

Holland Audubon Club



October 2024
Newsletter

Meeting Oct 8th at Hope Church, 77 W. 11th St.

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

Peoplefeeders: Robin Pintar & Mila Walters

"Some Amazing Bird Behavior"

by Michael P. Lombardo, PhD

One of the reasons we find birds so fascinating to watch is their complex behaviors. Join us for this educational program as Michael presents some amazing behaviors that birds can perform and explore some scientific explanations for these behaviors. First, he will review how scientists ask questions about behavior and use examples to examine the differences between instincts and learned behaviors. Using that information as a foundation, he will discuss the roles played by instinct and learning in nest building, parental behavior, anti-predator behavior, "lying", and some special sensory adaptations that aid some behaviors. Finally, he will explore the ability of birds to use tools, plan for the future, count, and see that some birds have mental abilities that rival those of primates. Come and learn what amazing creatures we live with and gain some insight via college level excellence.

Michael P. Lombardo is a Professor Emeritus of Biology at GVSU, earning his B.S. In Zoology at the Ohio State University, an M.S. in Zoology and Ph.D. In Ecology at Rutgers University and was a Junior Fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows at the U of M. He is a Fellow of the

American Ornithological Society and served on the council and as Secretary of the Association of Field Ornithologists. Among his



over 60 publications in peer-reviewed science journals are papers on various aspects of the biology of Tree Swallows,

Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds, European Starlings and House Sparrows. Michael enjoys the various birding opportunities West Michigan has to offer, and is currently the President of Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society in Grand Haven. ~Images from Michael Lombardo and public domain.



Piers Feeds (4384 58th St. near airport) will host a customer appreciation event on Oct 9, a great place to get your bird seed. We'll have a representative from our club on site 10a-2p to answer any questions, as well as a rep from their bird feed supplier. Might even be some giveaways.

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Our hearts go out to all affected by Hurricane Helene and hoping for speedy recovery; reputable places are accepting donations in many ways; and if you see a strange bird, it could be a bird blown off course, too. Use caution if approaching, and best judgement, perhaps some water and protection, if needed.

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CraneFest is Oct 12-13 in Bellevue, Michigan (22300 15 Mile Rd. 49021) vendors, food trucks, and lots of cranes coming in to roost in the evenings...thousands! An amazing must see.

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Windmill Island has bird houses in need of care and monitoring, if you're interested in assisting in this ongoing effort, please sign the info sheet. Scheduling and info hopefully available at the meeting.



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

616-786-4847 ~ www.miottawa.org/parks ~

- 10/5; 9a-11a; Bird Walk – Ottawa Sands
- 10/6; 1-4p; Raptor Watch; Mt. Pisgah
- 10/9; 9-11a; Bird Walk-Gr. Ravines
- 10/23; 9-11a; Bird Walk-Hemlock Crossing
- 10/26; 8a-12n; Waterfowl Field Trip-Gr.Haven area
- 10/26; 1-5p; Waterfowl Field Trip- Muskegon Wastewater



616-393-0453 www.outdoordiscovery.org ~



616-355-1057 ~ www.degraaf.org ~

Trails are open, the building is closed for renovations.

Holland Audubon Club Board of Directors

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hollandaudubon(at)gmail(dot)com			

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

Enter our BIRD SIGHTINGS DRAWING for a special prize.



PO Box 8364 Holland MI 49422

Michigan Young Birders Network will meet at Kellogg bird Sanctuary in Battle Creek Oct 19, 9a-12n. See the Michigan Audubon website for more info.

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Some concerning news has been brought to our attention regarding Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (WPBO) and it's management by Michigan Audubon Society. As long-time supporters of and attendees of WPBO, our board members are hoping MAS will recalibrate their priorities toward expediently, and fully supporting WPBO and the ongoing programs and staff that have been so vital to avian education in the past. This facility and staff should stand out as the crown jewel for MAS, given the national notoriety it has received in the past, and with proper support, it can again.

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