

# The Kettle

## Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 p.m.** on the **2nd Wednesday** of each month September through May at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey Street. Refreshments will be provided and you may participate in door prize and raffle drawings.

The scheduling of a meeting or program in the library does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the library of the group, its activities, or of the ideas and opinions expressed during the course of meetings or programs.

Straits Area Audubon Society  
c/o Rose Rynerson  
10490 E. US 23  
Cheboygan, MI 49721

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**Mission Statement - The mission of the Straits Area Audubon Society is to educate the community, including its children, about conservation and enjoyment of the natural world with emphasis on the local natural communities of wildlife. This will be accomplished through regular seasonal meetings and by sponsoring field trips, classroom studies, and field studies.**

### Join Straits Area Audubon Society

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEWS LETTER: [E-Mail] \_\_\_ or [US-Mail] \_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
**Straits Area Audubon Society**  
Single Membership: \$12  
Family Membership: \$15

Please mail checks to:  
Rose Rynerson - Treasurer  
10490 E. US 23  
Cheboygan, MI 49721

## May Program

### A Shift Back to Natural Shorelines May 11, 2016 (6:00 p.m.)

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

The final program of the season will be given by one of our own SAAS members, Darrell Schwalm. Titled "A Shift Back to Natural Shorelines," this talk will explain how 'softshore' landscape features along a lake shoreline can help preserve the things that attract us to lakefront living and lakeside recreation in the first place - clean water, wildlife, good fishing, and pleasure boating. Coming from a professional background in Conservation and Environmental Health, Darrell has focused on water quality issues since his retirement. He serves on the boards of the Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society (MAPS) and the Mullett Lake Village



Association, and is a volunteer stream monitor for Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Darrell will introduce the Michigan Natural Shorelines Partnership that encourages homeowners to rethink what their shorelines should look like. You will learn how MAPS supports this initiative by providing examples of attractive shoreline buffers. This can serve as a model for all northern Michigan lakes. After the program, we will share nature sightings and upcoming field trips. Refreshments, door and raffle prizes will follow after the election of 2016-2017 officers.

## June Annual Potluck

### Hike and Summer Potluck Wednesday, June 10, 2016 (3:00 p.m. - Hike and/or 5:00 p.m. Potluck)

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Come at 3:00 p.m. for a hike along Lake Huron in front of Cheboygan State Park, perhaps looping back through the woods.

Stay or come at 5:00 p.m. to share a potluck meal and camaraderie. We will celebrate SAAS volunteers who are

retiring, changing jobs, or continuing their roles. Both events start out at the home of Roger and Anne Benter, 4803 Grass Bay Trail, 231-627-3992. Turn off U.S. 23 at the Cheboygan State Park sign and then veer right when both roads turn to dirt. Go to the last house, on the left. For the hike, bring binoculars, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, and hiking boots that can get slightly wet.

## Scheduled Field Trips

### Hawks Above Mackinaw Program and Field Trip Saturday, May 14, 2016 (1:00 p.m.)

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker (An EarthWeekPlus and MSRW Program)

We will start with an introductory slide program about hawks and their amazing migration through this area (to be held at the Mackinaw Area Public Library). Weather permitting, we will move outdoors to search for hawks near the Recreation Complex. As fitting for the 100th anniversary of International Migratory Bird Day, we will observe several species of raptors as they migrate north, perhaps soaring overhead in spiral formations called kettles. Dress for 20 degrees colder along the lake and bring a lawn chair. Loaner binoculars are available.

### SAAS Birdathon Monday, May 16, 2016 (6:00 a.m.)

Submitted by: Steve Baker

The annual Big Day of birding will be Monday, May 16, 2016. This is our largest fund raiser and donors pledge either a fixed amount or an amount per species seen. Usually we tally around 120 species and every effort is made to maximize this total. Birders will meet at the Mackinaw City Welcome Center/rest area and be ready to leave at 6:00 a.m. We will travel to birding hotspots in the Mackinaw City and St. Ignace areas, especially seeking migrating warblers, sparrows, waterfowl, etc.... This is an all day event so pack a lunch and dress for the weather. Contact Steve Baker or Ed Pike with questions. To donate contact Rose Rynerson at the May 13th SAAS meeting or via email at [fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com](mailto:fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com).

