



Grand Haven, Michigan

**May 16**

**6:00 Potluck**

**OIAS is providing:**

- ◆ Pasta
- ◆ Meatballs (separate bowl)
- ◆ Garlic Toast
- ◆ Lemonade



Volume 28, Issue 8

May, 2017

**BRING:**

- ◆ Salad or dessert
- ◆ Your own dinnerware

The Annual Business Meeting and election of Board members follows the potluck. Nominees on Page 2.

Following the election



**How do birds do it? Dr. Michael Lombardo**

See Page 2 for more details about program

During dinner members will have an opportunity to share photos.

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**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**524 Washington**  
**Grand Haven**

Visit the OIAS homepage at  
<http://www.oias.org>



*We welcome everyone to OIAS's free programs.*



## How do birds do it?

Reproduction in birds is different from that in mammals in interesting ways. Dr. Michael P. Lombardo, Professor of Biology at Grand Valley State University, will discuss some of the fascinating ways that birds mate and produce and lay eggs.

Dr. Lombardo earned his B. S. in Zoology from The Ohio State University and his M. S. and Ph.D. in Ecology from Rutgers University and has been teaching at GVSU since 1991. He has published over 45 papers on the behavior and microbiology of birds including European Starlings, Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds, House Sparrows, and Tree Swallows, served as the Secretary of the Association of Field Ornithologists from 2011-2016, and is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union.



The OIAS Board of Directors would like to thank outgoing Board members Sue Bastek and Mark Ames for their years of dedicated service to OIAS.

## Nominees:

for the OIAS Board are

- ✦ Lisa Casler
- ✦ Bruce Ostrow
- ✦ Carla Kocher (current Board member)

## Peregrine Falcon Grand Rapids Nesting Cam

Submitted by Dr. Michael L



Great news! The nesting box that Michael Lombardo and his colleague Todd A installed on Eberhard in 2010 is finally getting some use:

Check out the webcam footage:

<http://peregrine.bio.gvsu.edu/CgiStart?page=Single&Language=0>

Todd A

Michael saw three eggs in the nest via the webcam. At least one of the Peregrines has a band. They are adjusting the webcam hoping to get a photo of the band to find out where the parent came from.

## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid *Adelges tsugae* (Annand)

Judi Manning

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), native to Japan, feeds on Eastern hemlocks in forests and landscapes. In Asian there are several predatory insects that attack. In the Pacific Northwest and California, the Western hemlock is resistant to HWA. In the eastern United States, **HWA is a devastating pest to the eastern hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) and is spreading rapidly.**

It is believed to have introduced into Michigan on infested hemlock nursery stock. Hemlock canopies are critical winter cover, food and habitat for several bird and mammal species and play an important part in Michigan forest ecosystems. Hemlocks often shade streams providing shade for cold-water species such as brook trout.

Hundreds of thousands of eastern hemlock trees growing under a wide variety of conditions in forests and in landscapes have died since it was first reported in Virginia in 1951 and has spread. It threatens one million hemlock trees in Michigan forests. More than 12 percent (2.3 million acres) of Michigan's forests contain eastern hemlock. It has been found in Ottawa and Muskegon Counties.



Tiny 1/16 inch long dark reddish brown or purplish black insects feed at the base of hemlock needles. They secrete white, fluffy strands of wax (ovisacs) that covers and protects them and are most obvious from late fall to early summer on the undersides of the shoots. Each insect inserts its long mouthparts and begins feeding on the tree's stored starches, depleting the tree's nutrients and stay in the same spot the rest of its life. Toxic saliva is injected into the tree that slows water transport. Two generations occur every year.

Infested trees are killed in as little as four years. Eggs and crawlers are the only unattached stages and are present from March through July and are easily dispersed by wind, birds, deer, squirrels, and other mammals, gear, equipment, clothing, or infested nursery stock.



