

the Caller

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Ranger Steve's Nature Niche

Great Horned Owl

by Ranger Steve (Mueller)

I completed the first portion of a butterfly survey. I have been feeling more energetic two months after a hospital cancer treatment and contemplated not taking a break before finishing the survey. Wisely I decided I would get too fatigued physically and mentally if I did not rest. I planned a 20-minute break.

Into the house I came to sit viewing birds at the feeder. I saw a large bird fly into the silver maple by our driveway. Immediately I thought it might be a Cooper's Hawk. That species feeds on birds and is day active. Looking through an opening among sugar maple branches, I could see where the bird landed. With binoculars I realized it was a Great Horned Owl. I occasionally see owls during the day but that is not expected.

Two feather tufts stood up from the head confirming my identification. They are not horns but give the bird its name. It also had glowing bright yellow eyes that shined as if lighted from inside the skull. The similar-sized Barred Owl has brown eyes. A clear blue sky devoid of clouds allowed the sun to cast brightness on the owl making the eyes shine. Black lines outlined the face adding to its beauty. Across the breast and belly from side-to-side, alternating brown and white markings broke up the pattern to help camouflage the bird from view.

Though the bird stood in plain sight on a short dead branch, it seemed to disappear when I looked away and looked toward it again. I watched the bird as it watched for a midday meal. I hoped a rabbit or squirrel would venture into the yard to eat under the bird feeder. Normally four to ten squirrels are rummaging seeds that have fallen to the ground. More squirrels are present than I prefer. Often two rabbits are in view.

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President's Corner

by Scott Hutchings

We may be in the midst of summer, but the first signs of fall are already there. Some maple trees are showing a blush of orange. Poison ivy is turning red. The sumac can't be far behind. The robins have abandoned suburban yards to flock in larger numbers in the woods. And it seems like every day, Richmond Park pond near my house, has more and more Canada Geese. Next month will already be our first member program. We plan on meeting in person again, at last, in Donnelly Hall at Aquinas College. Seems like it's been years. We will be checking with Aquinas and keeping an eye on the delta variant of COVID-19 and will let everyone know through the website if there are any special precautions we need to take.



September Programming Note

Our September speaker is Erin Rowan of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Erin will present on marsh and wetland birds.

Given the dynamic situation with COVID-19, please stay tuned to the website, club Facebook and/or email for details on whether we will meet in person or virtually, and any restrictions which may apply. Thank you!

July Finance Report

prepared by Jeff Neumann, Treasurer

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 8,316.21
Edward Jones Account:	\$76,578.21
Total Assets as of 7/31/21:	\$84,894.42
Restricted Funds (included in the total assets)	
Maher Sanctuary Fund:	\$ 765.49
Junior Audubon Fund:	\$4,048.55
Audubon Adventures:	\$ 299.65

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

Deadline for September newsletter articles: **Sept. 1**

Send to: newsletter@graud.org



June and July 2021 eBird Summaries

Very Unusual and Rare Sightings by Carol VanOeveren

The following are overviews of the very unusual and rare eBird sightings for June and July 2021 for Allegan, Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties. These reports do not include rare birds that are flyovers, unchaseable, on inaccessible private property and those with sketchy details.

June

The dry pattern continued with temps warming into the mid to high 80s by the 4th. Eight humid days of 80s and into the low 90s (5th-12th) followed, with afternoon pop-up thunderstorms containing heavy rain the 7th-12th. Temperatures were near normal through the 21st as the sunny, mostly dry pattern returned after a cold front passed through on the 12th. Occasional heavy rain/thunderstorms the 18th-21st finally helped the drought situation. Near to below normal temperatures continued and periods of heavy rain, thunderstorms and high humidity made for a very soggy last week of the month (second wettest June on record).

Notables for the month: A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** bred at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing with five cygnets seen June 13. Out-of-season waterfowl at the Muskegon Wastewater: **Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck (300+ June 1-2 and lesser numbers through the month – known summering location for this species).** A **Horned Grebe** continued at the Wastewater June 8. Two **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater June 1-11 – known location (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S89565632> to view Iris Kilpatrick's photos of the two in breeding plumage). Thirteen **American White Pelicans** continued since May at White River flats/US-31 June 6, three (found by Rick Brigham/Mary Lou Graham) at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor June 6-10 and two there June 11. One **American Bittern** continued through the month at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing, one at Allegan SGA 116th Ave/Swan Creek June 13, one at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou Cypress St access June 13. Two **Least Bitterns** at Tallmadge Woods Nature Preserve in Allegan Co seen on boat trip on Kalamazoo River June 6, one at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou viewed from 129th Ave/132nd Ave/Cypress St access June 8-9 and 20, two continued since Apr at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing June 18, two at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor June 9, one at Indian Channel in the Grand River in Ottawa Co June 11, one at Covell Park in Whitehall June 18, one at Reeds Lake June 20-27, one at Muskegon SP Snug Harbor marsh June 21, up to two at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve June 28-30

(visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S90950544> to view Tori Martel's photos). A juv **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (found by Karl Sineath) at Ottawa Sands Co Park June 11, one (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater June 21. **Common Gallinules** continued at various known and other locations in Allegan, Muskegon and Ottawa cos with a high count of 15 incl about ten young at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou Cypress St access June 13. An **AMERICAN AVOCET** (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater June 25, one (found by Joseph Malott) at Holland SP June 26 – early migrants (I watch a Mississippi Flyway cam located near LaCrosse WI, and they are passing through there already). A **Black-bellied Plover** continued since May at the Wastewater June 2 and two there June 17. One **American Golden-Plover** at the Wastewater June 22. A **PIPING PLOVER** continued since May at Muskegon SP beach June 13. Up to two **WILLETS** at Holland SP June 25-28, two at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co June 28. Up to nine **White-rumped Sandpipers** continued since May at the Wastewater June 5 and one there June 11 and 29 (the latter possibly an early migrant). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Wastewater June 21 – early migrant/non-breeder. A **Baird's Sandpiper** continued since May at the Wastewater June 2. Up to three **Wilson's Phalaropes** continued since May at the Wastewater June 5 and up to four there June 13-30, two (found by Gerald/Marvin Hoekstra) at Pigeon Creek Golf Course on Ottawa Co June 3. Five **Red-necked Phalaropes** continued since May at the Wastewater June 1 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S89220809> to view Tanya Smythe's photos from May 29 which also includes the Wilson's Phalaropes and more views of the Black-necked Stilts observed in May). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at Holland SP June 16 – out of season. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Wastewater June 21. Two **BLACK TERNS** (found by Carl/Judi Manning) at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor June 8, one (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater June 8. A **Forster's Tern** at Holland SP June 3 – late/out of season. A **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** at 120th Ave/Tyler St in Ottawa Co June 12-15. A pair of **Merlins** (found by Ryan Bebej and others) near the chapel at Calvin University campus in SE Grand Rapids June 23-30 – appeared in territorial defense. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Hofma Preserve and Crockery Creek Natural Area both in Ottawa Co June 5, one at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing June 15 – all late. A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Allegan SGA 116th Ave at Swan Creek June 4 – known location, one at Allegan SGA Swan Creek (118th Ave to Highbanks Unit) June 6. **Sedge Wrens** in appropriate habitat at various locations in all four counties. A **Swainson's Thrush** at Flower Creek Dunes Preserve in Muskegon Co June 1 – late.

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Warblers: Two **Louisiana Waterthrush** continued since Apr at Aman Park in Ottawa Co June 1, two continued at Allegan SGA 116th Ave/Swan Creek June 16-20 – both known locations, one at 38th St/127th Ave in Allegan Co June 4, one at Rabbit River Preserve in Allegan Co June 7 and 23, one at Allegan SGA Ottawa Marsh landing June 23. Two **WORM-EATING** continued at Allegan SGA 116th Ave/Swan Creek/Swan Creek Pond area through month – known breeding location; observed feeding a juv Brown-headed Cowbird June 20. A **Golden-winged** at 36th St/130th Ave in Allegan Co June 4 – only report on eBird for the four-county area. **Hooded** at various locations in all four counties with a high count of three at Cascade Peace Park in Kent Co June 2. Up to four **Cerulean** continued at Allegan SGA Allegan Dam, up to three continued at Allegan SGA M-89 Kalamazoo River bridge and boat launch, at least one at Kalamazoo River Old New Richmond bridge, one at Allegan SGA Highbanks Unit – all known locations, one at Allegan SGA Swan Creek south of flooding June 10, two at Allegan SGA Ely Lake Campground June 10-15, one at Muskegon SGA Holton-Duck Lk Rd June 18. A **Northern Parula** at Allegan SGA Highbanks Unit June 22 – well south of traditional northern section of breeding range. A **PRAIRIE** continued at Oval Beach/Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area – known location. Three **Henslow's Sparrows** continued at Allegan SGA Todd Farm June 13 – known location, up to two at the Wastewater June 20-25. Up to 16 **Dickcissels** continued at the Wastewater and at least seven continued at Allegan SGA Todd Farm – known breeding locations, up to three at Eastmanville Farm Co Park in Ottawa Co June 10-17, three at 112th Ave/19th St in Allegan Co June 10, up to five at 60th St E of Kraft Ave SE S of the Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport in Kent Co June 13-21, up to three at 128th Ave/Bingham St area in Ottawa Co June 20-24. The **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** continued at traditional location at Allegan SGA Todd Farm through the month. Two **Brewer's Blackbirds** continued since May at the Wastewater June 27. A few **Pine Siskins** still reported at feeders June 1, one at a feeder in E Grand Rapids June 19 – late.

