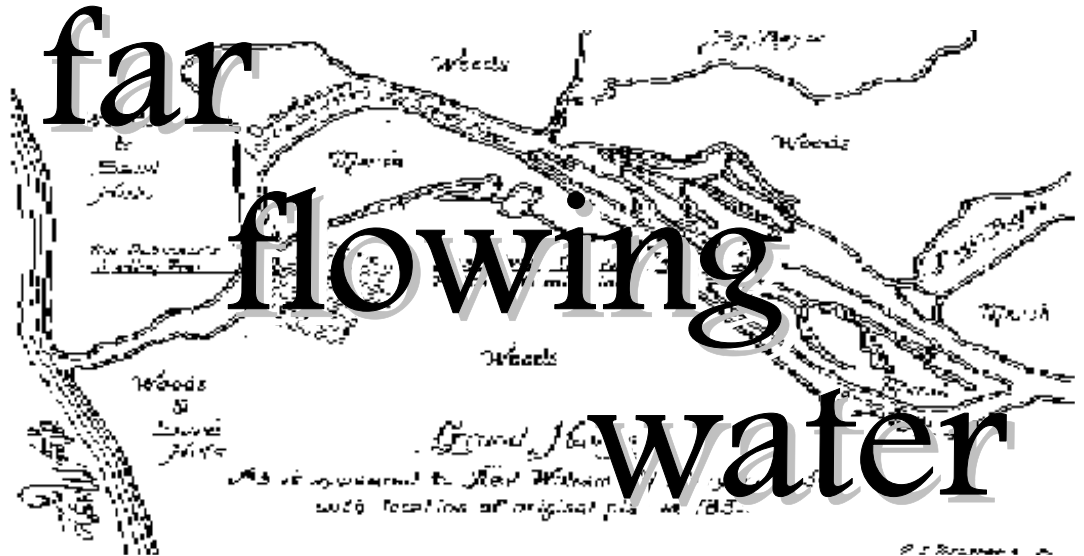


Grand Haven, Michigan



**May 21**

**6:30 P.M.**

Bring a  
Dessert

**OIAS Annual Business Meeting  
Election of Officers & Photo Sharing**

We will review OIAS activities for 2023-2024, discuss our goals for 2024-2025, reveal our programs for the 2024-2025 program year, conduct an election for Board members for the 2024-2027 term, provide an opportunity for members to share up to 10 images, and have a "Bird Swap."

- \* Please bring your images to share on a thumb drive.
- \* Please bring a dessert item to share.
- \* During the "Bird Swap," members will have the opportunity to exchange bird and nature related items (e.g., field guides, books, feeders, etc.).

**This MEETING will be  
in-person only.  
No live-streaming in May.**

**THE CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS** on the Board are: Lonny Garris, Carl Manning, and Karl Sineath. We will also accept nominations from the floor.

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**LOUTIT DISTRICT LIBRARY  
407 Columbus Avenue, Grand Haven**

*Everyone is welcome to OIAS's programs*

Visit OIAS:

- Website: <http://www.ias.org>
- Like us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ias.org/>

## From the President's Desk – May 2024

As OIAS's program year draws to a close, I would like to thank the dedicated members of the OIAS Board for their efforts to keep OIAS a vibrant organization. These include Vice-President Cindy Dobrez, Treasurer Carl Manning, and Secretary Beth Miller and Board members Lonny Garris, Bruce Ostrow, Susan Schmidt, Karl Sineath, and Lucas Timmer. I am especially grateful to the Board for filling in for me when I could not attend our programs and fulfill my duties while I dealt with some health issues. I cannot thank Judi Manning enough for producing our excellent newsletter, *Far Flowing Water*, which is critical to the success of OIAS. *Far Flowing Water* provides our members with valuable information about our programs, OIAS activities, birds, and natural history. Perhaps even more importantly, it is an important link that binds our members together.

Glen and Beth Miller also deserve many thanks for streaming our programs on Facebook. Please thank Cindy, Carl, Beth, Lonny, Bruce, Susan, Karl, Lucas, Judi, and Glen when you see them. The Board is also grateful to Loutit District Library for hosting our 2023-2024 programs.

