds Lake Feb 4, one at DeGraaf Nature Center in Ottawa Co Feb 4, up to two at Huff Park Feb 23-28 – all wintering. **White-crowned** and **White-throated sparrows** continued to winter in the area. A **Rusty Blackbird** continued since Jan at a residence S of Holland in Allegan Co Feb 24. Five **RED CROSSBILLS** (found by Terry Grabill) near White River RV Park and Campground off Fruitvale Rd E of Fogg Lake Rd in Muskegon Co Feb 24. Large flocks of **Common Redpolls** continued at the Wastewater, **200** in field at 128th Ave/Bingham St area in Ottawa Co Feb 6 – large flocks had been reported in this area several weeks prior, up to **100** (flock kept growing through the month) daily at feeders at a residence on Barry St W of 88th Ave in Ottawa Co, **est 100** at feeders at a residence in Allendale mid-month, up to 72 at a residence at Lakeview St/Niles Ave in Ottawa Co Feb 22-27. A **HOARY REDPOLL** continued since Dec at the Wastewater Feb 3, one continued since Jan at a residence at Lakeview St/Niles Ave in Ottawa Co Feb 15, at least one at same location as Varied Thrush Feb 27. Six **EVENING GROSBEAKS** at a residence along 126th Ave W of 36th St in Allegan Co Feb 13-16 – homeowner commented that a variable sized flock has frequented their yard and feeders since Nov.

## Field Trips: Birding Southeast Kent County with Tom Leggett

Join Tom on the second Friday of each month at 9:00 AM as he explores some of his favorite spots. Following COVID-19 protocols, masks and social distancing are required. For more information and meeting locations, contact Tom at [tomleggett@hotmail.com](mailto:tomleggett@hotmail.com).

March 12: Paul Henry Trail; Wing Rd parking area btw 60th and 52nd St SE

April 9: Old Farm Park; Embro Dr SE

May 14: Paris Park Nature Reserve; 60th St SE

June 11: East Paris Nature Park; East Paris Ave SE

July 9: Gaines Twp Target wetlands/sparrow trip; M-6 and Kalamazoo SE

August 13: Bowen Station Park; Bowen Blvd SE

September 10: Kentwood Veterans Memorial Park (48th St SE)/Kentwood trails

October 8: Kentwood Jaycees Park; Gentian Dr SE

November 12: Kellogg Woods Park in Kentwood; Kellogg Woods Park Dr SE

December 10: Paul Henry Trail; Wing Rd parking area (see above)

## Birdathon 2021 Update

by Ed Bolt

The GRAC Birdathon is just around the corner—April 17 through May 31. The Birdathon committee urges those who have not entered to do so this year; simply join an existing team or form your own (minimum two people).

Last year, two new prize categories were introduced: **‘Big Sit / Feeder’** and **Big Sit / No Feeder**. We would like to build on that and increase the number of participants in these categories. Super-easy; just sit in a chosen spot and enjoy what comes along!

Do not put off entering, as April kind of sneaks up on you. For entry forms, watch the GRAC website for documents, ask Birdathon Committee members (Ed Bolt, Jill Goodell, Scott Hutchings, Tom Leggett), or get it all done at the March 29 GRAC meeting.

*There once was a camper from Kentwood  
Who prided herself in her tent-hood  
Until some large pheasants  
Shocked her by their presence  
Just asking for nuts (so they meant good)\**

\* Low bar of quality when bucking a deadline.



# Maher Audubon Sanctuary Update and Other Nature News

by Chris Baer

The new Maher map has been finalized and a copy will be laminated and put up in the kiosk at the sanctuary parking lot.

The trails look good, but at this writing, snow covered. Soon spring will be here and we can all get outside with more comfort. Flowers will be blooming, warblers will be singing, snipe displaying and Sandhill cranes calling from the wetland.

The Kent County Conservation District "Strike Team" has been working mostly in the wetland edges cutting and treating autumn olive, honeysuckle and multiflora rose, all invasive species that degrade habitat at Maher. The team have been concentrating on large specimens that are more likely to produce seeds. The herbicide that they use is not sprayed but applied directly to the cut stump. Also, the herbicide is wetlands approved, without surfactants that would damage wetland natives.