Whooping Crane “Lily” continued to be seen at along Ranger Highway south of Lime Creek Rd (old DeMor Hills Golf Course) northwest of Morenci in Lenawee County. **Lark Sparrows** were again observed nesting at Ives Rd Fen Preserve south of Tecumseh in Lenawee County. This species also nested and fledged four young (observed June 24) at Plumb Lake County Park east of Sturgis in St Joseph County.

July

After the excessive rainfall in June, a sunny and pleasant period started the month. By the 4th the heat had built and the high humidity returned through the 7th. A cold front with showers and thunderstorms brought some relief on the 7th with lower dew points for several days. Temperatures remained in the 70s and 80s through mid-month with increasing humidity and occasional rounds of rain and storms. Sunny, warm and dry conditions followed the 17th through the 22nd. Dew points surged into the tropical 70s the 23rd and 24th along with thunderstorms and heavy downpours. This ushered in a four-day heat wave of temps nearing 90 degrees through the 28th. Severe thunderstorms and heavy rain associated with a cold front rolled through the southern counties early on the 29th. Sunny, refreshing, below normal conditions ended the month.

Please note: Species listings are in a different order than in previous summaries. The listings are now in the latest checklist order available.

The following is an example, if you have the time, of what about 5 1/2 hrs of intense, thorough birding at a good birdy place will reward you with. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92445481> to view Bailey Mitchell's 92 species' checklist at Muskegon State Game Area, Lane's Landing the morning of July 28.

Notables for the month: Three **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS** (found by Bryan K and fellow birder) at Window on the Waterfront in Holland July 10-13 and 16 and four (fourth duck reported by Pat Deventer) there July 14-15 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91568867> to view Ed DeVries' photos and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91598884> to view Tori Martel's photos). A **Canvasback** at the Wastewater July 18 continued July 26 – out of season. **Ruddy Ducks** (est **800** July 7 and **2,086** July 26) continued to summer at the Muskegon Wastewater – known location for years. An **Eared Grebe** continued at the Wastewater during the month. Two **Common Gallinules** continued at Lions Park in Whitehall July 27, up to eight (possibly more) at Window on the Waterfront in Holland July 4-31 (three chicks observed July 24, six chicks July 27), one at Pine Bend Park in Ottawa Co July 5, two continued at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th Ave/Cypress St accesses July 28, two at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing through July, at least one at several locations along the Kalamazoo River during the month. Two **AMERICAN AVOCETS** (found by Tom Lechlietner/Dan Coblentz) at Fennville Sewage Ponds (restricted access) in Allegan Co July 5, two (found by Josiah Willink) at Pigeon River outlet (limited access) in Ottawa Co July 5

