

# the Caller

October 2021, Volume 60, No. 3

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

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[www.facebook.com/grandrapidsaudubonclub/](https://www.facebook.com/grandrapidsaudubonclub/)



## Ranger Steve's Nature Niche

### *Flycatcher Bristles*

by Ranger Steve (Mueller)

Many birds that feed on flying insects have bristles around the mouth. Flycatchers are famous for darting from a perch to nab flying insects. Eastern Phoebes often take residence and build a nest under carport ceilings.

We are the proud owners of a carport that for decades phoebes have claimed for nest building. Though individual birds usually only get to live a few years, we have continuous occupants. The nests are constructed with vegetation and lined with moss. They are a cup that sits mostly hidden on a flat surface among rafters. These birds prefer to have a roof over them that protects nestlings from inclement weather and predators.

Squirrels cannot access the ceiling beams. We have placed shelf platforms with a roof for robins and phoebes but over the decades none have been used. I have placed them in the carport and on the sides of trees but they do not attract birds as suitable nesting sites.

Our carport is on the upland above a low floodplain where birds stand on various perches and sally out to catch flying insects. They also stand on oak or hickory tree branches at the edge of the yard and fly out and down to take insects below them. Seldom do they fly upward. Several smooth sumac shrubs grow at the edge of the yard. Sumacs make great perches where the birds make short flights to snatch insects among the branches or dart toward the ground where low-flying insects are captured.

Many insects fly close to the ground so it is common for phoebes to gather food low. When walking in your yard on a sunny still day, bend down with an outstretched hand. When your hand gets close to the ground you will feel a sudden rise in temperature. This is an activity I often did with children at the Howard Christensen Nature Center. We also used thermometers to document temperature.

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## October Meeting Details

**Date:** Monday, Oct. 25  
**Time:** 7:30 PM program  
**Location:** John Donnelly Conference Center  
Aquinas College (virtual option available)

We are pleased to announce a cautious but optimistic return to in-person membership meetings, with COVID-19 guidelines to protect our members and the communities we serve.

- **You must properly wear a mask** that covers your nose and mouth at all times while indoors, regardless of vaccination status. This is a requirement of using our hosting venue's (Aquinas College) facilities.
- You will be asked to provide your name and contact information in the event contact tracing is required.
- Social distancing is required regardless of vaccination status. We will forgo the snack table and ask that you please maintain a six-foot distance between yourself and anyone outside your household.

We will continue to also offer virtual meetings for those who prefer to join online. COVID-19 remains a dynamic situation: Stay tuned to the GRAC website for the latest information.

Topic and speaker details are being finalized; please visit the GRAC website or Facebook page for the newest information.



Deadline for November newsletter articles: **Nov. 1**

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

*Continued from cover*

When the air is fairly still on a cool sunny day the warmth near the ground is especially obvious. Even on breezy days, it becomes obvious in protected forests where wind is slowed but sunlight still penetrates the open canopy.

Our yard is wonderfully unkempt with great plant variety. No monoculture of grass is desired. Fewer insects inhabit a monoculture and fewer birds thrive. I allow large sections of the yard to grow with wildflowers like maiden pink and cat's ear that other people refer to as weeds. Such a yard promotes richness of life and insects. I enjoy the spring and summer flowers and delay mowing until most flowers have bloomed and gone to seed.

As for bristle-faced Eastern Phoebes, migrating rare Olive-sided Flycatchers, Eastern Wood Peewees and Eastern Kingbirds, the insect menu is large and appealing. The number of flycatcher species is large across the continent and world. A group of nearly-identical-looking flycatchers in the Empidonax Genus thrive in the region and are distinguished best by their songs. Each utilizes a specialized habitat.

Surrounding their large gaping mouth are sensory bristles that aid food capture. The birds can feel the presence and location of an insect in the mouth opening. They can turn their head in the direction of the insect if it is off centered to improve capture success.

Flycatchers are not the only Family of birds with facial bristles. Whip-poor-wills and nighthawks that feed at dusk and during the night have feeding success aided by bristles. Bristles are actually specialized naked feathers with no or few side barbs. Sensory nerves are located at the base of feather bristles.

