**Celebrate Urban Birds - Michigan Birdbrains Style!**

Come **celebrate** the wonderful array of bird species in southeastern Michigan with the Michigan Birdbrains – a group of youth and young adults who are blind or visually impaired who have learned to identify and enjoy our fabulous Michigan birds by sound, not by sight! **Celebrate Urban Birds** is coming to Dearborn, MI on April 6, from 10AM- 4 PM. From the returning migratory birds to the wintering residents of the landscape we will join in **celebration** of the songs and sounds surrounding us in our urban habitat. All are welcome to join in the fun! If you are blind or visually impaired, this is a special treat, as the focus will be on what our birds sound like and not on what they look like! **Celebrate Urban Birds** is sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the University of Michigan Dearborn and Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind. On April 6, 2013, an all day **celebration** event will be held at the University of Michigan Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC), 4901 Evergreen in Dearborn, Michigan. Beginning at 10 AM we will learn how to listen to and identify songs and calls of our focus bird species, and then we will travel the trails in the natural area surrounding the EIC and listen for birds which we can recognize with our ears. After lunch we will investigate how and why birds do what they do with activities such as nest building ; planting a live birdfeeder; gaining understanding of auditory communication; learning about bird body parts like feathers, beaks and skulls and how those attributes affect how each species has found its niche in the urban environment. Finally, we will become acquainted with bird banding which enables us to understand the migratory habits and health of local bird species. We will highlight our **celebration** with our state bird, the American Robin. By 4 PM, each participant will have lots of fun items to take home, and we will all have a greater awareness of the lives of birds which inhabit our cities and enhance our lives with beautiful music.

Come join us for a great day of fun, listening and learning, April 6, at the Environmental Interpretive Center on the campus of the University of Michigan Dearborn, at 4901 Evergreen from 10AM-4PM. Come for all or part of the day! **Celebrate Urban Birds! To reserve your spot or for more information, please contact Donna Posont, Field Services Director for Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, at 313-220-8140 or** **DPosont@umd.umich.edu****.**

