

Bring literature, share your photos and recent sightings!

Birding Connection ~ email Liz or Robert to join for current outing updates.



HOLLAND AUDUBON CLUB

February 2012

~{< ~{< ~{<

Tuesday, February 14th, 7:00 PM (Social time 6:15pm)

Hope Church ~ Commons Hall 77 W. 11th Street ~ Holland

“A Walk in Paradise: Virgin Islands National Park” by Rob Venner

This program on the Virgin Islands will focus on the top of an island chain called the Lesser Antilles. Volcanic in origin, these stunning, ancient islands were sighted by Columbus in his first voyage in 1492.

Starting with a brief look at the cultural history, most of Rob's program will take the viewer to pristine beaches, trails and forests of the beautiful island of St. John. Their colorfully rich history includes many native peoples, followed by the British, Danish and other inhabitants. Now, 66 percent of the land area is national park, abundant with wildlife.

Our explorations will take us to Maho Bay Camp (see pic on reverse), a tented community nestled on the picturesque hillside above the sea surrounded by the park. Remains of sugar plantations are found throughout the area in the over growth. One of the first, it is now a major ecotourism site in the Caribbean enjoyed by tourists and birders alike.

Islands have always held a strong attraction for Rob, come and explore this delightful land as Rob transports us to an island paradise.

Rob has his M.S. degree in Biology from Western Michigan University and a B.S Degree in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan. He has been the director of the DeGraaf Nature Center in Holland since 1993. For information on the center you may go to www.degraaf.org

Birding outing Jan 28th; It started out with blowing snow squalls but soon the sun came out. Unfortunately, the wind seemed to increase as the morning went. 40 mph gusts?! However everyone agreed that we still had a great time. Birders are tough! Some highlights: Double-crested Cormorant, Ruddy Duck (2);Iceland Gull; 20 Trumpeter Swans, some Tundras; Red-throated loon, Horned Grebe, 3 White-winged Scoters; 4 Ring-billed Ducks; 6 Bald Eagles. We missed many common birds (Goldfinch, Starling, etc.) and still had 30 species. Winter birding in the Holland area is awesome this year. I hope you can take time to enjoy it!

~Robert

~{< ~{< ~{<

The Snowy Owls seem to be sticking around, hopefully you get to see them as well; 128th and Bingham north of town seems often successful. Stay tuned to our Birding Connection emails, and also report what you happen to see. We thank you.



Michiganaudubon(dot)org

Holland Audubon Club Officers

Table with 3 columns: Position, Name, and Contact Info. Includes President Robert Vanderkamp, Vice President Jim McIlvain, Secretary Elizabeth Notman, Treasurer Phil Harrington, Publicity /Newsletter Editor Mila Walters, At Large Deb Overbeek, and Librarian Mike Overway.

Annual Memberships: 11/12

Single \$12 Sponsor \$25
Family \$18 Patron \$50
Benefactor \$100

Your dues help cover the expenses, like meetings and newsletters and speakers, etc.

Thanks for your support!!!

(If this box is checked, we don't show a current membership paid yet.)

Meeting:	<u>Feb. 14</u>	<u>Mar. 13</u>	<u>Apr. 10</u>	<u>May 8</u>
Speaker:	<u>Robert Venner</u>	<u>Bill Sweetman</u>	<u>John Huenink</u>	<u>John Dykstra</u>
Topic:	<u>"A Walk in Paradise: Virgin Islands National Park"</u>	<u>"Alaskan Odessey"</u>	<u>"Four Seasons on the Kalamazoo River"</u>	<u>"Magnificent Michigan"</u>
People Feeders:	<u>Deb Overbeek & Mila Walters</u>	??	<u>David & Jan Chase & ?</u>	??

DeGraaf Nature Center www.degraaf.org
 ~ call for info or to register 616-355-1057 ; small fees involved ~must register~
Feb. 25; 2pm. ; Build a Birdhouse

Ottawa Co Parks: www.miottawa.org/parks;
 ~ call 616-786-4847 ~may need to register~
Feb. 4; 10am; Feeder Watch at NEC; with Chip Franke
Feb. 25; 6p; Pine Bend; Owl with Many Names.
Mar. 3; 9a-3p; Winter Birding Trip; with Chip Franke

Outdoor Discovery Center: www.outdoordiscoverycenter.org
 ~ call for details; 616-393-WILD jamie@outdoordiscovery.org ~must register~

