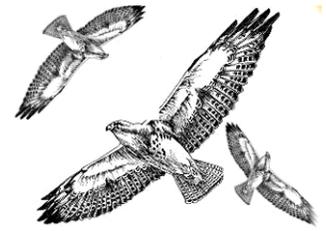


THE KETTLE



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 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.

To reach us by mail - **Straits Area Audubon Society**; c/o Rosanne Rynerson, 10490 E. US 23, Cheboygan, MI 49721

Happy Valentine's Day from SAAS

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:
Rosanne Rynerson – Treasurer
10490 E. US 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

February Program

Secret Lives of Michigan Salamanders

Wednesday, February 11 (6:00 pm)

Guest Speaker - **Jim McGrath** from Nature Discovery

Jim McGrath from Nature Discovery returns for the fifth consecutive year with more live animals. This program will treat us to "Secret Lives of Michigan Salamanders."



Did you know Michigan is home to twelve species of salamanders? Due to their highly nocturnal nature and propensity to shy away from light, these silent amphibians are much more difficult to detect on the landscape than frogs. Through a combination of beautiful PowerPoint images and up-close inspection of live specimens of most species found in the state,

participants will receive an intimate look into salamander life cycles, behavior, habitats, and distribution. Threats to their survival due to human activities will be discussed, in addition to what you can do on your property to enhance



their chances to survive. We will get to meet in person with spotted salamander, blue-spotted salamander, marbled salamander, eastern newt, red-backed salamander, four-toed salamander, mudpuppy, and lesser siren.

After the program and a sharing of nature sightings and upcoming field trips, refreshments will be served. Door and raffle prizes will be available to all attendees.

Upcoming Programs

March 11 "Owls of the North Woods"
By **Mary Trout**, Little Traverse Conservancy

April 8 "North Country Trail"
By **Al and Jean Moberly**

May 13 "Six-legged Obsession: Why I look down"
By **Mike Grant**

February Field Trips

Snowshoe or XC Ski at beautiful
Cheboygan State Park

Sunday, February 8, [3:00 PM]

The Poe Reef Cabin at Cheboygan State Park is available for the day and evening on Sunday, February 8. Please join us for skiing or snow-shoeing the trails in this beautiful setting on Lake Huron.

Think Snow



DNR Photo

Meet in the trailhead parking lot at 3 pm and ski or snowshoe from there. The Poe Reef Cabin is the first cabin after the parking lot.

So ... pack a lunch (dinner?) and get ready to shake that cabin fever by going to a cabin. You may want to bring a headlamp or flashlight since it may be dark when you head back to your car. We hope to see you there!

Al & Jean Moberly (231-268-9726 if you have questions)

Field Trip Reports

Eastern UP -- Wintering Northern Bird Trip II

Monday, January 12, 2015.

Submitted by Bev Kirby

This trip was originally scheduled for Friday, January 9, 2015 but was rescheduled due to inclement weather. We met at 8:00 a.m. Monday at the Mackinaw City Welcome Center and almost immediately saw a flock of 75 Bohemian Waxwings fly into the trees overhead. 20 Pine Grosbeaks were seen in the Mackinaw City area before we crossed the bridge. In the St. Ignace area we found little open water but we did find Common Goldeneye, Long-tailed ducks, and watched a Bald Eagle land on the ice. Heading to Kinross we checked out some feeders. Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jay, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Mourning Dove were all seen. A Rough-legged Hawk was noted on our way to the Dafter Landfill and we would eventually find 3 for the day. At the landfill we saw 3 Glaucous Gulls, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 22 Bald Eagles, 150 Ravens, 30 European Starlings, and 200 Herring Gulls. Moving on to 11 mile road and more feeders we had Common Redpolls, White-breasted Nuthatch, lots of Chickadees and a Pine Grosbeak. A crowing rooster got our attention as we moved on to find a place for lunch. We eventually visited 3 closed restaurants before we found one two hours later in Pickford and it was closing in 20 minutes, but they took pity on us. Evidently, Monday is not a good day to have lunch in the eastern U.P. ☺ On our way to find lunch we stopped at Dunbar Forest. Here we saw a flock of Bohemian Waxwings with 1 Cedar Waxwing in their group. Pine Grosbeak, and Purple Finch were also seen.