Map produced by: USDA Forest Service 1/28/16



You can identify HWA by looking for a white woolly substance found on the base of the needles. This woolly substance is actually a mass of eggs. Close-up photos from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO:

- It is recommended that bird feeders and bird baths be removed or moved to at least 100 feet from hemlocks from April to July to discourage animals from visiting hemlocks that could disperse the eggs and crawlers.
- Do not move infested material onto uninfested property.
- During drought periods, water your hemlocks and make sure they receive 1 inch of water per week (including rainfall) over the area beneath the dripline of the crown.
- Do not fertilize in or near adelgid infested areas. Added nitrogen enhances adelgid survival and reproduction .
- Treat for other pests that may stress hemlock: scales and mites, etc.
- Consider alternate species for future plantings

Landscape trees can be effectively protected with systemic insecticides that are available to certified pesticide applicators. [check websites below for lots more information] Trees in forests cannot be protected with systemic insecticides because of costs and environmental concerns.

Check the shoots on all hemlock trees for evidence of HWA. If you suspect a tree may be infested, collect digital images of infested shoots and the tree(s). Be sure to note the location of the affected tree(s). Contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at 800-292-3939 or by email at MDA-[info@michigan.gov](mailto:info@michigan.gov). You can also contact the Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinic at Michigan State University by phone at 517-355-4536 or by email at [pestid@msu.edu](mailto:pestid@msu.edu).

### For more information and references:

Michigan HWA quarantine visit: [www.michigan.gov/pestquarantines](http://www.michigan.gov/pestquarantines)

"Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Look-Alikes" visit: [www.michigan.gov/HWA](http://www.michigan.gov/HWA)

Michigan Invasive Species: [http://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002\\_71241-367635--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002_71241-367635--,00.html);

Recommendations for Landowners: <http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/>

[FINAL\\_HWA\\_in\\_MI\\_Recommendations\\_for\\_landowners\\_9\\_15\\_16\\_534730\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/invasives/HWA_Bulletin_518429_7.pdf)

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Extension Bulletin E-3300 • New • Dec.2015, [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/invasives/HWA\\_Bulletin\\_518429\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/invasives/HWA_Bulletin_518429_7.pdf)

West Michigan Woolly Adelgid Task Force: <https://savemihemlocks.org/>

Maine Department of Agriculture and Conservation Forestry, [http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest\\_health/insects/hemlock\\_woolly\\_adelgid.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/insects/hemlock_woolly_adelgid.htm)

Forest Health Fact Sheet, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, [http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_007179.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_007179.pdf)

## Things with Feathers

Janet Hasselbring

“But it is with poets...that birds achieve their most familiar and powerful poetic status as both symbols of imaginative freedom in their flight and substitutes for the poet in the full – throated ease of their singing.” (Introduction, Bright Wings, by Billy Collins)

“I have a bird in spring  
Which for myself doth sing –  
The spring decoys.  
And as the summer nears –  
And as the rose appears,  
Robin is gone.” (Verse 1)

After spending the winter in Florida, my husband and I hesitate to return home ‘til we’re sure spring has arrived. We go south to avoid winter’s ravages. Why would we want to deal with its vestiges upon our return? We’ve been “April fooled” on more than one occasion with random snow squalls, icy roads, and freezing temperatures. We now return in May.

Even then we can never be certain spring is here ‘til we sight our first robin, bouncing sturdily across the lawn, singing his cheery roundelay. Since robins’ diet consists primarily of worms, they won’t return north until the ground is thawed, which makes them such accurate predictors of spring. Even if there is snow on the ground in April – you spot a robin, its spring.

This year robins heralded spring with a deposit of four bright sky – blue eggs in a nest, on a railing, outside our porch – a nest that sat empty for as long as we’ve lived here. I was thrilled. Birding up close and personal!

For the next two weeks, the she bird sat, faithfully, on her eggs and when the chicks hatched - a mass of feathers and gaping beaks, the feeding frenzy began. The chicks jostled about, jockeying for position, as the parents swooped in with dragging worms, stuffing them into four eager mouths. I, the curious, doting spectator, worried that the biggest mouth was getting the worm. How did the parents make sure their chicks were being fed equally I wondered? Turns out they weren’t.

One day, noticing only three beaks, I peered into the nest and found one chick lying on its back, with its mouth closed. Survival of the fittest (aka biggest mouth} after all.

During all of the incubating, hatching, feeding, and final fledging of the chicks, we kept up our normal activities, but nothing deterred or distracted the parents. Even Maggie, our curious Welsh terrier, who woofed and yapped, didn’t scare them!