Protective bristles are present in some species. I notice woodpeckers at the feeders have more noticeable nasal bristles than other bird groups such as sparrows and finches. The tree-pecking behavior of woodpeckers flings small debris toward the face. The bristles help protect nasal passages. Turkey Vultures have mostly bare-naked heads with bristles that are easier to clean after sticking their heads into a dead animal.

Observe nature niche adaptations among birds to determine which have bristles and figure out their function.

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

## September 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 September 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.

A comfortable, mostly dry period with temps mostly in the 70s and some low 80s through the 12th was a welcome relief from the stifling heat and humidity of August. Our only stormy day during this period was on the 7th, which brought severe storms to parts of West Michigan preceding a strong cold front. The warmer than normal temperatures continued, mostly in the 80s, with little rain until the 20th. A strong cold front on the 21st ushered in a rainy period and much cooler temperatures only in the high 50s and 60s through the 23rd. After another cold front and rain the night of the 24th, an extended period of dry, pleasant, seasonable weather in the 70s ended the month.

**Good early month warbler counts on September 1** at Rycenga Park west of Fruitport by Alyssa Pyman (13 species with 26 individuals), at Ball Perkins Park in Grand Rapids by James Markham (nine species with 36 individuals) and along Indian Mounds Dr (Kent Trails) in Kent Co by Caleb Putnam/Julie Pedreros (eleven species with 44 individuals). Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94028626>, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94034631> and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94049738> respectively to view the checklists. **September 9:** Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94411925> to view Bailey Mitchell's impressive 84 species checklist of his 2 1/2 hr visit to Muskegon State Game Area, Lane's Landing with twelve warbler species plus other migrants.

**September 12:** Bailey Mitchell and Alyssa Pyman spent 2 3/4 hrs at the Muskegon Wastewater and were rewarded with 15 species of warblers and 59 individuals. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94577055> to view their checklist of 84 total species, which also includes waterfowl, shorebirds and many others.

**September 19:** Steve Minard observed twelve warbler species with 39 individuals at south Reeds Lake. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94871779> to view the checklist. At the Wastewater Brendan Klick tallied 18 warbler species and 85 individuals including 19 Blackpoll along with many more migrants. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94907095> to view the checklist.

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Along the Kalamazoo River channel in Allegan Co Rick Brigham and Caleb Putnam had 15 warbler species with 72+ individuals plus other migrants. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94959177> to view the checklist. **September 25:** Cascade Peace Park in Kent Co nearly always yields good warbler counts during both spring and fall migration as well as other migrants. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S95139276> to view Caleb Putnam and Julie Pedreros' 44 species checklist including 12 warbler species. **September 26:** South Reeds Lake yielded 16 warbler species and 60 individuals for Steve Minard. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S95198545> to view the entire checklist.

**Warblers of interest:** Louisiana Waterthrush (see below), Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged (see below), Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Orange-crowned, CONNECTICUT (see below – all at residences), Mourning (see below), Hooded, American Redstart (very numerous as expected), Cape May, Northern Parula (very good numbers in the area), Magnolia, Bay-breasted (good counts in the four-county area – high counts of ten at Michael McGraw Park in Kent Co Sep 4 and Indian Mounds Dr in Kent Co Sep 24), Blackburnian, Blackpoll (19 at the Wastewater Sep 19), Black-throated Blue (beautiful male eating elderberries at Rycenga Park in Muskegon Co Sep 2, photos by Beth Miller <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94079656>), Canada, Wilson's. Influx of at least 23 Palm at the Wastewater Sep 12 and large influx of Yellow-rumped into the area toward late month (55 at the Wastewater and other large numbers elsewhere). Considering there were not many chances through mid-month for warbler fallout (birds downed by inclement weather) with birds passing right on through the area, warbler counts were fairly good through that point, picking up considerably by the 19th.

Waterfowl began congregating in good numbers (huge numbers of Northern Shoveler and Ruddy Ducks toward month's end) at the Muskegon Wastewater mid-month (view Sam Greene's Sep 17 checklist for an example, along with many other migrants <https://ebird.org/wi/checklist/S94781777>) and shorebirds continued to move through (see those of interest below).

Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S95278384> to view Bailey Mitchell's extraordinary **111 species checklist** from 5 1/2 hrs in the field at the Muskegon Wastewater on September 27, with 17 waterfowl species, 14 warbler species and many other migrants. This is the highest number of species I have seen recorded at the Wastewater, surpassing Ken Bishop's 99 species checklist from May 16, 2020.