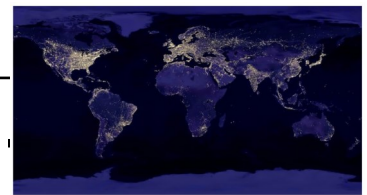
Special thanks to Kevin Hawley at the Library for supporting our programs and providing excellent audio-visual support.

Last, I think that our collaboration with the Muskegon County Nature Club was fruitful again in 2023-2024. MCNC members lead joint field trips, co-sponsor our programs, and attend our programs. I think that both groups have benefitted from our collaboration.

I strongly encourage you to attend our Annual Business Meeting at Loutit District Library at 6 pm on 21 May.

Finally, I hope that everyone has a great, safe, and healthy summer and can add some birds to their life lists!

Good birding,  
Michael P. Lombardo



### International Dark Sky Week

Judi Manning

Was April 2 – 8, 2024 (It did not make it into the April newsletter.)

Synopsis/excerpts: *Darkening the Night Skies Can Help Birds*, 4/3/24, *American Birding Conservancy*, <https://abcbirds.org/news/dark-skies-help-birds/>

As migration ramps up, hundreds of millions of birds, like the [Indigo Bunting](#), are on their way north to their breeding grounds, mostly flying by night.

Bright lights of a city and even the glow of lights from a seemingly quiet suburban neighborhood can cause birds to become disoriented.

“American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) [Misguiding Light: The Role Artificial Light Plays in Bird Mortality from Collisions with Glass](#) position statement offers science-backed recommendations for steering us toward safer skies, with information for the public and policymakers to help reduce light-related bird deaths.”

“Artificial light at night disorients [migrating birds](#) like the [White-throated Sparrow](#) and the [Hermit Thrush](#), luring them toward and into urban centers. Once birds land near buildings, they are at increased risk of [glass collisions](#), one of the most significant human-caused threats to birds in North America. The dangers posed to birds by artificial light spread as expanding development illuminates more of the night sky [each year](#).”

**Field Trip Schedule** in conjunction with Muskegon Nature Club

June 15, 2024: Walkinshaw Sanctuary and Gale's Pond  
July 20, 2024: Allegan State Game Area and Crane's Orchard  
Pie Pantry Restaurant  
Aug. 17, 2024: Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center

All field trips are from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon

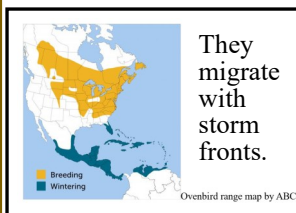
# Ovenbird

Judi Manning

*Seiurus aurocapilla*

The Ovenbird is a ground-dwelling, olive-backed, chunky bird with an upturned tail and is a member of the Wood Warbler Family. Sometimes it is mistaken for a Wood Thrush. It is often seen under habitat strutting along the ground like a chicken looking for insects and other invertebrates in the leaf litter. This bird is the only warbler that walks on the forest floor, rather than hops. It is slightly smaller than an Eastern Bluebird.

This songbird is one of the few that habitually sings in the heat of the midafternoon. It is easy to hear the rapid-fire *teacher-teacher-teacher* song it rings out in summer in large hardwood forests.



The nest is a leaf-covered dome that resembles an old-fashioned brick oven, hence its name. The female weaves the cup from the inside as a single, integrated piece. She finishes it by dropping leaves and twigs on top to hide it.

Eons ago, Cal, Carolyn, Carl, and I were hiking somewhere with me the caboose. As I took a step forward, I saw something dark move quickly from between my front foot and my back foot. I immediately stopped and looked down to see a pile of leaves. On further inspection, it had a small opening in the side. Yes, it was an Ovenbird's nest. Best to stay on the trail. To this day, if we go off trail, I watch for a mound of leaves.

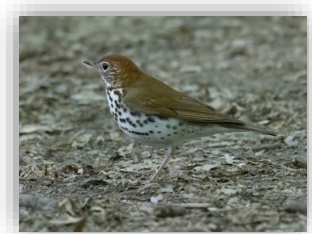
They need large tracts of mature mixed or deciduous uninterrupted forests with partially closed canopies 50-70 feet above ground for successful breeding. The young leave the nest one chick at a time on day eight with several hours between each one. Each parent takes some of the fledglings. The male keeps his group within the territory. The female takes her group to the neighboring territory.

Their nest is parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Ovenbird eggs are eaten by snakes, Blue Jays, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. Squirrels, raccoons, skunks, and weasels take the eggs and the young. They collide with towers and tall buildings along the fronts.