## Field Trip Reports

### NCMC Event April 1, 2016

Submitted by: Al & Jean Moberly

March sure went "out like a lion" and the cold and snow continued on into April. So, we all enjoyed seeing and hearing of sunny and warm days on the water or if there was

precipitation it was rain. Stephen Brede's accomplishment was quite an adventure.

Over the course of six Summer's he paddled his canoe around the shoreline of all 5 Great Lakes! His lecture and pictures were interesting. The kindness he experienced from folks that he met along the way reminded us that there are a lot of nice people. Fellow campers, paddlers and outdoor enthusiasts have a special bond. Some scenes were beautiful, some were not pleasant and let us know that we all must work harder to preserve our Great Lakes.

Attending this NCMC event were: Herm and Darlene Boatin, Glen and Diane Matthews, Diane Morand, and Al, Jean and Mia Moberly.

## Whoop Went on the Owl Trip? April 15, 2016, Friday 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Al & Jean Moberly

On Friday, April 15, members and guests of SAAS had the opportunity to see raptor research in action. Ed Pike, researcher affiliated with the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch, led the group along with assistants Kim Edgington from Washington state and Emily Wilmoth of Wisconsin. Our group hiked west along the beach of Cheboygan State Park then doubled back to inspect the nets set up to gently capture the owls. Sound recordings, designed to attract the birds, provided a background as darkness set in.



On the first net inspection of the evening two of the small Northern Saw-whet owls were found in the nets. They were gently removed from the nets by

skilled hands later to be weighed and measured before a small aluminum band was placed on the leg of each. Release was by placing each on a tree limb where they sat, apparently unfazed by the process and ready to continue their trek.

SAAS members attending were Darlene and Herm Boatin, Kathy and Jim Bricker, Al and Jean Moberly, Ed Pike, and Bruce Seeger. Also participating were Kim Edgington, Delores Fleming, Kevin Georg, Jason Newton, Jackie Paul, John Russell,



Sharyn Thompson, Robert VanPutten, and Emily Wilmoth.

Stars of the festivities were two female Northern Saw-whet owls who failed to provide their names. After our group left (and likely were sound asleep) three more Northern Saw-whet owls were banded and released. Band by night, sleep by day is the routine of an owl bander!

A brief side trip to the beach provided a clear view of the space shuttle as it moved across the night sky. What a contrast; wonders of nature along with wonders of technology. It is an interesting world we live in!



More information on the Mackinac Area Raptor Watch (and an opportunity to donate and many great photos of our migrating friends) is available at [www.mackinacraptorwatch.org](http://www.mackinacraptorwatch.org).

John Russell, a contributing writer for the Detroit News, attended the outing. His interesting account of the night's activities is available online at <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/04/18/owl-captures-migration-environment/83217890/>

## Waterfowl Trip...Eastern U.P Thursday, April 21, 2016.

Submitted by: Bev Kirby

In pouring rain and with a temperature of 50 degrees, 11 members of the Straits Area Audubon Society met at the Mackinaw City

Welcome Center at 7:00 a.m. for a bird trip around the Straits area waterfront.

Instead, led by Steve Baker and Ed Pike, we drove immediately to the Rudyard

flats to look for Snowy Owls (we found a total of 7 with our first one being on a lamp post on the Mackinac Bridge), and Sharp-tailed Grouse (we saw 10 at their lek but evidently they don't like to dance in the rain). The rain never let up but we did not let it dampen our spirits. Birding from cars isn't all that bad. We found Killdeer, American Kestrel, 2 Rough-legged Hawk, Sandhill Cranes and all three swan species.....Tundra, Trumpeter, and Mute.



Visiting two sewage ponds we found Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked duck, Mallard, Gadwall, Common Goldeneye, and both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. In a farm pond we saw American Wigeon. Along the St. Ignace Waterfront were Long-tailed Ducks, Redheads, Double-crested Cormorant, Horned and Red-necked Grebes with the Red-Necked Grebes numbering near 200. Common Mergansers, Hooded and Red-breasted were also seen. Twelve plus Yellow-rumped Warblers flying along the beach gave us our first warblers of the season. But the star of the trip was the Little Gull, generally rare in the Great Lakes. It was accompanied by a couple of Bonaparte's Gulls. A big-time discussion ensued



displays on SAAS activities, bird nests, animal skulls and parts, rocks, beavers, animal puzzles, recycling, and Pivot the Python.



