

Habitat Happenings

SAVING BIRDS THRU HABITAT NEWSLETTER

April, 2011, Volume 10, Number 1

From the Director's Desk

by Kay Charter



It's going to be another great year for our organization. On May 2, we will meet Fairmount Quest Team members in Grayling where SBTH members Alan and Cheryl Slater are delivering 60,000 jack pine seedlings to the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Area. The trees were purchased by Fairmount as part of its carbon sequestration efforts and will be installed for this beautiful bird's recovery effort. Conservation Resource Alliance was a significant partner in the project.

Throughout the month of May and well into June, SBTH member and volunteer Ed Ketterer will be doubling down in the effort to snag an Important Bird Area designation for the tip of the peninsula. Information gathered during our two hikes at Leelanau State Park will be included in that ongoing survey.

In June, we are participating in the first ever regional birding festival. At our invitation, noted author and speaker Paul Baicich will be our Saturday evening speaker. Recently, a staff member for another nonprofit organization asked me how we were able to get Paul to come up to help us. When asked, Paul said that he did it because he has such enormous respect for what we do. It's wonderful to have our work recognized by someone of Paul's stature. I hope many of you will be able to attend his program.



Letter from our President:

Welcome back to beautiful Leelanau County! I know you are all charged up for the Wonders of the Land of Delight. Well, SBTH has fun, new features for you this summer.

We're kicking off the season on Friday, May 6, with a local artists' reception at Circa Estate Winery to benefit Saving Birds. We are offering two bird hikes at Leelanau State Park in May, and that month we are also inaugurating a Speaker's Series. On the third Thursday of each month, from May through September, an expert will share exciting information on a different topic of interest. The Wonders of the Wild Day Camp is back at the end of June, sign your kids and grandkids up for lots of fun exploration. For specifics on dates and details refer to the calendar on pages 4 and 5 in this newsletter.

But wait there's more. Leelanau County is so rich in habitats for our migratory song birds, we just can't keep it all to ourselves. Saving Birds Thru Habitat is proud to be a founding partner in the first Annual Leelanau Peninsula BirdFest from June 1 through June 5. There will be a full calendar of unique field trips, noted speakers for keynote programs and a traditional Great Lakes fish dinner. Check out our web site: www.savingbirds.org or the web site of the Leelanau Chamber of Commerce: www.leelanauchamber.com for registration and schedules.

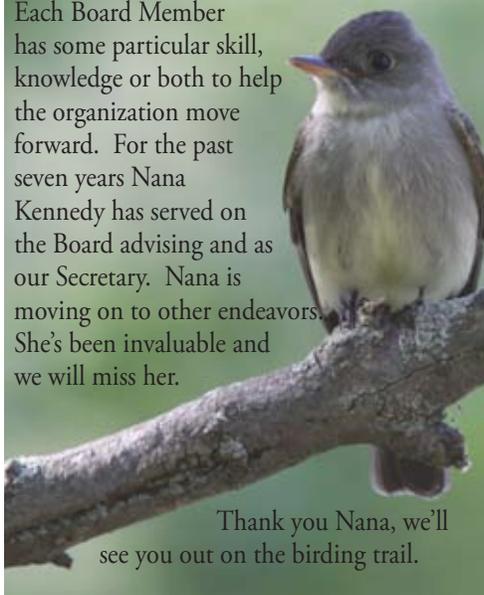
So put away those shovels, dust off your binoculars, come and join in to get your summer off to a roaring start. I promise, you'll be glad you did.



Gina Erb

Many Thanks, Nana!

For any organization to succeed it is so very important to have good Board Members. Each Board Member has some particular skill, knowledge or both to help the organization move forward. For the past seven years Nana Kennedy has served on the Board advising and as our Secretary. Nana is moving on to other endeavors. She's been invaluable and we will miss her.



Thank you Nana, we'll see you out on the birding trail.

