



# Detroit Audubon Society

1320 N. Campbell  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-545-2929

<http://detroitaudubon.expage.com/home>

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **Citizen Action, Citizen Research, Youth-in-Action Live Music, Live Hawks & Owls**

3-10-05  
For Immediate Release

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#### **Detroit Audubon Annual Conservation Conference Sat. April 2nd**

Meet a live Red-tailed Hawk, other hawks, falcons, and owls, go for the first official bird hike in Humbug Marsh, hear live folk music about the earth, learn how to effectively lobby your state and federal legislators and more at Detroit Audubon's Annual Conservation Conference from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Sat. April 2nd. The conference will start out at 7 a.m. with the first official birding field trip to the premier wildlife area within the new Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge--Humbug Marsh--and then move to the Grosse Ile Middle School for the indoor portion of the conference, which starts at 9 a.m.

In the morning there will be a forum on "Youth-in-Action" with members of the Downriver Stream Team from Southgate Anderson High School, and students from the Steppingstone Center in Farmington Hills who have conducted water quality tests on the Rouge River as part of the Friends of the Rouge Education Program. Joseph Robison, Wildlife Biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will also present an illustrated talk about how he counts canvasbacks and other wintering ducks on the Detroit River from an airplane and discuss the results of his surveys.

A luncheon catered by Oak Hall in Wyandotte is included with registration for the conference (only \$16/ adult and \$7 per child in advance, or \$18/ adult or \$8 per child at the door). Accompanied by drum and acoustic guitar, acclaimed Detroit musician Julie Beutel will open the luncheon program with a Native American chant, and folk songs with an environmental theme. Detroit Audubon will then present its Conservationist of the Year Award and Conservation Organization of the Year Award. Bruce Szczechowski, science teacher at Southgate Anderson High School will be the luncheon keynote speaker with his program on the now rare Common Tern. In the 1960s, over 4,000 Common Terns nested on the Detroit River. Today there are less than 300 nesting. Bruce has been banding nesting terns and analyzing toxins in their eggs for the last three years, and invested his own money combined with donations from DTE Energy and others to construct new tern habitat on the protection pier of the Grosse Ile Wayne. As they say, "Build it and they will come," and come they have. And the old adage that "One Good Tern deserves another" also applies.

--ADD ONE--

Participants in the conference attending the afternoon forum on Citizen Research and Monitoring will find out about volunteers who have been and continue to collect important data on wildlife populations on the Detroit River, Lake Erie and in the Rouge River Watershed. Some may even want to sign up to help with surveys in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, including helping to conduct the citizen-lead Rockwood Christmas Bird Count, to count hawks at Lake Erie Metropark hawk or to document the frog songs that fill the damp night air in local wetlands (after appropriate training, of course). Dawn Laing from Bird Studies Canada is traveling from the North Eastern shore of Lake Erie to tell us about the status of bald eagles along the Detroit River and in the Lake Erie basin. If the Internet hook-up works out, she will also let participants track bald eagles that have been fitted with radio transmitters on a computer screen in real time.

The day will end with a visit from some of our feathered friends which are permanent residents at the Howell Nature Center's Hawk and Owl center because of injuries or being impossible to release because they have been unfortunately raised as pets and have lost their ability to hunt in the wild and the fear of people that is so often critical to their survival in nature. Beth Duman not only knows hawks, but gives an entertaining presentation.

Children's crafts and other special programs will be offered all day by naturalists from Lake Erie Metropark, Detroit Audubon Society volunteers and student volunteers from Eastern Michigan University. It is a day of fun and learning for all ages, so come and bring the whole family. You'll leave inspired, more knowledgeable and with skills to help protect the amazing diversity of wildlife within the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

**THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED**

**The Detroit Audubon Society was founded in 1939.**

We are one of only two chapters of National Audubon Society in Michigan. Our members are throughout SE Michigan from Macomb County south to Monroe County and west through Ann Arbor. Our mission is to promote awareness and protection of the environment through education, research and advocacy. We support local activities to foster the preservation of birds and the clean air, water, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and other natural resources they depend upon.

People can support our efforts by becoming members. Contributions can be sent to the above address or call 248-545-2929 for more information.

--ADD TWO--

**Detroit Audubon Society's 2005 Conservation Conference**

# Citizen Action, Citizen Research:

Celebrating Youth &  
Adults coming to the aid of  
the earth.

Saturday April 2  
7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



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Grosse Ile Middle School, On East River Road just N. of Grosse Ile Parkway. Right on the river!

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- 7-8:30 a.m. Humbug Marsh Field Trip**—Premier wildlife area within the new Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Meet in parking lot on Jefferson N. of Vreeland Rd. From I-75, take Exit 29-A(Gibraltar Road) heading East, N. on Jefferson. Lot on left. Leaders: Dr. Bruce Jones, Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, and Karl Overman, Detroit Audubon Society Field Trip Chair
- 8:30 Registration**, Grosse Ile Middle School (Doughnuts and Songbird-friendly coffee too!)
- 9:00 Welcome**
- 9:15-10:00 Lobbying 101: How to influence legislators.** Julie Baker, Dove Shooting Ban campaign
- 10:00-10:50 Forum on Youth In Action**  
Stream Team, Southgate Anderson High School.  
Rouge River Education Program, Dr. Phillip Morse & Steppingstone Center students.
- 11:00-11:30 Aerial canvasback survey Lake St. Clair to L. Erie**—Joseph Robison, MDNR
- 11:30-1:10 Awards Luncheon** Music: Julie Beutel  
**Keynote:** One Good Tern Deserves Another and Another—Bruce Szczechowski
- 1:15-2:15 Forum on Citizen Research and Monitoring**  
Christmas Bird Count (Rockwood)—Tom Carpenter, compiler  
SE Michigan Raptor Research—Paul Cypher  
Rouge River Frog Survey—Katie Walrad, Friends of the Rouge
- 2:15-2:45 Bald Eagle status, Detroit River & Lake Erie**—Dawn Laing, Bird Studies Canada
- 2:45-3:15 Live hawk and owl presentation** –Beth Duman **3:15 Closing Remarks**



**Lunch included:** Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Meatballs, Tossed Salad, roll & dessert

	In Advance	At the door
Adults	\$16	\$18
Children	\$7	\$ 8 (12 and under)

**Send check to:** Detroit Audubon Society, 1320 N. Campbell Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48067 with a note indicating how many adults and children you are registering. The list of pre-paid registrants will be at the door.

**For more information call 248-545-2929 or 313-928-2950**  
Photos by Jim Bull

This conference is supported in part by a gift from DTE Energy