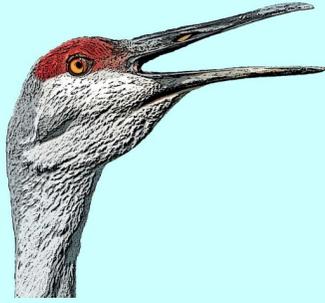


Haehnle Sanctuary News



Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary

Owned By Michigan Audubon

Maintained and Operated by The Jackson Audubon Society

Preserving and Protecting our Natural World

Fall 2021



Haehnle Helping American Kestrel

Photo by Tom Hodgson



*American Kestrel
Adult Male*

The American Kestrel is in decline over much of North America. American Kestrels prefer open habitats that are well-suited for locating and dispatching their prey.

Loss of their preferred habitats due to development and shifting land usage, as well as a loss of trees whose cavities they need for nesting, could be contributing to their decline.

American Kestrels are North America's smallest falcon. They hunt from elevated perches (including power lines) or while hovering in the air.

The bulk of their diet is insects and small rodents, but they will also take some small birds, reptiles and amphibians.

The Haehnle Sanctuary's prairie sites provide ideal habitat for the American Kestrel. This spring nest boxes were installed in two locations. If successful, sanctuary volunteers will be participating in the nationwide American Kestrel Nest Box Partnership sponsored by The Peregrine Fund. Installation came too late to attract Kestrels this year, but they will be ready for the next nesting season. *(continued on page 2)*

Helping the Kestrel (continued)

Each nest box was attached to a 10ft. tall post equipped with a predator guard. The posts were bolted to 6 ft. long, heavy duty, metal u-channel signposts which had been driven four feet into the ground. The nest boxes were attached to the posts using heavy duty door hinges so that they will remain vertical when the posts are lowered for monitoring or maintenance. Several inches of wood shavings were placed in the bottom of each box to provide a nesting medium.

They were installed by volunteers Tom Hodgson, Jim Rossman and Barry Myers. Jim built the nest boxes and provided the lumber. Tom provided the hardware, predator guards, metal signposts and the wood shavings. All three worked together to complete the installations

We built them, but will they come? Only time will tell. Similar boxes have been successful throughout the country, so we are hopeful. If not, screech owls use them as well. Wouldn't that be a hoot . . . or more accurately a trill or a whinny (for those who are familiar with screech owl calls).



*One of two American Kestrel Boxes
Installed at Haehnle*



*Close up of nest box and predator guard (left). Close up of mounting method (right).
Nest box photos taken by Jim Rossman*

Be On The Alert For This Invasive Species



Asian Long-horned Beetle

Once again we have another invasive insect that is threatening our trees. In recent years the Emerald Ash Borer surfaced, more recently the Spotted Lantern Fly, and now our hardwood trees are being menaced by the **Asian Long-horned Beetle**.

This beetle was first detected in the United States in Brooklyn, New York, in 1996. It has since become an invasive pest in Illinois (1998), New Jersey (2002), Massachusetts (2008), Ohio (2011), and most recently, North Carolina. It is on the Watch List of the Michigan DNR.

This wood-boring insect is native to China and the Korean Peninsula. It is believed to have entered the United States via wooden shipping crates. Federal and State agencies have partnered to carefully inspect all overseas shipments. Under the Plant Protection Act of 2000 all wooden packaging must now be stamped, with accompanying paperwork, certifying they were either heat-treated or fumigated before leaving their host country. Uncertified shipments are returned. Furthermore, all international luggage, cargo, packages, mail, and conveyances are subject to inspection.

This insect should be of concern to all Americans, including Michiganders, because it attacks hardwood shade trees including maple, elm and willow. Other preferred hosts include Ash, Birch, Golden raintree, Horsechestnut/Buckeye, Katsura, London planetree/Sycamore, Mimosa, Mountain Ash and Poplar. If this beetle is not controlled/eradicated, it could devastate the lumber, paper and maple syrup industries, to name a few.

