



# EARTHSTAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE MACOMB AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

Volume 37 Number 6, November – December 2011

## Programs

**Monday, November 7th, 2011 - 7:30 p.m. - Program Night - *A Photo Journey with Alan Charnley***

Be it a tiny insect on a flower, a fledgling bird, or a bubbling hot spring, Alan Charnley has an eye for capturing the beauty of nature. Come and enjoy this photo journey of Alan's wildlife adventures from his backyard wetland to his travels around the globe.

**Monday, December 5th 2011- 6:30 PM, - *Christmas Potluck and Slidefest***

Location Metro Beach Nature Center, Metro Beach Metropark, Harrison Twp. (**Note: Change of location**)

Please join us for our famous and traditional Macomb Audubon Society Christmas Pot Luck Supper to which we all bring our specialty dishes to share and enjoy. Please bring your table service and a beverage. Coffee and tea will be provided. After our feast we will relax while viewing up to 25 of your best nature slides.

After passing through the Metro Beach Metropark entrance gate, take the first driveway to your right (before you enter the big parking lot) . This driveway will take you to the back of the Nature Center Building where you can park and enter through the back door of the Nature Center.

Entrance fee to Metro Beach Metropark: Daily \$5, Annual \$25, Senior Citizen Annual \$15.

### 112th Christmas Bird Count

For over a century, the National Audubon Society has collected data from volunteers throughout the country on early-winter bird populations. Saturday, December 17th will be the date of Macomb Audubon Society's 36th Christmas Bird Count. If you have never participated in this annual event, please think about volunteering to help count the birds in our area. Many of our Macomb Audubon members look forward to this special occasion to bird with friends and enjoy a hot soup supper at the end of the day followed by a tally of all birds counted.

Signup sheets will be available at the November and December membership meetings. After signing up, you will be assigned to an area with other birders. Please offer to split the cost of gas among the participants in each car.

Area leaders will receive their packets at the December membership meeting. The tally supper will be held on the same evening of the count at 5 PM in the Nature Center at Stony Creek Metropark. Please consider volunteering to bring a crock-pot of chili, soup, snack or dessert to the tally. Participants, remember to bring your own soup bowl and spoon.

Unlike other chapters, Macomb Audubon Society traditionally covers the \$5 entry fee for our participants from our treasury. As offered last year, there will be a voluntary donation box for any adult over age 18 who wishes to contribute \$5 thus saving Macomb Audubon Society the expense for their share. This is the explanation for the cost as written on the National Audubon website: "These fees help to cover the costs of generating materials for Compilers, producing an annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC website and database."

If you wish to participate and are unable to attend the meetings please call Barb Baldinger at 586-263-6530 or email [barbarab@tir.com](mailto:barbarab@tir.com).

## *Macomb Audubon Society*

The Macomb Audubon Society is a chapter of the Michigan Audubon Society. Meetings are normally held the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the **Sterling Heights Nature Center** located at 42700 Utica Rd. (south and east of the Van Dyke/Utica Rd. intersection, north of 19 Mile Rd.) Events of the Society are open to the public.

The mission of the Macomb Audubon Society is to:

- ♣ Promote interest in the world of nature and to aid in the conservation of natural resources.
- ♣ Provide an outlet for nature activities via field trips.
- ♣ Provide an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience through lectures, films, discussions and newsletters.
- ♣ Aid organizations that provide people of all ages with opportunities to experience these above given objectives.

People can support our efforts by becoming members. To become a member, complete the form on the inside back cover and send to Macomb Audubon Membership, 6143 Walker Troy MI 48085. Members receive this newsletter, the *Earthstar*.

## **Earthstar Deadline**

We appreciate relevant information or articles of interest to the Macomb Audubon membership for review for publication in the *Earthstar*. If you have material that you wish to submit, please send it by the **12th of the preceding month** to:

Bill Clark  
53253 North Ave  
Macomb MI 48042  
(586) 749-5523  
E-mail: wtclark1@COMCAST.NET

*Earthstar* is published bimonthly by the Macomb Audubon Society, a non-profit, educational organization.