**Notables for the month:** A **Snow Goose** at the Wastewater Sep 29 – first report.

A **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater Sep 30 – first report. A **Cackling Goose** at the Wastewater Sep 28-30. A **SURF SCOTER** (found by Jason Bojczyk) at the Wastewater Sep 25-27 – unusual at this location and early. **Horned Grebes** at the Wastewater off and on throughout the month with a high count of four Sep 4-5, one at Mill Point in Spring Lake Sep 1 and 25. Up to two **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater Sep 10-20 – known location. At least one **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (found by homeowner, confirmed by Caleb Putnam) at a residence at 108th St/Byron Center Ave SW in Kent Co Sep 2, up to two there Sep 3-13 – as many as six had been seen this summer per homeowner and nested in resident's maples, up to three at Allegan SGA Todd Farm (118th Ave W of 62nd St) Sep 13 and 18 – known location for several years. At least **250 Chimney Swifts** entering chimney roosts at the Allegan library and Allegan UMC observed by Tim Cornish the evening of Sep 12. Three **Sora** at Window on the Waterfront in Holland Sep 28 – seems late. Up to seven **Common Gallinules** continued since Aug near the Mill Point area in Spring Lake Sep 5, three continued Sep 12 and one Sep 16-17, three in Grand River near Lloyd's Bayou in Ottawa Co Sep 18, four at East Grand River Park in Ottawa Co Sep 19. Up to ten **Black-bellied Plover** at the Wastewater throughout the month, one at Kalamazoo River mouth Sep 12, one at Grand Haven north pier Sep 15, one at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Sep 15. Up to 16 **American Golden-Plover** at the Wastewater Sep 11-30, up to eight at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Sep 13-20, up to 15 at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Sep 17-18. A **Semipalmated Plover** at Versluis Lake in Kent Co Sep 20 – odd location. Up to four **Ruddy Turnstones** at the Wastewater Sep 5-20, one at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Sep 10, one at Grand Haven north pier Sep 13-19. A **RED KNOT** (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater Sep 9. A **STILT SANDPIPER** continued since Aug at the Wastewater Sep 11 and two Sep 18, one at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Sep 13. Up to 22 **Baird's Sandpipers** continued since July at the Wastewater Sep 9-30 (much lesser counts later in month), one at Holland SP Sep 7 and 17-19, one at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Sep 13 and 19-20, one at AAA Turf Farm Sep 15. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** continued at the Wastewater Sep 11. Four **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS** (found by Amy Lyyski) at the Wastewater Sep 12 and 14-15, seven there Sep 13 and one Sep 16 and 21. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** at Patterson Rd Cattle Ponds in Allegan Co Sep 5. A **Wilson's Phalarope** (found by Carl/Judi Manning) at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Sep 2.

