



**Audubon
Society**
of Kalamazoo

Annual Meeting - 5/31/25

Raffle

ASK was graciously donated some items from Tom Seiler's estate to share with members. The board decided the best and fairest way to honor Tom and distribute the items to members was to hold a raffle at the Annual Meeting.



Please put your name in the container on the raffle table if you would like to participate. Gail Walter will share raffle directions!

Annual Meeting Agenda – May 31, 2025

1. Call to order
2. Raffle Instructions
3. Approve minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting
4. BBW & Field Trips
5. Presentations & Programs
6. Membership
7. Bylaws Change & Elections
8. Thank You Volunteers!
9. Birdathon Results
10. Upcoming Program
11. Adjourn



Beginning Birding Walks



Participation continues to be excellent, with 20-45 this year—even in the winter! Even in light rain! We continue to see a mix of new and returning attendees.

The pool of volunteer leaders is now up to 11, with others helping out occasionally. (*Please consider joining the pool.*) Having at least 5 or 6 co-leaders at each BBW allows us to break up into smaller, more manageable groups and provide extra assistance to newbies and youngsters.

Many thanks to these volunteers: Dave Denton, Mark Boehler, Rich Karow, Susan Freeman, Seth Chapman, Shelly Kehrle-Sulser, Nate Strong, Kent Martin, Sue Creager, and Donna Keller.

Beginning Birding Walks



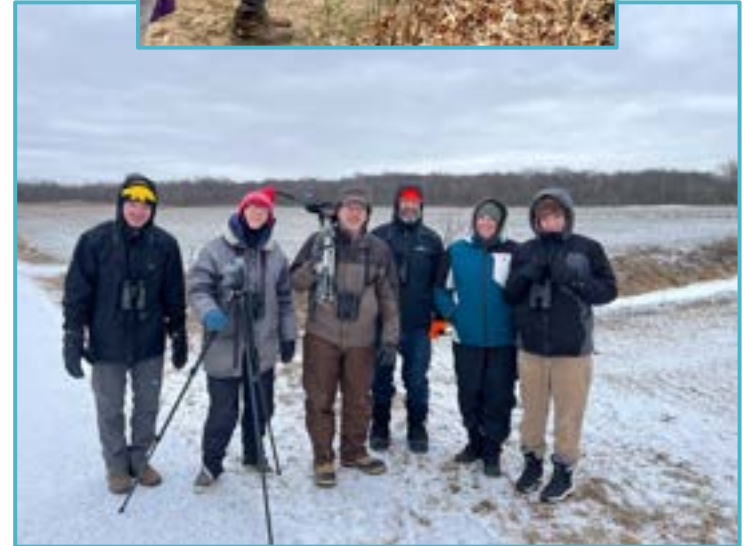
The hatchery's support has been great. Once again, they opened the Visitor Center in the winter for us. They've also helped with extra binoculars to share, in addition to ASK's loaners.

Bird highlights this year have included Ruddy Duck, Least Bittern, Wilson's Snipe, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Rusty Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, and Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Sharp eyes spotted two Black Rat Snakes on last July's trip.

Earlier this month, the May BBW attracted 40 people, who found 52 bird species and a watersnake. Highlights were Solitary Sandpiper, Virginia Rail and 9 species of warblers.

Other Field Trips & Bird Walks

- Once again, we want to **THANK** Kent Martin and Sue Creager for organizing and leading our field trips!
- 12 Field Trips were held
- Locations included:
 - Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve
 - Fort Custer State Recreation Area
 - Indiana Dunes State & Nat'l Park
 - Upjohn Park
 - And, various other Kalamazoo County area locations.