Sarett Nature Center: www.sarett.com; 269-927-4832
Feb.26; 3p; Building for Birds

~~~~~  
**Save the date:** May 5<sup>th</sup>; Berrien Big Day Birding Outing; contact Mike.

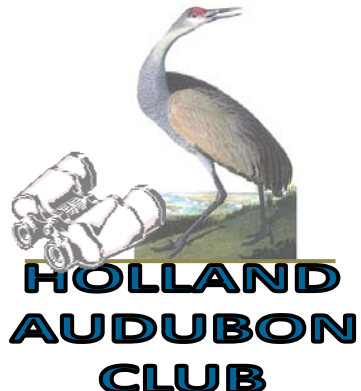


*Trumpeter Swans at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. Photo credits, Will Wallgren*



**Avian Sightings:** Reported at the January Meeting: Pheasant, 3350  
 Common Mergansers, 7 Purple Sandpipers, 8 Purple Finches, 2 swans.  
 ~{<    ~{<    ~{<

- Holland Audubon Club: We promote the appreciation of nature and the responsible use of our natural resources. -



C/O 175 EAST 39<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
 HOLLAND MI 49423-7015

**prepare the houses, repair the feeders,  
 Spring is just around the corner.**

# February 2012 HAC Supplement

## Recent Avian Sightings

Pine Warbler  
Holland - at least 1/15-1/26

Yellow-rumped Warbler  
DeGraaf NC - 1/11

Iceland Gull  
multiple locations & dates

Long-tailed Duck (high count - 8000)  
multiple locations & dates

Great Black-backed Gull  
multiple locations & dates

Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Kollen Park - 1/17

Bonaparte's Gull (high count - 2)  
multiple locations & dates

Glaucous Gulls (high count - 2)  
multiple locations & dates

Red-throated Loon  
multiple locations & dates

Trumpeter & Tundra Swans  
multiple locations

Long-eared Owl  
Cottonwood Park - 1/1

Snowy Owl - beautiful all-white male  
near 128<sup>th</sup> & Bingham since 12/31

Virginia Rail (6!)  
44<sup>th</sup> st. wetlands/Allegan Co. - 1/1

Snow Goose & Cackling Goose (3)  
Farm Unit Allegan SGA - 1/1

Peregrine Falcon  
Pigeon Lake - multiple dates

Western Red-tailed Hawk - dark morph  
Farm Unit Allegan SGA - 1/1

Bald Eagle (high count -23)  
multiple locations & dates

Red-shouldered Hawk & Northern Shrike  
Upper Macatawa Preserve

White-winged Crossbills  
eastern Ottawa Co. - 1/25

Purple Sandpiper (high count - 2)  
multiple locations & dates

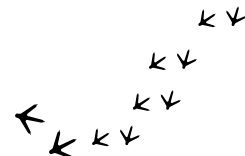
Surf Scoter (high count - 18)  
multiple locations & dates

Black Scoter (7)  
Douglas Public Beach - 1/15

Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, pintails, Hooded Mergansers, etc.  
Pigeon Lake - various high counts & dates in January

With the strange weather we are experiencing, there has been a number of species that have been spotted in Michigan that would normally have moved south for the winter. The warblers, the catbird, the cormorant, and the Bonaparte's Gull listed above are all good examples of that. As of 1/30, there have been 153 different species spotted in Michigan in January; amazingly, Scott Jennex of Ferndale, MI has seen 146 of them! Scott is a state and county "lister" who continually tries to increase his bird specie sightings for each month and for the year at both the county and the state levels. The 146 species for January impressively breaks his previous state high count of 123 species by 23!

Take advantage of our strange weather and add to your life list.



# February 2012 HAC Supplement

## Note from the Librarian

During its recent meeting the HAC Board has decided it necessary to “cull the flock” of some of the material currently in our library. Due to the fact that several books are not being checked out and are a bit outdated, they will be either donated to other sources or made available during future HAC meetings for individuals to take home if interested.

As a slightly odd addition to the library, please look for a puzzle of North American birds to be available in February. Through the assembly of this puzzle you will increase your knowledge of species by being able to identify various parts of the depicted birds. Also please check out the “coffee table books”; several are available. These large beautiful books are full of magnificent photos of birds from all over the world. Do you remember the photos of the Eurasian Eagle-Owl during Dr. Hamberg’s presentation? One of our books has several beautiful photos of that amazing bird.

Thank you to all of you who make the library worthwhile by simply using the resources available to you. Please make a conscious effort to return all checked out material after one month of use, especially newer additions. This will obviously allow more people to make use of the material. Thank you also to those who have increased the inventory by donating material. The library would not exist without this participation, keep it up!

~{< ~{< ~{< ~{< ~{< ~{<

The HAC board held a meeting Jan, 23<sup>rd</sup>, the minutes will be available at our meeting Feb. 14. Notable points discussed: Membership is strong; several board member positions will need to be voted on at our May Meeting, future newsletters will highlight that issue. Also a donation will be made to the Michigan Audubon Society on behalf of Holland Audubon Club, earmarked for youth education, if possible. Full minutes will be available at the meeting or by emailing Liz.

~{< ~{< ~{< ~{< ~{< ~{<

I would like to put out a personal request to our faithful and wonderful members who support this club so diligently. We couldn’t do it without you. In times way past, officers have had to dig from their own pockets to ensure the room rents and presenters received their fees, just so the club could go on. Now, in light of our worldly economic situation it’s extremely uplifting to be a part of your group that so thoroughly supports this club and its mission through your generous financial support, that we can extend support to worthy causes, enhance our birding experiences with improved structures, attract top notch presenters, etc. We’d like to keep it that way, and part of what enhances our meetings is the delectable treats that you provide. This year we’ve experienced an up swing in membership, but a down turn in treat providers. Perhaps the task is too daunting, perhaps you’re too busy, or not the kitchen gourmet you’d like to be; fear not! We’ll munch whatever you’d like to bring, whether it’s store bought or home made; 3 dozen or 100, whatever you can pitch in, we’re grateful. We feel the treats are a key ingredient to our overall successful meetings, we don’t want to eliminate that part, but don’t feel using our dues for that is a practice in club sustainability. So, my request; please consider providing treats of any sort for our next meetings; just a couple extra packages of cookies, or cheese and crackers, fruit, veggies, whatever treats you’d offer, we’ll gladly enjoy. Thanks ever so much! ~Mila (and Liz)  
p.s. We’d like to encourage new folks; give the repeating contributors a gratefully deserved break. ☺