In states where growing populations of this beetle have been identified, various methods of containment and eradication are utilized. Quarantined areas of 1.5 miles from the infested trees are established. Infected trees are removed and non-infected trees are treated with systemic pesticides. The eradication of existing populations and further prevention is clearly a costly venture.

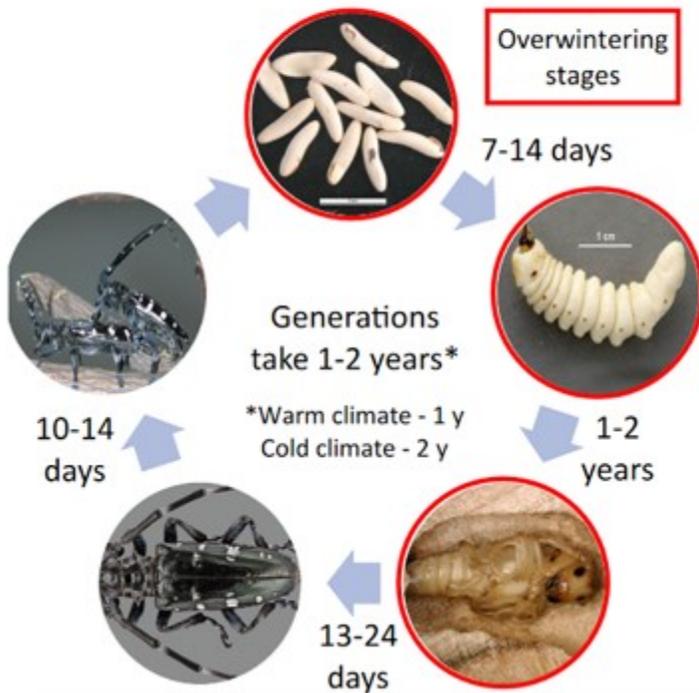
As indicated in the life cycle illustration on the next page, a female may lay up to 90 eggs in her lifetime. While the beetles can fly up to 400 yards, they tend to remain on the original host for all stages. Furthermore, various life stages can be occurring at the same time in the same infected tree.

Asian Long-horned Beetle

(Continued)



Asian Longhorned Beetle *Anoplophora glabripennis*



Life Stages

Eggs, up to 90 laid in a lifetime, are laid one per bark notch during spring - summer. Hatching is temperature dependent, but generally occurs in 7-14 days.

Larvae develop through at least five instars in the tree cambium and heartwood over 1-2 years. Larvae are yellow-white, up to 2 in. long and 0.25 in. wide, with a dark brown head capsule. Mature larvae most likely to overwinter.

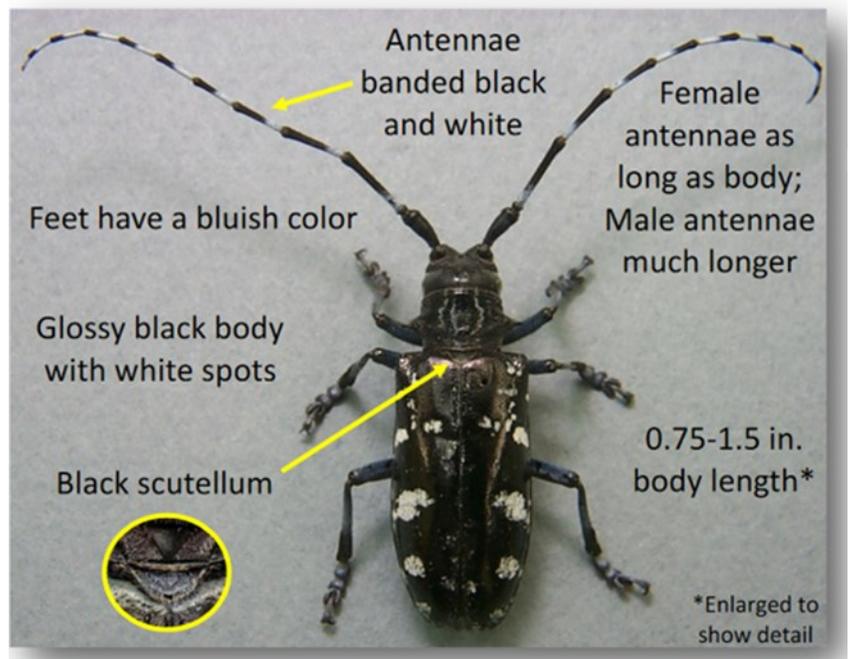
Pupation occurs during spring in frass-filled chambers and usually takes 13-24 days.