Tabling Events



ASK continues to further our outreach mission by participating in local community events. Below are the Tabling Events we were part of:

7/26/24 – Children's Nature Playscape

8/21/24 – Kellogg Bird Sanctuary – Bioblitz

8/25/24 – Kellogg Biological Station - Dessert with Discussion

11/3/24 - Kellogg Bird Sanctuary – Fall Migration Celebration

2/15/25 – Birds & Blooms – Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery

4/5/25 – KVCC Foodways Symposium

4/19/25 – Earth Day at Davis Street Park (Vine Neighborhood)

4/24/25 – Buzz in the Zoo (City of Kalamazoo) at KIA

5/10/25 – World Migratory Bird Day – Upjohn Park

Community Presentations

- “Evolution of Naturalist: From Lawn Lover to Native Gardener” (Donna Keller)
- “Inviting Birds Into Your Yard” (Donna Keller)
- “Local Birding Hotspots: Kleinstuck Preserve and Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery” for Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Birds and Coffee Program (Donna Keller)
- “Bird Friendly Building Design/Hazards to Birds” (Gail Walter)
 - Given to the Oshtemo Rotary, Environmental Concerns Committee, KVCC Food Innovation Center, Abonmarche Bcye (AIA), Eckert-Wordell (AIA), and KVCC Greenhouse Systems 212 Class
- “Peregrine Falcons” (Gail Walter)
- “Birding Potpourri” (Gail Walter)



Monthly Programs



Education Programs

During the 2024-2025 school year, Russ Schipper:

- Visited 55 classrooms, grades 1-9, mostly grades 3 & 4
- Reached 1,335 students in 7 school districts
- Assisted 6 classrooms with pellet dissection
- Helped with one field trip
- Gave 4 non-school presentations to 74 mostly adults

Thank you, Russ!



General grants are proposed by the Grant Committee and, after discussion, approved by the board.

(Total of \$5,000)

Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery - \$1,000

American Bird Conservancy - \$750

Belize Bird Conservancy - \$500

Kalamazoo Nature Center - \$500

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch - \$500

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory - \$500

Wildside Education & Rehabilitation Center - \$500

Michigan Loon Preservation Association - \$250

Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance - \$250

Wildlife Recovery Association / Joe Rogers - \$250

General Grants

Membership

- Current number of ASK members - 328
 - In May of 2024, ASK had 350 members
- Dues for the 2025-2026 membership year
 - Individual - \$15
 - Household - \$25
 - Student - \$5
 - Corporate - \$100
- Little Green Light - new membership software



Little
Green
Light

Bylaws Change Proposed

Section 3.3. Number. The Board shall consist of no more than ~~eight (8)~~ ten (10) and no fewer than six (6) Directors.

Section 3.4. Selection and Term. The terms of Directors begin July 1 following the annual meeting at which they are elected. The Directors who also serve as Officers will serve one-year terms, subject to resignation or removal. The term of the fifth Director, who will ideally be the immediate past president, will also be one-year, subject to resignation or removal. The terms of the other Board positions will, subject to resignation or removal, be three- years and will expire on a staggered basis with no more than ~~one-third~~ two-fifths of these Board positions expiring at any one time.

Proposed Bylaw Change Impact

Slate with 3 at-large members:

- President – Donna Keller
- Vice President – Gail Walter
- Secretary – Lita Martin (*new to the board*)
- Treasurer – Kris Gibson
- Board Member (*1-year term – Past Secretary*) – Pam Jackson
- Board Member – Bela Ballez
- Board Member – Dave Lemberg
- Board Member – Julie Richardson (*new to the board*)

Slate with 5 at-large members:

- President – Donna Keller
- Vice President – Gail Walter
- Secretary – Lita Martin (*new to the board*)
- Treasurer – Kris Gibson
- Board Member (*1-year term – Past Secretary*) – Pam Jackson
- Board Member – Bela Ballez
- Board Member – Dave Lemberg
- Board Member – Julie Richardson (*new to the board*)
- Board Member – Susan Schneider
- Board Member – Nate Strong

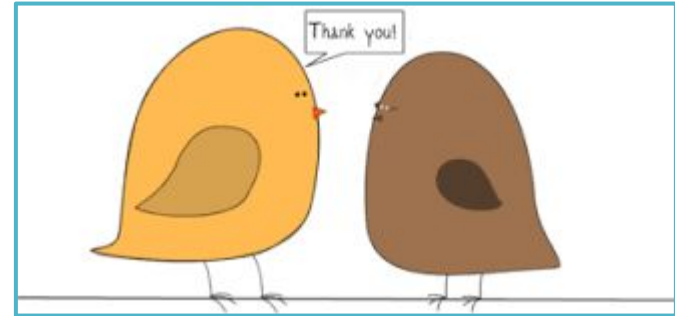
Election of 2025-2026 Board Members

A motion needs to be made to elect the 2025-2026 slate of ASK board members.