Thanks to the following volunteers for giving one or more hours of their time toward this community outreach: Jim and Kathy Bricker, Marilee, Ben, and Drew Lillie,

over the identity of this obviously smaller gull but it was later confirmed as a Little Gull. Yea for us! At Pte. LaBarbe we found Northern Shoveler, 13 Greater Yellowlegs and a Solitary Sandpiper. With the edition of Northern Flicker, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and the usual common species we came up with a total of 42 species. This trip turned out to be WAY BETTER than what we had expected. Thanks again to Steve and Ed for their enthusiasm and leadership. Participants were Jack and Bev Kirby, Janet Trudeau, Joey Arbaugh, Marilyn Smith, Don and Donna Mittlestat and Jean and Al Moberly.



## Other Event Reports

### EarthWeekPlus Expo 2016

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

On April 23, SAAS again hosted the Wildlife Discovery room amid the many other program and exhibit offerings of the EarthWeekPlus Expo. About 309 people experienced our free



Al and Jean Moberly, Glen and Diane Matthews, Janet Trudeau, Rose Rynerson, Diane Morand, Dale Giddings, Eowyn Bates, Darlene Boda, Cathy Freebairn, and Jean Gross.

## Other Events

### EarthWeekPlus Adventures Still Time to enjoy

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Although the annual Expo is over, you can still attend these upcoming free events:

**May 7, 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** Tour of Hammond Bay Biological Station (call 231-420-9741 to reserve space)

**May 7, 1:00 p.m.** Tour of Cheboygan Water Treatment Plant (no reservations)

**May 14, 11:00 a.m.** Guided Sturgeon Viewing (call 231-625-2776 to reserve space)

**May 14, 1:00 p.m.** Hawks Above Mackinaw (no reservations)

**May 22, 2:00 p.m.** Tour of Cheboygan River Front Range Lighthouse (no reservations)

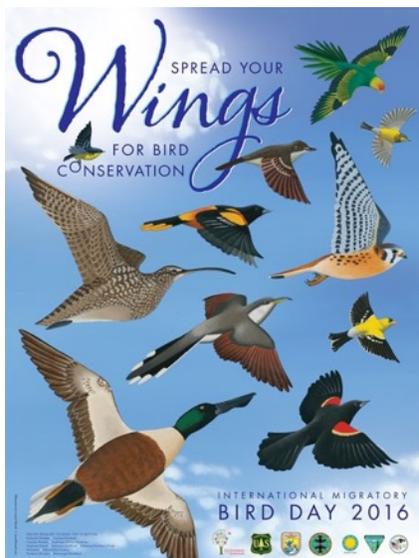
**May 28, 10:00 a.m.** Cycle the North Central State Trail (call 231-420-9741 to reserve space)

For meeting places, directions, and other information, please visit [www.earthweekplus.org](http://www.earthweekplus.org) or pick up a printed flyer at your library.

### International Migratory Bird Day Saturday, May 14, 2016

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

On May 14, 2016, the International Migratory Bird Day will highlight the importance of international efforts to conserve birds through agreements, laws, treaties, and collaborations. This year marks the Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty between the U.S., Canada and Mexico to protect our shared migratory birds.



The 11 bird species on the attached poster by Canadian artist, Lionel Worrell illustrate some of the birds that benefit from international cooperation. The extinct Carolina Parakeet is included to remind us how the future of wildlife and the earth depends on our actions.

## News of Interest

### MSRW (Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch)

Submitted by: Judy Frock

"Enjoyed the Raptor Fest", "well run", "excellent speakers", "I learned so much", "great connection to local culture", "best event I've ever attended", were comments from attendees at the first annual Mackinaw Raptor Fest held April 1st and 2nd in Mackinaw City. After a very moving opening ceremony by Grandmother Moon drummers, followed by informative classes and interesting displays, people were fascinated with the live raptors presented by Wings of Wonder, who had also done a free morning program in Petoskey with 220 in attendance. Plans have already begun for next year's festival on April 7-9, 2017. We wish to again thank everyone involved who helped make the Fest successful, as well as our primary sponsors: Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau.