Adults emerge from the tree spring-fall leaving a 0.4 in. round exit hole. Adults live 50-60 days. They generally feed on leaves and tender bark of small twigs and branches.

Government agencies are attempting to prevent further entry of the Asian Longhorned Beetle into the country, and are trying to eradicate existing populations.

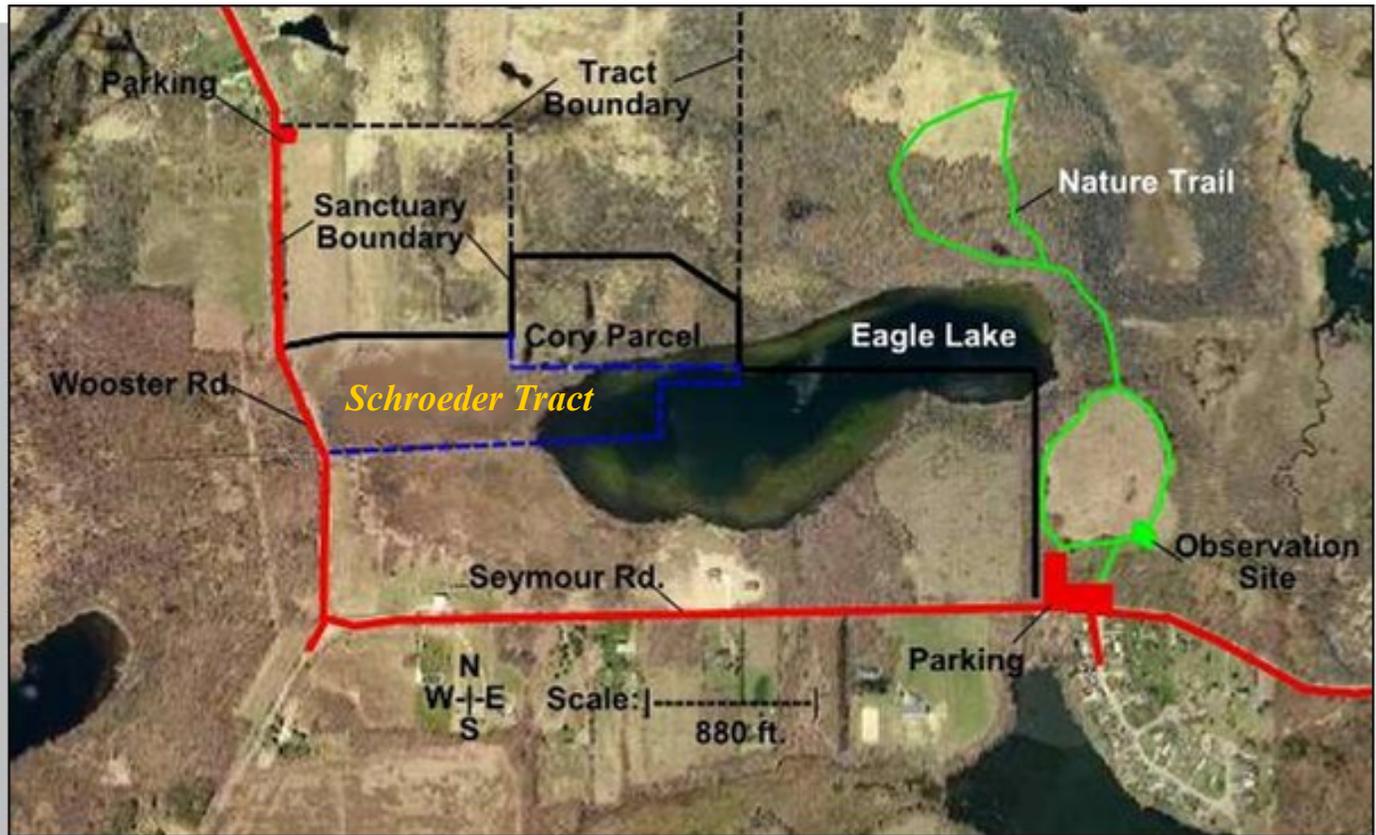
We can be a part of the solution. It is up to all of us to learn to recognize the longhorned beetle and to understand the life stages as it relates to the seasons of the year, and to be aware of signs of its presence in order to prevent further outbreaks.

