

# Holland Audubon Club

April 2026  
Newsletter

**Meeting April 14<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: Harold & Jeanne Koning

**"Family Ties: Ferrying in Waterfowl & Pair Duets in Rails & Owls"** by **Daniel Goldberg, PhD**

Ah...the chirping, clucking, twittering tinkle of the birds you hear all over provide the basis for most of the studies of avian acoustic communication and parental behavior, mostly focused on the passerines, our colorful and sought after songbirds. Now, however, we're broadening our adventures and knowledge of other birds, just as fascinating and wonderful, as we showcase their unique and intriguing behaviors, in studies that are largely recorded as anecdotal, but in fact are widespread and common. In this presentation, Dr. Daniel Goldberg will discuss vocal duetting in owls and rails, and parental carrying of chicks in waterbirds. Not only are these charismatic birds, but their ways of communicating and looking after their young just might remind us of ourselves. Join us as we gain some insights into these elusive but fascinating species. *Look closely, see the babies?*



*Clarks Grebe adults and chicks, Lake Hodges CA Courtesy of William Pohley/ Audubon Photography Awards*

Dr. Goldberg is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Grand Valley State University, a role that he began in Fall 2024 after teaching Biology for a year at Albion College. His research

interests span both animal communication and comparative studies of behavioral ecology and the evolution of elaborate signals, which he pursued during his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of California Riverside, and during his Ph.D. at Illinois State University. At GVSU, he specializes in teaching Ecology, Environmental Science, Ornithology, and Natural History of Vertebrates. As an avid birder and ornithologist, he is also the faculty advisor for the GVSU Ornithology Club and a board member at large in the Grand Rapids Audubon Club. Hailing from Riverside CA, Daniel's migration to the Midwest 10 years ago has introduced him to the delights of West Michigan, where he enjoys hiking, reading, writing and swing dancing, and, of course, Birding.

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**Thank you to Joyce Muehlenbeck** for the donation of books we gratefully redistributed to appreciative new owners. Feel free to pass on any birding/nature literature, too.



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

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

~Check out our YouTube channel~

Apr 8<sup>th</sup>; 8a & 9<sup>th</sup>; 6p; Bird Walk; Paw Paw Pk-East  
Apr 15 & 18; 8a; Bird Walk; Ottawa Sands Pk  
Apr 22; 8a & 23; 6p; Bird Walk; Grand River Pk  
Apr 25&26; 10a & 1p; Bald Eagle Bash Presentations;  
Apr 25 & 26; 11a, 11:30a, 2p & 2:30p; Bald Eagle Walks;  
at Grand Ravines Park North  
Apr 29; 8a; Bird Walk; Crockery Creek Nat area  
May 6; 8a; Bird Walk; Ottawa Beach Parks



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

Trails are open; Visitor Center: Mon-Sat.

Apr 10; 8:30a; Birding Migration Hike; Ransom St Pk  
Apr 25; 8a; Mist Netting for Birds; Silver Crk, Hamilton  
May 2; 9a; Birding Hike w/Latino Outdrs; Huff Pk,GR  
May 5; 9a; Birding at Bysterveld Pk, Wayland

Donations appreciated for ongoing improvements to facilities.



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

Come see the new changes,

walk the trails, enjoy nature! Building opens at 10am

A great start to our **Windmill Island Purple Martin house** maintenance program saw several members busy cleaning and assessing the



situation. We take pride in our efforts to assist Windmill Island with this ongoing program and hope to gain insight to the Purple Martin families that make it their home. To help, contact a board member to get info.

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Elections this season will include Vice President, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor/Publicity Director in May.

**Michigan Audubon** has some great Spring Birding trips and tours planned, Kirtland's Warbler, etc, check out [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org) for all the info.

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Tawas Point Bird Migration Days will be May 15-16. (formerly Tawas Point Bird Festival) They are asking for volunteers to assist with educational stations.

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**Keep track of early migrants** passing your way, you could win a prize...

**ENTER BIRD SIGHTINGS**

**DRAWING** for a special prize.

*Thank you to The 205 Coffee Bar (on Columbia) for our gift certificates, please say thanks next time you're there.*

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**Friends of Whitefish Point** are accepting donations to fund the spring Owl Banding program, and registration is open for the **Birdathon** in May 15-17, check out [friendsofwp.org](http://friendsofwp.org) for more info.

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**Holland Audubon Club**  
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