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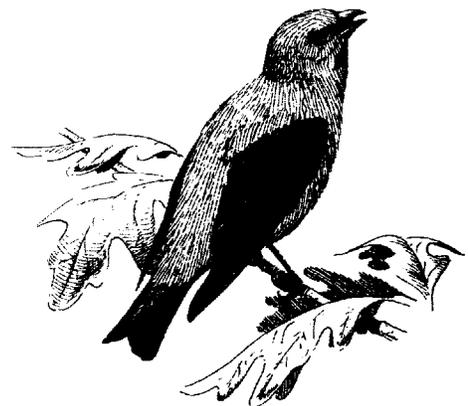
Up to four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at the Wastewater during the month, one at Pere Marquette Park Sep 7 and three Sep 20, one intermittently at Holland SP Sep 11-26. A **Least Bittern** continued since June at Reeds Lake Sep 2, one on canoe trip on Grand River near Mill Point in Ottawa Co Sep 12, one at Millennium Park Sep 25 – getting late. **Seventy Great Egrets** viewed from a residence on Grand River near Martinique Island in Ottawa Co very early on Sep 3 – obviously roosted overnight at this location. A **LITTLE BLUE HERON** (found by Jack Pohler) at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access Sep 4 – good description, but no diagnostic photos. Up to three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** continued since at least Aug at Mill Point area in Spring Lake Sep 20, one continued at 116th Ave/8th St wetland Sep 2, one at Ottawa Sands Co Park Sep 15, one at Harbor Island in Grand Haven Sep 21, one in marsh by playground at Woodland Ridge Apts W of Ferrysburg and two continued at Window on the Waterfront in Holland Sep 28 – getting late. An adult **GOLDEN EAGLE** at the Wastewater Sep 4-9. An imm **WESTERN KINGBIRD** (found by Dave Slager) at Saugatuck Dunes SP near the disc golf course Sep 8 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S94378628> to view James Markham’s photos). Three **Eastern Kingbirds** at the Wastewater Sep 17 – late. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at various locations early month to mid-month in all four counties, up to two at Black Lake Park in Muskegon Co Sep 1-3, at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Sep 2-5 and at Muskegon Lake NP Sep 11, one at the Wastewater Sep 27 and one at Muskegon Lake NP Sep 29 – both very late. Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** at Ball Perkins Park in Grand Rapids Sep 22 – late. **381 Blue Jays** migrating at Muskegon SP and **225** in a continuous flow flying south observed from Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access in Ottawa Co both Sep 27, **1,676** counted migrating in 1 hr 20 min at Lake Macatawa Boardwalk West Sep 30. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** quite numerous throughout the area – likely another irruptive year. A **Winter Wren** at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Sep 6 – first report. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Saugatuck Dunes SP Sep 8 – first report and many reports of Gray-cheeked and Swainson’s moving through in good numbers (35 Swainson’s at Port Sheldon NA North Loop Sep 13). An **American Pipit** at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Sep 10 – first report, **75** at the Wastewater Sep 24. Six **Pine Siskins** at Versluis Lake in Kent Co Sep 20 – first report, four at Reeds Lake Sep 25. A **Lapland Longspur** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Sep 13 – first report, one at the Wastewater Sep 25. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** at the Wastewater Sep 27 – first report. A **Dark-eyed Junco** at Clear Springs NP in Muskegon Co Sep 18 – first report.

A **LECONTE’S SPARROW** (found by Lonny Garris) briefly at a residence along Barry St W of 88th Ave in Ottawa Co Sep 29. Twenty-three **Eastern Meadowlarks** at the Wastewater Sep 24 – good count; likely migrants. A **Rusty Blackbird** at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Sep 24 – first report, one at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access Sep 29, three at Medbery Park in Muskegon Co Sep 30. **Warblers of note:** A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Kalamazoo River channel in Allegan Co Sep 6 – very late migrant per Caleb Putnam; these birds generally just disappear from breeding grounds by early Aug. A **Golden-winged** (found by Caleb Putnam) at Paris Park in Kent Co Sep 1-3, one (found by Alyssa Pyman) at Rycenga Park in Muskegon Co Sep 1, one (found by Tom/Matt Black) at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Sep 12, one (found by Doug Howerzyl/Carl and Judi Manning) at Ottawa Sands Co Park Sep 15. An **Orange-crowned** at the Wastewater Sep 17 – first report. A **CONNECTICUT** at a residence in Douglas Sep 16 (R Brigham), one at a residence at Niles Ave/Lakeview Dr in Ottawa Co Sep 22 (Mannings), one at a residence on Grand River near Martinique Island in Ottawa Co Sep 24 (D Herdegen). A **Mourning** at the Wastewater Sep 2, one at Muskegon SGA Lane’s Landing Sep 3, one at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Sep 5 and 17-18. A **SUMMER TANAGER** (found by David Smitley) at Muskegon SGA Lane’s Landing Sep 6. A late **Dickcissel** at the Wastewater Sep 20.

## Updates on Bird Festivals

Attending a bird festival is a great way to learn about birds and meet like-minded people. While the Village of Middleville website confirms that the April 2022 Thornapple Woodpecker Festival is canceled, many other festivals are being planned as virtual and in-person events.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology maintains a website of birding festivals and events in the United States, Canada and other countries around the globe. You can access this website at [allaboutbirds.org/birdingfestivals](http://allaboutbirds.org/birdingfestivals).