References: Cornell Lab, <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ovenbird/id>, American Birding Association, <https://abcbirds.org/bird/ovenbird/>, <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/ovenbird>, Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute, <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/ovenbird>, [http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Seiurus\\_aurocapilla/](http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Seiurus_aurocapilla/)



Ovenbird  
.....  
Wood Thrush





**Lesser celandine (LC)**

Thank you Pat B for the link.

Judi Manning

*Ficaria verna*

LC Photo: Penn State Extension

Invasive Lesser celandine (fig buttercup) was brought to the US as an ornamental plant over 150 years ago. It escaped into the eastern forests and is extremely invasive and rapidly spreading in Michigan's forests. As it spreads, it forms large dense mats that outcompete shady turf and spring ephemerals in moist, wooded floodplains. It goes dormant in summer causing erosion on riverbanks. It provides no food, habitat, or shelter to native insects, so the insects die off.

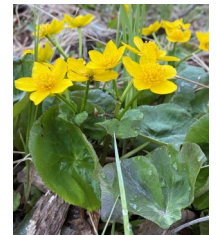
It arrived in Michigan decades ago and started its proliferation more recently. It has blanketed large swaths of the floodplain forest at Grand Woods Park, a 128-acre park west of Lansing. It has taken over large swaths from Okemos to Grand Rapids, and in many other Michigan cities. It is declared invasive in Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

LC Photo: [www.bridgemi.com/](http://www.bridgemi.com/)

In Michigan it is unregulated and still legal to buy and sell. It joins a lengthy list of problem plants that remain legal in Michigan. Herbicide treatments have a very short window in early spring and may require a permit. If you find this plant, contact the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Aquatic Nuisance Control Program Staff at 517-284-5593 for more information.



It is identified by the shiny heart-shaped leaves, eight-petaled flower, and oblong tubers. It spreads by seeds, tubers and BB-sized "bulbets" that form along the plant's stem easily scattered during floods. It looks similar to the Marsh Marigold.



Marsh Marigold Photo: MSU Extension Service

LC Photo: [www.bridgemi.com/](http://www.bridgemi.com/)

To eliminate buying "problem plants" Google the plant you are interested in plus "invasive". Even if it is for sale, does not mean it benefits native insects and birds.

Check references for more identification photos.

**For more information:**

- \* [Ficaria verna](#), MICHIGAN FLORA ONLINE. A. A. Reznicek, E. G. Voss, & B. S. Walters. February 2011. University of Michigan. Web. May 7, 2020.
- \* [Lesser celandine \(Ficaria verna\)](#), Midwest Invasive Species Information Network
- \* [Plant Profile for Ranunculus ficaris, fig buttercup](#), United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- \* [Weed Risk Assessment for Ficaria verna \(Ranunculaceae\) – Fig buttercups](#), United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

\* Excerpt from MI State U. Extension

References: *Meet the invasive plant that's killing off Michigan's spring wildflowers*, Rachel Cuschieri-Murray, executive director of the Eaton Conservation District, Bridge Michigan, [https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/meet-invasive-plant-thats-killing-michigans-spring-wildflowers?utm\\_source=Bridge+Michigan&utm\\_campaign=da6d3134d2-Bridge+Newsletter+4%2F10%2F2024&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c64a28dd5a-da6d3134d2-82508824](https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/meet-invasive-plant-thats-killing-michigans-spring-wildflowers?utm_source=Bridge+Michigan&utm_campaign=da6d3134d2-Bridge+Newsletter+4%2F10%2F2024&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c64a28dd5a-da6d3134d2-82508824), *Lesser celandine: An attractive spring weed that spreads with a vengeance*, Diane Brown, updated by Lori Imboden, Michigan State University Extension, 5/7/20, [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/lesser\\_celandine\\_an\\_attractive\\_spring\\_weed\\_that\\_spreads\\_with\\_a\\_vengeance](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/lesser_celandine_an_attractive_spring_weed_that_spreads_with_a_vengeance)

# How A Bird's Name Originated

Judi Manning

A bird is named when it is first discovered or identified. Birds were initially named beginning 350 years ago by ordinary people and later by professional scientists, naturalists, and ornithologists.