By now, the three remaining chicks had gotten so big, they were spilling out of the nest. Realizing they would be fledging soon, I panicked. I had become attached to my little feathered friends. I didn’t want them to leave, yet, being a writer, how could I begrudge them their “freedom of flight and full – throated ease of singing?”

Then one day I came out for my daily inspection to find only one bird in the nest. They had fledged without me! I was determined to see the last one leave, if it took all day. And this one did take her own sweet time.

The mother robin flits about below, calling out encouragement.

“Cheer up, cheer up. Come on down,” she called sweetly.  
The last chick perches on the edge of the nest.  
Hey Mom, it’s kind of nice having all this room to myself.”  
“I know dearie, but you can’t stay up there forever.”  
“Wow, it’s a long way down there...”  
Cheer up. Cheer up,” more seriously now. “You can do it.”  
“I’m scared.”

“This is no time for hesitating, my dear. There are some nice juicy worms down here, but you’re going to have to come and get them. One, two, three, GO!!”

The chick fluffed out her feathers, flapped her wings a few times, then plumped back down in the nest.

“Cheer up. Cheer up,” with a severe whistle, “Spread those feathers and fly! You really must do this – now!”

“OK. I think I’m ready. Will you catch me if I fall?”

“I’m right here.”

With that, the last chick spread her wings and half flew, half plummeted, to the ground, joining her mother. Together they flew into the woods and were gone.

The next morning I headed out to the porch with my coffee. Glancing at the railing, I felt a twinge of sadness, knowing my bird odyssey was over. And then I heard them - a string of clear rapid whistles from deep in the wood – “Cheerily, cheerily.” My heart leaped with joy. My robins hadn’t left me after all.

“Then will I not repine,  
Knowing that Bird of mine –  
Though flown –  
Shall in a distant tree  
Bright melody for me.  
Return.”

## Eastern Wood-Pewee

*Contopus virens*

Judi Manning

The Eastern Wood-Pewee is very easy to identify by its call: *pee-a-weeeee* which he sings throughout the day. This olive-gray flycatcher perches on dead branches in mid-canopy.

The sides of the breast are dark with an off-white throat and belly: looks like it has a vest on. When perched, it has an upright posture. It has long wings, short black legs, and a peaked crown that gives its head a triangular shape. The underside of the adult's bill is mostly yellow-orange. In fresh fall plumage show faint yellow on the belly and whitish edging on the folded wing feathers.



They fly out from a branch to capture small flying insects. They will get insects from foliage or the ground. They eat flies, spiders, bugs, butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, stoneflies, and mayflies. They also eat some berries and seeds. They feed in the forest higher than Least and Acadian flycatchers, and lower than Great-Crested Flycatchers.

They winter in the tropics. Late spring through fall they are common in deciduous forests and woodlands in the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. Their breeding range has a very narrow overlap zone in the Great Plains with the Western Wood-Pewee. The Eastern and Western have different calls but are nearly impossible to tell apart by sight. They do not appear to interbreed.

The lichen-covered nest is so inconspicuous that it often looks like a knot on a branch. During migration and on the wintering grounds they are solitary and monogamous during breeding.

They look similar to an Eastern Phoebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher. eBird Occurrence Maps, [Eastern Wood-Pewee](#)

The populations have declined by about 51% between 1966 and 2015 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey but are currently a species of Least Concern.



References: Reprinted with permission from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds web site, accessible from Eastern Wood-Pewee, [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern\\_Wood-Pewee/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Wood-Pewee/id); [https://identify.whatbird.com/obj/583/overview/Eastern\\_Wood-Pewee.aspx](https://identify.whatbird.com/obj/583/overview/Eastern_Wood-Pewee.aspx)

“According to one study, they make an average of 36 sallies per hour in the nonbreeding season and almost twice as many—68 sallies per hour—when feeding its young.”  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern\\_Wood-Pewee/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Wood-Pewee/id)

OIAS welcomes all of the new members.

The newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



## Almost Everything in Grand Haven

Judi Manning

The booth next to OIAS's booth at the Earth Day Fair was First Christian Reformed Church that has a program to recycle almost everything. If it has a cord, battery or motor, steel, copper, brass, aluminum or stainless, they can recycle it. They cannot recycle TVs or computer monitors. They will even pick up larger items.