Edwin H Gott



Photo by Bev Kirby

A highlight was seeing the freighter Edwin H. Gott slowly plowing through the ice on the St. Mary's River as it made its last trip before the locks close on January 15th. Snow Buntings, Bald Eagle and 2 Snowy Owls were seen before lunch. In the Pickford area we found 10 more Snowy Owls, 2 more Bald Eagles giving us a total of 28 Bald Eagles for the trip, a Northern Shrike and 2 Ruffed Grouse. Moving on to Rudyard we had more Snow Buntings and 2 more Snowy Owls, giving us a total of 14 Snowy Owls for the trip. We began the day with a high temperature of 17 degrees and the lowest we encountered was 2 degrees. It was a blowing snow day with lots of wind and birds were hard to find but we persisted and 28 species of birds were counted.

One of 14 Snowy Owls



Photo by Steve Baker

Thanks to Steve Baker for arranging another good birding trip in the U.P. Participants were Steve Baker, Ed Pike, Bev and Jack Kirby, Don and Donna Mittlestat and Steve Vorenkamp.

U of M Biological Station Winter Walk Saturday, January 17, 2015

Submitted by Al & Jean Moberly

Saturday, January 17th was a great day to spend time in the woods. Actually, with temperatures in the low 30's, it was quite balmy for a January day in northern Michigan. Seventeen folks turned out for the snowshoe at the U of M Biological Station. Mike Grant led us on our beautiful trek over the lake and through the woods. Mike worked at the station for 20 plus years so he was able to pass on interesting facts about the station and some of the research that has been done over the years.

Winter Delight



Photo by Steve Baker

The nature highlight of the trip was the scene of the demise of a black squirrel. Wing prints of the large raptor as he (she?) held down the victim were still evident in the fluffy snow with accompanying blood. Tracks in the snow

revealed a later inspection from a fox looking for a free snack.

We also very much enjoyed the fire that Mike had burning in the fireplace at the dormitory. It was a cozy place to have lunch and visit with our SAAS friends.

Field Report

This article submitted to the Kettle by Janet Trudeau

Ballast water tests may be flawed: Scientists say system doesn't determine presence of bacteria

BY JOHN FLESHER Associated Press

Traverse City — Government-sanctioned tests of equipment designed to cleanse ship ballast water of invasive species are seriously flawed because they don't determine whether the systems will remove microbes that cause gastrointestinal illnesses, scientists said Wednesday.

Ballast water provides stability for cargo ships in rough seas. But it's believed to have introduced numerous invaders to U.S. coastal waters and the Great Lakes, including zebra mussels, spotted jellyfish and Japanese shore crabs, along with bacteria and viruses.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard have set limits on the number of live organisms ballast water can contain, based on standards proposed by an international agency in 2004. To comply, ship companies must install technology that kills enough creatures to meet the limits.

Laboratory testing of treatment systems has been conducted for 10 years. But a newly published paper in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin* contends the evaluations have a crucial defect: They don't adequately measure the systems' effectiveness against three disease-carrying microbes that the regulations target. One of them, *E. coli*, can indicate the presence of fecal sewage.

"This is a real problem," said Andrew Cohen of the Center for Research on Aquatic Bioinvasions in Richmond, California, who wrote the paper with Fred Dobbs of Old Dominion University in Virginia. "We know there are serious pathogens in ballast water. There's good evidence that ballast water has moved them around the world and into U.S. waters."

The Coast Guard declined to comment and EPA had no immediate reaction to the report.