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two (found by John Fitzpatrick, Director Emeritus of Cornell Lab of Ornithology!) at Saugatuck Dunes SP July 24. A **PIPING PLOVER** (found by John VanOrman) at Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area July 26 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92327661> to view photos). A **Stilt Sandpiper** (found by Rick Brigham/Will Keller) at Allegan SGA Todd Farm July 18. Up to three **Baird's Sandpipers** at the Wastewater July 12-31. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing July 7 and three July 14, seven at Allegan SGA Todd Farm July 8, up to two at the Wastewater July 10-18, one at pond at residence along Barry St W of 88th Ave in Ottawa Co July 12-13. A great count of **26 Solitary Sandpipers** in drawn-down western cells at Fennville Sewage Ponds (restricted access) in Allegan Co July 23. Two **WILLETS** at Pigeon River outlet (limited access) in Ottawa Co July 5, one at Saugatuck Dunes SP July 10, two at Holland SP July 17, four at Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area July 23, one at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing July 23. Up to three **Wilson's Phalaropes** continued since June at the Wastewater July 28. A **Bonaparte's Gull** at Grand Haven north pier July 7 – out-of-season/early migrant. A **LAUGHING GULL** (found by Steve Minard/James Fyfe) at Grand Haven north pier July 7 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91388171> to view photos). A non-breeding **Common Loon** continued since June at Reeds Lake through July, two (ad with juv) at Lincoln Lake in Kent Co July 3. At least **350 Double-crested Cormorants** at Winnetaska Rd/Nugent Sand lagoons in Muskegon July 2 – known nesting/roost location. **45 American White Pelicans** at Winnetaska Rd/Nugent Sand lagoons July 2, **51** counted circling wetlands near Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve July 3 (likely same group from previous day at the lagoons). An **American Bittern** continued since Apr at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing through July. A **Least Bittern** at Lions Park in Whitehall July 2, two continued since Apr at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing through July, one at Windmill Island Park in Holland July 15 and 23, one continued at Reeds Lake July 27. An amazing **133 Great Blue Herons** were observed by Tori Martel at Muskrat Lake (just S of Duck Lake/Duck Lake SP) in Muskegon Co July 12. Up to three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** (two ad, one juv) at Window on the Waterfront July 10-31, two continued at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing July 28, one at Windmill Lakes Apts near Holland July 22. **Seventy Turkey Vultures** perched on utility poles and wires at the Wastewater July 10 – unusual sight (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91531746> to view Kevin Wistrom's photos). The pr of **Merlins** at Calvin University campus observed in late June continued, nested and fledged young; three fledglings observed

with the adults July 21 and continued July 28 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92116327> to view Tim Ellens' photos). A **Blue-headed Vireo** continued at Allegan SGA Swan Creek (116th Ave to Swan Creek Pond) July 17 (observed feeding two juv Brown-headed Cowbirds July 4) – known location. Eight **Common Ravens** at the Wastewater July 1 – possibly the highest number ever reported there. An **American Pipit** at the Wastewater July 14 – first report. A minimum of **36 Grasshopper Sparrows** at the Wastewater July 1 – great count at known breeding location. A **Henslow's Sparrow** continued at the Wastewater, one continued at 60th St E of Kraft Ave SE S of Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport and along 52nd St E of Kraft Ave SE, up to two continued at Allegan SGA Todd Farm – all known locations. A **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** (found by Kyle/Amy Werner) in same general location as in June 2020 at Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve in Kent Co July 9 continued July 18 and two there July 10 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91510734> and turn up your speakers to hear Kyle Werner's recordings of the whistles and chatters; Wood Thrush and Common Yellowthroat among others can be heard in background). The **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** continued through the month at the traditional location at Allegan SGA Todd Farm. Seven **Orchard Orioles** at the Wastewater July 1 – good count; likely bred at this location. Two **Brewer's Blackbirds** continued off and on since May at the Wastewater July 26. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** continued at Allegan SGA 116th Ave/Swan Creek July 4 – known location. A **Northern Waterthrush** at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve July 22 – southern end of typical breeding range. **Dickcissels** continued at the Wastewater through the month with a high count of 29 July 1, several continued at Allegan SGA Todd Farm – both known breeding locations, four at 118th Ave/23rd St fields in Allegan Co July 1, one continued at 60th St E of Kraft Ave SE S of Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport July 2, one continued since June at 128th Ave/Bingham St area in Ottawa Co July 3, up to two continued along 52nd St E of Kraft Ave SE in Kent Co July 11, one along Warbler Dr W of 2nd St in Allegan Co July 4.

Have you renewed your membership?

Reminder: It's time once again to renew annual memberships for the GRAC. Please use the membership application on page 7 or visit <http://www.graud.org/membership.html>. Thank you! Your participation and support ensure a vibrant club.



Rare Roseate Spoonbill Found at Saline, MI

by Carol VanOeveren

An immature Roseate Spoonbill was found at the Koch Warner Drain near Wilderness Park at Saline in Washtenaw County on July 16 by Jessica Butler and her fiancée. Needless to say, birders from all over the area flocked to see this rarity and first state record for Michigan. It is unknown if this bird is a zoo escapee or a young bird just wandering around as water birds often do later in the season. It was still in the area at a nearby location, Bemis Rd swamp, and still drawing crowds as of July 26. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91868743> to view Jessica's original checklist. So many great photos were taken it was extremely difficult to choose examples. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91847495> to view Brendan Klick's photos and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91882503> to view Carl and Judi Manning's photos. Visit <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/07/20/roseate-spoonbill-michigan-birdwatching/8014909002/> to view an article in the *Detroit Free Press* about the finding.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Window on the Waterfront