Check out the large list of recyclable items on its website:

<https://firstchurchgrandhaven.com/ministries-and-programs/recycle-ministry/>

Nearly 2,000 lbs. of scrap metal is being recycled weekly versus placed in a landfill!

**Total Pounds Recycled Since 2008: nearly 1,850,000 lbs!**

## Bird Calls

Synopsis/Excerpts from xeno-canto, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/>

Want to know what a particular species sounds like anywhere in the world?

Check out this website at <http://www.xeno-canto.org/>

“xeno-canto is a website dedicated to sharing bird sounds from all over the world. Whether you are a research scientist, a birder, or simply curious about a sound that you heard out your kitchen window, we invite you to listen, download, and explore the bird sound recordings in the collection.

But xeno-canto is more than just a collection of recordings. It is also a collaborative project. We invite you to share your own bird recordings, help identify mystery recordings, or share your expertise in the forums.”

Enter the species you want to hear in the search box at the top of the website.

An example of what you will find: 361 different records for the Northern Cardinal. To listen, click on the gray arrow in front of a record. Scroll down and find one recorded locally.

**xeno-canto**  
Sharing bird sounds from around the world

Search: northern cardinal

Recordings  
361 results from 1 species for query 'northern cardinal' (foreground species only) (0.02s)

Results format: detailed | concise | codes | sonograms

| Common name / Scientific                  | Length | Recordist       | Date       | Time  | Country       | Location   | Elev. (m) | Type | Remarks  |
|---|--------|-----------------|------------|-------|---------------|--|-----------|------|--|
| Northern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis) | 1:15   | Brian Murphy    | 2017-04-10 | 09:30 | United States | North Carolina (near Durham), Durham County, North Carolina    | 90        | song | bird-seen:yes<br>playback-used:no<br>[sono]                    |
| Northern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis) | 0:31   | Thomas Magarian | 2017-01-18 | 09:54 | United States | Tredyffrin Township (near Wayne), Chester County, Pennsylvania | 50        | call | Recording amplified. High pass filter 6db.<br>[also]<br>[sono] |

## Jewelweed

*Impatiens capensis*

Judi Manning

A tall herb with coarsely toothed leaves and clustered showy flowers. Rain or dew beads up on the leaves creating sparkling droplets giving this plant its name: jewelweed. This annual grows two to five feet tall.

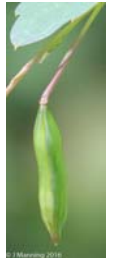
This plant can be found throughout northern and eastern North America and blooms from June to October near streams, moist shaded areas, ditches, and floodplain forests. It can be an aggressive competitor and is one of the few native North American plants to compete successfully against garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

**Thoreau wrote** in his journals: "*Touch-me-not seed vessels, as all know, go off like pistols on the slightest touch, and so suddenly and energetically that they always startle you, though you are expecting it. They shoot their seed like shot. They even explode in my hat as I am bringing them home.*"



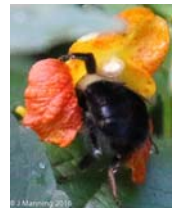
It is easily recognized by its showy orange spotted flowers. The second inconspicuous flower is a tiny petalless flower that never opens. Next time you see this flowering plant, see if you can find both kinds of its flowers.

The showy flowers must be cross-pollinated by bumblebees, butterflies, hummingbirds and insects and they really like this plant. Seeds produced by the showy flower grow into larger, hardier plants. When the seeds are ripe, they explosively split open when touched and disperses its tiny seeds several feet. If you have not touched the ripe fruit, try it. It is a very unique experience! The common name is Touch-Me-Not. The second tiny flower fertilize themselves and produces most of the seeds.



Stinging nettle grow near this plant. Native Americans used the watery plant juices to relieve itching and the irritation associated with poison ivy, poison oak, stinging nettle, insect bites, and other sores and irritations. There are many medicinal uses for this plant.