The name of a bird falls into one of six categories:

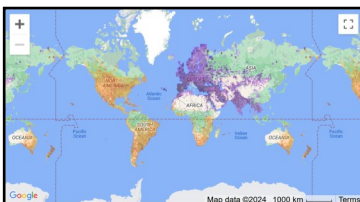
1. **VOICE** It was an easy way for people to identify the birds they saw. Some examples: Killdeer; Black-capped Chickadee (chick-a-dee-dee-dee), Whip-poor-will, Black-billed Cuckoo, Northern Flicker; Eastern Phoebe, Veery, Pewee, and Bobolink.

Similar-looking and tricky to ID warblers often were identified from one another by the very distinctive melodic songs. In NA there are 50+ kinds of small, colorful birds in the family Parulidae, known as 'wood-warblers' and have warbler in their name.

2. **APPEARANCE** Hundreds of birds are named for their prominent colorful, distinctive plumate feather field marks. The Cedar Waxwing is named for the waxy tips to its secondary feathers. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is named for its bold red crown. Sometimes the marking is not obvious like the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Other examples are the Tufted Titmouse, Black-and-White, Bay-breasted, and Yellow Warblers. Names like redstart were named before the Norman Conquest to Anglo-Saxon times and means "red tail".

Some birds have the same name but are different species: American Robin (thrush family) and European Robin (Old-World flycatcher). They are different sizes and look different. In the autumn of 1620, the Pilgrims landed in the New World and saw an orange breasted bird on the ground that looked familiar to the robin they had at home and named it the robin.

Thirty different N.A. birds have the word sparrow in their name but are not in the same family as the House Sparrow. The House Sparrow (family Emberizidae) originated in the Old World about 12,000 years ago. Being clever and resourceful, they spread around the world; either by accident or design arriving in N.A. in 1851. By 1900 they found their way to the Rocky Mountains and now are everywhere.



This map from eBird shows where House Sparrows are currently found.

Map: <https://ebird.org/species/houspa>

For more interesting information on naming, check this link: <https://www.birdfy.com/blogs/blogs/feathered-namesakes-the-surprising-stories-behind-bird-names>

3. **HABITS OR BEHAVIOR** Many have been named for their behaviors. Examples: woodpecker, tree creeper, and nuthatch (it hacks the nuts with its powerful bill). The Acorn Woodpecker caches hundreds or thousands of nuts every year and the Black Skimmer skims across the surface of the water looking for food.

- ◇ Loons were named from an old Scandinavian word for someone who is lame, referring to their inability to walk on land.
- ◇ Catbird from its mewing call.
- ◇ Mockingbird from its great ability to mimic other birds.
- ◇ Roadrunner for its habit of running fast along roads.
- ◇ Hummingbirds from the sound their wings make as they flap up to 80 times a second.
- ◇ Bluebird from its blue feathers.

(Cont. on pg. 6)

How a Bird's . . . cont. from pg. 5

4. **EPONYMS** Beginning in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when ornithologists began naming birds, birds were named for the person that discovered the bird or in honor of someone they admire. It was the first attempt to formalize bird names and to eliminate different species with the same name.

5. **HABITAT WHERE THEY LIVE.** In Britain, many species were named based on habitat where they lived or supposed to live: reed, sedge, and marsh, and wood warblers. Some species of warblers could only be told apart by their small differences in plumage.

6. **GEOGRAPHY.** Some birds are named depending on their range. The Northern Cardinal is the northernmost cardinal species in North America. The Eastern Bluebird is the easternmost blue thrush in North America.

DNA technology is used on many species of birds. Sometimes two species are lumped together when it is discovered they have similar traits or split if there are different traits. Over the years, when a species is split, the bird names have changed as ornithologists realize what they thought was one species is really two or more. The rufous-sided towhee (plumage name) was split into two towhee species – the eastern towhee (geographic name) and the spotted towhee (plumage name) found in the west.

- ☞ Goose is probably the most ancient bird name in our vocabulary.
- ☞ Gull originated from the term 'wailer' - reflecting the wailing sound made by species like the herring gull
- ☞ Swallow may have come from a Germanic word meaning cleft stick, describing the bird's forked tail.

