



Landmarks

Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Spring 2017

Bird Conservation is Everyone's Responsibility

By Jack R. Smiley, SMLC Founder and avid birder

Each and every year, it is with great anticipation that we await the arrival of migratory birds--those birds which have traveled as far as Central and South America in their quest for food during wintertime scarcity here. It is perhaps this wondrous migration that inspired the saying "Birds of a feather, flock together", for many species gather in great numbers for their seasonal treks.

Migratory birds have developed an uncanny ability to travel to where more abundant food can be found in a given season. The timing of migration often corresponds to an emergence of a food source. For example, migratory shorebirds seem to almost magically appear when horseshoe crabs begin spawning along the Atlantic coast, gorging themselves on their eggs, and warblers manage to time their arrivals when numerous insects first take flight. Food, above all, is the primary driving force behind migration.

On the other hand, resident birds, as the name implies, do not travel long distances as they are able to gather nourishment throughout the year and better tolerate climatic changes. Some woodpeckers fit this description, as they are able to excavate from tree bark those morsels of food that sought refuge until spring. Breeding and year-round foraging occur in the same general region, whereas southern migratory birds have separate breeding and wintering grounds.

Because of the great distances traveled, migratory birds are generally at greater risk and have experienced significant population declines. Not only do they need to build up sufficient fat (energy) reserves to make the journey, but many also encounter deadly man-made



Photo by Charles Scott

obstacles along the way. Collisions with towers and buildings cause the deaths of millions of birds each year. Loss of habitat is also a major factor in both winter and summertime habitats--as well as in stopover habitats along their routes.

Continued on page 11

Inside:

LeFurge Woods: Birding Hotspot	3
Year in Review	4
2016 Annual Report	4-7
Migratory Bird Finding Tips	8
Local Chapter News	9
Stewardship News	10
Wildlife Sightings	11

Landmarks

A newsletter published by:

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

8383 Vreeland Road
Superior Township, MI 48198

734.484.6565
734.484.0617 (fax)

www.smlcland.org

[www.facebook.com/
southeastmichiganlandconservancy](http://www.facebook.com/southeastmichiganlandconservancy)

*Conservation is
in our Nature.*

Our Board of Directors

President

Mary Ericson, Plymouth

Vice President

William Secrest, Superior Twp.

Secretary

James T. Weiner, Novi

Treasurer

Bryan Collett, Northville

Directors

Michelle Andrzejak, Royal Oak
Don DeMallie, Beverly Hills
Mitch Hall, Ann Arbor
Richard Kent, Livonia
James McIntyre, Superior Twp.
Jack R. Smiley, Superior Twp.
Jonathan Trevathan, Ann Arbor

Our Staff

Jill A. Lewis
Executive Director
jlewis@smlcland.org

Taylor Myatt
Stewardship & Outreach
Specialist
tmyatt@smlcland.org

Julia Goode
Office Specialist
jgoode@smlcland.org

Our Mission

*The Southeast Michigan
Land Conservancy conserves
natural land and open space
- including forests, wetlands,
meadows, agricultural lands,
and places of scenic beauty - to
provide habitat for wildlife and to
enrich the lives of people.*



Message from the Executive Director

By Jill A. Lewis

Welcome to the world of birding! This year, SMLC's *Landmarks* will be featuring birds that visit and live in southeast Michigan while also showcasing how land conservation plays an important role in bird habitat and survival. For example, SMLC nature preserves are hosts to common and not-so-common species that excite, thrill and please birding enthusiasts and nature lovers. You can read more about spring migrants (birds who annually travel, sometimes across continents) in this issue on pages 1, 3, 8, and 10-11.

This issue also features our 2016 Annual Report. You can read highlights of SMLC's accomplishments on pages 4-7 including our fun Red Barn Bash, new Eco-Logical Leadership Club (ELLC) (also on page 9) and our newly opened public nature trails at Lost Lake and Sibley-Prairie West Prairie nature preserves (pages 4 and 10).

Many donors and funders helped SMLC fulfill our mission in 2016 and we could not have hit the mark without you. I am thankful for the continued generosity of the James A. and Faith Knight Foundation, the Land Trust Alliance, the Sheila Navarre-Enos Charitable Foundation, the J. A. Woollam Foundation, and all of the Red Barn Bash sponsors.

As SMLC continues our Land Trust Alliance Accreditation-readiness activities, we are focusing attention on our Stewardship program and engaging more volunteers to help us with basic tasks. If you are interested in becoming a nature preserve watcher (which basically means hiking around in a beautiful natural setting every month) or enjoy a good physical workout and getting your hands dirty to improve local natural areas, please give us a call! You don't need experience to get plugged in.



Marsh Wren.
Photo by Wendy Pellerito

Finally, this year SMLC is also reflecting on what it takes to make conservation happen. Conservation is an expensive pursuit in that acquiring land is not cheap especially in southeast Michigan. In addition, taking care of protected lands in perpetuity means funding the capacity to do so including defense against both natural and human threats. Although these are facts that underpin the struggle and opportunity for small land conservancies, the biggest factor is you.