## Get to Know the Different Types of Birds (Part Three)

by Mary Austin

Hello again. Here is another “Get to Know the Different Types of Birds” challenge. This is Part Three of the four parts in this *Caller* series. You can access the prior two parts in the August and September 2021 *Callers*. Just go to [www.graud.org](http://www.graud.org); then under the “Newsletter” heading, select “Archived List” to open the *Caller* issue you want.

You might have noticed that some of the 41 avian orders include extinct birds. Sadly, just recently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker be removed from the endangered species list and designated as extinct. The Fish and Wildlife Service has additionally proposed to remove 22 other species (including the Bachman’s Warbler) from the Federal lists of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants due to extinction. The public may make comments of the proposal on or before Nov. 29, 2021.

Onward! It’s time to take the quiz challenge. All you have to do is match the Latin bird order name with the description of the order. (The answers can be found at the end of the quiz.) Extra challenge and extra credit: Impress your family and friends by saying each of the Latin bird order names three times rapidly.

### Orders in this Quiz

- a. Mesitornithiformes
- b. Musophagiformes
- c. Opisthocomiformes
- d. Otidiformes
- e. Passeriformes
- f. Pelecaniformes
- g. Phaethontiformes
- h. Phoenicopteriformes
- i. Piciformes
- j. Podicipediformes

### Description of the Orders

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Flamingoes (are any of six species of tall, pink wading birds with thick downturned bills, slender legs, long necks, large wings and short tails.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Woodpeckers (have the main uniting features of a tendency to nest in tree cavities and strong jaw muscles. Nearly all have zygodactyl feet (two toes forward and two back), with the exception of three-toed woodpeckers.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Grebes (are aquatic diving birds with flat nails on their feet. They live mainly in freshwater settings (where they make floating nests) with some species found in ocean habitats during migration and winter.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Perching Birds (comprise the largest bird order with more than half of all bird species. Most have 12 tail feathers. They have strong muscles in their larynx and a tendon in the rear of their legs which causes their feet to curl and become stiff when they land on a branch. This enables them to sleep without falling.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Mesites (are only found in Madagascar. They are small, nearly flightless birds that spend most of their time on land.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Turacos and Plantain Eaters (are very sociable birds that generally occur in pairs or small groups in African forests and savannas. They have a crest on their heads, short rounded wings, a rather long tail and unique copper-pigmented feathers.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Pelicans and Frigate Birds (are medium-sized and large aquatic birds that are found worldwide, mainly in tropical areas. They primarily eat fish. Most species have webbed feet and a gular pouch of bare skin that joins the lower mandible of the beak to the bird’s neck.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Hoatzins (are the only living representatives in this order. They live in the Amazon and the Orinoco delta in South America. Their faces are bare and blue, and they have a crest on their head that resembles a fan.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Bustards (are large terrestrial birds living mainly in dry grassland areas. They peck for food as they walk, and they prefer walking and running over flying. Bustards feed primarily on seeds and invertebrates. They make their nests on the ground, which makes their eggs and nestlings vulnerable to predation.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Tropicbirds (are pelagic seabirds, usually found in tropical and subtropical regions. They primarily have white plumage with elongated tail feathers and small feeble legs and feet. There are only three tropicbirds in this order: Red-billed, White-tailed and Red-tailed.)

### References:

“40 Different Types of Birds in Bio Explorer,” accessed June 2, 2021, <https://www.bioexplorer.net/animals/birds/>.

Grandoni, Dino. “Ivory-billed Woodpecker Officially Declared Extinct, Along with 22 Other Species.” *The Washington Post*, Sept. 29, 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/09/29/endangered-species-ivory-billed-woodpecker/>.

“Orders – Bird Families of the World,” accessed July 28, 2021, <https://www.birdfamiliesoftheworld.com/orders/>.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of 23 Extinct Species from the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.” 86 Fed. Reg. 54298-54338 (Sept. 30, 2021).