by Carol VanOeveren

You just never know what may show up when you are birding. A birder identified on eBird as Bryan K and a fellow birder witnessed three Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks land at the popular hotspot Window on the Waterfront in Holland in the early afternoon of July 10. Other observers quickly flocked to the area later in the day to photograph and see these rarities. One observer mentioned that the birds were even calling. And yes, they really do whistle. Visit <https://ebird.org/species/bbwduc> and click on "Listen" to hear an example of their voice recorded in Texas. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91560971> to view Eric Gustafson and Carl Manning's photos from July 10 and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S91598884> to view Tori Martel's photos taken July 11. A fourth duck, found by Patricia Deventer and two other observers, joined the other three on the 14th and 15th. The birds were still being seen there through July 16. This species occurs throughout Central and South America, but is expanding its range northward into the United States and has established itself largely in the southern states. Over the past several years they have been seen as vagrants even further north. Other recent sightings in Ottawa County include a group of six viewed from the west end of Lake Macatawa on May 21, 2020 flying north to south along the Lake Michigan shoreline during a migration count. In 2018, a group of three was seen at a distance by several observers at Grand River Park on May 17.

Nature Niche continued from cover

Having an owl take one would be tragic for the squirrel but offer life for the owl. Years ago I saw an adult Great Horned Owl with three fledglings hunting midday in the forest. It has been rare to see them active during the peak daylight hours. Usually they come out at dusk before Red-tailed Hawks have retired for the night and feeding territory conflicts occur. The hunting territory can be the same for both but is normally partitioned to daylight for hawks and night for owls. Hunger might be why the owl was active midday.

Most often when I encounter an owl in midday, it is because crows have located it and are harassing it. Loud calls draw my attention. When I approach, the owl leaves its perch to fly to a new protected site with crows pursuing it in flight. On such days the owl does not get a good day's sleep.

Today's owl had not been found by crows and quietly waited for a meal to appear. Birds came and left the feeder without noticing the owl or they ignored it. Owl broad wings do not provide good maneuvering to pursue prey through thick forest canopy like the wings of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks. Owls do well in dim light to grab ground mammals with sharp talons. This winter I watched a Barred Owl catch a rabbit that had been hiding under a fir tree. When the owl tried to catch it, at first it failed among the thick tree branches. When the rabbit darted from under the tree, it became a meal. I watched the owl feed for 40 minutes.

My 20-minute break extended to 40 minutes with the owl commanding I stay seated and watch. This is the longest I have had the opportunity to watch a Great Horned Owl in the wild. It was wonderful and I was able to concentrate on its feather patterns, posture and head movements. Maybe the squirrels knew it was present because none traversed the yard.

After 40 minutes, I needed to continue my butterfly survey. I exited the back door of the house to survey the Big Field nature niches and came to the front yard a half hour later. The owl was still present but departed with my arrival. Normally I just hear owls call so the viewing was a tremendous treat. It was a most rewarding rest break.

I encourage Audubon members to visit Ody Brook to explore trails for birds and other wildlife.

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.



Get to Know the Different Types of Birds (Part One)

by Mary Austin

Ornithology – the study of birds – is a fascinating branch of zoology. When you glance through a book or field guide on birds of the world, you discover that birds are organized in meaningful ways according to their order. For instance, ducks and geese are grouped together in one order. While loons and grebes are also water birds, they are placed in different order classifications.

So exactly how are birds order classified? In taxonomy (which is the branch of science concerned with classification of organisms) Carl Linnaeus (a Swedish botanist and zoologist who lived 1707 to 1778) devised a seven-rank classification system (from highest to lowest) of kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species. Birds are in the kingdom of Animalia (i.e., animals), phylum Chordata (i.e., animals with a backbone) and class Aves (i.e., birds).

As an aside, in 1990, Carl Woese et al. proposed an eighth rank (higher than kingdom) of domain to account for life at the cellular level. Under the eighth rank system, birds would be in the domain of Eukarya (i.e., life that has a cell nucleus and eukaryotic membrane).

Data obtained as a result of cellular research and DNA sequencing have provided reasons to reclassify the global bird orders. Whereas there had been 23 bird orders in the previous classification, the August 21, 2019 Clements Checklist updates the number to 41.