Your donations, volunteerism, and participation matter. They make all the difference. So thank you for stepping up and leaning in and taking action where and when it counts. Conservation takes all of us. With your continued support, we can achieve SMLC's vision for southeast Michigan: a beautiful place where people and nature coexist in healthy, sustainable balance. Thank you!



More about Spring Migrants and Land Conservation

LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve: A Local Birding Hot Spot

By Richard Simek, SMLC Stewardship Committee Chair and avid birder

More years ago than I dare count, I decided to do a spring bird survey at SMLC's LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve. More of a frequent early riser than now, I managed to put in several weeks' worth of early morning

migratory bird seeking treks at the preserve. I anticipated each outing as having the potential to greet new arrivals of an assortment of bird species, especially songbirds that had flown under the cover of darkness the night before, and, just

before dawn, had seen the woods, meadows, and wetlands at LeFurge Woods as a sort of "food and lodging below" sign. There they would settle to get some much needed rest and a belly full of insects or some other fare before continuing on their way north, perhaps that very night.

I remember the native North American sparrows best from those April outings. These were species that had wintered south of Michigan; mainly in the southern U.S. Of those, I especially remember a morning that featured a small flock of vesper sparrows. Not an especially common species, the vespers had found a good spot to

stop, and at LeFurge Woods I had found a good spot for spotting them! I now look at LeFurge Woods as being a sort of specialty location for spring vesper sparrow migration.

Next came the Neotropical migrants, which had spent the winter in the tropics of Mexico, Central America, and South America. It was like a rainbow of feathered folk stretching over a time horizon of about 3 weeks during May. There were scarlet tanagers, wood warblers of about 20 species, vireos, orioles, thrushes, grosbeaks, buntings, flycatchers, hummingbirds, swallows...and,

well, what added up to about 100 different species in all. What a fine spring of bird observation and appreciation I was able to enjoy, having an SMLC preserve like LeFurge Woods within just a half-hour drive from home.



LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve.

Photo by Charles Scott

It is wonderful for me to be able to write of these memories knowing that LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve is still there. It wasn't bulldozed out of existence for development because SMLC protected it! And that, my SMLC friends, means that you, as well as the birds, still have a wonderful place to frequent during spring migration. Enjoy!

SMLC is on Facebook
www.facebook.com/southeastmichiganlandconservancy
Check it out and "like" us



Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy 2016 Annual Report



The Year in Review

By Jonathan Trevathan, Past President

Conservation takes all of us. Reflecting on 2016 has made this even clearer. The staff at SMLC couldn't accomplish all they do without the support in donated time, brainpower, and money from the board of directors, committees, and countless volunteers and individual donors. In addition, our partners including local governments, foundations, and other organizations, allow us to leverage the support of the local community



Ethan Trevathan at Lost Lake Nature Preserve.

Photo by Jonathan Schechter

and make an even bigger difference in conserving our region's natural landscape. So please, if you believe in what we're doing, tell your friends about it, and bring them out to a Full Moon campfire, a signature hike, a volunteer work day, or any other of our many events this year. Conserving natural lands and open spaces now and in the future will take all of us, working together.

Some highlights from 2016 included the Red Barn Bash in November, which capped off a year of Celebrating 25 years of Land Conservation in Superior Township. Generous local supporters let us use their beautifully rustic "party barn" as the venue for our event, and it was a great evening to relax and talk with so many local supporters of our cause, both old and new.

We also completed a major prairie restoration project at the Sibley Prairie – West Prairie Nature Preserve thanks to our partner, The Nature Conservancy. In addition, we opened the new public trail at that preserve. Go take a look at what your support has made possible.

2016 was also a great year for the new Eco-Logical Leadership Club (ELLC). The Club is now up to 15 members, and we had several events for club members last year, and have even more planned for 2017. If you are considering joining, it is a great, and fun, way to take a lead role in supporting SMLC's capacity to achieve our mission (see page 9 for more about the ELLC).

Finally, 2016 was my second year as President, and at the beginning of this year, I passed that baton to Mary Ericson. Welcome Mary, I hope you find the role as interesting and challenging (in a good way!) as I did.

I'd also like to welcome our 3 newest board members, Don DeMallie, Mitch Hall, and Jim McIntyre. The organization is very lucky to have all 3 of them on board (see page 5 for more).

On the flip side, the board reluctantly said goodbye to outgoing board member Ben Henry. Ben served on the board for a 3 year term, including a stint as Vice President and on the Land Protection Committee. We were very fortunate to benefit from his hard work, his keen mind, and particularly his sense of humor. He will be missed.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to ask that you consider joining me in putting SMLC in your will, so that upon your passing (hopefully many years from now) you will continue to support local land conservation in southeast Michigan even after you are gone.

Finally, I'd like to sincerely thank the staff of SMLC. Your work is valuable, and appreciated.





Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy 2016 Annual Report

SMLC welcomes new Leadership in 2017

The SMLC Board voted in three new directors, Mitch Hall in 2016, and Donald DeMallie and James McIntyre earlier this year, for 3 year terms beginning January and February 2017, respectively. This brings our total number of directors to 11.

Mitch is a member of SMLC's Finance Committee. He is the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis at Domino's Pizza World Headquarters and has been with the company for 18 years. He has an MBA with distinction from the University of Michigan and volunteers with a number of local groups.

Donald (Don) is the President of the Great Lakes Rubber Company with a background in engineering, corporate management and developing new markets. He has an MBA and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan. Don is excited to bring a strategic viewpoint to SMLC.

James (Jim) is a member of SMLC's Superior Township Chapter and he and his family are valued SMLC volunteers. He is the owner of the James McIntyre Insurance Agency and has an MBA from Eastern Michigan University with a concentration in Entrepreneurship. Jim also sits on the Superior Township Wetlands Board.

Please help us welcome Don to SMLC and congratulate Mitch and Jim on their new roles.

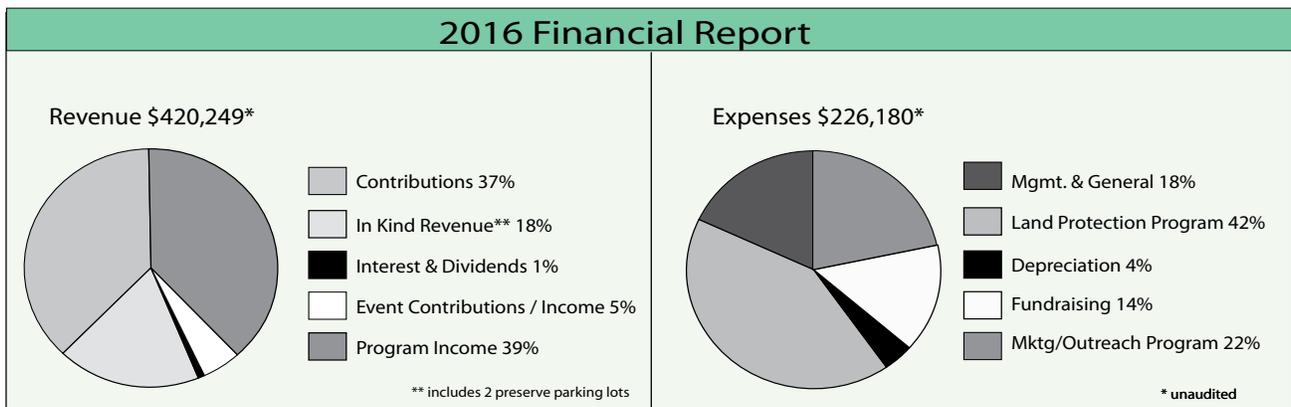
Thank You!

RED BARN BASH SPONSORS

C5 VENTURES LLC

SMLC is deeply grateful to all of the other businesses, individuals and volunteers who contributed to our Red Barn Bash, especially to: Bill and Vivienne Young, Peter Scott, O&W Distributors, Inc., Passionflower, Plastipak, and Tammy's Tastings (ELLC Mixology).

Red Barn Bash and 25th Anniversary logos by Meaghan Brownlee
Graphic Design by Byway Creative





Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy 2016 Annual Report

Thank you for supporting our Mission in 2016!

The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy extends appreciation to all of our generous donors. Your 2016 contributions made it possible for SMLC to continue to protect and preserve natural lands and open space in southeast Michigan.

Gifts from Foundations & Organizations

\$50,000 and up

J. A. Woollam Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous

\$5,000 - \$24,999

Sheila Navarre - Enos Charitable Foundation Trust
James A. and Faith Knight Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Busch's Fresh Food Market
Food Art Catered Affairs, Inc.
International Transmissions Company
Land Trust Alliance
Plymouth Orchards
Reynolds Water Conditioning Company

\$500 - \$999

All Seasons Market
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Heavner Kayak and Canoe Rental
Frame Works
King & MacGregor Environmental, Inc.
Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.
Margolis Nursery
REI - Ann Arbor
St. Joseph Mercy Health System
Standard Printing
Stantec Consulting Inc.

\$1 - \$499

AmazonSmile Foundation
Boisvenu & Company
Byway Creative
Couzens Lansky
Dick's Sporting Goods
Marc Edelstein - Ross Mortgage Corporation
EnerCom, Inc.

Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center
Gleaner Life Insurance Society #790
Kroger Community Rewards
Lakeland Ace Hardware
Main Street Cheese Market
Microsoft Matching Gift Program
Passionflower
Portland Gas & Electric Matching Gifts Program
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
United Jewish Foundation
Wild Birds Unlimited
Woman's National Farm & Garden Association - Trenton Branch

Gifts from Individuals

\$5,000 and up

The Estate of Fred & Stephanie Secrest*
William Secrest & Misty Callies* ELLC
Janet Jung-Victor
John Woollam ELLC

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Michelle & Chris Andrzejak
Sean Cronin ELLC
Mary Emmett* ELLC
Jeffrey & Marilyn Gilbert*
Jeffery Hannah & Nur Akcasu
Helen Jeter ELLC
Kurt & Maura Jung ELLC
Gerard & Rose Matuszak
John & Gwen Nystuen ELLC
Bill Phillips & Marianne Udow-Phillips ELLC
Ralph & Barbara Powell* ELLC
Ann Robbins ELLC
Bonita Singal
Brad Tomtishen & Lynda Oswald ELLC
Jonathan & Katie Trevathan ELLC

\$500 - \$999

Robert & Lori Blumenfeld
Paul & Linda Burger
Brian Carroll

Robert & Leona Duffey
Mary & Hugh Garton
Dan & Jane Hayes
Benjamin Henry
Anna Holden
Richard Kent
Patsy Knoop
Eric & Monica Malloy
Gary & Valerie Przywara
Jim & Pat Robertson
David & Elvera Shappirio
Ati & Jennifer Tislerics
Craig Tylenda
William & Vivienne Young
Anonymous

\$1 - \$499

Nabeel & Lisa Abraham
Charlie & Kyle Achatz
Joseph & Deborah Aho
Christine Aiello
John Allison & Julia Miller
Charles & Roberta Anderson
Doris Applebaum
Eric & Pat Appleberry
Charles & Vivienne Armentrout
Kathy Asselstine
Tom, Jordon & Rosemary Assenmacher
Cathy Bach & Brian Hazlett
Paul & Nancy Bailey
Brenda Baker
Robert & Rosalind Barnsdale
Paul Barson
Ruth Bartman & Peter Jackson
Swaran Batra
Deborah Bayer
Kim Bayer & Bob Kuehne
Pamela Becker*
Nina Bell
David & Mary Anne Beltzman
Michael-David & Jan Bendor
Juliet Berger
Sylvia Bethea
Brian & Tracy Bialk
Holly Bolansag
Meghan Bonfiglio
Glenn & Cynthia Bourland*
Jeff & Sylvia Bowman*
Patricia Brandon
John Brinley & Anne Schott*
Anne Brown
Bill Browning
Carolyn Buell
Anita Burck
Jim & Denise Burrows
Hal & Kathy Buttermore
Maurice & Delwyn Callies
Barbara Carter*
Dan Chandler
Dick & Sue Chase
Barbara Cheger
Donna Chrzanowski
Larry Clayton
Patricia Cole
Bryan Collett
Virginia Collett-Hunter
Stephen & Carole Cook
John Copley
Della Copp
Reinhold Cordella
Linda Coughenour
John & Marcia Covert
Don & Susan Cramer
Philip Crookshank
Cheryl Cunningham & William Mathewson
Rane Curl
Elisabeth Daumer
Eva Deck
Debbie DeDona
Monte & Kristen Del Monte
Donald DeMallie*
Mary Dennison & Rick Humesky
Robert & Dolores Denome
Danielle Desano-Smith
Ed Doody
Bob Doyle
Carol Dubuque
Robert Duchene
Jim Edwards
Lynn & Doris Ehrle
Eric & Vivian Ellsworth
Mary Ericson
Denice Erley
Daniel & Martina Ezekiel*
Susan Falcone & Tom McClanahan
Peter & Mary Fales
Phillip Farber
John & Anne Farmer
Chris & Rose Fielding

We apologize for any errors and omissions. If something is incorrect please let us know.





Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

2016 Annual Report

Wayne Fisher
Scott Fitzpatrick
Dave Flak
Lorne & Sara Forstner
LaMar & Carol Frederick
Tom & Cathy Freeman
Zach & Nancy Frey
Lisa & Hal Friedman
Jay & Gwyn Gardner
Donald Garlit &
Beatrice Friedlander*
Rick & Kathleen Garrett
Florence Gasdick
Joey Geffen
Orin & Charlotte Gelderloos
Charles & Alayne Gelletly
Joseph Gembala
Michael & Ina Gerdenich
Tom & Ann Gladwin
Zachary Gold
Art & Marion Gold
Jack & Margy Goodnoe*
Dennis & June Gordon
Ruth Graves
Frank Green
Herbert & Patricia Green
Ken & Geraldine Grunow
Rodney & Maryanne Guest
Donald Haidys
Andy & Peggy Haines
Mitch & Lori Hall
Robert & Liza Hamel
Gary & Annie Hannan
Lynn & Lois Hansen
Kimberly Harber
Rachel Brett Harley
Ruth Hart
Randall & Janice Harvey
Janis Hayward
Jeffery Head
Judith Heady
John & Martha Hicks
Seiko Hideshima
Elizabeth Hill
John Hilton & Eve Silberman
Neil & Mary Hodges
Judy Hogle
Fred & Celeste Hoytash
Margaret & Patrick Hudson
Rowell, Alice & Penny Huesmann
Derek & Raquel Huffman
Joe & Lori Hymes
Michael Hymes & Patricia Diaz
Jay Jasinski
Ela Jiga
Jerry & Kristine Jordan
Jerry & Robin Jourdan
Joe & Linda Kanamueller
Deborah Kanter & Leon Pescador

