

# Holland Audubon Club



April 2024  
Newsletter

**Meeting April 9<sup>th</sup> at Hope Church, 77 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Holland MI; at 7pm.** Masks optional but encouraged if you're sniffly

Peoplefeeders: Ken & Diane Houtman and Steve Bosch

**"Habitat Conservation in Ottawa County"**

**by Lucas Timmer**

In the last five decades North America has seen a decline of nearly 3 billion birds, a whopping 30 percent, and many of those birds we find locally declining in Ottawa County. Our significant growth and development in Ottawa County, over those same decades, has been a significant factor in this local dramatic decline in bird populations. To help birds out, we as birders need to band together to advocate for bird habitat to our community to help reverse these declines. Join Holland Audubon Club as Lucas Timmer, a local civil engineer who works on infrastructure projects throughout the county, and a passionate birder, shares some insights on concrete examples of how we as birders can present the plight of birds to our community, and by doing so, see real benefits occurring for our bird friends.

Lucas will discuss why we should care about bird habitat conservation locally, what habitats for birds need to be conserved in our area, what work has been done so far by Lucas and local birders to conserve habitat for birds, and what our future work and goals should be. Lucas will also go into detail how both the Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society and Holland Audubon Club were able to work with Park Township to provide nearly 30 acres of grassland habitat for grassland birds, which have seen the most significant decline of all birds in North America over the last five decades (53%).

Lucas Timmer is a resident of Holland with his wife Molly and children Florence and John. Birds have always been an interest to Lucas (Adelie penguins are his favorite animal) but birding as a hobby did not take root until spring of 2020 during the pandemic. As a now avid birder, Lucas has been enjoying using his skillset as a civil engineer to promote critical habitat as the head of OIAS Habitat Preservation Committee.

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Enter our **BIRD SIGHTINGS DRAWING** for a special prize.



Image courtesy of AllAboutBirds.org

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HAC annual Financial Report will be available at the April meeting for anyone interested, if you'd like a copy sent to you, contact Gwen.

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Our May meeting will include elections for the following positions: Vice President, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor/Publicity Director. Gail, Robin and Mila are willing to continue in their positions.

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**Saugatuck-Douglas Library** will host Terry Grabill April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm presenting his 'Big Year,' in case you missed it previously at HAC. Great inspiration to get out there and go for it!

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Please note, if dues haven't been paid for paper newsletters mailed to you, you'll be switched to emailed copy if we have your email.

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Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

616-786-4847 ~ [www.miottawa.org/parks](http://www.miottawa.org/parks) ~

- 4/3; 8a; Bird Walk; Hemlock NC
- 4/5; 7:30p; Woodcock Walk; Grand River Park
- 4/6; 7:30p; Woodcock Walk; Hemlock NC
- 4/10; 8a; Bird Walk; Upper Mac NA; west
- 4/13; 10a; Bird Walk; (beginning); Hemlock NC
- 4/17; 8a; Bird Walk; Grand River Park
- 4/20; 8a; Lakeshore Birding; Gr. Haven N Pier
- 4/21; 2p; Wildlife Encounters-Woodpeckers; Hemlock NC
- 4/24; 8a; Bird Walk; Crockery Creek NA
- 4/28; 1p; Bald Eagle Walk; Grand Ravines-north
- 5/1; 8a; Bird Walk; Hemlock NC



616-393-0453 [www.outdoordiscovery.org](http://www.outdoordiscovery.org) ~

- 3/16, 3/23; 11a-3p; Maple Sugar Time; Van Raalte Farm
- 4/2; 8:30p; Woodcock Walk; ODC
- 4/6; 11a; Live Birds of Prey; Final Four ODC



616-355-1057 ~ [www.degraaf.org](http://www.degraaf.org) ~

Trails are open, the building is closed for renovations.

**Holland Audubon Club Board of Directors**

President	Steve Hamberg	Vice President	Gail Berner
Treasurer	Gwen Shavaliar	Secretary	Robin Pintar
Publicity /Newsletter Editor	Mila Walters	Hospitality	Marty Keirnan
At Large	Martin Blagdurn	Jr Audubon Chair	
<a href="mailto:hollandaudubon(at)gmail(dot)com">hollandaudubon(at)gmail(dot)com</a>			



*Red-shouldered Hawk by Marty Keirnan in his backyard*

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Holland Audubon Club will soon be the featured Chapter spotlight in the Jack Pine Warbler publication of Michigan Audubon. Watch for that, and if you aren't a Michigan Audubon member, now is a great time to join and see our club featured, as well as follow all the great info and events happening.

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