Plant catalogs have been arriving at my house along with conservation district tree catalogs. Please be encouraged to plant a few trees or a bevy of native perennials this year. Kent Conservation District, [kentconservation.org](http://kentconservation.org), Montcalm Conservation district, [montcalmcd.org](http://montcalmcd.org), or Ionia Conservation District, [ioniacd.org](http://ioniacd.org) are great places to get started. (These three districts have somewhat different plant offerings.) Kent Conservation District has their pick-up and browse for native plants on May 22, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at 3260 Eagle Park Dr. (corner of Leonard Street and Beltline Avenue.) This is a good place to ask questions and get enthused about creating habitat for our favorite hummers/birds, butterflies and pollinators.

This is the year to get outside even more so than 2020. Being outside can do so much to improve your health and mood, lowers blood pressure, reduces stress and raises self esteem. Grumpy turns to happy when we get outside in nature. Take a walk on the loop at Maher to improve your whole outlook on life and spring is a great time to do this.

Other parks closer to home and are familiar to me: Lamoreaux Memorial Park, Pickerel Lake, Seidman Park, Townsend Park and Wahlfield Park. A full list and a map visit [KCPF.org](http://KCPF.org). The Land Conservancy of West Michigan also has a number of preserves that have hiking trails, most notable; Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve (two new trails added in 2018) 10471 Six Mile Road, Rockford (flowers in June, July and August in the prairie). Access directions to their preserves on their website [naturenearby.org](http://naturenearby.org).

Other parks on my list: Brower Lake Nature Preserve, Rockford; Cascade Peace Park, Ada; Wege Natural Area, Lowell; Roselle Park, Ada (can be busy); and the Highlands, Grand Rapids (near Blandford Nature Center). If you like dogs the last two parks are prime dog-watching strolls.

## Bird Names by Groups

Here's a fun quiz where you can match group names with specific bird species. Place the correct letter (A, B, C, etc.) corresponding to the group name on the blank behind the bird species. [Example: 1. Group of cardinals G] Good luck! (See answers on page 5.)

### Bird Species

1. Group of cardinals \_\_\_\_\_
2. Group of crows \_\_\_\_\_
3. Group of doves \_\_\_\_\_
4. Group of ducks \_\_\_\_\_
5. Group of eagles \_\_\_\_\_
6. Group of finches \_\_\_\_\_
7. Group of gulls \_\_\_\_\_
8. Group of hawks \_\_\_\_\_
9. Group of hummingbirds \_\_\_\_\_
10. Group of jays \_\_\_\_\_
11. Group of owls \_\_\_\_\_
12. Group of pelicans \_\_\_\_\_
13. Group of penguins \_\_\_\_\_
14. Group of roadrunners \_\_\_\_\_
15. Group of sparrows \_\_\_\_\_
16. Group of starlings \_\_\_\_\_
17. Group of swallows \_\_\_\_\_
18. Group of turkeys \_\_\_\_\_
19. Group of warblers \_\_\_\_\_
20. Group of woodpeckers \_\_\_\_\_

### Group Names

- A. cast, cauldron, kettle
- B. band, party, scold, cast
- C. descent, drumming
- D. charm, trembling
- E. flight, gulp
- F. charm, glittering, shimmer, hover
- G. college, conclave
- H. murder, congress, horde, muster
- I. confusion, fall, wrench
- J. rafter, gobble, gang, posse
- K. squadron, pod, scoop
- L. host, quarrel, knot, flutter, crew
- M. convocation, congregation, aerie
- N. bevy, cote, flight, dule
- O. colony, squabble, flotilla
- P. chattering, affliction, murmuration
- Q. parliament, wisdom, study, glaring
- R. raft, team, padding
- S. race, marathon
- T. huddle, colony, crèche, waddle



## Ranger Steve's Nature Niche

### Records Check Finds 66 Butterfly Species

by Ranger Steve (Mueller)

Fifty-three field notebooks and journals hold my field study natural history data. Until 2010 I recorded observations with paper with pencil. I made the switch to entering information to a Word document on computer in November 2009. My records are more inclusive than birds. Focus for this Nature Niche is butterflies.

Slowly I am transcribing older handwritten entries to computer documents. The process allows me to relive past field and family events and it will be easy to pass them on to family members. If desired each great- great-grandchild can have a digital copy from this ancient naturalist who they will never meet. Excel files contain records of birds, insects and daily sighting observations that include dates for flowering plants, when frogs began calling in spring and other vital data.

