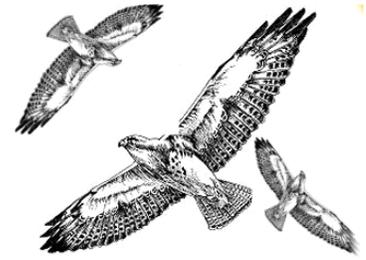


# THE KETTLE



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 pm.** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month September through May at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey St. 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.

SAAS thanks **Williams Office Equipment** for donating printing costs for **The Kettle**.

Straits Area Audubon Society  
c/o Rosanne 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 it's 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:  
Rosanne Rynerson – Treasurer  
10490 E. US 23  
Cheboygan, MI 49721

## December Program

### **Potluck and Member Slide Fest**

Wednesday, December 11, [6:00 p.m.]

Presented by SAAS Membership

Do you have cool nature pictures or stories you'd like to share with others, yet don't want to give a full Audubon program? Your opportunity is our annual Slide Fest and holiday potluck dinner. The potluck will feature everyone's culinary talents, so bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Dew Drops



Photo by S. Baker

Our annual Christmas dinner and photo-sharing event begins at the Cheboygan Area Public Library at 6:00 pm to give plenty of time to both talk and eat. Please bring your nature highlights of the year, either stories or photos. You may bring images on a computer disc, thumb drive, or prints. After dessert, we will enjoy images and stories from members and guests.

## Upcoming Programs

January, 8 2014

### **The Flora and Fauna of Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras**

Presented by: Susan Fawcett, Botanist

Native of Petoskey, Susan currently lives in Berkeley, California, working as a botanical illustrator and volunteering at the Jepson and UC Herbaria. She received her master's in Biology from Northern Michigan University in Marquette and has been active in the Michigan Botanical Club. Her thesis research focused on the unusual ecology of a neo-tropical savanna on Utila Island, north of mainland Honduras. The size of Manhattan, the island consists mostly of mangroves and wetlands, saw grass prairies and swamps. When not flooded by the ocean, it goes arid in the tropical sun, putting life to extreme endurance tests. Regardless, several endemic species of reptile and Utila black hawks survive. Susan's talk focuses on the flora of the savanna, while including wildlife from other habitats and the surrounding coral reefs.

February, 12 2014

### **Finding and Raising Native Giant Silk Moths**

Presented by: Jim McGrath, Nature Discovery

March, 12 2014

### **Fishy Adventures in the Caribbean**

Presented by: Charlie Maltby, Craig Passeno, and Joe Lavender, Northern Michigan Dive Center

April, 9 2014

### **For the Birds: Seney National Wildlife Refuge**

Presented by: Ronnie Allen

May, 14 2014

### **Orchids of Michigan**

Presented by: Steve Baker

June, 11 2014

### **Annual SAAS Hike and Potluck**

[Location to be announced]

## December Field Trips

### **Eastern UP -- Wintering Northern Bird Trip**

Thursday, December 5 [8:30 a.m.]

Join Steve Baker in an exploration of the Eastern UP for wintering northern birds. We will visit the St. Ignace waterfront for waterfowl (Long-tailed Ducks, Scoters, and Redheads expected), the Ruyard area for raptors (Rough-legged Hawks and maybe Snowy Owls), the Dafter Dump (Glaucous, Iceland, Great Black-backed gulls all possible), and Dunbar (hoping for Pine Grosbeaks and Waxwings). **Meet at 8:30 am. in Mackinaw City at the State Welcome Center/ Rest Area.** This will be an all day trip with lunch out. Call 231-238-8723 or email [steveandsuebaker@gmail.com](mailto:steveandsuebaker@gmail.com) to sign up.

Northern Hawk Owl



Photo by S. Baker

Please contact Steve Baker (231-238-8723) for the meeting place if you would like to join us for this low key count.

Eastern Screech-Owl



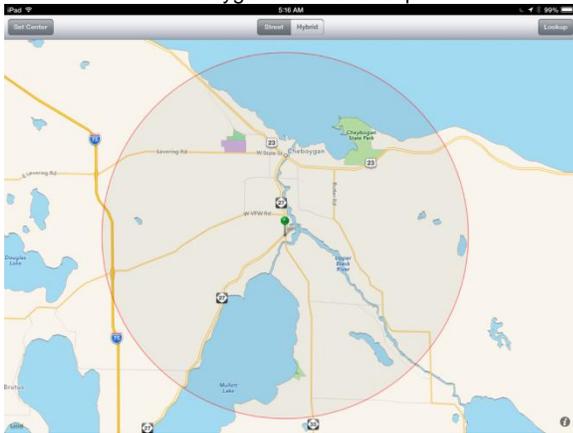
Photo by S Baker

## Cheboygan Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 15 [7:30 a.m.]

The Cheboygan Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a 7.5 mile radius circle centered at the intersection of M-33 and Old 27. Ed Pike is the compiler (231-758-3319). Bird counters are needed to cover this large area. Come join us and be a part of a nationwide CBC. If you live in the count area counting and reporting for feeder birds is also a valuable addition.