References: Jewelweed: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation; [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=IMCA](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=IMCA); Shenandoah National Park, Virginia; Kent Karriker, <https://www.nps.gov/shen/learn/nature/jewelweed.htm>; USDA Forest Service, [http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/impatiens\\_capensis.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/impatiens_capensis.shtml); <http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/pages/plants/spottedjewelweed.html>; <https://altnature.com/jewelweed.htm>



Bee on Jewelweed

### MAY 20, 2017 FIELD TRIP

**Hofma Park Preserve, 16295 Sleeper St, Grand Haven.**

Meet at 8:00 in the parking lot. All will go exploring and see what can be found. A big thanks to Carolyn and Cal who will be leading this trip.

## State of North America's Birds 2016

Excerpts eBird [http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/sonab2016/?utm\\_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm\\_campaign=6a821345ae-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2016\\_12\\_15&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_47588b5758-6a821345ae-306261941](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/sonab2016/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=6a821345ae-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2016_12_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-6a821345ae-306261941)

The State of North America's Birds 2016 is the first-ever scientific conservation assessment of all 1,154 bird species in North America. It was only possible because of the tremendous scale and big-data capabilities of citizen-science. Tens of thousands of Canadians, Americans, and Mexicans—from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, and the tundra to the Yucatan—contributed data that was analyzed by scientists from all three countries. eBird was one of the data sources.

Here's a synopsis of the state of North America's birds:

- More than one-third (37%) of North American bird species are of high conservation concern and at risk of extinction without significant conservation action.
- [Seabirds](#) and species that live in [Mexican tropical forest habitats](#) are most at risk, but there are high conservation concern species in [every habitat](#).
- Shorebirds and grassland birds that migrate from the Great Plains to Mexico's Chihuahuan grasslands are showing steep and troubling population declines. Both groups have lost almost 70 percent of their continental populations since 1970.
- Waterfowl are among the groups of birds faring relatively well, thanks in large part to the more than \$4 billion generated by the [North American Wetlands Conservation Act](#) over the past two decades. NAWCA has funded conservation projects on 30 million acres of wetlands habitat in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. However, the gains in waterfowl populations will only be sustained if wetlands conservation efforts can keep up with wetlands loss. Nearly [20% of wetland birds are on the Watch List](#). Wetland loss has accelerated by 140% since 2004, according to the [latest available trend data from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#).
- The report urges the governments and conservation groups of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico to reinvest in the conservation model that has produced solid results—the North American wetlands and waterfowl conservation model—and to duplicate that model for landbirds, seabirds, and shorebirds.

The report also calls on corporations (through their business operations) and citizens (through their consumer choices) to take a larger role in mitigating deforestation, development, pollution, and climate change.

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The following is from: <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/>

Of these 1,154 species, 432 qualified for the Watch List, indicating species of highest conservation concern based on high vulnerability scores across multiple factors.

**Key parts of the report include:**

Main results indicating [conservation concern levels for North America's 9 major habitat types](#)  
[Conservation status descriptions](#) and success stories for 7 habitat types

Interactive [Species Assessment Table](#) showing conservation scores for all 1,154 species

Year-round [abundance maps and animations](#) for 7 species

[Further resources for conservation and change](#)

The Watch List includes 432 species with concern scores of 14 or higher, or with a concern score of 13 and a steeply declining population trend—these are the species most at risk of extinction without significant conservation actions to reverse declines and reduce threats. [Download the complete species assessment table](#) (Excel file), including vulnerability scores and additional habitat information for each species.



### Global Big Day - May 13th

Even though NAMC is no longer being held, you may still be a part of this important bird count day by going out and counting birds and entering the data into eBird.

The following paragraph is a synopsis from eBird. For more information:

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/gbd20171mo/>

It's that time of year again! Your contributions to the past two Global Big Days have set back-to-back world records for the most bird species seen in a single day. [Last year's Global Big Day](#) featured more than 60% of the world's bird species in a single day, with sightings coming in from more than 17,500 eBirders spread across 154 countries. Thank you for making this possible. Want to be a part of the fun again? If you need an excuse to go enjoy birds on a lovely weekend day in May, we've got you covered.

### 2016-2017 OIAS Membership Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Check Member Type:  \$18 Individual or Family  \$30 Contributing  
 \$100 Individual Life

My contribution to speaker fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



Receive by email



Grand Haven, Michigan

5/17


### FAR FLOWING WATER

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**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 16, 2017**

**6:00 Potluck**

**7:00 HOW DO BIRDS DO IT?**  
**DR. MICHAEL LOMBARDO**