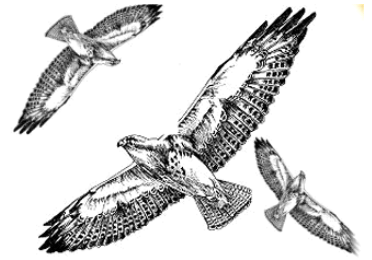


The Kettle



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter Est. 1983

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SAAS meetings are held at 6:30 pm. on the 2nd 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 Roger and Ann Benter and **Williams Office Equipment** for donating printing costs for **The Kettle** and **Benter Chiropractic** for hosting www.straitsareaaudubon.org.

Straits Area Audubon Society
c/o Rosanne Rynerson
10490 E. U.S. 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

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 fieldtrips, classroom studies and field studies.

Join Straits Area Audubon Society

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____

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

Please mail checks to:
Rosanne Rynerson - Treasurer
10490 E. U.S. 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

SAAS Events Calendar

Upcoming Programs

Feb.9	<p><u>Whale Tails and Other Stories</u> by <i>Kate Caldwell</i></p> <p>This professional naturalist experienced the wonders of whales nearly every day during her work on Alaskan cruise ships. She will describe the life of the gray whale on its amazing annual migration from the Bering Sea to the warm calving grounds off Baja California, and the birds that accompany it. Other whales of Alaskan waters will be shown as they leap and feed in front of the boat, enthralling passengers in our Cheboygan Library chairs as well as on the ship deck.</p>
Mar.9	<p><u>The Big Wild</u> by <i>Scott Whitcomb</i></p> <p>As Forest Manager of Pigeon River Country State Forest, Scott will share the wonders of this jewel of the lower peninsula. With 105,000 acres, Pigeon River Country provides a home for the largest herd of wild elk east of the Mississippi. It offers some of the best hiking and cross-country skiing trails in Michigan, as well as bird and wildlife-watching opportunities. Ernest Hemingway called this land the "pine barrens of Michigan" and it was fondly dubbed the "Big Wild" by Michigan conservationist P.J. Lovejoy.</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

There are no SAAS Field Trips scheduled for the month of February

----DON'T FORGET----



SAAS Chapter Notes

Educational outreach 4-year review

by Kathy Bricker

Recently I compiled our educational outreach data from 2007 through 2010. Our SAAS mission is to teach people about our natural world, and we have done just that.

In 2007, our monthly programs drew 251 people. In 2008 and 2009, they drew nearly 500 people each year. We surpassed the 500 mark in 2010, with 525 attendees, averaging well over 50 per meeting. The average number of SAAS members at each program has increased from 20 in 2007 to 30 in both 2009 and 2010, while the number of non-member guests has risen from 8 to above 25.

The field trip growth has been even more phenomenal, thanks to having an actual field trip coordinator. In 2007, 2 field trips drew 16 members and 3 guests, total. In the 3 years since then, the number of field trips expanded to 9, then 12, then 18, attracting 95 people in 2008, 195 in 2009, and 220 in 2010. Interestingly, the average attendance on hikes has remained at 8 members each year. The number of guests bring the total recent attendance to about a dozen people.

In addition, 2010 included Earth Week, coordinated by SAAS. The 30 additional community events drew another 833 attendees who participated in cleanups and learned about topics ranging from resource conservation to local foods to the stars in the universe, which comprises our ultimate environment. Many thanks to all who took any part in 2010. We appreciate you!

Straits Area Audubon Society

2010 Statement of Income & Expenses [\$]

Rose Rynerson – Treasure

INCOME:

Dues for Sept. 2010-Sept. 2011 Season	1,192.00
Renewals (802.00)	
New Memberships (390.00)	
March Cheboygan Schools Sterling Movie Event	300.00
Earth Week Event (see Report)	
1,402.00	
Bird Count Event (see Report)	628.60
2009 Bird Count Event late payment	12.60
Donated <i>God is Green</i> T-shirts sold	150.00
Blue Bird Youth Project (see Report)	100.00
Field Trip Collections	62.00
Raffle Income (Monthly Meetings)	219.50
Just Ducky Quilt Raffle (see Report)	1,725.00
Miscellaneous Donation	<u>3.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>5794.70</u>

Cont

Straits Area Audubon Society

2010 Statement of Income & Expenses [\$]

EXPENSES:

Postage		380.84	
Printing		289.79	
Raffle State License Fee for 2010-2011 Season		45.00	
Speakers		690.00	
Supplies		176.10	
Field Trip Leader Payments		120.00	
Laser Pointer purchase		108.00	
Earth Week Event		1,019.52	
Grants:		1,250.75	
National Parks DVD	(89.99)		
Dunbar Bird Feeding Station	(37.00)		
Blue Bird Youth Project	(110.23)		
Owl Banding Research	(127.00)		
Cheboygan Schools Microscopes	(800.00)		
Saving Starlight Projects	(86.53)		
Newsletter Printing			Donated*
Website Hosting			Donated*
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$4,080.00</u>	

