

# Holland Audubon Club



December 2024  
Newsletter

**Meeting Dec 10<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

Peoplefeeder: Harold Koning

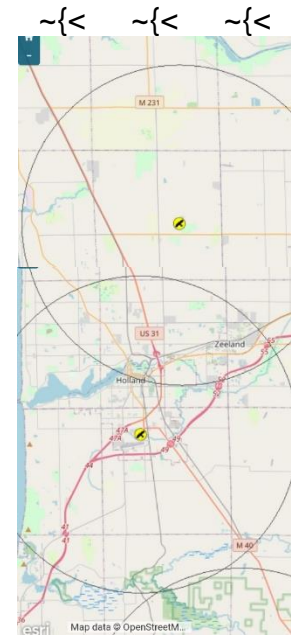
**"Birding and More, West of Denver"**

**Presented by Ken Cook**

At over a mile high in elevation, Denver offers some outstanding opportunities to view and photograph birds and wildlife that you don't see most places. West of Denver is even more impressive with its majestic mountain ranges and valleys where you encounter an amazing variety of bird species that may be passing through. Join the Holland Audubon Club as Ken Cook shares some fantastic images of his time spent in Evergreen, Red Rocks Canyon, Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR and Blue Sky Country, all in Colorado, in the summertime. Ken's eye for the perfect image is always a delight to behold and his entertaining anecdotes make for a very enjoyable program. You won't want to miss this one and learning a thing or two is always a bonus.

A Holland native and graduate of Hope College, Cook has honed his 30-plus year photography passion to specialize in landscapes, nature and wildlife. He has traveled to many countries to pursue his passion, but currently is focused on our winged friends within North America. a charter member of the North America Nature Photography Association, as well as a member of the Holland Friends of Art, Holland Area Arts Council and the Tulip City Camera Club. You can view his work and/or contact him at [www.kencookphotography.com](http://www.kencookphotography.com).

*~Mountain Bluebird & Yellow breasted Chat courtesy of Ken*



The Christmas Bird Count will happen December 14<sup>th</sup> for the Hudsonville area, which includes the north and east side of Holland (upper circle). The Holland area count (lower circle), will be January 4<sup>th</sup>. These are great opportunities for you to assist local information gathering and enhance your knowledge and birding at the same time. Contact Carl Manning at [oias@oias.org](mailto:oias@oias.org) and Jamie Krupka at [jamie@outdoordiscovery.org](mailto:jamie@outdoordiscovery.org) respectively.





Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

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

(check out the new mug reveal...)

12/7; 9:30a, & 11:10a; Coffee with the Birds; Hemlock



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

Trails are open daily, Visitor Center: Mon-Sat.



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

*Trails are open, the building is closed for renovations.*

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FROM INSECTS TO BERRIES by Martin Blagdurn

As cold weather approaches, Michigan has 3 common species of insect-eating birds that overwinter on a regular basis, so don't be surprised to see them in December, January, February and March. Our state bird, the American Robin, switches from worms to berries so they can get through the cold days of winter. Also Eastern Bluebirds go from flying insects to berries. Our other winter berry eaters are Cedar Waxwings. This gregarious species typically appears in flocks and will take over a bush or tree until all the berries are gone. Robins and Bluebirds also form small groups of their own during the cold months. There are other Thrush type species that occasionally remain in Michigan in winter: Hermit Thrush – Gray Catbird – Brown Thrasher, that are usually single birds that feed in thickets and gullies. Another occasional species is the Bohemian Waxwing that appear in flocks of their own but can also associate with Cedar Waxwings. Finally, there is a warbler that can survive in early winter eating berries – the Yellow-rumped Warbler, formerly known as Myrtle Warbler for the berries it favors.

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Please consider providing snacks for our meetings, if you are able. Two persons per meeting is best, and It really is appreciated by our attendees and enhances our meeting fellowship. Sign up at the meetings or contact our Hospitality guru, Marty, who deserves a huge thanks for all he does.

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*Your membership support really helps keep this club going, **thank you!***

**Holland Audubon Club Board of**

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PO Box 8364 Holland MI 49422

Enter our BIRD SIGHTINGS DRAWING for a special prize.