Hey everybody, how you doin'?

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. Am sitting at my dining room table looking out the big beautiful windows that are the mirror to my yard and thinking how wonderful the view truly is. Am feeling the calm that to me is the feeling of Autumn. Yes, to me, Autumn has a feel. It is time to slow down that frantic pace that comes with the onset of spring and summer. It's time to harvest the bounties of the garden, oh yes, harvest time. Canning the homemade salsa, yum, yum, to the heat of one's desire. (It was definitely kick ass salsa this year with our own jalapeno and cayenne peppers, tomatoes, green peppers, onions). Loving it. The sound of our shuffling feet through the dry fallen leaves as we walk the trails through our woods. The Sassafras are a bright coral red/orange, Cornus florida are burgundy with their beautiful red berries as contrast, Cornus racemosa are full of white berries which will soon be food for migrating flocks of Robin and Waxwing with the left-over berries remaining for the Turkey which will soon wander in. Viburnum triloba are also a rich burgundy and are full of black/purple fruit while the Hickory foliage is a deep gold and their nuts are being hungrily gathered by squirrels and chipmunks and whoever else, like us humans. The Maple and Winter creeper are screaming red, as the song goes, "It's all so beautiful". Asclepias seed pods are popping open, Cimicifuga, Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Solidago, Monarda, native flora all offering their last gifts of food before the slumber. Even the native Witch Hazel are in bloom, yep, what a season! To top it all off the nights have been so clear that we have had the privilege to watch the oncoming of the Harvest Moon. With all these clear nights we have been able to walk the paths through the woods without the aid of flashlights. How cool is that. Saw our last hummingbird (so far) on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. She was at the Cardinal Flower Vine. Time will tell if that is our last sighting since we still have one feeder up and keep it clean and fresh. The Red-bellied and Hairy woodpecker are back at the feeders, and the Red-breasted nuthatch are back from wherever. Watch for the return. Last but not least we only rake the immediate yard (as we call it) and start to pile all those leaves for the Grandsons. We rake and pile and cover with tarps to keep the leaves as dry as possible so we can build, as the boys would say, "The biggest leaf pile ever!" For them to jump and play in of course. As the Grandsons say, "What happens at Grandma's stays at Grandma's". Move over Vegas. He-He!!!! Enjoy the season. Get outdoors. Don't blink because it happens quickly. Observe our fine feathered friends on their migration south. Many of you migrate to the south yourselves so on your way watch for the other snowbirds that are moving with you. Me, I'm in the mood for sticking it out and taking in the peace and calm of the oncoming season of winter. We're not here for a long time we're here for a good time and to hopefully enjoy the changes of the seasons which does not get much better than it does right here in our "good ole" state of Michigan. Peace, Colleen



## Seven Ponds Nature Center

### *night Time Senses*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:00 P.M.

During the day we rely heavily on our sense of sight. During this hike in the darkness we will use our other senses to explore the night time. This will be a fun family adventure. Fee: \$3.00 per person (members free).

### *Prairie Seed Collecting #2*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2:00 P.M.

During this afternoon activity, we'll share information about planting a prairie, recognizing prairie plants at the seed stage, and how to collect prairie seed. Participants will have an opportunity to collect prairie seed for their own use. Bring some paper bags and a bucket if you plan to collect seed. Fee: \$3.00 (members free).

### *Cultivating the Wonder of Nature in Childhood*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 7:00 P.M.

Seven Ponds, in collaboration with Kingsbury Country Day School, is hosting this special lecture by educator and author David Sobel. Mr. Sobel is a Senior Faculty Member at Antioch University and during this evening presentation he will speak with us about the importance of children having strong, positive connections to the natural world. He will share research and literature which makes the case for "no child left inside" and also share experiences with his own children as he set out to incorporate nature activities and adventures into their lives from an early age. This program will resonate with parents, teachers, grandparents, educators, and all who care about our children's health and well being. This evening presentation will take place in the Justin A. Schwartz Center at Kingsbury Country Day School in Oxford. In addition to the presentation, Seven Ponds and Kingsbury will both be hosting a series of "Family Nature Days" during the coming year. These programs are open to all at no charge. The evening lecture and Family Nature Days are being presented, in part, through support from the Four County Community Foundation. Fee: no charge.