*SAAS thanks

**Williams Office Equipment and Benter Chiropractic
for printing our newsletters and hosting our website!!!**

SAAS 2010 REPORT --- FUND BALANCES

Checking Account [1/1/2010]		+ 1,103.48
Income [2010]		+ 5,794.70
Expenses [2010]		- 4,080.00
Checking Account [1/1/2010]	Balance	<u>\$ 2,818.18</u>

SAVING STARLIGHT FUND

Carried over from 2009		+121.00
Allocated from 2010 Bird Count Event		+ 68.00
Paid for dark sky lighting brochures		- 75.00
Paid for star gazing event expenses		- 11.53
Paid toward purchase of laser pointer*		-102.47
	Balance \$	0.00

SAAS 2010 REPORT --- FUND BALANCES [Cont.]

JUST DUCKY QUILT RAFFLE

Ticket sales		+1,725.00
Paid toward Cheboygan Schools Microscopes		-800.00
Paid ticket printing expense		-112.89
	Balance	<u>\$ 812.11</u>

BLUE BIRD YOUTH PROJECT

Donation from FOE		+100.00
Paid in project expenses		-110.23
	Balance	<u>(\$10.23)</u>

2010 BIRD COUNT EVENT SUMMARY

Pledges collected to-date		+628.60
Paid for Owl Banding Research grant		- 127.00
Paid toward purchase of laser pointer		- 68.00
Late receipt of 2009 Bird Count pledge		+ 12.60
	Balance	<u>\$446.20</u>

EARTH WEEK EVENT

Sponsorships		+1,325.00
Donations collected at events		+ 51.00
Paid printing expenses		- 441.31
Paid postage expenses		- 96.80
Paid for supplies including bird book		- 56.92
Portion of charge for speaker (Dave Barrons)		-90.00
Paid for event refreshments		- 256.05
Paid for door prizes		- 33.44
Paid for Cheboygan Library's kitchen use April 20 th		- 20.00
Paid toward purchase of laser pointer*		- 5.53
	Balance	<u>\$375.95</u>

*Total cost of Laser Pointer was \$108.00

Visit the GBBC Website : <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>



Winter Birding at the Sault

by Bev Kirby

Sat. Jan 14, 2011 and Sun 15, 2011, Jack and I joined 9 birders along with 2 leaders from Whitefish Point Bird Observatory on a winter bird trip in and around the Soo. One of the leaders had scouted out a snowy owl the day before, so we drove to the area where it had been seen and all got out of the cars to scan the fields, fence posts and phone poles. When it was finally spotted it was found sitting in the seat of an old dilapidated farm tractor and blended right in. If we had not gotten out of the cars at that exact spot, we would have passed him right by as he sat there incognito. Throughout the day, we saw 5 northern shrikes, an immature northern goshawk, 18 sharp-tailed grouse, pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, common redpolls, and lots of the usual feeder birds. Snow buntings, 3 wild turkeys, 6 bald eagles, 5 rough-legged hawks and a red-tailed hawk were also seen. Around 3:30, the weather began to deteriorate drastically and the leaders wisely decided to cancel the rest of the birding for the day and head back to the Soo. Whiteouts and a blizzard ensued as we made our way back, but we all kept the vision of that snowy owl driving a tractor.

The next morning we started out again and our first birds encountered were red crossbills. We were on our way to Hulbert Bog to find gray jays. After walking the road there for more than an hour, we decided to give up. I was walking dejectedly back to the car when I looked up and saw a gray jay. I grabbed my walkie-talkie out of my pocket and hollered, "Gray jay! Gray jay!" When thinking of this later it sounded like "May day! May day!" All got good looks at two beautiful gray jays as they silently swooped down to the road to pick up seeds we had left for them. After lunch, we all headed for Whitefish Point to check out the feeders there and to maybe find a hoary redpoll. Just common redpolls were seen along with pine siskins and of course, lots of black-capped chickadees. It was getting late and most of the group had to drive back down state, so we drove to Eckerman and after many good-byes and promises to email photos etc., we all bought hot chocolates and headed home. We saw a total of 35 species of birds. A great weekend of winter birding! To read more about the weekend go to WPBO blog: <http://www.wpbosightings.blogspot.com/>

Photo by J Kirby



The 2011 GBBC takes place February 18 through February 21.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. You may find it helpful to print out your [regional bird checklist](#) to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist.
3. When you're finished, enter your results [through our web page](#). You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count. It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on March 1st.

Note from the Editor:

Jack Kirby [jskirby@wowway.com]

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 4th day of the month. Thank you.