Another way YOU can help prevent the spread of this destructive beetle is to burn firewood where you find it. Do not bring firewood from home on your camping trip. Unbeknownst to you, firewood could be infected and some of the adults could travel with it.



Thank you Helena Robinovitz for researching this article.

Schroeder Tract Benefits From EQIP Grant



The Schroeder Tract was created with the acquisition of the Smith property in 2018 (see map above). At the south end of this new unit was an agricultural field of about 7 acres that needed development to be converted to native habitat.

In 2016 we received an EQIP grant to promote more varied grassland species in our 2 prairies accessible from the main entrance on Seymour Rd. With the success of that program, we sought and won another grant for the Schroeder tract.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

Working with Jeff Lolkus at the Jackson office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) we determined the work that would need to be done to convert the agricultural field to native grassland.

In addition to the new tract, we were able to fund prescribed burns for other grassland units already under our management.

The execution of the grant is done by performing “practices” on certain pieces of property during a specified year and season. For the Schroeder tract, we did the following practices:

- * Spray-application of herbicides to kill non-native vegetation October, 2020
- * Burn-execute a prescribed burn of the legacy vegetation April, 2021
- Plant-plant native grasses in the prepared location May, 2021

As the plot was agricultural field, the execution of these practices was relatively easy. There were no issues with drainage or large shrubs. In addition, the southern border is a two-track road which made for easy access and provided an excellent firebreak during the burn.

After the spraying was completed in October of 2020, we evaluated the growth the following spring. While some vegetation was present, we determined another application of herbicide was not warranted.

Schroeder Tract Project (continued)

Next, the fire crew came in in late April, 2021. (Coincidentally the same weekend that a 1,000-acre prescribed burn in the Huron-Manistee National Forest became a 5,000-acre event. This reminded us all that we are dealing with a management tool that sometimes has a mind of its own.)

Since a portion of the prairie below the Harold Wing Overlook was scheduled under that grant, we had the team burn that section the same day as the new tract.



The final practice, planting (left), was done a few weeks after the burn. We used a no-till drill to plant a mix of wildflowers and grasses to maximize the bloom season.

While we have a few species that are not exactly welcome (ragweed), there are grasses and flowers coming up the first season including Big Bluestem, Common Milkweed, Partridge Pea, and Sand Coreopsis.

We are looking forward to seeing how this new prairie develops over the next few years. New blue bird/tree swallow nest boxes will likely be added as these plants will feed more insects that can then feed our feathered friends.

A video of this project is available at <https://youtube.com/AxMzR82Q2Cc> or use this QR Code



For over 60 years the Haehnle Sanctuary has worked to provide habitat for native species and allow visitors to observe and enjoy that natural beauty of Jackson County. This program of habitat improvement will support those missions.

Article by Steve Jerant



Haehnle 2021 Bluebird Nest Box Report

Here are the summary numbers: 27 nest boxes monitored, 37 nesting attempts, 134 eggs, 105 nestlings, and 80 fledglings. All bluebird boxes had at least one egg laid except #81, located in the north part of Wooster Rd. prairie. We had blue birds, tree swallows, house wrens, and wood ducks produce fledglings.