Some more exciting news -- Hawk Watch International recently announced that on April 13th, MSRW set a new world record for the 4,966 Red-tailed hawks seen migrating in a single day anywhere in the world. Our professional hawk counter, Kevin Georg, explained that "the cold, snowy weather in early April held the hawks downstate until a good weather day finally came and the hawks headed north". So far in 2016, 12,123 Red-tails have been tallied.

It's not too late to come out to the MSRW watch site in Mackinaw City. Kevin will be counting hawks 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. everyday until June 5th. Bring chairs, go west on Central Avenue, and look for the Hawk Watch near the Rec. Center or a mile farther west. Have fun!

### Hummingbirds are on the Way

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader

Some of you may have already seen them at your feeders, but we have not. They are reported to be as far north as Tawas City... so get your feeders out. They'll be hungry!

You may track their migrations by going to the following website: <http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>

## SAAS Chapter Notes

### Bring It Cheboygan! Re-usable Bags Available

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

When Michiganders Against Plastic secured a re-usable bag resolution last year, some Cheboygan County commissioners reflected that it would be nice to have re-usable cloth bags made locally rather than the cheap plastic bags made in China. These home-grown bags are now available, with artwork designed by a Cheboygan student and sewing done in Cheboygan. Bring It Cheboygan! announces the attractive and long-lasting bags for sale for only \$20, with proceeds going to make more bags.



In February 2015, SAAS aided the effort by collecting contributions to publish a full-page ad in Shopper's Fare that encouraged people to bring re-usable bags when shopping. At the April 2016 meeting, members voted to collect new donations to buy a high-quality local bag to give to each County and City official to reward their recognition of the importance of reducing the use of plastic shopping bags. The goal of \$320 will buy 16 bags for that purpose. To help with this, you may send an earmarked gift to SAAS via Treasurer,

Rosanne Rynerson. Remember to buy your own bag too, by contacting David Martin, 231-268-9935.

**Bring It Cheboygan! Bags may be purchased in Cheboygan at Billie's, Bittersweet, Brick Oven Bakery, Flower Coop, and Purple Tree Coffee Shop.**

### SAAS General Meeting Minutes April 13, 2016

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau, Secretary

Attendance 33 members, 36 guests

Program: "Plight of the Monarchs"

President Jean Moberly welcomed everyone. Jim Bricker introduced Cindy and Kirby Pringle. They presented "Plight of the Monarch", a documentary film that looks at the loss of milkweed as the primary reason why the population of the monarch butterfly has been in deep decline over the past decade. The Pringles also briefly discussed the role of the Milkweed pods in Petoskey back in the forties.

Glen Matthews spoke on Huron Pines who is working with the Little Traverse Conservancy to purchase property on Duncan Bay. Huron Pines has applied for funding from the National Fish and Wildlife to permanently protect and restore critical wetland habitat on Duncan Bay. Kathy Bricker made a motion that Glen Matthews draft a letter of support from SAAS. A show of hands supported the motion.

Al Moberly talked on upcoming field trips. Steve Baker spoke on the Hawk count and the water fowl count at McGulpin Point Lighthouse.

A motion by Bev Kirby to sponsor \$50 to the Tawas Birding Festival, seconded by Jack Kirby, show of hands passed the motion.

Karen Martin spoke on the reusable cloth bags made locally with the logo Bring it Cheboygan. The City Council and the County Commissioners voted and approved the bags. Karen would like to raise money to give each of the council and commissioner members a cloth bag. Dale Giddings made a motion to have SAAS be the fiscal agent in raising the money to buy the bags. No funds from our organization will be used to purchase the bags. Jim Bricker seconded it and a show of hands supported the motion.

Nature sightings were led by Bev Kirby. Fox, Bluebirds, and Tree Swallows were some the wildlife seen.

Raffle prizes were won by Linda Orlov, Al Moberly, and Dale Landis. Door prizes were won by Diane Morand, Lilli Hattly, Rene Powers, Brenda Bergstrom, Rosemary Gauthier, and a prize donated back by Mark Woulik.

Refreshments were brought by Steve and Sue Baker, Bev and Jack Kirby, Jim Bricker and Sheila Malleis.

