

Holland Audubon Club

September 2026

Newsletter

Meeting Sept 8th at Hope Church, 7pm (6:30 social)

77 W. 11th St. Holland MI Peoplefeeders: Marty's Breads

"No Birdbrains Here: The Latest on Bird Learning, Instinct and Intelligence" by Susan Schneider, PhD

A fascinating thing has been revealed: birds can learn from consequences, as we and many other species can. Baby chicks learn to peck accurately, wild mockingbirds learn to recognize individual people, and pigeons have learned to categorize art and music. Even instinctive behaviors like imprinting can be more flexible than scientists used to think, and songbird song appears particularly malleable. Join Holland Audubon Club at our season opener as we explore bird learning and intelligence, from everyday foraging, to learning through observing, to tool use. Susan will share her keen knowledge on how such adaptability may be critical as wild birds attempt to adjust to the many threats they face today and how scientists also take advantage of this powerful learning ability to help save endangered species. A poignant, timely program you'll find intriguing and not to be missed.

A Behavioral and Bio-psychologist, Dr. Schneider is an expert on learning principles, with many academic publications. She's also an avid birder and field trip leader. A Kalamazoo Audubon Board member, Schneider has served on the boards of four Audubon chapters and been president of two. Her award-winning book, *The Science of Consequences*, covers basic learning principles, their role in nature-nurture

relations, and their broad range of applications. It was a selection of the Scientific American Book Club. A member of the psychology faculty at Western Michigan University, Schneider is currently focused on applying learning principles to the climate crisis.

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Did you get a chance to see the first ever to Michigan Wandering Tattler spotted at Holland State Park ? These images are from Ed Post from his facebook page.

Thanks, Ed, we miss your programs!



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Migration began last month, so keep an eye out for any **Swifts** moving through, they will swirl around a chimney and at dusk plunge in; please report if you see any activity, eBird.org

Michigan Audubon is planning another Chapter Leadership Conference on 9/19 and we're happy to have Martin and Robin attend. They also have guided bird walks at Whitefish Point every Saturday and Sunday through mid November, 9a or 11L30a, if you're in their area. michiganaudubon.org

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Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

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

~Check out our YouTube channel~

Sept. 5; 8a-1p; Bird banding at Ottawa Sands
Sept 12; 7:30a; Fall Migration Trip-Gr Haven area
Sept 12; 1p; Fall Migration Trip-Muskegon WW
Sept 16; 8-10a; Bird Walk; Hemlock Park
Sept 20; 1-4p; Raptor Migration Watch; Mt Pisgah
Sept 24; 6-8p; Bird Walk; Upper Macatawa



616-393-0453 www.outdoordiscovery.org ~

Trails are open; Visitor Center: Mon-Sat.

Sept 4; 9:30a; Bird Hike; Upper Macatawa
Sept 15; 5:30p; Birds of Prey; Felt Mansion Carriage Hs
Sept 26; 10a; Macatawa Water Festival-Kollen Park
Oct 6; 5:30p; Birds of Prey; The Hangar

Donations appreciated for ongoing improvements to facilities.



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

Come see the new changes,
 walk the trails, enjoy nature! Building open 10a-3p Tu – Fri

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Friends of Whitefish Point have banded over 200 owls this summer; mostly Northern Saw-whet Owls. They will continue to



Friends of Whitefish Point

host Owl banding and bird tours this fall; check out friendsofwp.org

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While Junior Audubon is on Hiatus, we recommend the youth activities at **Herrick District Library**; herrickdl.org The new Youth program director, Nikki has some good birding focused programs that are sure to please.

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Book and Magazine exchange; free to good home... :)

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Pileated Woodpecker in the Soo, by Mila



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.

Holland Audubon Club

Check our website for links to more birding info: **HollandAudubon.org**

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