

Don't be alarmed—'birders' are on prowl

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Don't be alarmed if a car full of men and women armed with binoculars and clipboards stops in front of your house one December day. Although they might appear to be investigating your house, they won't be government investigators. They probably will be a party of bird enthusiasts from a local Audubon Society.

Scrambling for bird feeders and hanging for a glimpse of some rare winter visitor.

At various locations around the state the annual Christmas bird count attracts several hundred birders each year. The event, however, is not a competition to win a prize or a social affair and the host is the bird, as well as the birders. The purpose is to determine the distribution and abundance of birds in the state.

THE HARDEST birders will be out on their territory before dawn, when they try to attract birds within identification distance. Society members will remain in the field building their bird lists until the dusk when they will all meet over hot soup and coffee to report their counts and discuss these rare birds too elusive to positively identify.

To participate in a Christmas count, call your local Audubon Society—listed in your phone book—for time and place.

For just a sample of the variety, Crainbrook Institute of Science will have its annual Christmas bird walk on the afternoon of Dec. 26. For information call 645-2222.

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JACK STEVENS

Open records bill awaits senate vote

Legislation support from western Wayne and Oakland county representatives has brought a state Freedom of Information bill to the senate. The House of Representatives recently passed the bill (H.R. 660) by a 101-5 vote.

The bill would limit the amount a government agency could charge for providing copies of its records and require that requested documents be produced within four days. Most government records will be open to the public and press for inspection.

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Local legislators unanimously endorsed the measure, which has been sent to the senate. It is a difficult bill, however, that the upper chamber will have time to vote on the bill this year.

State Representative Perry, R-Livonia, sponsor of the bill, said, "Hill has furthered governmental accountability by requiring open records. It will allow people to view certain records of decisions on state and local issues such as zoning, environmental impact, and utility rate increases."

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Mound, 14 Mile to be improved

Major reconstruction of Mound Road in Warren (planned) connects with an interchange with I-66, the Water Heater Freeway, according to the State Highway Department.

Discounts available for senior citizens

A book listing more than 40 area businesses which will give discounts of from 10 to 20 percent to senior citizens aged 60 and older will be available in the area within a few weeks.

Almost 30 additional places of business have been added to the list since the book went to the printers and will be listed in a supplement to be published later.

Senior citizens must carry a special identification card in order to receive the discounts. Applications for the cards may be obtained at the Community House, 300 S. Bates, Birmingham, and at the Birmingham Fair Sports Arena, 230 E. Lincoln, Birmingham.

Businesses offering discounts include dry cleaners, drug stores, beauty shops, barber shops, hardware stores, restaurants, gift shops, plumbing stores, men's and women's apparel shops, car washes, theaters, camera shops, television repair shops and music stores.

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