

GRAND RAPIDS JUNIOR AUDUBON CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Grand Rapids Junior Audubon Club September 2010 Newsletter

It is time to start another season of Jr. Audubon Club! We hope you've been having an enjoyable summer. We have been working hard to put together a schedule of programs; we hope you will like them! If you are new to the club, you will see that we are not just about birds. We learn about all things in the natural world. Most importantly, while we are learning we are also having fun!

Here is the schedule of programs for this season:

Saturday, September 18: Fall Migration @ Ada Park, 10 AM

Saturday, October 16: Bird Program @ Hemlock Crossings (Ottawa Co. Nature Center), 10 AM

Saturday, November 20: Skulls & Bones @ Howard Christiansen Nature Center, 10AM

December: No program

Saturday, January 15: Insects @ Les Craig Learning Center (Ada Park), 10AM

Saturday, February 19: Program To Be Determined

Friday, March 18: Frogs @ Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary, Hastings,

Saturday, April 16: Nature Walk @ Pickerel Lake 10 AM

Saturday, June 11: Spring Migration @ Ada Park, 10 AM

It is time for migrating birds to return to their home. Michigan and other northern states and Canada are just nesting sites for many species of birds. Some birds are only here briefly; arriving in late May/early June and then leaving in early August. Fall migration can be a very interesting and challenging time to be birding. Many birds look completely different in the fall than they do in spring. Plus, all of the trees are heavily loaded with full grown leaves making it difficult to see even larger birds. We are going to look for birds as they head south during our program on September 18th. Ada Park is a great place to see migrating warblers and other songbirds. We will meet in the parking lot located at 1180 Butterick Avenue, Ada. We will also learn about migration during the program and play a game so you can find out what it feels like to be a migrating bird.

Please let us know if you will or won't be attending the program. Just send an e-mail to wendy@michiganaudubon.org or pfolsom@grcc.edu or you can call Wendy in the evenings at 616-443-7140.

Since we are meeting in the early morning there will be condensation on the grass. You may want to wear waterproof shoes. If you have your own binoculars and field guide, please bring them with you. We do have some that you can use but using your own is always a plus as you are use to them. This has been a good year for mosquitoes, so you may want to bring bug spray. If the sun is supposed to shine make sure to wear sunscreen.

Bird of the Month

If you were with us for the summer program at Murray Lake, you know the bird of the month was the Chimney Swift. For those of you that are new to the club, each month we describe a species of bird. Before you arrive for the program, you need to research your field guide(s) to see if you can figure out which bird we are talking about. At the program you fill out a slip of paper with the name of the bird and stick in into a "hat." We draw a piece of paper from the "hat" and if it has the correct answer and your name on it, you win a prize!

So here are this month's clues: This bird is part of the Warbler family. Most warblers molt to a duller color for the fall to help them hide from predators. This member of the Warbler family looks almost the same all year round. The male has a bright yellow throat and belly with a brownish-gray back. He also sports a black mask making him look like a bandit. The female does not have a mask and is much duller in color. Can you guess what Warbler I am?

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RSVP..... We hope to see you at 10 AM on Saturday the 18th at Ada Park!

Wendy and Penny