Cheboygan CBC Area Map



Please call Ed to sign up ahead of time if you are interested in either counting birds at your feeder in the count area OR participating in the field work so territories can be assigned. We will meet at 7:30 am at McDonalds in Cheboygan.

## Mackinaw Straits Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, December 18

The Mackinaw Straits Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is centered on the Mackinaw Bridge and includes the Mackinaw City area, St. Ignace area and Mackinac Island.

## Pickford-Cedarville Christmas Bird Count

Friday, December 20

American Kestrel - Cedarville



Photo by J Kirby

Be a part of the Pickford-Cedarville Christmas Bird Count (CBC) call Steve Baker (231-238-8723) for additional

information. Travel to some new areas to explore the birds of this terrain.

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## **SAAS Chapter Notes**

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### **Editor's Note**

Submitted by Jack Kirby

Welcome new members: ☺

Jean Gross

Katie Parker and Bert Ebbers

The Berry Patch / Shirl and Carl Clark

I wish to thank all of our SAAS members for their support and assistance in the production of:

## *The Kettle*

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### **From the Conservation Chair Straits Area Petroleum Pipeline**

Submitted by Glen Matthews

For those who are concerned/interested in the changes proposed for the Enbridge oil pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac, there is an opportunity to sign an on-line petition requesting intervention by Governor Snyder :

<http://www.oilandwaterdontmix.com/>

The below links are informational:

<http://blog.nwf.org/2013/10/whats-the-condition-of-the-pipeline-beneath-the-straits-of-mackinac-video/>

[https://www.nwf.org/pdf/Great-Lakes/NWF\\_SunkenHazard.pdf](https://www.nwf.org/pdf/Great-Lakes/NWF_SunkenHazard.pdf)

### **SAAS Weighs in on Straits Underwater Pipeline**

Submitted by Kathy Bricker

In November, the SAAS Executive Committee approved and sent this letter to Governor Rick Snyder:

*The Straits Area Audubon Society is a Cheboygan-based organization with a membership of over 100 families. Members are primarily from Cheboygan and Emmet counties and share a common interest in wildlife, especially birds. As our name suggests, members have a keen interest in the waters and shoreline habitats of lakes Huron and*

*Michigan. We spend many hours each year observing wildlife on both sides of the Straits and know the special value of the diverse resources found there.*

*Enbridge Energy owns and operates a pipeline known as Line #5 that crosses the Straits. This pipeline was constructed in 1953. Recently, Enbridge has undertaken an effort to increase the flow and pressure in this line. Considering the fact that other Enbridge pipelines have ruptured and that Line #5 is 60 years old, our organization is very concerned that the additional pressure on this line may cause it to fail. The consequences of an underwater pipeline rupture in this area would be very grave. In our view, an investment should be made in minimizing risk by replacing the aging pipeline. All the costs of using this energy should be borne by those using it today and not potentially paid for by a future generation.*

*We urge you to persuade the Federal government to require better protection for the Great Lakes and other sensitive environments by not only requiring the replacement of Line #5 but also improving the monitoring and regulation of all pipelines. Such efforts, if existing, would likely have averted the disastrous oil spill in the Kalamazoo River.*

*Thank you for your consideration on this matter.*

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## **Nature News**

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### **Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Fall Waterbird Count 2013**

Submitted by Bev Kirby

Each spring and fall, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Paradise, Michigan, conducts a Waterbird Count. A paid counter is at the waterbird shack at the tip of Whitefish Point every day for 8 hours from August 15<sup>th</sup> until November 15<sup>th</sup> tallying the birds as they migrate. This year, Californian Cory Gregory was the counter, and Jason Bojczyk, a student from Lake Superior State University at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan filled in on weekends enabling Cory to have a day off. A new record was set this fall in terms of waterbird species seen during the waterbird count. The previous record was 78 distinct species set in 2010. With the help of 25 species of shorebirds, this record was topped by two species to reach 80 for the first time in the 25-year history of the fall waterbird count.

