

One bird — many names

Rob-Lincoln, butter-bird, May-bird, meadow-wink, reed-bird, rice-bird, skunk-head blackbird and white-winged blackbird are all common names for the what is officially called the bobolink. But no matter what it is called, this bird brightens any walk through a meadow.

When we think of saving land, we often only think about forests that support old trees that have been around since before the first automobile. Meadows, prairies and grasslands, however, are also legitimate habitats that provide nesting areas for animals like the bobolink.

Observing bobolink and other grassland species of animals is increasingly difficult in southeastern Michigan. Often, these seemingly "vacant" lands are developed or used for various other purposes. Within the last five years, I know of three bobolink nesting areas that are no longer suitable for nesting.

ONE AREA that several of my former students and I particularly enjoyed was a meadow carpeted

with ox-eye daisy. As we walked through these white-rayed yellow orbs, we listened to what Thoreau described as "This flashing tinkling meteor bursts through the expectant meadow air, leaving a train of tinkling notes behind."

A bobolink's black underparts with white stripes on the back and rump, complemented by the butter-colored nape of the neck, make it one of the most interesting of blackbirds. In combination with the tinkling notes that pour forth from the male, as he beats his wings in shallow strokes, there are few events that are as appealing.

The song is a melodious combination of notes that people have tried to describe with phrases such as "Bobolink, bobolink; spink, spink, spink," or "Tom Noodle, Tom Noodle, you owe me, you owe me ten shillings and sixpence."

NEITHER OF these descriptions can really portray the burst of energy with which this bird sings.



nature
Timothy
Nowicki

Males traveling 5,000 miles from their wintering grounds in Brazil will have fewer places in which to sing their songs and raise their young in coming years.

The writer is a naturalist at Independence-Oaks Nature Center in Oakland County.



TIM NOWICKI/ARTWORK

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Monday, June 19, 1989 O&E

(T.R. 3-B.F.7A)O&E

Seminar targets economics

A seminar entitled "The Economic Legacy of the Reagan Years: Euphoria or Chaos?" will be sponsored by Oakland University School of Business Administration, Meadow Brook Hall and the University Research Fund, Friday and Saturday, June 30 and July 1, at the university.

Experts from government, foundations and academia will discuss supply-side fiscal policies, international trade, monetary policy and the Federal Reserve and deregulation and free-market ideology.

Martha Seger of the Federal Reserve Board and Thomas Moore, a former member of the Reagan Council of Economic Advisors and now of the Hoover Institution, will deliver the keynote address.

Representatives from the U.S. Treasury Department, the Securities Exchange Commission and the Brookings Institution will also speak.

For more information, corporate executives, economists or financial analysts may call 370-3282.

Calling all sponsors, bowlers

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency is looking for sponsors and bowlers for the third annual bowling fund-raiser called Shelter Bowl, scheduled 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 23, at Airway Lanes in Waterford, and 7 p.m. Monday, June 26, at

Hazel Park Bowl in Hazel Park. Sponsor fees are any amount up to \$50. Bowlers are encouraged to obtain pledges for bowling three games, either a flat rate of from \$1 to \$20 or one penny or more a pin.

To pledge or for more information, call 858-5066, 866-3974 or 399-2880. Donations may be mailed to Field Services, P.O. Box 598, Pontiac 48056-0598.