Nancy & George Kasdorf
Marty & Hedi Kaufman
Cheryl Link-Kazarian
Joseph Keefe
Lisa Lava-Kellar
Steve Kelley
Robert & Judy Kelly
Kathryn Kennedy
Alan Kessler
Joe Klecha & Elizabeth Alvarez
Michelle Kolozsvary
Roger Konkel
Diane Krause
Gary & Julia Kuleck*
James & Carol Ladley
Kathryn Laughlin
Jill Lewis
Andy & Janice Lieberman
Theodore Ligibel
Susan List
Paul Lobos
Sally Lunn & Bob Krzewinski
Jack Lutz
Merry MacRae
Barbara Mansfield
Vicki Su Maple
Margarett Martin
Jim & Michelle McIntyre
Christopher Michalak &
Rainbow Dickerson
William & Alison Milus Jr.
Stephen Modell
Dan Moerman & Claudine Farrand
Robert & Jennifer Moll
Bob Morningstar
Peter & Marion Morris
Susan Morse
Andrew Mutch
Ron & Pat Myers
Nancy & Roger Nelson
Emily Nietering
Larry & Sarah Nooden

Tom Norwood
Jung Park
Marjorie Pasquale*
Denise Paulauskas
Joanna Pease
Patrick Pelley
Barbara Jean Pepper
Jane Perrin & Karen Johnstone
Kaylan Petrie
Karen Pettke
Dale Petty & Jeannine Palms
Vivian Phillips
Donald Pierce Jr.
Morand & Jan Piert
Henry & Lana Pollack
Vera Proper
Richard & Elizabeth Quick
Vedran Radojcic
Zlatko Rauker
Tim & Pat Redmond
David & Anita Repp
David & Yolanda Richter
John & Marilyn Rintamaki
John Rogers
Susan Rosegrant & David Lampe*
Valerie Rosenberg
Corey Ross
Glen Rutila
David Rutledge
Grant & Stephanie Ruttinger
David Saffer
Linda Scherdt*
Barbara Schueler & Leon Ringl
Ken Schwartz & Ellen Bunting
Marcia Schwarz
Peter Scott
Fred Secrest
Dan & Lily Secrest*
Steve & Darlene Secrest*
Ben & Chris Seguin
Chuck & Kathryn Sharbaugh
John Sharkey

Kenneth Shaw
Ken & Lauri Shooltz
Sherrie Siefman
Barbara Siepierski
Amber Sitko
Jack Smiley
Anne Smith
Edwin & Shirley Smith
Sherri Smith
Paul Stark & Sally Petrella
Paul & Eulalia Stewart
Harold & Shirley Strom
Kurt Synnestvedt
Gene & Margaret Szedenits
Denise Tanguay & Jonathan Dean
Steve & Michelle Tokarz
Sandy Trevathan
Walter Tucker
Roberta Urbani & John Leon
Alan & Peggy Van Kerckhove
Mieke Van Rosevelt
Jeffry Vornhagen
Elizabeth Ward
James Weiner
Jennifer Whitworth &
Jenny McIntyre
David & Kasia Wible
Blanche Wicke
Eric & Margrit Wilkins*
Alex Williams
Lee Williams
Charlotte & David Wirth
David & Beverly Wolf
Bruce Wolff
Tad & Wanda Wysor
Henry Zelisse*
Anonymous

*Contributed to the Superior
Greenway Expansion Project

ELLC Eco-Logical Leadership Club

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Jan Berry
By John Copley

In Memory of Dr. John Bushey
By Lynn & Dorris Ehrle

In Memory of Carol Cooper
By Susan List

In Memory of Gary Damman
By Patricia Cole

In Memory of Jeane Darton
By the J.A. Woollam Foundation

In Memory of Dave Hill
By Susan List

In Memory of Ralph Meyer
By Jack Smiley

In Memory of Fred & Stephanie Secrest
By Jack Smiley

In Memory of Dorothy Smiley
By Bill Secrest & Misty Callies

In Memory of Paul K. Trojan
By Dave & Leslie Backus, James & Jane Cather, Michael
Hymes & Patricia Diaz, Joe & Lori Hymes, Jack & Pat
Hahn, Margaret & Patrick Hudson, Brian & Mindy Kerr,
Alan & Judy Kessler, Al & Judy Philbrook

