

Nature Program

Grand Rapids Audubon Club



Night Flights:

The magical phenomenon of nocturnal bird migration, and how you can monitor it at your house for about \$200

The majority of migratory birds migrate at night. During these flights, many species utter a nearly-continuous series of short calls, or flight calls. These sounds are audible by ear, and in many cases are identifiable to species, if not species groups.

Flight calls constitute a cutting-edge way to experience bird migration. Ornithologists are increasingly using microphones to document this phenomenon, tracking bird populations and species composition of night migrants.

This field is well-suited to the contributions of amateurs, as one can cheaply and easily build a high-quality microphone, create recordings of the sounds using a computer, and identify the birds passing over one's house by analyzing the recordings.

Caleb Putnam has been recording nocturnal flight calls since 2009 at his home in Sparta, Mich., analyzing them with free software, and contributing his recordings to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for use in long-term monitoring efforts. Caleb will explain how the microphone setup works, how to identify flight calls, and where interested birders can go to get started in this groundbreaking field of ornithology.

Caleb is a Michigan native and Michigan Bird Conservation Coordinator for Audubon Great Lakes and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He earned a B.S. in Biology from Alma College in 1999 and an M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana in 2003. A lifelong birder, Caleb has extensive knowledge of Michigan's birds and places. He currently is an eBird reviewer for an eleven-county area of the west central Lower Peninsula. He is a former Michigan Bird Records Committee chairman.

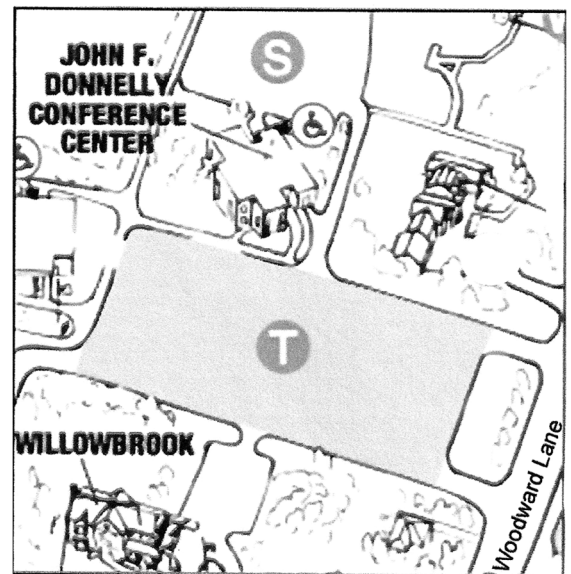
Date: Monday, November 27, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM social; 7:30 PM program

Location: John F. Donnelly Conference Center, Aquinas College

Speaker: Caleb Putnam, Audubon Great Lakes and Michigan DNR

Topic: Night Flights: The magical phenomenon of nocturnal bird migration



The John F. Donnelly Conference Center at Aquinas College is located at 157 Woodward Lane SE. It is accessible from Fulton Street and Robinson Road. Parking is available off Woodward Lane in Lot T and Lot S. Lot S is the handicap-accessible entrance.

You are invited to attend this interesting program as a guest of the Grand Rapids Audubon Club.
There is no charge for admission.

Learn more and get involved: www.graud.org | facebook.com/grandrapidsaudubonclub/
