

Re: DeYoung Natural Area Conservation Easement Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Heiman:

This letter is to assert our organization's firm support for the project. In its current state, DeYoung Natural Area already possesses a number of outstanding birding opportunities. I have visited the property several times, both as an advisor to Conservancy staff about the land's value to migrating and nesting birds, as well as for leading natural history hikes focusing on avifauna. In the latter role, I observed Neotropical migrants Eastern Kingbird, Baltimore Oriole, and American Redstart, among others. Waders such as Green and Great Blue Herons were also observed.

The value of this property for birds and those who enjoy watching them will be greatly enhanced by the Conservancy's plan. The installation of a Wildlife Observation/Fishing Pier will afford visitors the potential opportunity of seeing American and Least Bitterns along the sedge/cattail shoreline. Both of these rare and hard-to-find species have been sighted in the area of the planned pier. Removal of non-native plant species throughout the property and subsequent conversion to natives will bring an increase in the number of species as well as the number of individual pairs using the property for nesting. Converting fallow field meadows to prairie plantings will attract species of special concern such as Grasshopper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks. Replacement of glossy buckthorn (already underway) with natives such as red osier dogwood, northern white cedar, willows and other natives will improve nesting habitat for warblers, vireos, mimids (such as catbirds and thrashers) and both cuckoos (Black-billed and Yellow-billed). As birding opportunities increase, so will the number of people visiting for that purpose. Attached is a complete list of birds that we would reasonably expect to find on the property.

One of the greatest values of this property to birders will be its certain inclusion in the Michigan Birding Trail. Even without the establishment of the trail, the Internet connections of birders to various listserves will bring a host of visitors looking to add a bittern or cuckoo to their life lists.

With best regards,

Kay Charter, Saving Birds Thru Habitat Executive Director

Following is a list of bird species likely to use the DeYoung Natural Area during migration. Potential nesters are marked with an asterisk. List compiled by Saving Birds Thru Habitat.

Great Blue Heron*	Merlin
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Ruffed Grouse*
Cooper's Hawk*	Wild Turkey*
Northern Goshawk	Sora*
Red-shouldered Hawk*	Virginia Rail*
Broad-winged Hawk*	Sandhill Crane*
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Snipe*
American Kestrel*	American Woodcock*

Mourning Dove*
Black-billed Cuckoo*
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*
Eastern Screech Owl*
Great Horned Owl*
Barred Owl*
Long-eared Owl*
Northern Saw-whet Owl*
Whip-poor-will*
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
Red-headed Woodpecker*
Red-bellied Woodpecker*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*
Downy Woodpecker*
Hairy Woodpecker*
Northern Flicker*
Pileated Woodpecker*
Olive-sided Flycatcher*
Eastern Wood-pewee*
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*
Acadian Flycatcher*
Alder Flycatcher*
Willow Flycatcher *
Least Flycatcher*
Eastern Phoebe*
Great Crested Flycatcher*
Eastern Kingbird*
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow*
Blue Jay*
American Crow*
Common Raven*
Black-capped Chickadee*

Tufted Titmouse*
Red-breasted Nuthatch*
White-breasted Nuthatch*
Brown Creeper*
Carolina Wren*
Winter Wren*
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet*
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*
Eastern Bluebird*
Veery*
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swanson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush*
Wood Thrush*
American Robin*
Gray Catbird*
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher*
Cedar Waxwing*
Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling*
White-eyed Vireo
Solitary Vireo*
Yellow-throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo*
Philadelphia Vireo*
Red-eyed Vireo*
Blue-winged Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler*
Northern Parula

Bird list for DeYoung Natural Area, cont.
List compiled by Saving Birds Thru Habitat.

Yellow Warbler*
Chestnut-sided Warbler*
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler

Belted Kingfisher*
Yellow-throated warbler
Pine Warbler*
Prairie Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler

Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart*
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Ovenbird*
Northern Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat*
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal*

Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow*
Savannah Sparrow*
Grasshopper Sparrow*
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow*
Lincoln's Sparrow*
Swamp Sparrow*
White-throated Sparrow*
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Eastern Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird*
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Baltimore Oriole*
Purple Finch*
House Finch*
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin*
American Goldfinch*
Evening Grosbeak

Rose-breasted Grosbeak*
Indigo Bunting*
Eastern Towhee*
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow*
Clay-colored Sparrow