According to the paper, at least 38 species of disease-causing bacteria have been detected in ballast tanks.

Companies are developing on-board cleansing systems using tools such as filters, chemicals, ozone and ultraviolet light.



AP

Scientists say there are serious flaws with tests of equipment designed to kill invasive species in ballast water

SAAS Chapter Notes

Laura Gail Stormzand

Longtime SAAS member and supporter of Cheboygan passed away Sunday, January 18, 2015 at her home. Stormzand, 60, was known to many of our members outside SAAS for her career as a dietician and diabetes educator for Community Memorial Hospital in Cheboygan, Lambert Health Center in St. Ignace, and McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey. Gail is survived by her spouse of 39 years, Mark Stormzand; a son, Nathan J. Stormzand of California and a daughter, Anna C. Stormzand of North Carolina. Mark a forester who presented "Trees Please" as a program for SAAS and has volunteered in other ways. We will miss you Gail.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by **Rose Rynerson - Treasurer**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please join me in welcoming new members:

Vincent Lumetta

Linda Rogers

John Kafer

The Straits Area Audubon Society received gifts of \$200 (to-date) in memory of Ray Toppings, our neighbor Susan Gauthier's father.

Research, education, and appreciation for our local winged visitors continue to expand thanks to these generous gifts and memberships.

Big Bird Day 2014	3.15
Youth Committee	500.60
Nature Discovery	536.00
Kirtland Warbler	50.00

**STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY
2014 YEAREND STATEMENT**

Prepared by **Rosanne Rynerson**, Treasurer, 1/14/2015

Checking Account Balance on January 1, 2014
\$2,889.48

INCOME:

Dues, renewals	861.00
Dues, new	275.00
Door raffles	160.00
Donations, general	1,036.50
Donation, Nature Discovery 2014	300.00
For The Birds Quilt Raffle Income	1,954.48
Big Bird Day Count Income	<u>1,551.85</u>

TOTAL INCOME: \$6,138.83

EXPENSES:

Speaker gratuities	300.00
Field Trip Leader gratuities	311.50
Kettle Printing & Postage	444.10
Other Printing & Postage	81.27
Miscellaneous charges (web, bank)	140.40
Nature Discovery program 2014	1,015.00
Youth Committee programs 2014	212.21
Quilt raffle proceeds to MSRW	1,540.00
Quilt expenses	404.54
Cheboygan Public Library	120.00
Recycle Bags Ad	<u>600.00</u>
	<u>\$5,169.02</u>

Grants Paid Out:

MSRW	2,000.00
Owl Banding	275.00
EW ad 2014	35.00
EW Plus 2015	100.00
Sunshine Trail signage	<u>250.00</u>
	<u>\$2,660.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7,829.02

NET CASH FLOW: \$1,690.19

Checking Account Balance on December 31, 2014
\$1,199.29

Other 2014 Grants (Transfers of Funds to Restricted Accounts):

Nature Discovery 2015	300.00
Kirtland Warbler 2015	50.00
Youth committee 2015	180.00

FUND BALANCES:

General Fund	115.84
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**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Date: January 14, 2015

Program: Great Lakes Invasive Species and Coastal Conservation

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Cheboygan Area Public Library

Attendance: 38 - 29 members and 8 guests

President Dale Giddings introduced Jim Bricker who introduced our speaker Jennifer Muladore from Huron Pines a non-profit, non-governmental organization of thirteen fulltime staff plus AmeriCorps volunteers which serves the Northeast Michigan area with an emphasis on the Cheboygan watershed, land stewardship and a Kirtland Warbler initiative. She told us there are 184 aquatic invasive (plants, animals and microorganisms) in our area and discussed how these species affect birds. The priority efforts are on phragmites, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife. Her emphasis this year will be on controlling European Frog-Bit, an aquatic plant, similar in appearance to a small lily-pad, which is spread by boats. Huron Pines targets areas where people gather and where rare species are found and use a variety of methods for control. Their funding comes from the federal government and private sources (foundations and land-owners). Until this year there has been no state funding. For more information and to report invasive species Jennifer recommends contacting the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network [www.misin.msu.edu].