Thank You Volunteers!

Organizations led by volunteers are only as strong as their volunteer support. **We are grateful, beyond words, to ALL of those volunteers who have worked to make ASK strong!** The list is long, but these are a few ways volunteers have supported the organization:

- Field Trip Leaders
- Outreach & Tabling Events
- ASK Library
- Program Support
- Community Presentations
- Membership Support
- Education Programming
- Hospitality
- ASKBirds Google Group Administration
- AND a huge thanks to our Board Members for their dedication!



One More Thank You!

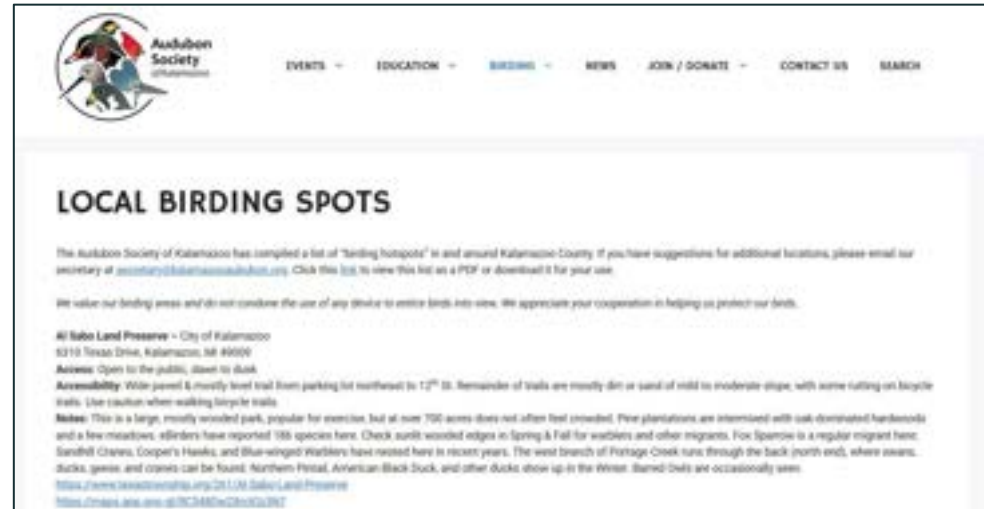


ASK's **Local Birding Spots** list was recently updated by Kent Martin. The list is incredibly helpful, easy to use and comprehensive! The list includes:

- Hotspot Location
- Address
- Access
- Accessibility
- Additional Notes & Links

The list can be found on the ASK website and downloaded as a PDF, check it out.

Thank you, Kent!



Volunteer Help Needed!



- As stated, the ASK board is grateful for the volunteers supporting our organization's efforts. **But, we still need help!**
- Please let Donna Keller know if you are interested or have questions about helping with any of the following committees/ roles.
 - Assistant Librarian
 - Field Trip Co-leader
 - Hospitality Committee
 - Social Media Support
 - Publicity
 - Program Committee
 - Community Outreach Volunteer Coordinator & Committee Members



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Approx. 6/9-6/18

Our Peregrine Falcon program is looking for volunteers! If you are interested in learning about the program and dedicating some time, please get in touch with Gail Walter through the contact page of the Peregrine website.
Thank you!

<https://www.kalamazooofalcons.com/contact>



Southwest MI Team Birdathon

- This year's Birdathon was held on May 10th.
- Kal-Haven Trail Trekkers Team: Kent Martin, Joanna Sblendorio, Seth Chapman and Donna Keller
- **Total Species: 122**
- **Total Raised: \$4,214**
- Donations split between two deserving organizations:
 - Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's Sand Creek Preserve
 - American Bird Conservancy
- THANK YOU, MEMBERS, FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Upcoming Program



6/21 – Allegan State Game Area Woods & Wetlands Tour

In partnership with the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and WaterTrails Ventures.

If anyone has binoculars, they could lend or donate to this event, please get in touch with board member Bela Ballez through the contact form on our website, or alert another board member.

Thank you!

Thank you for attending!

