

Holland Audubon Club



May 2026
Newsletter

Meeting May 12th at Hope Church, 77 W. 11th St.

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

Peoplefeeders: Mary Foster & Sally Lambert

"Wildlife and Birding Photography" by Hannah Cramer

Another homegrown presentation by one of our own, our new Treasurer, Hannah Cramer is closing out our season with a delightful visual treat for us. After beginning her birdwatching journey in 2022, Hannah began fusing her interests of digital media and wildlife photography together. Although newer to the birding community, Hannah has been hiking and backpacking in the great outdoors for many years, and soon began using her background in stunning photography and videography to begin capturing these unique creatures. Join us as Hannah takes us through some of her best captures, as well as tips and tricks for how you too can snap beautiful images of our feathered friends and other amazing wildlife.

Hannah has her bachelor's degree of applied arts in digital media and photography from Central Michigan University. At CMU she took her first photography class and has continued to build her skills ever since. After graduating, Hannah relocated to Colorado, South Dakota, and then Arkansas, birding and hiking in many natural areas before finally relocating back to her hometown of Holland, Michigan. This is her first presentation for HAC and is excited to share what she's learned.



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Elections this month will include **Vice President, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor/Publicity Director.** If anyone wants a turn, please speak up, however Gail, Robin and Mila have all expressed a willingness to continue in their respective positions. If anyone wants to assist with a position, Mila is willing to share some of the tasks involved. Robin has thankfully been fulfilling this part, but new help is always appreciated.

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Birdathons are big during May, during the height of migration, and a great way to test and improve your birding knowledge. Your support by sponsoring these groups, either by participating or with paying per bird, is a great way to help these valuable efforts gain vital knowledge. See Steve to support our local **Berrien County Birdathon**, which adds to our own funding; also, **Friends of Whitefish Point** May 15-17 (friendsofwp.org); and **Michigan Audubon**, (michiganaudubon.org) May 18-25 will hold Birdathons and will accept donations per bird or flat donations to support their efforts.



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

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

~Check out our YouTube channel~

- May 6; 8a; Bird Walk; Ottawa Beach Parks
- May 9; 8a; Lakeshore Birding; GHaven Pier
- May 9; 10a; Lakeshore Birding; Ottawa Sands
- May 15; 7a-4p; Big Day Birding Field Trip; various
- May 16; 7a-12p; Bird Banding; Ottawa Sands
- May 23; Greenway Birding Blitz; 7a: Ottawa Sands, 10a; Connor Bayou; 12:30p; Eastmanville Farms; 3:30p; Grand River Park
- June 5; 8p; Whistle of the Whip-poor-will; Hemlock Pk



616-393-0453 www.outdoordiscovery.org ~

Trails are open; Visitor Center: Mon-Sat.

- May 5; 9a; Birding at Bysterveld Pk, Wayland
- May 15; 9a; Birding Hike; Stu Visser trails
- May 19; 9a; Migratory Birds; Wolters Woods
- May 22-24; Shores of Lake Erie Birding trip
- May 28; 6p; Birding Hike with Jessica Austin; GrRpd.
- June 2; 9:30a; Family Birding; ODC
- June 5; 10:30a; Banquet for the Birds; ODC

Donations appreciated for ongoing improvements to facilities.



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

Come see the new changes, walk the trails, enjoy nature! Building opens at 10am

Tawas Point Bird Migration Days will be May 15-16. (formerly Tawas Point Bird Festival)

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Michigan Audubon has some great Spring Birding trips and tours planned, Kirtland's Warbler, etc, check out michiganaudubon.org for all the info

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HAC's 2026 volunteer monitoring of Windmill Island's Purple Martin houses started in mid-April, with a handful of sightings and hopefully in May we will start entering data on nest box occupancy. Anyone interested in helping with this effort should contact Martin Blagdurn. Mbinocs@gmail.com

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Birding may improve your mind; a Canadian study shows that complicated brain behavior activities, like birding, create more structurally complex pathways, reinforcing the brain structure, allowing alternate pathways that help avoid cognitive decline, in effect, keeping the brain 'younger.'

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Feel free to pass on any birding/nature books or items at the next meeting, letting others enjoy the next stage of their life.

BirdCast.org shows over 340 million birds will migrate tonight through the Unites States, more birds than people that live here. Help them by turning off bright outside lighting.

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Chimney Swifts are arriving, keep an eye out in the evenings near abandoned chimneys to see any circling...now and early fall. Report any you see.

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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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Roseate Spoonbills at the Smith Oak Audubon Rookery in High Island, Texas, by Marty Keirnan

Holland Audubon Club Board of Directors

- President Steve Hamberg
- Vice President Gail Berner
- Treasurer Hannah Cramer
- Secretary Robin Pintar
- Publicity /Newsletter Editor Mila Walters
- Hospitality Marty Keirnan
- At Large Martin Blagdurn

www.HollandAudubon.com

HollandAudubon@gmail.com