More about Spring Migrants and Land Conservation

Southeast Michigan Migrants – What to Look for

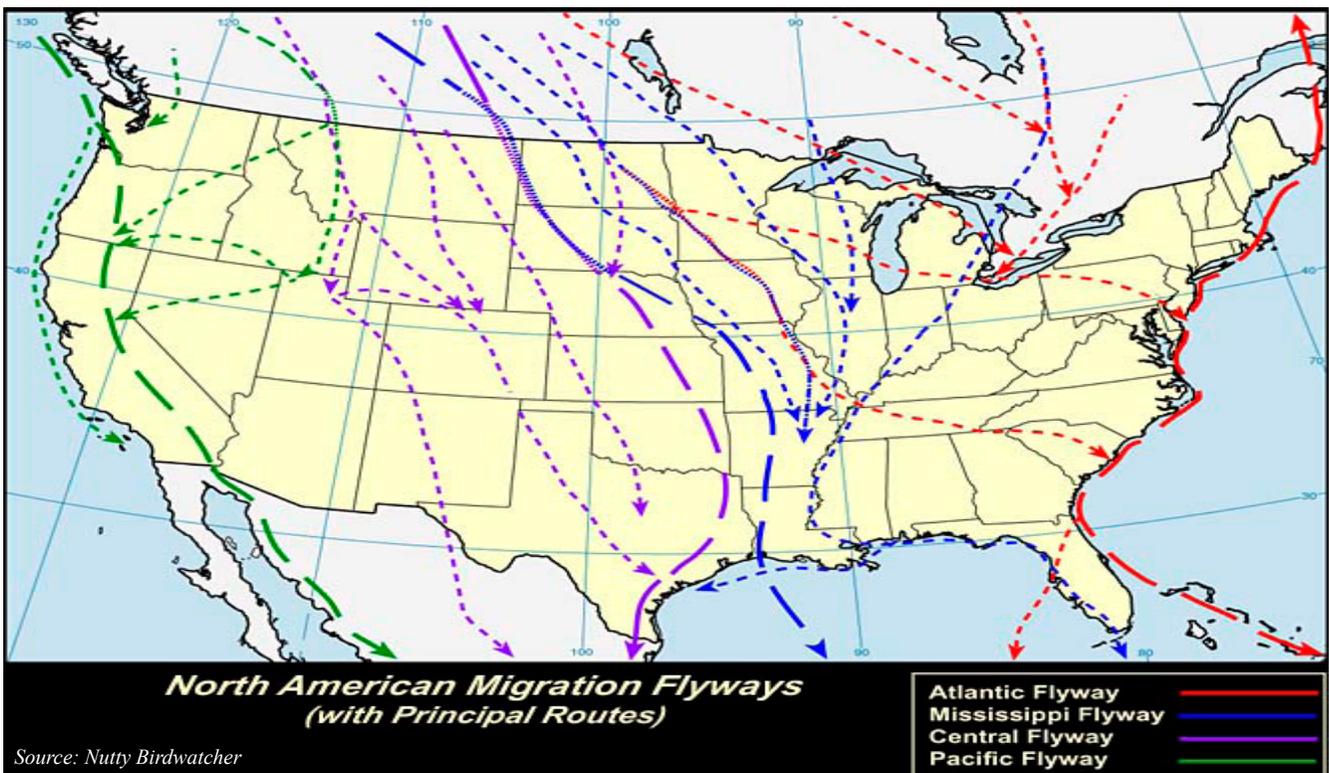
By Taylor Myatt, Stewardship and Outreach Specialist and avid birder

Spring is upon us and we here in Southeast Michigan have the pleasure of being located at the intersection of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways (see map below) as thousands of migratory birds make their northbound treks this season. But how do you avoid reaching summer wondering how so many slipped past you unnoticed? Here are some helpful tips for locating spring migrants:

1. Find habitat. Even in the midst of trans-continental flights, most species stay true to their habitat. You won't find a Le Conte's Sparrow in a mature forest, and an Acadian Flycatcher wouldn't be caught dead in an open marsh.
2. Timing is everything. Do some studying and know when certain species come through the area. Don't expect to see the elusive Connecticut Warbler until the

last 2 weeks of May, but if you've waited until temps hit 70° in late April, many waterfowl and raptors have already passed through.

3. Follow the wind. If you flew over 4,000 miles like the Blackpoll Warbler, would you do it with the wind in your face? Bird numbers and species diversity can triple literally overnight during peak migration when the prevailing winds are right. So get up early to take a hike on a clear morning following a windy night. You won't regret it, but don't wait too long... just as fast as they arrive with it, they'll be gone with the wind.
4. Birds attract birds. Go to the local hotspots where resident birds are known to congregate and you'll likely find migrants as well. At first it may seem like that ruckus is just Chickadees and Titmice, but stick around and you won't be disappointed.
5. Get out there! It goes without saying, but you won't find birds if you're sleeping in. Embrace the brisk mornings and take a hike after work. You'll always find something, and these unique migrants are guaranteed to fascinate and captivate you.