### Answers to the Quiz, Part Three:

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



## September Finance Report

prepared by Jeff Neumann, Treasurer

Checking Account Balance: \$ 8,193.81  
 Edward Jones Account: \$78,421.17  
**Total Assets as of 9/27/21: \$86,614.98**  
 Restricted Funds (included in the total assets)  
 Maher Sanctuary Fund: \$ 390.49  
 Junior Audubon Fund: \$4,048.55  
 Audubon Adventures: \$ 299.65

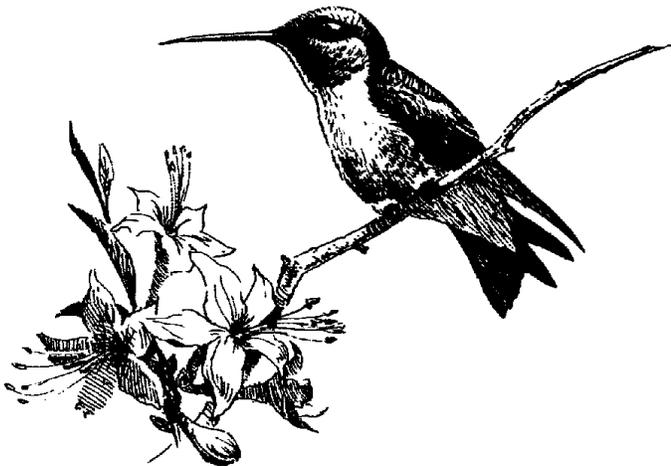
The balances in the Maher Sanctuary, Junior Audubon and Audubon Adventures Funds are included in the total assets.

## Book Recommendation

by Chris Baer

I have recently read a book that is very fanciful and pleasing. The “Hummingbirds’ Gift” by Sy Montgomery (one of my favorite authors). It is about Mr. Montgomery’s visit with a bird rehabilitator who specializes in hummingbirds. Brenda, the bird rehabber, takes Sy on a wonderful experience in raising two species of hummers from nestling to flight independence.

The journey is fraught with hazards but the two pull it off. Incredible amounts of time and patience is required for this job. You will find lots to learn about hummingbirds and how their minds work. The book is small and short—just 83 pages for the delightful read.



## Maher Sanctuary Update

by Chris Baer

The sanctuary is ready again for traffic on the trails and boardwalk. The bugs are gone and the birds are still there, to some degree. I was there on Sept. 30 and found willow flycatcher, rufous-sided towhee, catbird, various sparrows and a host of chipmunks. In the past we have had very few chipmunks and I am not sure where all these little furry mammals have come from. There really are no woods near us but there certainly has been a “hatch.”

I spent most of my time on the 30<sup>th</sup> putting stinky dryer sheets and trunk protectors on the bur oaks in the oak savannah. The bucks like to rub their antlers on the tree trunks, which can kill the trees. To discourage this behavior we have to put things on the trees that they do not like. This has worked for many years and I think in about five more years we can give it a rest as the trees will be big enough in diameter. Some of the trees are over 20 feet tall while others are smaller and from a different planting time. All the trees look very good with lots of leaves and branches in their canopies.

The boardwalk looks a little rough from the mowing in July because of the beaucoup rain we had and everything that was a plant said wahoo! and grew with no bounds. The grass that was cut is now lying on the boardwalk. I hope to get it cleaned up soon. One of the deer hunters has volunteered to blow it off. One of the other deer hunters has cut the humongous tree that fell near the bridge so that it would not be so close to the stream and the bridge. The tree fell so close and, you guessed it, the tree was an ash and had been dead for some time.

The archery season has started and there are a few deer hunters who have permission to hunt at Maher. No one is going to be hunting there in the firearm season this year. The people who are hunting will be far off the trails and boardwalk. I do think that everyone should wear bright clothing or hunter orange if you are walking in the sanctuary at this time. I am sure we have poachers who are incredibly hard to catch. We have lots of deer and therefore, Maher, is a magnet for deer hunters.

I hope many of you will get out to see the changing colors of the trees at Maher. The wetland is especially lovely this time of year. The bluebirds most likely will stay and entertain us with their song and beautiful blue color. Many flowers are also blooming with asters taking front and center.



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

### October

- 7 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 8 Field Trip: Kentwood Jaycees Park w/ Tom Leggett
- 14 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 21 Field Trip: Millennium Park Hike
- 25 Membership Meeting and Nature Program
- 28 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>		_____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>		_____

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 | Field Trips – open              |
| President – Scott Hutchings          | Finance – Keith Helmus          |
| Vice President – open                | Fund Development – open         |
| Secretary – Shawn 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 – Mary Austin           | Membership – Theresa Dykhuis    |
| Board Member – Jeni Taheri           | 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

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## **Grand Rapids Audubon Club**

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