Perhaps the data is only vital to me but I hope it is retained and used well beyond my existence. Recently, I found observation records for Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary that were not listed on the sanctuary's checklists. The butterfly checklist had 62 species listed but four additional species were discovered during a records check.

Dreamy Duskywing, Dainty Sulphur, Leonard's Skipper and Indian Skipper were observed or collected but had not been added to the checklist. The updated checklist now has 66 species. Perhaps I will find more as I continue the records check while digitizing my journals.

It is surprising that I have seen 66 butterfly species at Ody Brook's 61-acre sanctuary. That is 42% of all documented Michigan butterflies. Scientific proof requires a specimen to provide physical evidence or at a minimum a picture that shows identification characteristics. Eleven species seen have not been collected.

I should collect each species for deposition in the Michigan State University museum collection where voucher specimens document occurrence. Some species look so similar they cannot be separated with photographs. For 150 years we thought the Pearl Crescent and Northern Crescent were one species until further study revealed they were different species. The Spring Azure has been found to be a complex of different species much like the Empidonax flycatchers.

Recorded information does not help when one species is found to be two species. The actual specimen needs to be examined. In some cases, species can be identified based on field notes or pictures.

Ody Brook's mission of "Biodiversity Enhancement" has made it possible to maintain varied habitats and find 66 butterfly species. I wonder if any nature sanctuary,

nature center or conservancy preserve, county, state or national park in Michigan has as many species documented.

"All taxa biodiversity surveys" help document species for selected study areas. I have participated in some where I focused on butterflies but also assisted other scientists with other taxa inventory. Worldwide databases where people record their observations helps. One of the largest and best known is eBird. Specialized websites exist for species groups that might interest you. Perhaps flowers, dragonflies, grasshoppers, mammals, frogs or fish might serve your interests.

Opportunities are available for focus at sanctuaries like Maher, land conservancy preserves, parks, nature centers or your yard. The world of nature study inventory is engaging, mind strengthening and open to your personal interests. There are always new nature niche discoveries to be explored.

Natural history questions or topic suggestions can be directed to Ranger Steve (Mueller) at odybrook@chartermi.net or Ody Brook, 13010 Northland Dr, Cedar Springs, MI 49319-8433. Call (616) 696-1753.

## February Finance Report

prepared by Jeff Neumann, Treasurer

Checking Account Balance: \$ 9,938.44

Edward Jones Account: \$65,389.72

**Total Assets as of 2/22/21: \$75,328.16**

Restricted Funds (included in the total assets)

Maher Sanctuary Fund: \$2,211.55

Junior Audubon Fund: \$4,048.55

Audubon Adventures: \$ 358.00

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



## Answers to Bird Name Quiz

From page 4

- 1.G, 2.H, 3.N, 4.R, 5.M, 6.D, 7.O, 8.A, 9.F, 10.B, 11.Q, 12.K, 13.T, 14.S, 15.L, 16.P, 17.E, 18.J, 19.I, 20.C



## House Finch vs. Purple Finch

by Mary Austin

According to the book, Birds of Michigan, the House Finch is a common year-round resident throughout the Michigan Lower Peninsula. In addition, other sources report House Finches are widespread across most of North America and are even found in Hawaii.

Purple Finches are common Michigan migrants and winter residents September to May. They breed in the northern two-thirds of Michigan June to July. The website [audubon.org/news/house-finch-or-purple-finch-heres-how-tell-them-apart](http://audubon.org/news/house-finch-or-purple-finch-heres-how-tell-them-apart) notes that in winter, Purple Finches migrate as far south as Florida.

I have created a guide for myself to differentiate between House Finches and Purple Finches in the Eastern part of the United States. I have based my guide on various field guides and websites (see below). Individual birds can vary from my guide, and Western House and Purple Finches have different colorations than their Eastern counterparts.

