

Holland Audubon Club



January 2025
Newsletter

Meeting Jan 14th at Hope Church, 77 W. 11th St.

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

Peoplefeeder: Angie Hamberg

"Birding in the Caribbean" Presented by Steve Hamberg

The Caribbean islands, off the south and east of Florida's keys, offer a close destination for birders who want to expand a little beyond the USA. The islands are diverse, each with their own personality, culture, and set of birds that can be found there. The islands can be divided into two main groups, the Greater Antilles, comprised of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico, these being the largest islands in the Caribbean, as well as the smaller Cayman Islands which are usually included in this group due to their location. The Lesser Antilles are all the smaller islands that stretch from the east side of Puerto Rico all the way south toward the shores of Venezuela in South America. Looking at a map, it's an amazing array of islands dotting the whole vast western Atlantic.

Join the Holland Audubon Club as we enjoy a look at the Greater Antilles in this program, except for the island of Cuba. Steve will share his fascinating journeys throughout these large islands, with glimpses of the almost 80 endemic birds on these islands alone; Steve was fortunate to see 79 of the 80. Along with brilliant images of some of these, he will also treat us to the entertaining and marvelous sights and sounds around these magnificent islands over his 3 week journey.

Steve Hamberg is a retired local physician who enjoys birding all over the world, as well as sharing his passion with others through his many programs. Historically accompanied by his wife and photographer Angie, he has been to 93 countries in about 40 years, and has a staggering life list of 7982 species of birds. Encouraged by Angie, he hopes to continue pursuing this avian passion, with the threshold of 8000 birds within his sights.

~Broad-billed Tody
provided by Steve



The 125th Christmas Bird Count concluded on Jan 4th, and results will be reported at the meeting, but let's hope an observation from Steve is not indicative of global counts, that this one felt like one of the lowest count results of the years he's participated in. Huge thanks to Carl Manning and Jamie Krupka for coordinating this enormous task locally, and all the participants who helped count. Jamie remarked that almost 3 dozen folk helped in (continued back page) >



the Holland count, so far, and some note worthy sightings were Barrow's Goldeneye(3k+) and Harlequin Ducks, and Yellow-rumped Warblers in Saugatuck area, and a Red-throated Loon at Holland State Park, plus over 200 Sandhill Cranes in fields east of Douglas.

Awaiting report from Carl, stay tuned for that.

Remember: 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...



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

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

Jan 11; 9:30a & 11:10a; Coffee with the Birds/Hemlock



616-393-0453 www.outdoordiscovery.org ~

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

Jan 14; 6p; Owl Prowl; Stu Visser Pk



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

Trails are open, the building is closed for renovations.

Kudos to the Biden/Harris administration for protecting lands and waters that our wildlife depend on, more than any other administration. Let's hope our public lands continue to see protection in the future, our birds and wildlife depend on it.

Enter our BIRD SIGHTINGS DRAWING for a special prize.

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

Holland
Audubon Club

PO Box 8364 Holland MI 49422

Watch for updates on Bird City Michigan as the board navigates this option for our club involvement.

~{< ~{< ~{<

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.

~{< ~{< ~{<

Holland Audubon Club
Board of Directors

President Steve Hamberg

Vice President Gail Berner

Treasurer Gwen Shavallier

Secretary Robin Pintar

Publicity /Newsletter Editor Mila Walters

Hospitality Marty Keirman

At Large Martin Blagdurn

www.HollandAudubon.com

HollandAudubon@gmail.com