Now for the fun part! In four quizzes, spanning four *Caller* issues, you will have the opportunity to match an order name with a description of the order. There will be ten orders in each quiz, with the exception being the second quiz, which will have eleven. (If your knowledge of Latin is a little weak, just take a guess. The answers can be found at the end of the quiz.)

Orders in this Quiz

- a. Accipitriformes
- b. Anseriformes
- c. Apterygiformes
- d. Bucerotiformes
- e. Caprimulgiformes
- f. Cariamiformes
- g. Casuariiformes
- h. Cathartiformes
- i. Charadriiformes
- j. Ciconiiformes

Description of the Orders

- _____ 1. Diurnal Birds of Prey (such as hawks, eagles, ospreys, and kites are large birds with sharp, hooked beaks with visible nostrils.)
- _____ 2. Storks and Herons (live near the water and most have long necks, long beaks and feet without webbing. Most species in this order are gray, white and black.)
- _____ 3. Hornbills and Hoopoes (have the most prominent feature of large, hard bills. These birds are found in Africa to Asia and Papua New Guinea.)
- _____ 4. Nightjars and Allies (include nightjars, frogmouths, oilbirds, hummingbirds and swifts. The birds in this order generally have bills and feet that are not raptorial, a flatter head with eyes placed laterally rather than in a frontal facial disk, and longer tails.)
- _____ 5. Seriemas (are terrestrial birds that seldom fly and have heads similar to the heads of hawks. These birds only live in the wild in South America.)
- _____ 6. Kiwis and Extinct Birds (are flightless birds that have a long, flexible beak with a downward curve on the end. While most bird species in this order are extinct, the most notable living example is the Kiwi, the national bird of New Zealand.)
- _____ 7. New World Vultures (have bare heads, powerful legs and feet, and strong bills. Species in this order include the Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, King Vulture, and California and Andean Condors.)
- _____ 8. Waterfowl Birds (live near water sources such as a marine body or freshwater pond. This order includes ducks, swans and geese.)
- _____ 9. Emus and Cassowaries (are flightless terrestrial birds that are both native to Australia. These herbivorous birds are enormous—weighing up to 55 kilograms—with the females usually larger than the males.)
- _____ 10. Shorebirds (comprise an extensive bird order with about 350 bird species, including gulls, terns, plovers, sandpipers, auks and puffins. These birds are found worldwide in wetlands, freshwater and seawater shorelines, and occasionally on the ocean.)

References:

- “40 Different Types of Birds in Bio Explorer,” accessed June 2, 2021, www.bioexplorer.net/animals/birds/.
- “Clements Checklist, August 2019,” accessed July 28, 2021, www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/overview-august-2019/.
- Lovette, Irby J. and Fitzpatrick, John W., Editors. Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Handbook of Bird Biology, Third Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Hoboken, NJ, USA (2016).
- “Orders – Bird Families of the World,” accessed July 28, 2021, www.birdfamiliesoftheworld.com/orders/.

Answers to quiz, Part One:

1.a, 2.j, 3.d, 4.e, 5.f, 6.c, 7.h, 8.b, 9.g, 10.i



UPCOMING EVENTS (visit the GRAC website for details)

August

- 12 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 13 Field Trip: Birding SE Kent County w/ Tom Leggett
- 19 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 26 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike

September

- 2 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 9 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 10 Field Trip: Birding SE Kent County w/ Tom Leggett
- 16 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 23 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 27 Membership Meeting and Nature Program
- 30 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike

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.

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.

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 – Scott Hutchings
- Vice President – Landon Bell
- Secretary – Shawn Taheri
- Treasurer – Jeff Neumann
- Ass't Treasurer – Theresa Dykhuis
- Board Member – Felix Perdue
- Board Member – Ruth Fridsma
- Board Member – Mary Austin
- Board Member – Jeni Taheri
- Field Trips – Cate Roesler
- Finance – Keith Helmus
- Fund Development – *open*
- Historian – Linda Damstra
- Hospitality – Henry Raad
- Junior Audubon – Hannah Safford
- Library – Kathleen Haase
- Maher Sanctuary – Chris Baer
- Membership – Theresa Dykhuis
- Nominating – Scott Hutchings
- Publicity – Tricia Boot
- Scholarship – Katie Bolt
- Special Events – *open*
- Website – Fred VanOveren

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT *(non-voting member)*

Sheryl Helmus 2018-19, 2019-20

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Audio/Visual – Robert Riepma
- Bird Reports – Carol VanOveren
- 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
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Rockford, MI 49341

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Grand Rapids Audubon Club

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