The business meeting followed: - Dale reminded us of the next meeting February 11th with presenter Jim McGrath. - Former SAAS president, now park naturalist at Wilderness State Park, Bob Speeter spoke to us about efforts to reintroduce Piping Plovers at the park. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has given a grant which has allowed the park to clear three areas along the beach to prime habitat. He requested that any of us hiking or birding there report any Piping Plover sightings to the park office. - Field trip announcement by Jean Moberly that she and Al will lead a x-country ski/snowshoe hike this Saturday at the Biological Station. Mike Grant has arranged to have the dorm lounge open and a fire in the fireplace after outdoor activities for those wishing to bring their lunch.

Nature sightings were monitored by Bev Kirby who reported seeing American Tree Sparrows at home and many Snowy Owls in the Pickford area. Roy MacFarland (Ruffed Grouse), Rose Rynerson (Cardinal) and Jim Bricker (Redpolls) reported sightings in their yards and quite a few persons have spotted Red-bellied and Pileated

woodpeckers at their feeders. Dale Giddings reported on Kate, his resident shrew.
All enjoyed refreshments provided by Donna Mittlestat and the Moberly's.
There was no raffle or door prize.

Submitted by **Diane Morand**, Secretary

Exploring the Lake Superior Water Trail and Heritage Coast

Thursday, February 12 [1:00 PM]

Please plan on attending a presentation by Gary and Joanie McGuffin at North Central Michigan College, Library Conference room, 1515 Howard Street, Petoskey on; Exploring the Lake Superior Water Trail and Heritage Coast. There is no charge but donations to Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council would be appreciated. Those SAAS members who attend and are interested please bring snowshoes along and afterwards we'll take an "ad lib" hike on some of the college trails weather permitting. Any questions please contact Donna Mittlestat. [906-201-0285]

Snakes Alive! Back in the Schools

by Kathy Bricker

SAAS is thrilled to bring the Snakes Alive! program back to Cheboygan County. During the time he is here to give the salamander talk with live animals, Jim McGrath will bring live snakes to all the 5th graders at Cheboygan middle school, Wolverine elementary school, and Onaway elementary school. A huge thanks for funding goes to Nancy Waldron, Awakon Federal Credit Union, Citizens National Bank, Wolverine School, and all SAAS members for voting to financially support snake education in our communities. Member Nancy Waldron explains her rationale for enabling this outreach: "Once students see others confidently handling snakes and enjoying it, they lose their fear. That leads to respect, appreciation, and even admiration for these sometimes-maligned creatures."

Don't Forget!

The Great Backyard Bird Count



For Your Information

Names & Numbers

Straits Area Audubon Society 2014 - 2015 Officers

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

[No email]

Vice President: **Connie Rieger** - 231-818-9065

conniereger@yahoo.com

Treasurer: **Rosanne Rynerson** - 231-597-9788

fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com

Secretary: **Diane Morand** - 231-627-4282

mdlmorand@aol.com

Past President: **Roger Benter** - 231-627-3992

rogerbenter@gmail.com

Exe.Com. At-Large: **Chris Grant** - 231-238-8216

chrisgrant723@yahoo.com

MAS Representative: **Donna Mittlestat** - 906-201-0285

ddmstat@hotmail.com

Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society

www.michiganaudubon.org

MNA [Michigan Nature Association]

www.michigannature.org

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org/greatlakes>

Little Traverse Conservancy

www.landtrust.org

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

www.wpbo.org

HMANA Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=613

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

www.MackinacRaptorWatch.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 4th day of the month.

Thank you. **Jack Kirby** [saaskettle2011@gmail.com]

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

If winter comes, can spring be far behind?

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley