



*Cat paper art "The Heron", by Angie Pickman*

## *Seven Ponds Nature Center Birding Club*

The Seven Ponds Nature Center Birding Club provides a forum for people to learn about and enjoy birds and birdwatching. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. There are no meetings in July or August. Meetings are held in the nature center's Interpretive Building at 7:00 p.m. and feature a scheduled program, and a variety of short segments including recent bird sightings, identification tips, field trip plans and conservation news. Meeting refreshments are provided by club members. Annual membership dues are \$10.00, payable to Seven Ponds Nature Center. Visitors are welcome to attend meetings. There is a \$3.00 admission fee for those who are not Seven Ponds Nature Center members.

**November 19**

### *The Photography of Dr. Alan Charnley*

**Dr. Alan Charnley** is a retired Dentist from Lapeer, who has had a passion for photography for nearly 50 years. Over that time his interests have "migrated" more toward bird photography. He has been fortunate to have traveled to many exciting birding locations, although some of his favorite photos have been taken close to home. Dr. Charnley is a good friend to Seven Ponds and veteran presenter to Birding Club. In tonight's presentation he will share images and describe techniques and equipment used in his bird photography.

**December 17**

### *Birding Club Christmas Party*

Bring a dish to share, and a jolly birding tale or two, and join us for a celebration of another great year of bird appreciation. Brush up on your birding trivia knowledge—or your best guesses—for another spirited Birding Trivia challenge!

**Seven Ponds Nature Center**

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SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER

# **Birding Club**



## **2024 Schedule**

**January 16**

***Movie Night: My Life as a Turkey***

This beautiful, thought-provoking film is the reenactment of a journal kept by naturalist Joe Hutton, while he was raising 16 wild turkey hatchlings. Come see what it was like to be a turkey parent, and how his astonishing children changed him. Bring your favorite beverage, I'll pop the corn!

**February 20**

***Cranedance: A Story of Sandhill Cranes in MI***



Come experience this extraordinary film about Sandhill Cranes with its creator, **Mindy Denninger**. Mindy has captured an intimate look at the lives and behaviors of cranes that frequent a lake in Oxford, Michigan. Mindy will bring lovely movie posters and a large cutout of a crane for photo ops. There will also be a Q&A after the viewing!

**March 19**

***Great Lakes HummerNet***

In Autumn 2001, the Great Lakes HummerNet was formed by **Allen Chartier**, primarily to learn more about hummingbirds in the Great Lakes region, focusing on Ruby-throateds in MI. With the help of volunteer observers, data is gathered through observation and banding studies. Tonight, HummerNet Director, world birder and author, Allen Chartier will describe the research objectives of the project, tell us how we might participate, and review what has been learned so far. Allen will also give us tips on attracting, feeding, and gardening for hummingbirds, and review the status of other hummingbirds that occur in the region.

**April 16**

***Ethiopia - Ancient and Surprising Land***

Thoughts of Ethiopia often rouse thoughts of a desert and tribal people. Tonight, **Don Burlett** will share the many mountains, fertile valleys and lakes, and diverse population that are also Ethiopia. The variety of habitats are home to many different birds and other animals. As one of the few countries in Africa to never be colonized, it also has a rich cultural and religious history. Come enjoy a view of the people, country, and wildlife of Ethiopia.

**May 21**

***An Evening on the Trails***

Birding at Seven Ponds in May is a wonderful time to see and hear lots of birds! Tonight we are sure to find flycatchers, swallows, warblers, and more, back in Michigan to raise families, or refuel and rest of their way to northern nesting grounds. Dress for the weather, walk is at 7:00.

**June 18**

***Breeding Bird Survey***

Knowledge of bird populations around the globe has exploded with the help of eBird and volunteer input. Sixty years ago, when it was discovered that bird populations were declining due to pesticide use, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Ctr. developed the Breeding Bird Survey to monitor bird populations in N. America. Tonight, **Nancy Kautz** will share results of 60 years of this study, plus a few stories from her 15 years monitoring a route. We will also visit some birds nesting at 7 Ponds.

**September 17**

***The Galapagos Islands***

Let's visit the land that piqued Charles Darwin's interest in 1835 to see the unique flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands. This archipelago is an active volcanic site that continues to grow and change every day. Tonight, **Nancy Buck** will take us to multiple islands to see the varied species of birds and other animals that have evolved from common ancestors, as well as what is being done to save them.

**October 15**

***My Journey Into Bird Photography***

**Brian Lemons** didn't set out to be a nature photographer. But when he began using a camera to document bird sightings, he discovered that his photos revealed subtle field marks and bird behaviors that he wasn't seeing when he was out watching birds. Tonight, Brian will share the evolution of his photography, as well as tips for improving your chances of capturing great birds and great memories of days in the field.