Local Chapter News

Reaching a Broader Audience

By Jim McIntyre, Superior Township Chapter
Committee Member

“Conservation is not merely a thing to be enshrined in outdoor museums, but a way of living on land.” --Aldo Leopold

In other words, it isn't enough simply to care about the areas we want to protect...we must act on that concern to truly make a difference. Our Superior Township Chapter has long been an active force within SMLC. This year the Chapter has increased its commitment to our efforts within the Township--taking on trail maintenance at local preserves, working harder to bring the SMLC mission to the local community, and organizing new and exciting stewardship opportunities at the recently dedicated Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve.

We're also expanding our outreach efforts beyond local organizations and individuals to include local schools, local neighborhoods, and various local events where our presence can help to bring more people into our preserves, increasing the community's awareness of SMLC and our efforts.

What do these disparate, yet intertwined, groups all have in common? Understanding...an understanding that success depends on involvement; an understanding that we're far more effective when we cooperate than when we compete; an understanding that even if the reasons for our involvement are different, we all see great value in protecting the areas we call home.

This has been our call to action for over 25 years, and will continue as we take on new challenges and find new ways to share our work with the community. Conservation, truly, takes all of us.



Elevating Local Land Conservation

By Jonathan Trevathan, ELLC Member and
SMLC Board Director

SMLC's Eco-Logical Leadership Club (ELLC) is a special giving club of dedicated supporters (individuals and couples) who are *Elevating Local Land Conservation* through leadership gifts. Members make annual unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more to further the mission of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) and in doing so contribute to conserving natural lands and open spaces to provide habitat for wildlife and enrich the lives of people. ELLC gifts help ensure the needed day-to-day resources are in place to continue taking care of the land entrusted to us as well as leveraging the pursuit of future opportunities to conserve new land as it becomes available.

My wife Katie and I joined not only to support SMLC's mission, but also to become more involved in the local conservation community. The benefits of joining the club are both tangible and intangible. On the tangible side, we've enjoyed attending several ELLC events last year, including a cocktail mixing (and tasting!) social before last year's Red Barn Bash and the opportunity to camp out overnight on an SMLC preserve last summer. The Conservancy is planning more unique events for club members this year, and we are excited to be part of that again. On the intangible side, there is satisfaction in knowing that we are playing a small but important role in the protection of local wild places. If you are interested, please consider joining the club!

2017 Garden Plots Available

If you'd like to grow your own vegetables, but don't have space available at home, you are welcome to sign-up for a garden plot in SMLC's Community Organic Garden at the Conservancy Farm in Superior Township. Enjoy the wonderful setting amidst hundreds of acres of protected lands and share the camaraderie of fellow garden enthusiasts. Information about the garden can be found at www.smlcland.org. For more information, or to register for a plot, please contact Volunteer Garden Coordinator Jack Smiley at jackrsmiley@gmail.com.

Lost Lake Nature Preserve's Spring Migrants and Public Access

By Taylor Myatt, Stewardship and Outreach Specialist

If you've been around SMLC for even a short while, you've undoubtedly heard of Lost Lake Nature Preserve. It is a primitive gem tucked away from urban development protecting a variety of high quality habitats including wetlands, lakes, woodland, and prairie.

Claiming the title of SMLC's largest preserve at 538 acres, it also hosts an abundance of migrating birds.

In only a handful of visits to Lost Lake in the last year, I have identified a number of migratory bird species. The first ¼ mile of the public preserve trail leads through woodland areas where I've seen a variety of songbirds. Of note are American Redstart, Blackpoll Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Swainson's Thrush. I also fondly recall my first Red-breasted Nuthatch in a pine grove and a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the edge habitats bordering the prairie. And, I've spotted Magnolia Warblers and a squadron of Cedar Waxwings foraging along the trail. Additionally, the pristine Slack Lake attracts an assortment of waterfowl and raptors such as Bald Eagles and Osprey.

Now that your interest is peaked, you may be wondering how to access the preserve. In the past, this has been informal, but we're happy to announce the new parking area along Evans Rd. is now open! Additionally, the trailhead near the parking lot houses a new kiosk soon to be adorned with informational signage including a trail map (for now, please download the trail map at www.smlcland.org). We encourage you to take advantage of these amenities in 2017 as you explore the preserve, search for plants and animals, and interact with nature.

While we celebrate the accomplishment of these new public access features, we also remind you to watch our website, emails, and facebook page for upcoming opportunities to contribute to the ongoing stewardship work at Lost Lake. See you out on the preserve soon!



Savannah Sparrow.

Photo by Wendy Pellerito

Many Thanks...

To the **Event Planning Committee** members: **Misty Callies, Della Copp, Michelle McIntyre,** and **Rebecca Wauldron** for their help planning, organizing, and conducting SMLC's bi-annual **Red Barn Bash**.

To the **Landmarks** newsletter guest writers: **Jessica Adameczyk, Jim McIntyre, Jack Smiley, Rick Simek,** and **Jon Trevathan**.

To the volunteers who have helped with our **mailings**: **Carla Bisaro, Jeff Gilbert, Marilyn Gilbert, George Kasdorf, Nancy Kasdorf, Kayla McQuire, Ryan Schneider,** and **Samantha Schneider**.