Following are some quick stats about this fall:

Total waterbirds:	110,346 (this is more than 25k above the long-term average)
Total hours:	732

Biggest one-day total 15,360 on 16 October  
 Smallest one-day total 24 on 27 August  
 Most abundant species Long-tailed Duck (26,000+)  
 followed by Red-Necked Grebe (12,000 +)

Water Bird Counters



Photo by J. Kirby

Whitefish Point is noted for its rarities. Some of those reported this year were White-winged Dove, Pomarine Jaeger, Pacific Loon, Arctic Tern, Hudsonian Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, Ross's Goose, Willet, Willow Flycatcher, and Townsend's Solitaire to name a few. For a complete list please go to the WPBO website [ [www.wpbo.org](http://www.wpbo.org) ] and click on Recent Blogposts; Fall 2013 Wrap-up. We are very fortunate to have Whitefish Point Bird Observatory so nearby. Please consider membership in this organization or make a donation to this very Important Bird Area (IBA) so that this research can continue. Following is a link for more information: [www.wpbo.org](http://www.wpbo.org)

## Lake Michigan



**Lake Michigan** is one of the five [Great Lakes](#) of [North America](#) and the only one located entirely within the [United](#)

[States](#). The other four Great Lakes are shared by the [U.S.](#) and [Canada](#). It is the second largest of the Great Lakes by volume<sup>[1]</sup> and the third largest by surface area, after [Lake Superior](#) and [Lake Huron](#) (and is slightly smaller than the U.S. state of [West Virginia](#)). To the east, its basin is conjoined with that of Lake Huron through the wide [Straits of Mackinac](#), giving it the same surface elevation as its easterly counterpart; the two are [technically a single lake](#).<sup>[3]</sup> Lake Michigan is bounded, from west to east, by the [U.S. states](#) of [Wisconsin](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), and [Michigan](#). The word "Michigan" originally referred to the [lake](#) itself, and is believed to come from the [Ojibwa](#) word *mishigami* meaning "great water".<sup>[4]</sup>

### History[edit]

Some of the earliest human inhabitants of the Lake Michigan region were the [Hopewell Indians](#). Their culture declined after A.D. 800, and for the next few hundred years the region was the home of peoples known as the [Late Woodland Indians](#). In the early 17th century, when western European explorers made their first forays into the region, they encountered descendants of the Late Woodland Indians: the [Chippewa](#), [Menominee](#), [Sauk](#), [Fox](#), [Winnebago](#), [Miami](#), [Ottawa](#), and [Potawatomi](#). It is believed that the French explorer [Jean Nicolet](#) was the first non-Native American to reach Lake Michigan in 1634 or 1638.<sup>[5]</sup> The narrow, open-water [Straits of Mackinac](#) join Lake Michigan with Lake Huron sometimes called Michigan–Huron (also Huron–Michigan). The Straits of Mackinac were an important [Native American](#) and [fur trade](#) route. Located on the southern side of the Straits is the town of [Mackinaw City, Michigan](#), the site of [Fort Michilimackinac](#), a reconstructed French fort founded in 1715, and on the northern side is [St. Ignace, Michigan](#), site of a [French Catholic](#) mission to the Indians, founded in 1671. The eastern end of the Straits was controlled by [Fort Mackinac](#) on Mackinac Island, a British colonial and early American military base and fur trade center, founded in 1781. With the advent of European exploration into the area in the late 17th century, Lake Michigan became part of a line of waterways leading from the [Saint Lawrence River](#) to the [Mississippi River](#) and thence to the [Gulf of Mexico](#).<sup>[6]</sup> French [coureurs des bois](#) and voyageurs established small ports and trading communities, such as [Green Bay](#), on the lake during the late 17th and early 18th centuries.<sup>[7]</sup> The first person to reach the deep bottom of Lake Michigan was [J. Val Klump](#), a scientist at the [University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee](#). Klump reached the bottom via [submersible](#) as part of a 1985 research expedition.<sup>[8]</sup> In 2007, a row of stones paralleling an ancient shoreline was discovered by [Mark Holley](#), professor of underwater archeology at [Northwestern Michigan College](#). This formation lies 40 feet (12 meters) below the surface of the lake. One of the stones is said to have a carving resembling a [mastodon](#). So far the formation has not been authenticated.<sup>[9][10]</sup>

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

## Straits Area Audubon Society 2013 - 2014 Officers and Volunteers

### Executive Committee

President: **Dale Giddings** - 231-525-8874  
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Meeting Space Provider:  
**Cheboygan Area Public Library** - 231-627-2381  
[eno.melanie@cheboyganlibrary.org](mailto:eno.melanie@cheboyganlibrary.org)

## Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society



[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)  
**MNA (Michigan Nature Association)**  
[www.michigannature.org](http://www.michigannature.org)  
**Little Traverse Conservancy**  
[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)  
**Whitefish Point Bird Observatory**  
[www.wpbo.org](http://www.wpbo.org)  
**Upper Peninsula Bird Listing**  
[www.upbird.org](http://www.upbird.org)  
**Northern Michigan Conservation Network**  
<http://nmconservationnetwork.org>

**Note from the Editor:** All articles and photos for *THE KETTLE* should be submitted to the editor's e-mail box one week BEFORE the end of a publication month. This will allow the e-mail edition to be sent out by the first of the month and the printed edition to be mailed by the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month.  
Thank you. **Jack Kirby** [[saaskettle2011@gmail.com](mailto:saaskettle2011@gmail.com)]

# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From your SAAS Staff