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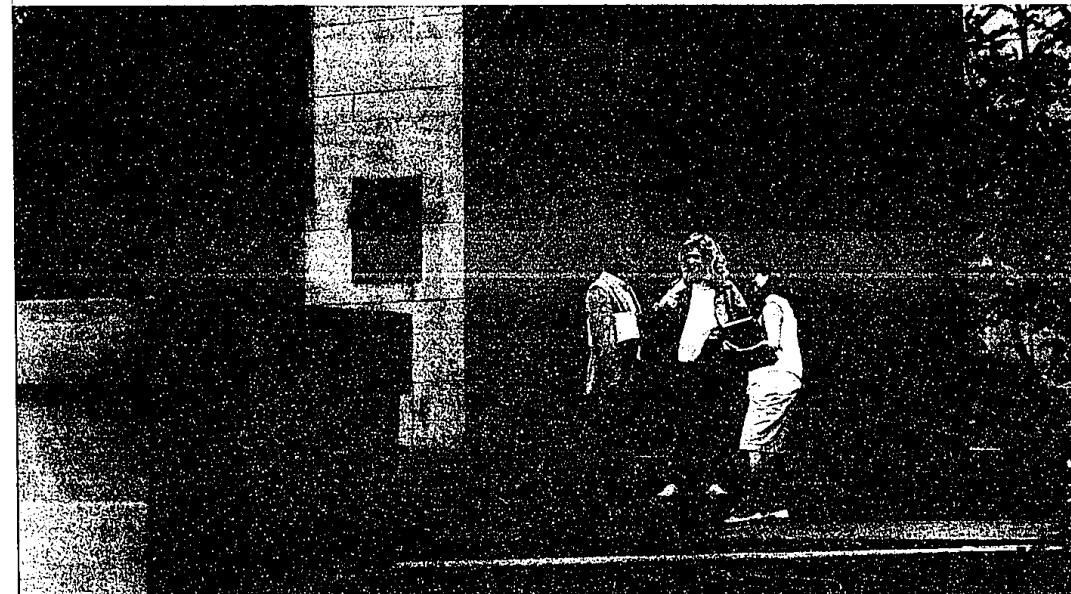
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WINNERS' CIRCLE

BY LAURIE KIPP

MSL

Michigan has had a Lotto game for nearly five years now. Nevertheless, readers still have a lot of questions about the game and especially the winners.

Q. How many winners have there been?

A. Through the end of May, more than 3,500,000 players have won Lotto prizes. That's the equivalent of about one prize for every two adults in this state.

Q. How much have they won?

A. Since the original Lotto game's start in August of 1984, players have won over \$1,975,000,000. At this rate, prizes may reach \$2 billion in July.

Q. How many jackpots have been won?

A. As of this writing, 109 players won or shared jackpots worth more than \$200,000.00. This includes 36 lottery 2-bills.

Q. What was the largest jackpot?

A. Michigan's record of \$33.5 million was set September 17, 1988. Two lucky winners shared that prize.

Q. What was the biggest individual prize?

A. A \$17 million jackpot was won by a two-entire lottery division February 13, 1988.

Q. How have players matching five or four of the winning numbers fared?

A. They have done pretty well for themselves, too, collecting a total of more than \$400,000,000. The largest prize for matching five numbers was \$4,500 on January 20, 1989. The top prize for matching four numbers, \$144, came on June 21, 1988.

Q. How long has Michigan's Lotto game gone without a jackpot winner?

A. Seven consecutive rollovers led up to the record jackpot last September.

Q. Why are jackpots in some other states larger than Michigan's?

A. The odds of winning are much bigger in some other lotteries, so more rollovers occur, boosting the size of the jackpot. For example, Illinois' game requires players to match six of 54 numbers. The odds of doing this are about one in 13 million, compared with Michigan's odds of about one in 7 million.

Q. Why doesn't Michigan offer a game with bigger jackpots?

A. That has been a progressive step in other states when sales decline as players lose interest and want a chance to win larger prizes. We are considering the possibility at some future time here in Michigan.

Q. Why are jackpots paid over 30 years?

A. This is done to offer bigger prizes to winners. Funds set aside for jackpots are invested, with winners getting all the principal and interest earned. Without the 30-year plan, jackpots would only be about half the size they now are.

For submitting the first question leading to this column, Josephine Kallarek, of Ann Arbor, will receive 50 "Fame & Fortune" tickets. Note: When duplicate questions are received, that with the earliest date stamp upon arrival at Lottery Central wins. In case of a tie, the winner is selected by random drawing.

If you have a question not yet covered in these monthly columns, send it to "Winners' Circle," Michigan Lottery, P.O. Box 30077, Lansing MI 48909.