To the **tabling and other event** volunteers: **Brenda Baker, Neal Biletdeaux, Carla Bisaro, Caleb Drummer, Ryan Etheridge, George Kasdorf, Nancy Kasdorf, Cameron McIntyre, Emma McIntyre, Jim McIntyre, Kaylan Petrie, Pat Robertson, Bill Secrest, Jack Smiley,** and **Tracy Vincent**.

To the **stewardship** volunteers: **Jessica Adameczyk, Carla Bisaro, George Kasdorf, Richard Kent, Bill Secrest, Ben Slater, Mel Slater, Jack Smiley** and **Scott Tyrrell**.

To our volunteer **photographers**: **Joey Geffen, Jolene Knapp, Jim Robertson, Charles Scott,** and **Luke Tracy**.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered with SMLC this year! For volunteer information, please contact Taylor Myatt at tmyatt@smlcland.org or call 734-484-6565.



Wildlife Sightings

Sandhill Cranes

By Jessica Adamczyk, Washtenaw Audubon Society Membership Chair and avid birder

Imagine walking in an agricultural field and hearing an otherworldly, bugling sound in the distance. Your heart skips a beat, but you slowly come back down to earth as you see a pair of Sandhill Cranes take flight from the far edge of the field and watch their graceful flight overhead. This happened to me on a recent trip to SMLC's Conservancy Farm, while I was inspecting and cleaning Eastern Bluebird nestboxes. While encountering Sandhill Cranes was not unexpected, it was a special opportunity for close views of these majestic birds.

Sandhill Crane populations are widely distributed across North America, but the cranes we see here are generally migrating from Georgia and Florida



Sandhill Cranes.

Photo by Charles Scott

to their breeding grounds in the Great Lakes region and southeast Canada. Expect to see peak migrating numbers in late March and early April, as these birds arrive on their nesting grounds in early-to-mid April. Cranes mate for life (which can mean two decades or more) and stay with their mate year-round.

Cranes forage for grains and invertebrates, so look for them in agricultural fields with nearby shallow water, such as open freshwater wetlands or marshes. They will roost in the water at night and use the agricultural areas by day. In general, Sandhill Cranes are numerous, and their populations are steadily

increasing and becoming more widely distributed, but they are still susceptible to population declines due to habitat loss. Next time you're visiting an SMLC Preserve – such as the Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve or the Conservancy Farm – keep an eye out for Sandhill Cranes!

Bird Conservation is Everyone's Responsibility

Continued from page 1

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative, a project between the U.S. and Canada, estimates that one-third of the continent's bird species are at risk of extinction without action. Bird species such as Wood Thrush, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Yellow-billed Cuckoo--species all found on SMLC preserves--are in steep decline and have less than half the population of only 40 years ago.

It is incumbent upon us to work to reverse these trends by protecting habitat and reducing threats to birds. Everyone has a role to play in bird conservation--from individuals to the highest reaches of government.

Impressive gains have been made for Kirtland's Warblers, Bald Eagles and Trumpeter Swans since the passage of the Endangered Species Act. We need to extend those gains to all species at risk--and assure that more of the common species continue to prosper. Truly, when it comes to birds and wildlife, their very existence depends on your assistance.

Get Email Updates from SMLC

Don't miss out on the latest Conservancy news, events, and announcements. If your address has changed, be sure to let us know that too. To sign up, please send an email to Julia: info@smlcland.org

YES! I want to help preserve critical natural habitat in southeast Michigan by supporting Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

\$_____ Total Gift Check here to let SMLC use my gift where it is needed most.

Or, direct my donation:

\$_____ Land Protection Fund \$_____ Monroe County Fund

\$_____ Stewardship Endowment Fund \$_____ Superior Township Fund

Please make checks payable to Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and mail to: **Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
8383 Vreeland Rd.
Superior Township, MI 48198**

Or, make a secure online credit card donation at **www.smlcland.org**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

E-mail _____

All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. The donor received no goods or services in exchange for this donation. E-mail used only for SMLC news/announcements. We will never give or sell your personal information to any other group.

Wish List

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy could use the following items:

- Mapping grade **GPS unit** (retail cost \$300)
- Riding **lawn mower** (retail cost \$7,000)
- **Drill press** (retail cost \$150)
- **Bench vise** (retail cost \$100)
- **Splitting maul** for firewood (retail cost \$40)
- Quality **leather gloves** (retail cost \$6 each)
- **Bottled water** for thirsty volunteers.
- **Log splitter:** SMLC could use a log splitter for a day to split a year's supply of firewood for our campfire events. If you have one we could borrow, please let us know!

Please contact Taylor or Julia at the SMLC office if you would like to make our wishes come true!

(734) 484-6565

info@smlcland.org

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
8383 Vreeland Rd
Superior Township, MI 48198



Non Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Dearborn, MI
PERMIT NO. 40