Website: www.savingbirds.org

Board Members:

Gina Erb, President
John Scott, Vice President
Rick Evans, Secretary
Mary Valpey, Treasurer
Gary Siegrist
Judy Smart
Nick Schroeck
Linda Ketterer

Technical Advisor:

David Dister

Edited by:

Linda Ketterer
Kay Charter



Eric Ellis

Partner, Member and Friend in Conservation

Conservation Resource Alliance, a habitat protection and improvement nonprofit organization based in Traverse City, has partnered with SBTH for the past five years in a tree giveaway program sponsored by international sand mining company, Fairmount Minerals. From the start, CRA biologist Eric Ellis has been our contact for this program, tracking down and pricing out tens of thousands of native trees and shrubs. More recently, Eric became a member of SBTH.

The photo on the right is Eric holding a fish he caught in a Mongolian river. The fish, is a “baby” taimen, can reach a length of seven feet, and it can attain a weight of more than 230 pounds when mature. Eric caught this young salmonid when he lived in the land of broad steppes, wandering nomads, felt yurts and the recently reintroduced Pzewalski wild horse. Eric spent three years in Mongolia after completing his degree in Resource Ecology and Management at U of M. He worked there as a parks and wildlife volunteer for the Peace Corps. After his Peace Corps stint, he spent another year in the country as a fishing and horseback riding guide,



SBTH member Eric Ellis is a biologist for Conservation Resource Alliance. For five years, Eric has assisted in a tree giveaway program underwritten by Fairmount Minerals.

Recalling his time in Mongolia, he said there are lots of cool birds in that exotic land. Asked if he had a favorite, he mentioned three species: Eurasian Hoopoe, Demoiselle Cranes and Himalayan Griffons. Hoopoes are cavity-nesting insectivores, occurring widely across Europe, Asia and Africa. Those breeding in northerly areas migrate to the tropics, many crossing the Himalayas en route. It is a vagrant to Alaska.

Demoiselle Cranes, which Eric said are found all over the steppes, also cross the Himalayas on their way to wintering grounds in India. That harrowing flight, during which the birds often face gale force winds blasting down from the highest peaks in the

world, is incredibly risky. Many are lost to storms or predation by eagles. Happily, in spite of such losses, this elegant bird still enjoys a relatively robust population, categorized as a Species of Least Concern on the international endangered species list.

As for the griffons, Eric said they were the biggest birds he'd ever seen in his life. Like other vultures, griffons largely make their living on carrion. These hardy creatures are true birds of the Himalayas, raising their young on cliffs more than twelve thousand feet high.



Eric Ellis says that Eurasian Hoopoes remind him of kingfishers.

Eric Ellis' father was a biology teacher who took in injured animals and nursed them back to health. His uncle was a hunter and fisherman. The uncle took him along on his forays into the woods and on fishing trips. These two factors generated a love for the natural world, and inspired him to spend his life in working in – and for – that world. Eric lives near Kingsley with his wife Diana and their daughter Genevieve.

Thank you, Eric, for all you do to help us achieve our goals!



Himalayan Griffons are among the largest, and hardiest avian species in the world, nesting high in forbidding Himalayan cliffs.

He returned to the US and continued his conservation efforts, first with the City of Ann Arbor and later conducting amphibian surveys for the National Park Service. In 2007, after earning a Master of Science degree from the University of Idaho's College of Natural Resources, he brought his enthusiasm for the outdoors to our area as a biologist for CRA. There he works with landowners on habitat improvement.



Demoiselle Cranes cross Himalayan peaks during migration between Asian breeding grounds and Indian wintering grounds.

Sixty-Plus Year Old Albatross Raises Another Chick



Wisdom, a Laysan Albatross, is still raising chicks at more than 60 years of age. She is believed to be the oldest bird in the world, and she has traveled millions of miles during her long life.

In February, John Klavitter, deputy manager of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, spotted and photographed a Laysan Albatross that has been determined to be the oldest known U.S. wild bird. This female Laysan Albatross – given the name Wisdom – was first banded in 1956 by Chandler Robbins. Wisdom was incubating an egg at the time and was assumed to be at least five years old, which would make her over 60 years old today. She has sported and worn out five bird bands since 1956.

