

Holland Audubon Club

April 2025
Newsletter

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

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

Peoplefeeder: Ken & Diane Houtman

"Finland; Forests, Fowl and Fur" by Eric Gustafson, MD

With less than 20,000 lakes, Minnesota is aptly named "Land of 10,000 lakes," however Finland, with closer to 200,000 lakes, is more deserving of the name. Finland is bordered by Sweden, Norway and Russia, and has enormous expanses of boreal forest, many thousands of lakes and weaving waterways. Finland's treasures in spring are manyfold: great grouse, owls, woodpeckers, and finches in wild forests, woodland mammals including large carnivores along the frontier with Russia, and throngs of waterfowl, marsh birds, and migrating shorebirds. Join us as Eric shares his adventures through this wonderful country along with some fantastic images to enjoy.



Eurasian Brown Bear and Black Grouse courtesy of Eric

Eric Gustafson is a family doctor from Holland, Michigan who, with his wife Linda, enjoys birding adventures. He says they've 'recently focused

on experiencing the birds and wilderness of Scandinavia with trips to Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.' We look forward to more adventures from him.

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Purple Martin nest boxes on Windmill Is. by Martin B

The Windmill Island effort which started last fall when we cleaned out 96 nest boxes continued 2 weeks ago when we activated half of the nest boxes by



removing the hole covers and laying in a handful of White Pine needles. The houses were also labeled and numbered in preparation for data collection. Several missing peak perches were also replaced, and metal stops were installed by Windmill staff which will make raising and lowering the houses easier. On March 29th Robin and I met our 1st volunteer monitor, Rich Dirske,



and observed the houses for about 90 minutes. We didn't see any but we have a starting point of data now, we will see what happens over the coming weeks.

Thanks, Robin for the images.

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The **board positions** up for re-election this May are President and Treasurer. At-Large is also renewed by the board. Gwen will be turning in her bean-counting hat end of this season, so **we'll need a new Treasurer asap. Please contact a board member to volunteer for this vital position.**



Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission

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

~Check out our YouTube channel~

Apr 2; 8a; Bird Walk; Crockery Creek NA
Apr 9; 8a; Bird Walk; Upper Macatawa NA west
Apr 10; 6p; Bird Walk; Upper Mac NA west
Apr 16; 8a; Grand River Park
Apr 23; 8a; Hemlock Crossing NC
Apr 24; 6p; Hemlock Crossing NC
Apr 26; 8a; Grand River Park
Apr 26; 1p,2p,3p,& 4p; Bald Eagle Walks; Grand Ravines
Apr 30; 8a; Riley Trails



616-393-0453 www.outdoordiscovery.org ~

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

Apr 5; 11a; Live Birds of Prey; Final Four; ODC



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

Trails are open, the building is closed for renovations.

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Project Feederwatch is ongoing until April 30th, another way you can assist global efforts to gather bird info from your own home. Relax, and count, and enjoy the show.

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Enter our BIRD SIGHTINGS DRAWING for a special prize.

*Your membership support really helps keep this club going, **thank you!** \$20 for the season covers your whole family. \$5 more for this on paper.*



Mila was fortunate enough to see the Grey Gull that showed up on Dauphin Island, 2nd time in the US.

Photo credit to Todd DeVore who graciously shared his much better images. Laughing Gulls too.

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Holland Audubon Club
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Treasurer Gwen Shavallier

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Hospitality Marty Keiman

At Large Martin Blagdurn

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Holland
Audubon Club

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Migration is happening; get out and enjoy!