<https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/natureshomemagazine/posts/what-s-in-a-name>

References: *What's in a name?* Jamie Wyver, 10/27/21, <https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/natureshomemagazine/posts/what-s-in-a-name>, *Sounding out Names*, Laura Erickson, 12/15/16, <https://blog.lauraerickson.com/2016/12/sounding-out-names.html>, *Birds That Say Their Names*, Laura Erickson, Radio program, aired 7/11/86, <https://www.lauraerickson.com/radio/program/10330/birds-that-say-their-names/>, *The Surprising Stories Behind Bird Names*, Dr. Stephen Moss, Global Consultant, NETVUE Birdfy, <https://www.birdfy.com/blogs/blogs/feathered-namesakes-the-surprising-stories-behind-bird-names>, <https://avianbird.com/how-did-birds-get-their-name/>, *How Birds Get Their Names*, Melissa Mayntz, 3/9/20, <http://www.beyourownbirder.com/2020/03/09/how-birds-get-their-names/>

## FAR FLOWING WATER

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Please contact Editor at [oias@oias.org](mailto:oias@oias.org) for other arrangements.

## Thank you

TO EVERYONE WHO  
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE OF  
*far flowing water*

## Climate Change & Eastern US Migration

Judi Manning

Birds spend their time flying or ravenously eating during migration. They use massive amounts of energy and need lots of food for fuel during migration.

During migration and when they arrive on the breeding grounds, they depend on insects found in leaves, flowers, and other plants. Temperature and precipitation patterns are shifting and plants flower earlier and earlier. Scientists believe a wide range of species are falling behind. If the flowers are finished blooming when birds arrive, the insects in them might no longer be available.

*“The new study shows this isn’t an anomaly. Scott Loss, an ecologist at Oklahoma State University and his team analyzed the [migratory routes](#) of 150 bird species, from hawks to hummingbirds, that breed in North America. They found that spring green-up was indeed moving earlier across birds’ flight paths, according to satellite observations between 2002 and 2021.*

*They then stacked those spring shifts against birders’ observations compiled from eBird, and found that migrators generally weren’t keeping pace: “Most of these species were more in sync with past long-term averages of green-up than with current green-up,” says author Ellen Robertson, who worked on the study as a postdoctoral researcher at Oklahoma State University.” <https://www.audubon.org/news/spring-shifts-earlier-many-migrating-birds-are-struggling-keep>*

Scientists analyzed data from the 1972 to 2015 for the United States Geological Survey’s annual North American Breeding Bird Survey to see how bird populations have changed over a 50-year period in the eastern half of North America. They found year-round residents in similar habitats have moved northward about 35 miles during that period and resident and migratory birds responded differently. Vireos and warblers, longer-distance migrants that overwinter in Central or South American, are having extra trouble adjusting compared to shorter migrants. Bird migration is tied to the changing daylight and the southern species have no idea of the early warming in North America.

Some species are shortening the time before they lay eggs after arriving on the breeding ground. Young birds eat lots of insects and some birds are figuring out that insects are available earlier.

The breeding grounds for migratory birds are getting smaller. A study published in the journal Science last fall shows habitat loss is the major reason for the decline in migratory species. The other threats all birds face are cats and pesticides.

Butterflies and a number of animals have also moved further north.

For more information, click the links in the article and the references.

References: *As Spring Shifts Earlier, Many Migrating Birds Are Struggling to Keep Up*, Maddie Burakoff, Associate Editor, Audubon Magazine, 3/7/24, <https://www.audubon.org/news/spring-shifts-earlier-many-migrating-birds-are-struggling-keep>, *Migratory birds in the Eastern US are struggling to adapt to climate change*, Kate Baggaley, 5/27/20, <https://www.popsci.com/story/animals/migratory-birds-climate-change/>

*Far Flowing Water is published eight times per year. If you would like to contribute a complete article for the next issue, please have your article to me **by September 1st.***



# Eastern vs. Western Migration

Judi Manning

Through the U.S. the land bird migration division line runs approximately down the center of the country. The migration line veers left in Canada to the Rockies encompassing the forest that begins in the east. When birds nesting in western Canada and central Alaska migrate south, they head east or southeast going over the eastern half of the lower U.S.

Why this easternly path? Partly historical when the ice age ended, and the glaciers moved north over 10,000 years ago the forests regenerated from east to west. Even though breeding birds have expanded westward in the forests, they are retracing the original migration patterns which are more reliable than a western migration.

Birds breeding along the Pacific Coast from southeastern Alaska to California migrate to Mexico and Central America for winter.