Remarkably, Chan Robbins returned to Midway in February 2002 to replace old, worn bands on previously banded albatrosses before the bands become unreadable. Fortunately, one of the birds he rebanded was Wisdom.

In February, Wisdom was spotted with a chick, making her a very experienced mom. In fact, Wisdom has likely raised 30 to 35 chicks during her lifetime. “To know that she can still successfully raise young at age 60-plus, that is beyond words,” commented Bruce Peterjohn, the chief of the North American Bird Banding Program at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland.

Although albatrosses are known to mate for life, it is unknown if Wisdom has had the same partner all these years.

This fascinating story was picked up by news bureaus and media around the world and was a story heightened by the drama of the Pacific-based tsunami last month. 

Reprinted with permission from the current Birding Community E-Bulletin.



to the Following Donors for Their Honorary or Memorial Gifts:

Keith and Joanne Burnham honoring Gina Erb.

Mark and Laurie Carlson honoring the anniversary of Jeff and Nancy Fisher.

Christine and Jim Gray honoring Ed and Linda Ketterer.

John and Gina Erb honoring the anniversary of John and Mary Scott.

The family of our late neighbor Herb Holmes for a small memorial tract of trees on SBTH property.

Cherryll and Bud Frick honoring Myra Wilson.



The Mallard nest platform shown above was made by SBTH members Alan and Cheryl Slater of Grand Haven. The Slaters are hunters and dedicated conservationists. They have a pond on their own land where they have installed one of these platforms. It provides the hen with a place to incubate her eggs where the possibility of predation is much lower than on land. The Slaters donated this platform to us last year. A hen laid two eggs in it before abandoning it. The day after the platform went into the pond this year, a pair of Mallards arrived to check it out. We're hoping for success; it would be wonderful for our young visitors from local schools to see a duck incubating eggs, or better yet, ducklings on the pond.

Leave a Legacy for Migrating Birds.



Please help us continue our work on behalf of warblers, orioles, buntings and other at-risk species by joining those who have included Saving Birds Thru Habitat in their estate planning. Bequests of any amount will be gratefully accepted.

SBTH Calendar

*Unless otherwise noted, please meet for all events at the
For additional information/directions, call 231-373-3738*



Saturday, April 30, 2:00 – 3:00 PM

“Leelanau’s Jungle Birds”

At Leelanau Lighthouse Museum. Every spring a host of birds travel up from the Tropics to breeding grounds in North America. Many pass through Leelanau County before continuing as far north as the Arctic tundra. Some stay to nest here. Few people are aware that virtually all of these birds have been losing ground for decades. Populations of some species have declined by as much as 90% over the past forty years. Charter’s engaging program follows a few of these species on their phenomenal migrations, and tracks the reasons for the birds’ declines. This program also offers suggestions on how to provide genuine assistance, not just for birds, but for other at-risk wildlife as well.

Friday, May 6, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Art Reception at Circa Estate Winery.

Join local artists for an opening reception benefiting Saving Birds Thru Habitat at Circa Estate Winery. \$30 per person, includes one glass of wine & hors d’oeuvres. Artwork will be on display and for sale until May 30. Circa Estate Winery, 7788 E. Horn Rd., Lake Leelanau. Call SBTH for more information: (231) 271-3738.

Saturday, May 14, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

State Park Bird Hike

SBTH Executive Director Kay Charter and SBTH Docent Ed Ketterer will lead a bird hike at Leelanau State Park. Meet at the pavilion; park fees required.

Thursday, May 19, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

SBTH Speakers’ Series: History of Bird Art

Fine art expert Piper Goldson, owner of Suttons Bay Gallery, leads off our five-month Speakers’ Series. She will explore the historical overview of ornithological fine art, and share what makes the work of bird artists John James Audubon and John Gould so valuable. She will also examine the differences between the two artists, and their work. Goldson is widely recognized for her fine art expertise; she was the featured speaker at ArtExpo ’86 for the grand opening of the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York. This series is a fund raiser for SBTH. Program held at the Habitat Discovery Center, 5020 N. Putnam. Tickets are \$15.00 per event, or \$60.00 for all five presentations. Call (231) 271-3738 for reservations.