### Male House Finch (Eastern)

- Rosy red color around the face with notable redness on upper breast and no redness on back
- Heavy brown streaking under wings on flanks; streaky brown back, belly and tail
- Slimmer body overall
- Slimmer conical seed-eating bill with curved (rather than straight-edged) profile
- Squarish, only slightly notched tail

### Male Purple Finch (Eastern)

- Raspberry-red head, breast and back
- Diffuse or very little streaking on belly and tail and under wings on flanks
- Bulkier body overall
- Heavier conical seed-eating bill with straight-edged profile
- Notched tail

### Female/Immature House Finch (Eastern)

- Mostly brown on sides and back with blurry brown streaks down white belly; subdued brown streaking on white throat
- Diffuse brown head with no white streaking over eye
- Slimmer body overall
- Slimmer conical seed-eating bill with curved (rather than straight-edged) profile
- Squarish, only slightly notched tail

### Female/Immature Purple Finch (Eastern)

- Dark brown coloring on back; white and brown streaking down breast and flanks
- Bold facial pattern with distinctive white eyebrow, dark cheek patch and white stripe at bottom of cheek patch
- Bulkier body overall
- Heavier conical seed-eating bill with straight-edged profile
- Notched tail

### Field Guides and Websites Referenced:

Black, Ted and Gregory Kennedy. Birds of Michigan (2003)

Floyd, Ted. Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America (2008)

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Sixth Edition (2011)

[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House\\_Finch/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Finch/id)

[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Purple\\_Finch/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Purple_Finch/id)

[www.audubon.org/news/house-finch-or-purple-finch-heres-how-tell-them-apart](http://www.audubon.org/news/house-finch-or-purple-finch-heres-how-tell-them-apart)

[ebird.org/species/houfin](http://ebird.org/species/houfin)

[ebird.org/species/purfin](http://ebird.org/species/purfin)

[feederwatch.org/learn/tricky-bird-ids/purple-finch-house-finch-and-cassins-finch/](http://feederwatch.org/learn/tricky-bird-ids/purple-finch-house-finch-and-cassins-finch/)



## UPCOMING EVENTS (visit the GRAC website for details)

### March

- 11 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 12 Field Trip: Paul Henry Trail with Tom Leggett
- 18 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 29 Virtual Nature Program
- 25 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike

### 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:  
**Theresa Dykhuis**  
**3100 Cooks Meadow Dr. NE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49525-9401**

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

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>5 officers + 4 elected board members</i> | Field Trips – Cate Roesler      |
| President – Scott Hutchings                 | Finance – Keith Helmus          |
| Vice President – Landon Bell                | Fund Development – <i>open</i>  |
| Secretary – Jeni Taheri                     | Historian – Linda Damstra       |
| Treasurer – Jeff Neumann                    | Hospitality – Henry Raad        |
| Ass't Treasurer – Theresa Dykhuis           | Junior Audubon – Hannah Safford |
| Board Member – Felix Perdue                 | Library – Kathleen Haase        |
| Board Member – Ruth Fridsma                 | Maher Sanctuary – Chris Baer    |
| Board Member – Tom Leggett                  | Membership – Theresa Dykhuis    |
| Board Member – Shawn Taheri                 | Nominating – Scott Hutchings    |

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT *(non-voting member)*

Sheryl Helmus 2018-19, 2019-20

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

- Audio/Visual – Robert Riepma
- Bird Reports – Carol VanOeveren
- Caller* Editor – Tricia Boot
- Caller* Publisher – Theresa Dykhuis/  
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

**Return Service Requested**

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH  
*Nine Issues per year*  
*Published monthly except May, July*  
*and December*

## **Grand Rapids Audubon Club**

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### **OFFICERS**

**President:**

Scott Hutchings  
Email: [president@graud.org](mailto:president@graud.org)

**Vice President:**

Landon Bell  
Email: [vice.president@graud.org](mailto:vice.president@graud.org)

**Secretary:**

Jeni Taheri  
Email: [secretary@graud.org](mailto:secretary@graud.org)

**Treasurer:**

Jeff Neumann  
Email: [treasurer@graud.org](mailto:treasurer@graud.org)

**Assistant Treasurer:**

Theresa Dykhuis  
Email: [membership@graud.org](mailto:membership@graud.org)

### **THE CALLER STAFF**

**Editor:**

Tricia Boot  
Email: [newsletter@graud.org](mailto:newsletter@graud.org)

**Publisher:**

P. Falk  
Email: [publisher@graud.org](mailto:publisher@graud.org)