Climate change, water use, and habitat loss are reshaping the landscapes, putting extra strain on the birds.

Close relatives of the same species migrate different distances.



The Western Tanager migrates to Mexico and northern Central America. The Scarlet Tanager migrates almost entirely to South America. Typically the eastern species migrates farther south. Photos are of immature males of each species of tanager.

Western T



Scarlet T



The Black-headed Grosbeak goes to southern Mexico in winter. Its eastern close relative the Rose-breasted Grosbeak goes to South America.

Black-headed G



Rose-breasted G

Western Birds	Eastern Birds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The western US is contiguous with the mainland of Mexico.</li> <li>▪ <u>Topography</u> of high mountains and open lowlands encourage shorter migration.</li> <li>▪ Some species that breed high in the Rockies go 100 miles and 4,000 feet into the lowland valley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eastern birds have overwater flights that can be tricky.</li> <li>▪ Gulf of Mexico prevents birds from “going a little further”. They detour or fly over the open <u>water</u> so they migrate further south.</li> <li>▪ South America is further east than North America. Birds breeding in the high Arctic need to go east taking a route over the Atlantic Ocean.</li> </ul>

**Western birds** have two critical stopover sites: California’s Central Valley and the Colorado River. For more details, follow the reference links. It is estimated that 1 billion landbirds migrate through the Pacific Flyway. Researchers used eBird data and a mathematical model developed by Partners in Flight to determine where in five study territories birds were migrating through. In the West birds cross high mountains and vast stretches of very arid areas looking for green patches making it harder to find good stopover habitat.

References: *Ask Kenn: Do More Birds Migrate Through the Eastern United States?* Kenn Kaufman, Field Editor, Audubon Magazine, 10/15/20, <https://www.audubon.org/news/ask-kenn-do-more-birds-migrate-through-eastern-united-states>, *Tens of Millions of Western Birds Depend on These Two Regions During Migration*, Corryn Wetzel, Reporter, Audubon magazine, 1/26/21, <https://www.audubon.org/news/tens-millions-western-birds-depend-these-two-regions-during-migration>



Peak Spring Bird Migration Periods for U.S. Cities, Andrew Farnsworth, The Cornell Lab 4/3/24, <https://birdcast.info/news/peak-spring-bird-migration-periods-u-s-cities/> (excerpt)

**Average peak migration dates**

May 15th  
May 12th  
May 9th  
May 6th  
May 3rd  
April 30th  
April 27th  
April 24th

BirdCast  
Colorado State University  
TheCornellLab

“Broadly, spring migration runs from approximately 1 March to 15 June and fall migration from approximately 1 August to 30 November (though some species migrate even earlier and later in both seasons) in the contiguous U.S. We try to capture particularly intense periods of migratory movements by defining what we call peak periods: seasonal windows during which 50% of total nocturnal bird migration traffic historically passes through each city (n.b. with values taken from the radar nearest to the city). This peak period date range is determined by examining radar measurements from 1995 to 2018. [More detailed discussion and methods are available in this publication.](#)”

Follow the above link to check 998,998 of the largest cities in the contiguous US. Here is an example:

City	State	Peak Period Start Date	Peak Period End Date
Grand Rapids	Michigan	5/7/23	5/25/23

**2023-2024 OIAS Membership Application/Renewal** Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEND BY EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ How did you hear about OIAS? \_\_\_\_\_

Check Member Type:  \$20 Family  \$30 Contributing  \$100 Individual Life

**My contribution to speaker fees and activism projects \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society,  
Post Office Box 1654, Holland, Michigan, 49422

Grand Haven, Michigan

**Thank you for your support!** (5/24)

*Enjoy the summer. Hope all can get out and take some walks and observe some interesting things.*

# **Mission Statement** **Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society**

a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation

Provide stewardship of local Grand River island wildlife sanctuaries owned by the Michigan Audubon Society;

Achieve through education, public recognition of the value and need for protecting and preserving wildlife, plants, soil, water and other natural resources as well as an understanding of their interdependence;

Promote an interest in our native birds and as well as native flora and fauna, and their habitats because of their great economic, cultural and recreational value; and

Aid the Michigan Audubon Society in its study, conservation and research efforts.

## **Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society**

Judi Manning, Editor

P.O. Box 1654

Holland, MI 49422

PLEASE FORWARD

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**MAY 21, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

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