This nesting season's weather was varied, to say the least. It started cool, then wet, then hot. And then the mosquitos came and kept coming. While just a nuisance for me, the weather did have a big effect on our blue birds this year. I had three early nest failures resulting in dead hatchlings. This is the highest number I believe I've had in any season for blue birds. Blue birds had 10 nesting attempts producing 49 egg and 41 hatchlings. Despite the early failures, they had a good year with 70% nesting success rate and 29 fledglings, which is same as last year and an above average for the 9 years of data we have.

By Steve Jerant



My good friends, the dive-bombing tree swallows, had a solid year. These birds had about an average number fledglings at 43. This was down from 62 last year. Their 75% success rate was above average. They lead the pack, as always, with 16 attempts, laying 69 eggs yielding 55 nestlings.

The season started early, and the house wrens kept it going to the very end of August. There was only one successful nest this season and only 2 chicks fledged. With 9 years of data, a trend has emerged. I had fledged wrens every three years: 2015, 2018, and 2021. It will be interesting to see if this continues.

I did a better job on the wood duck box monitoring this year thanks to chest waders from my father-in-law. Two of our boxes produced 6 fledglings. I finally recovered my lost box out of Eagle Lake. I'll be re-staging that one and will mount it in a more solid lake bottom.

In early spring I had a flurry of House Sparrow activity, including finding three boxes on April 13. The good news is the activity was limited to one unit, the bad news it was mostly right below the Harold Wing overlook. I was able to manage these attempts in a timely fashion.

It was another trying year with COVID-19, but I hope you were able to get out into the woods, the prairies, the wetlands, your backyard, or even just outside your front door. There are lots of birds out there for us to enjoy!

FAMILY PAGE

Haehnle Sanctuary | compiled by Marsi Parker Darwin | Fall/Winter 2021

Migration Time!

Sandhill Cranes live in the north in warm months. They usually live in pairs or family groups in spring and summer. When it gets colder, they travel, or **migrate**, to warmer places. Our Michigan cranes fly to Florida.

In late summer and early fall, they begin their migration journey by leaving their nesting grounds.

During migration, many cranes (sometimes thousands) forage and roost together for survival.

Nearby fields have lots of food that cranes like to eat, like leftover grain and corn. They also eat small animals such as snails, frogs, insects and worms.

Late in the day, they roost together in large marshy areas like Haehnle and continue to gather through sunset. Cranes gather here from **October until late November**.

Word Search

Test your skills, then get out
and enjoy nature! 😊

🌲 Image by Birdorable 🌲



Nature and the Outdoors

S	R	N	S	N	O	G	A	W	S	E	K	A	L
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C	W	D	S	M	T	F	S	I	G	R	R	E	P
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A	Y	I	N	A	R	A	I	A	A	V	N	R	R
R	N	O	A	N	R	M	N	L	S	N	N	T	K
G	S	A	S	I	S	I	G	S	S	E	R	N	S
P	D	E	S	W	G	N	I	T	N	U	H	L	S
S	P	D	A	B	U	S	H	E	S	K	F	O	W
D	C	O	B	A	R	N	S	C	I	E	R	O	D

Play this puzzle online at: <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/318/>

ROADS
HUNTING
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CAMPING
DRIVE WAY
PARKS
WATER
BUSHES
PONDS
FARMS
PICNIC
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TREES
ANIMALS
LAKES
RACCOON
BIRDS
TUNNEL



**Need an idea
for a holiday
ornament?**

Fold a paper crane,
using the ancient
art of origami.



A simple tutorial may be found at www.thesprucecrafts.com

SEE YOU NEXT TIME





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Thank You



*Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary
c/o Jackson Audubon Society
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*Official News Letter
For The
Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary*



***Thank You to the Following for their Generous Contributions
To the Haehnle Sanctuary Through Jackson Audubon***

Glenn & Maryanne Belyea

James Eder

Carolyn Elmer

Jim Hewitt

In Memory of Hugh Zernickow

Lathe & Kathy Claflin

In Memory Of Jeanette Childs

Lathe & Kathy Claflin

Bernard & Nancy Lucas