**Meetings are held the first Monday of most months at 7:30 PM at the Sterling Heights Nature Center in The Sterling Heights Nature Center is located on the NE side of Utica Rd, east of Van Dyke and North Of 18 Mile Rd. The street address is 42700 Utica Rd.**

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**The officers and members of the Macomb Audubon Society would like to thank the following members for Joining or renewing on the contributor level: Marie Large, Micki Special.**

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### **Refreshments**

**Thanks to the following members who brought refreshments to the meeting. It adds so much to the fellowship.**

### **October**

**Barb Baldinger, Colleen Traylor, Arlene Lynch, Angela Slayton, Micki Smith, Alice Forton, Walt Peters, Beverlee Babcock, Ann Perini, R. Zinke**

## Camp Fire at Metro Beach

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Now that is a Big S'MORE



**We're Proud Supporter of:**

Metro Beach Nature Center,  
Sterling Heights Nature Center,  
Seven Ponds Nature Center,  
Stony Creek Nature Center,  
Burgess Shadbush Nature Center,  
Wild Life Recovery Associaton,  
Michigan Nature Association,  
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy.

**FOR THE BEST BIRD SEED  
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UNCLE LUKE'S FEED STORE  
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TROY, MICHIGAN 48098**

**To contact the Macomb Audubon Society by email the address is [macombaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:macombaudubon@gmail.com). To join the Macomb Audubon mailing list please send an email to [macombaudubon-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:macombaudubon-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

**Macomb Audubon Society  
Board Members & Committee Chairs**

President — Colleen Traylor (248) 627-6872  
1st VicePresident (Programs) — Christine Becher (810) 796-3505  
2nd VP (Membership) — Mary Stoolmiller (248) 879-6004  
3rd Co-VPs (Field Trips) — Colleen Traylor ...(248) 627-6872 and Charles Smart  
Recording Secretary — Laura Barbour.....(248) 853-5465  
Corresponding Secretary — Micki Smith.....(586) 791-9623  
Treasurer — Frank Lautner.....(586) 791-7913

**Committees**

Car Pool Coordinator — Frank Lautner .. ...(586) 791-7913  
Christmas Bird Count — Barb Baldinger....(586) 263-6530  
Environmental & Conservation — Randy Baker  
Historian — Michael Mroz.....(586) 596-2776  
Hospitality (Refreshments) — Betty Ebert, Alice Forton  
Hospitality (Door Prizes) — Denis Barbour, Laura Barbour  
Earthstar Newsletter Editor — Bill Clark.....(586) 749-5523  
Michigan Audubon Rep. — vacant  
Members-at-Large (2 positions) — Heather Slayton & Ken Slayton  
Newsletter Production, Mailing — Denis & Laura Barbour  
Seven Ponds Representative — Dave & Elaine McDonald  
Web Editor — Mike Goethe  
Volunteer Coordinator — Margaret Goethe

**Macomb Audubon Society Dues**

Please make checks payable to **Macomb Audubon Society** and send to: Mary Stoolmiller  
Macomb Audubon Membership, 6143 Walker Troy MI 48085

Your name and the names of family members (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Check one: \_\_\_ Family Membership \$17.00

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Individual Membership \$14.00

Amount of donation over membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (optional) \_\_\_ Student Membership \$10.00

Contributor..... up to \$49.99 \_\_\_ Senior Membership \$10.00

Supporter..... \$50 to \$99.99 (single or couple over 60)

Donor..... \$100 and over

Each year Macomb Audubon makes a membership list available to members. Check here if you wish to have your telephone number **left off** the list. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Check here if a Michigan Audubon member \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if a National Audubon member \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) are interested in becoming a Macomb Audubon volunteer. Please contact me. \_\_\_\_\_

Interests or skills:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Macomb Audubon Society*

Sterling Heights Nature Center  
42700 Utica Rd.,  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
<http://www.macombaudubon.org>