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

State Park Bird Hike

SBTH Executive Director Kay Charter and SBTH Docent Ed Ketterer will lead a bird hike at Leelanau State Park. Meet at the pavilion; park fees required.

Saturday, May 28, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Love is in the Air. Birdiology 201

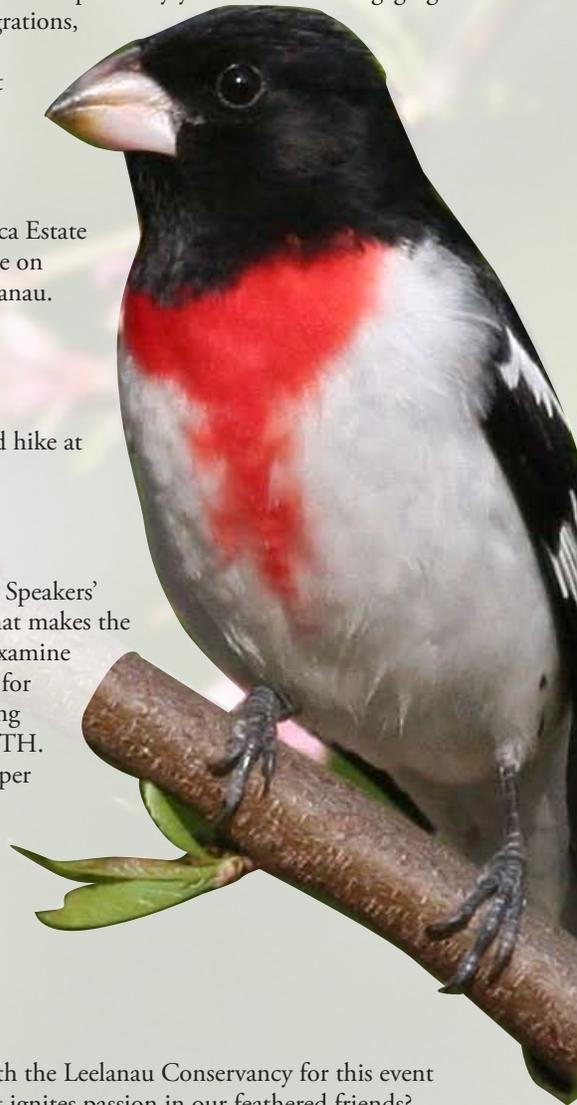
“Romance is in the air...” on the Ground, in the Bush – Everywhere. We partner with the Leelanau Conservancy for this event presented by SBTH and Conservancy docent Bobbie Poor. Join us to find out: What ignites passion in our feathered friends? From the ho-hum to the bizarre, we will peek into the love life of birds. This program is suitable for adults.

Wednesday, June 1 – Sunday, June 5

First Annual Leelanau Peninsula BirdFest

Join SBTH and its 16 partners at Fountain Point Resort for the First Annual Leelanau Peninsula BirdFest. This festival offers a wide variety of unique field trips, including Birding by Tallship, an entire afternoon with nesting endangered Great Lakes Piping Plovers, a visit to a 300 acre native prairie installation and trips by pontoon boats to the Leelanau Conservancy’s Cedar River Preserve. The theme of the BirdFest is conservation...every field trip site, each seminar and all keynote programs reflect that theme.

Go to the following web site for more information: www.leelanauchamber.com and click on the Scarlet Tanager.



of Events for 2011

the Habitat Discovery Center, 5020 North Putnam Rd.
1-271-3738. Loaner binoculars are available.