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## Volunteer Opportunity

Submitted by: Jean Moberly

An Opportunity Awaits. A person is needed to monitor the Cheboygan Middle School Birding Trail. A pleasant way to help SAAS. Once a week in the early spring and early summer, walk the short trail and observe the six bird houses to record what is nesting in them. Please contact Jean Moberly (231-268-9726) if you can help out in this way.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by: Rose Rynerson

Please join me in welcoming our new SAAS members Gwen Kuehn, Jackie Paul, Robert Van Putten and Chuck & Diane Burgdorf. Several other members have recently returned from their winter travels, and it is nice to see them back home, too; heralding another busy migration season!

You can contact me by phone (231-597-9788 ), email ( [FiddleheadFilly4@gmail.com](mailto:FiddleheadFilly4@gmail.com) ) or at our meetings to discuss any questions regarding your membership or pledge records. Thanks!

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## Nominating Committee Appointed

Submitted by: Jim Bricker:

President Jean Moberly has appointed Jim Bricker, Diane Morand, and Dale Giddings as the nominating committee to find people for the volunteer positions for the 2016 to 2017 season. Anyone can help SAAS achieve its nature-oriented objectives. Volunteering is a super way to connect with other great people, apply your expertise, learn new skills, feel better about yourself, and contribute your talents and energies to society without spending any money. Many positions need filling and one will certainly satisfy your personal objectives. Call Jim about possibilities, at 231-627-4830 by May 4.

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## For Your Information

### Online Extras - Kettle Dropbox

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor

To view "online extras - photos and/or videos", all you the reader has to do is click on the link shown below, once there, a list of folders by month/year will be shown. You may select your choice by clicking on that folder, which, when opened will show a list of the photos/videos. The pictures/videos have a retention limit of one year. If you take bird or nature pictures and think they might be of interest to our members, send them along to: [kettleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kettleeditor@gmail.com). The photographers are sharing their work with the readers and by virtue of submitting their pictures to the **Kettle** they are granting permission for you to view their work. Permission should be obtained before downloading or copying any of these pictures or videos.

**Link:** [Click Here For Pictures](#)

**Hint:** double click on the image to enlarge it

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## Straits Area Audubon Society

### 2015 - 2016 Officers

President: **Jean Moberly** - 231-268-9726  
[normich@gmail.com](mailto:normich@gmail.com)

Vice President: **Vacant**

Treasurer: **Rose Rynerson** - 231-597-9788  
[fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com](mailto:fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com)

Secretary: **Janet Trudeau** - 231-625-2572  
[jktru@icloud.com](mailto:jktru@icloud.com)

Past President: **Dale Giddings** - 231-525-8874

Exe.Com. At-Large: **David Bricker** - 248-651-6865  
[brickerscd@yahoo.com](mailto:brickerscd@yahoo.com)

MAS Rep.: **Diane Morand** - 231-627-4282  
[mdlmorand@aol.com](mailto:mdlmorand@aol.com)

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## Nature Links

### Michigan Audubon Society

[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)

### MNA [Michigan Nature Association]

[www.michiganature.org](http://www.michiganature.org)

### The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org/greatlakes>

### Little Traverse Conservancy

[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)

### Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

[www.wpbo.org](http://www.wpbo.org)

### HMANA Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

[http://hawkcount.org/month\\_summary.php?rsite=613](http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=613)

### Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

[www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org](http://www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org)

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## Note from the Editors

### "Kettle" on Vacation

This will be the last Kettle until September.. So save your birding/nature stories and photos (or send them to [kettleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kettleeditor@gmail.com)) for fall publication. Happy Summer!

All articles and photos for **THE KETTLE** should be submitted to the editors' email box ([kettleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kettleeditor@gmail.com)) five days BEFORE the end of a publication month. This will allow the email edition to be sent out by the 1st of the month and the printed edition to be mailed by the 4th. Thank you - Gloria Cadwalader, Publication Editor and Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor.

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## SAAS THANKS

**Williams Office Equipment** for donating printing costs for **The Kettle**. Please consider them for all your Computer, Copier, Printer, and Fax needs.

312 West Elm Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721 Phone: 231-627-7020 -- Fax: 231-627-7477

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