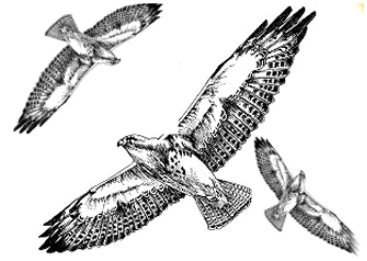


THE KETTLE



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

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 **Williams Office Equipment** for donating printing costs for **The Kettle** and **Benter Chiropractic** for hosting our 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 field trips, 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

Upcoming Program

Wednesday, March 14 [6:30 pm] Wildlife Rehabilitation

Come on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 pm to the Cheboygan Area Public Library for a presentation on "Wildlife Rehabilitation" by **Susan Good**, R.N., C.W.R. of Northernnaire Wildlife Rescue.



This is not a call for do-it-yourself animal care, since becoming a wildlife rehabilitator takes many years of training and testing and a great deal of specialized equipment. Instead, Susan will explain what to do when you initially encounter an orphaned or wounded animal, how to determine if it would benefit from human help, and when and how to contact a licensed rehabilitator. Learn the most important three things an injured animal needs immediately, and the single most important thing NOT to do with it. Refreshments and Raffle and Door Prize drawings will follow the meeting.

Future Programs

**April 11 - The Grand Slam of Michigan
Turtles – All Alive - by Jim McGrath**

**May 9 - Vehicular Air Pollution - by
Tom Grahame**

Upcoming Field Trips

[There are no SAAS March field trips scheduled.]

SAAS Chapter Notes:

Hawks over Mackinaw

by Steve Baker

It has long been recognized that migrating raptors pass over Mackinaw City every spring on their way north. Most raptors are reluctant to cross water and will gather at the tip of the Lower Peninsula and utilize thermals of rising air to gain altitude before crossing the straits. This year we will attempt to document this migration by conducting an official Hawk Count in the fields west of the village.

Red-tailed Hawk



Photo by S. Baker

We will be observing the migrating raptors for 8 hours daily from March 20 till May 10, roughly the period when most northward migration occurs. All raptors will be identified to species and hourly totals will be tallied and submitted to the Hawk Migration Association of North America. The Mackinaw City count data will now be combined with hundreds of other hawk counts all over North America. Up to 15 species of raptors can be seen in a season. On a sunny day in April hundreds of hawks may be circling over head, which an amazing sight to behold.

Sharp-shinned Hawk



Photo by S. Baker

Field trips will be scheduled in April to share this spectacle with Audubon members. The volunteer counters are Steve Baker, Don and Donna Mittlestat, Ed Pike, and Jim Veller and they will be trying to be on site every day weather permits. Hopefully we will see many SAAS members visiting the hawk watch and learning more about the migration of raptors.

What is Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

by Donna Mittlestat

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (WPBO) is located at the end of N. Whitefish Point Road, 11 miles north of Paradise, MI.



Photo by J. Kirby

The WPBO building, Owl's Roost, is small and white and is located across the parking lot from the Shipwreck Museum. For over 30 years WPBO has been monitoring and documenting the annual migration of birds. Over 330 species of birds have been seen at the Point. Visit the hawk counting platform from March 15 to May 31 to see the hawks passing over heading north while the hawk counter monitors the migration. From April 15 to May 31 and again from Aug 15 to Nov 15 head out onto the point to the water bird shack to view the water birds passing the point. A counter is out during these times to keep a tally of the migration. Owl Banding at the point takes place from March 15 - May 31, July 1 - Aug 25, and Sept 15 - Oct 31 from dusk to dawn nightly. Meet out behind the WPBO building to watch the owls being banded. This is an opportunity to view the owls up close. WPBO is an affiliate of Michigan Audubon, WPBO doesn't receive any funding from Michigan Audubon, however they work together to ensure the protection of Whitefish Point and the continuation of research and education programs.

Birds of WPBO

Sanderling



Photo by J Kirby

Peregrine Falcon



Photo by J Kirby

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

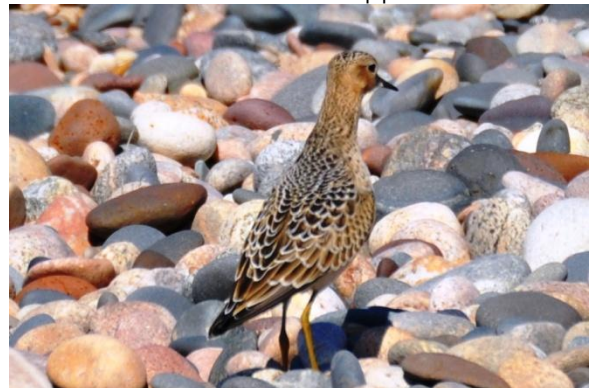


Photo by J Kirby

EARTH WEEK PLUS

Visit earthweekplus.com for more than 40 earth-related Adventures, Movies, and Expo presentations that you can attend for free during the month of April.

<http://earthweekplus.com/>

SAAS Volunteer Staff

President: Roger Benter
Vice President: Jim Bricker
Treasurer: Rosanne Rynerson
Secretary: Mary Liebner
Past President: Kathy Bricker
Executive Com: Bobie Crongeyer
MAS Rep: Donna Mittlestat
Greeter: Susan Emerson
Greeter Assist: Dale Rieger,
 Connie Rieger,
 Alice MacFarland

Field Trips: Steve Baker
Bird Counts: Ed Pike
 Steve Baker

Conservation: Glen Matthews
Raffle/Door Prize: Judy Vanderhart
Raffle Assistants: Maureen Conklin,
 Roy MacFarland

Refreshments: Molly Ferguson,
 Alice MacFarland,
 Dorothy Woosley

Nature Sightings: Bev Kirby
Youth Outreach: Bobie Crongeyer
Kettle Editor: Jack Kirby
Kettle Producer: Ann Benter
Audiovisual/
Web Master: Roy MacFarland

Birds of the Everglades

Osprey



Photo by J Kirby

White-crowned Pigeon



Photo by J Kirby

Short-tailed Hawk



Photo by J Kirby

Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society



www.michiganaudubon.org

MNA (Michigan Nature Association)

www.michigannature.org

Little Traverse Conservancy

www.landtrust.org

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

www.wpbo.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** [jskirby@wowway.com]