Thursday, June 16, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

The History and Meaning of Pow Wow

Hank Bailey, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Tribal Elder and Traditional Dancer, presents the second of our Speaker's Series events. Hank will explore the history and meaning of Pow Wow. He will discuss Pow Wow etiquette, dance styles, and general Pow Wow activities. Program held at the Habitat Discovery Center, 5020 N. Putnam. Tickets \$15.00 per person. Call (231) 271-3738 for reservations.

Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 1, 9:00 AM – Noon

Wonders of the Wild Day Camp

Sign your child up for our second Wonders of the Wild Day Camp, where he or she will find answers for kids who wonder, "What's going on out there?" Curious campers, age 7 to 11, can join the fun at the Saving Birds thru Habitat Discovery Center near Omena where they will explore plant power, investigate the insect world, search for salamanders and slithery snakes, go on a songbird safari and discover amazing mammals.

Each child will receive his or her own copy of a birding field guide to keep, and will learn how to use it effectively. Five adventure-filled mornings from 9:00 - Noon, begin on June 27 and culminate on July 1 when the WoW campers will plant native plants at the Leelanau Conservancy's Kehl Lake Preserve. Camp held at the Habitat Discovery Center, 5020 N. Putnam. Camp fee is one hundred dollars per child. Deadline to register is Monday, June 14th. For information and registration please call (231) 271-3738.

Saturday, July 16, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Inland Seas Music Festival at Suttons Bay Marina

SBTH will have a booth at this community gathering featuring tall ship tours, family activities, food, live music featuring "Song of the Lakes," and much, much more! Come join the fun and stop in to see us there. This festival is free and open to the public.

Thursday, July 21, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Is Global Warming Real?

David Barrons, third in our Speakers' Series, will share his views on the subject. Program held at the Habitat Discovery Center, 5020 N. Putnam. Tickets \$15.00 per person. Call (231) 271-3738 for reservations.

Friday, August 12, 7:30 PM, Milliken Auditorium

"Grow a Bird Feeder"

Douglas Tallamy, renowned author of *Bringing Nature Home*, returns to the Grand Traverse Area with his program about the crucial importance of native plants to wildlife – especially birds and butterflies. Dr. Tallamy's program is a must for those interested in any aspect of the natural world, especially the future for our migrating birds. Many have said that his book is the most important conservation effort since Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Free on a first come, first seated basis. Sorry, no reservations. Call (231) 271-3738 for more information.

Thursday, August 18, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Mushrooms of Leelanau County with Mushroom Expert Ed Reinert

Program held at the Habitat Discovery Center, 5020 N. Putnam. Tickets \$15.00 per person. Call (231) 271-3738 for reservations.

Thursday, September 15, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

History of Our Native Plants.

Brian Zimmerman presents the final program for our Speakers' Series. His talk will explore the question of what a native plant is and how these plants have adapted over time. Call (231) 271-3738 for reservations.

Saturday, September 17, 2:00 PM

Prairie At Its Best

Join Charter Sanctuary owners Jim and Kay Charter for a walk through their 35-acre installed prairie. At this time of year, the little bluestem is at it most colorful, and the grasses are full of migrating sparrows.



Plants Native to Our Region Available at

Four Season Nursery

7557 Harry's Road Troy, MI 48064 • Ph: (231) 932-7400 • Fax: (231) 929-2988

Four Season Nursery is a full service nursery located at 7557 Harry's Road. If you see a plant or plants you are interested in the list, please call first to make certain we have your choice in stock. Phone: (231) 932-7400.

GRASSES & SEDGES

Big Bluestem
Side-oats Grama
Blue-joint Grass
Penn. Sedge
Tussock Sedge
Muskingum Sedge
Plantain-leave Sedge
Northern Sea Oats
Nodding Wild Grass
Bottlebrush Grass
Soft-stem Rush
June Grass
Switchgrass
Little Bluestem
Green Bulrush
Woll Grass
Blue-eyed Grass
Indian Grass
Prairie Dropseed

VINES

American Bittersweet
Virgin's Bower
Virginia Creeper

WILDFLOWERS

Yellow Giant Hyssop
Pearly Everlasting
Canada Anemone
Columbine
American Spikenard
Common Milkweed
Swamp Milkweed
Purple Milkweed
Whorled Milkweed
Smooth Aster
New England Aster
White Wild Indigo
Harebell
White Turtlehead
Sand Coreopsis
Bunchberry
Purple Prairie Clover
Pale Purple Coneflower
Purple Coneflower
Rattlesnake Master
Joe-Pye-Weed
Common Boneset
Queen of the Prairie
Wintergreen
Bottle Gentian
Prairie Smoke
Sneezeweed
Western Sunflower
False Sunflower
American Alum Root
Maple leaf Alum Root
Rose Mallow

Blue Flag Iris
Round-headed Bush Clover
Rough Blazing Star
Marsh Blazing Star
Cardinal Flower
Blue Lobelia
Lupine
Bee-Balm
Dotted Mint
Prickly Pear
Beardstouge
Woodland Phlox
Spreading Jacob's Ladder
Yellow Coneflower
Orange Coneflower/B.E. Susan
Black-eyed Susan
Cut-leaved Coneflower
Brown-eyed Susan
Rosinweed
Compass Plant
Cup Plant
Riddell's Golden Rod
Stiff Golden Rod
Showy Golden Rod
Canada Goldenrod
Early Meadow Rue
Tall Meadow Rue
Foamflower
Ohio Spiderwort
Blue Vervain
Hoary Vervain
Ironweed
Culver's Root
Golden Alexanders

FERNS

Maidenhair Fern
Lady Fern
Ebony Spleenwort
Bulblet Fern
Crested Shield Fern
Robust Male Fern
Goldie's Fern
Marginal Wood Fern (evergreen)
Sensitive Fern
Cinnamon Fern
Interrupted Fern
Royal Fern
Christmas Fern (evergreen)
Ostrich Fern

WOODLAND PLANTS

White Baneberry
Red Baneberry
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Wild Ginger
Columbine
Blue Cohosh
Bluebead Lily
Bunchberry

Large Yellow Lady's Slipper
Dutchman's Breeches
Yellow Trout Lily
Wintergreen
Wild Geranium
Goldenseal
Twinleaf
Wood Lily
Virginia Bluebells
Woodland Phlox
Spreading Jacob's Ladder
May Apple
Giant Solomon's Seal
Hairy Solomon's Seal
Celandine Poppy or Woods Poppy
Starry False Solomon's Seal
False Solomon's Seal
Meadow Rue
Large-flowered Trillium
Bellwort

DECIDUOUS TREES

Striped Maple
Red Maple
Sugar Maple (hard maple)
Downy Serviceberry
Shadblow Serviceberry
Serviceberry/Juneberry
Yellow birch
Paper Birch
Blue Beech
American Chestnut
Shagbark Hickory
Hackberry
Redbud
Pagoda Dogwood
Flowering Dogwood
American Hazelnut
Cockspur Hawthorn
American Beech
Common Witchhazel
Butternut
Tamarack
Tulip Tree
American Crabapple
Blackgum
Ironwood
American Planetree, Sycamore
Black Cherry
Wild Plum
Choke Cherry
Hop Tree
White Oak
Swamp White Oak
Red Oak
Common Sassafras
American Mountain Ash
American Bladdernut
Basswood

EVERGREEN TREES

Balsam Fir
Common Juniper
Common Juniper (low growing)
Creeping Juniper
Eastern Red Cedar
White Spruce
Jack Pine
White Pine
American Arborvitae
Canadian Hemlock

SHRUBS

Bearberry, Kinnikinnick
Black Chokeberry
Speckled Alder
Lead Plant
New Jersey Tea
Buttonbush
Sweet Fern
Silky Dogwood
Gray Dogwood
Red-osier Dogwood
Bush Honeysuckle
Leatherwood
Shrubby St. Johnswort
St. John's Wort
Michigan Holly (male & female plants)
Spicebush (male & female plants)
Bayberry
Common Ninebark
Common Cinquefoil
Fragrant Sumac
Staghorn Sumac
Smooth Rose or Meadow Rose
Swamp Rose
Pasture Rose
Pussy Willow
Prairie Willow
American Elderberry
Red-berried Elder
Buffaloberry or Soapberry
Steeplebush
Willowleaf Spirea
Snowberry
Lowland Blueberry
Wild Raisin or Witherod Viburnum
Arrowwood viburnum
Nannyberry (small tree)
Blackhaw Viburnum
Mountain Maple
Maple Leaf Viburnum
Highbush Cranberry

Prairie Habitat and Native Plants For Sale

Friday, July 29, 2011
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
SBTH Discovery Center

2011 Plant List



Grasses:

- Little Bluestem
- Big Bluestem
- Indian Grass
- Switch Grass
- Prairie Dropseed
- Sideoats Grama
- June Grass

Wildflowers

- Bergamot
- Black-Eyed Susan
- Blue Vervain
- Boneset
- Butterfly Weed
- Cardinal Flower
- Columbine
- Compass Plant
- Culver's Root
- Cup Plant
- False Boneset
- False Dragonhead
- Foxglove Beard Tongue
- Gray Headed Coneflower
- Golden Alexanders
- Great Blue Lobelia
- Hairy Beard Tongue

- Hoary Vervain
- Horsemint
- Ironweed
- Joe Pye Weed
- Lead Plant
- New Jersey Tea
- Nodding Wild Onion
- New England Aster
- Marsh Blazing Star
- Prairie Coreopsis
- Prairie Dock
- Prairie Smoke
- Pale Purple Coneflower
- Purple Coneflower
- Queen of the Prairie
- Rattlesnake Master
- Rosin Weed
- Rough Blazing Star
- Round Leaf Ragwort

- Sand Tickseed
 - Showy Goldenrod
 - Sky Blue Aster
 - Spiderwort
 - Stiff Goldenrod
 - Swamp Milkweed
 - Sweet Black-Eyed Susan
 - Thimbleweed
 - Turtlehead
 - Western Sunflower
 - White Wild Indigo
 - Wild Lupine
 - Wild Senna
 - Woodland Sunflower
 - Zig Zag Goldenrod
 - Blue Eyed Grass
- Pollinator Gardens for Bees
and Butterflies*



**Saving Birds Thru Habitat gratefully accepts gifts in honor or in memory of others.
When making such a donation, please let us know who should be informed of your gift.**

Yes! I want to support Saving Birds Thru Habitat with a
Membership _____ Renewal at the following level:

- Chickadee (\$25) Bluebird (\$50)
- Common Yellowthroat (\$100) Bobolink (\$250)
- Piping Plover (\$500) Loon (\$1000)
- Other (\$ _____)

Nest Builders: Those who make an annual pledge at the Bobolink level (\$250) or higher

In memory / honor (please circle one) of:

Acknowledgment card to go to: _____

Would you prefer your membership/gift to be anonymous?

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
(payable to **Saving Birds thru Habitat**)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Summer Address (if different)

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Thank you for your donation. We are a 501(c)(3) organization; your tax-deductible gift is very important to us

Questions? Please call (231) 271-3738 or email:
bobolink3@prodigy.net

Thank You!



5020 N. Putnam Rd.
P.O. Box 288
Omena, MI 49674-0288



Saving-Birds-Thru-Habitat

*Check Out Our
Web Site!!*

www.SavingBirds.org

The mission of Saving Birds Thru Habitat is to protect, enhance, and restore habitat for North American birds and to educate people of all ages about this important mission and how to achieve it. Our goal is to improve habitat for migrating birds one backyard at a time.

GoodSearch & GoodShop



We have earned more than \$550 from the GoodSearch search engine. Please support SBTH every time you search or shop online by using GoodSearch. Simply go to www.goodsearch.com and type Saving Birds Thru Habitat in the line "enter your charity here..." If every one of our members made just two searches a day on GoodSearch, we would earn more than \$1500 every single year!