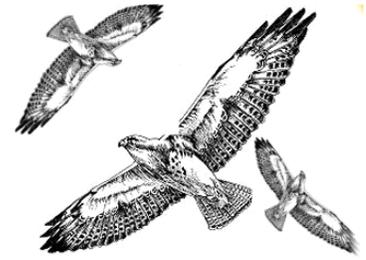


THE KETTLE



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.

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

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

November Program

Energy Conservation for Homeowners

Wednesday, November 13 [6:00 p.m.]

Presented By T.J. Brown, Michigan Energy Options



T.J. Brown

TJ Brown is an Energy Programs Manager out of the Northern Lower Peninsula. His expertise with chemistry for bio-fuels and residential contracting led him to the MEO team. Since 2005 TJ Brown has been instrumental in development and delivery of all MEO programs and services. TJ used over 1,000 gallons of homemade biodiesel, HERS qualified 8 new homes worth \$16,000 of tax credits, completed over 200 home energy assessments, 70 commercial energy audits, and presented sustainability related workshops statewide for over 6,000 participants. This free, timely presentation might just save you money while you eradicate the energy thieves in your own home. Invest your time, not your money, and learn how to be the brightest bulb. Join SAAS at 6 pm at the Cheboygan Area Public Library for this program, along with the door prizes, raffle, and refreshments.

Upcoming Programs

December, 11 2013

Potluck and Member Slide Fest

by SAAS Membership

January, 8 2014

The Flora and Fauna of Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras

by Susan Fawcett, Botanist

February, 12 2014

Finding and Raising Native Giant Silk Moths

by Jim McGrath, Nature Discovery

March, 12 2014

Adventures Underwater

by Charles Maltby and Northern Michigan Dive Center

April, 9 2014

For the Birds: Seney National Wildlife Refuge

by Ronnie Allen

May, 14 2014

Orchids of Michigan

by Steve Baker

June, 11 2014

Annual SAAS Hike and Potluck

[Location to be announced]

November Field Trips

There are NO field trips planned for November. This means each of us can still venture out on our own to view the birds. Keep in mind the many waterfowl to be seen on the Great Lakes. -- Donna Mittlestat

This is a heads-up for a early December field trip

Thursday, December 5, 2013

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 Rudyard 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 to sign up.

Field Trip Reports

Owl Banding With Ed Pike

Friday, October 11, 2013

Submitted by Bev Kirby

This field trip was originally scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2013, but as it rained for four days, the trip was rescheduled for Friday, October 11, 2013. Participants from the Straits Area and Petoskey Audubon groups met at the Bridge View Visitor Center in St. Ignace and proceeded with Ed to the owl banding site. Ed has been banding Northern Saw-whet owls for many years as they migrate south across the Straits of Mackinac. This small owl feeds

mostly on mice but also eats shrews, young squirrels, sometimes small birds and large insects.

Ready for release



Photo by J Kirby

After the nets were set up, we checked them at 8:30 p.m., 9:00 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. with no luck, but at the 10:00 p.m. check two Northern Saw-whet Owls were captured.

Ed getting the owl's data



Photo by J Kirby

We watched as Ed weighed the owls, measured their wing cord and tail and then placed a numbered aluminum band on the owl's leg while recording all of this information in his log book. Using a special graph, the weight and measurements of the particular bird would specify if the bird was male or female. Using a black light, Ed showed us the molt pattern on the underside of the owl's wings and this would signify the age of the bird.....whether it was an HY bird (Hatch Year bird, born this year), or a SY bird (Second year bird), or an ASY (after second year bird). Releasing the owl into a nearby conifer Ed sat it on a branch and allowed it to get used to the dark again before it flew away. We were able to see Ed capture and band 3 Northern Saw-whet owls and after we left, he caught another 4 for a total of 7 for the evening. Many thanks go to Ed for sharing with us his knowledge of this small owl. Keep up the good work! Participants: Ed Pike, Jack and Bev Kirby, Steve Baker, Janet Trudeau, Hank and Sandy Jankoviak all from the Straits Area Audubon, Cynthia Donahey and Art Schoolmaster from Petoskey Audubon, and visitor Mary Kaye Hennekes from St. Ignace.

Fall Colors at the Boyd Banwell Preserve

Saturday, October 12, 2013

Submitted by Bev Kirby

This hike was originally planned for the Agnes Andreae Preserve of the Little Traverse Conservancy near Indian River. At meeting time, those present, by mutual agreement, decided to hike the other entrance of this preserve which is the Boyd Banwell Preserve and only officially available in 2011. None of us had ever walked this section previously and it was all new territory. Fall colors were at their peak and yellow Quaking Aspen leaves rained on us as we walked. Mole trails were spotted crossing our path. We all were amazed at the size of the leaves on the Striped Maple or Moosewood Maple trees and continually talked about the color of all the trees along the trails.

Lipstick Powderhorn lichen



Photo by J Kirby

A number of Aspen trees had recently been taken down by a very busy Beaver, and we could see the trail through pine needles where he had dragged his bounty down to the river.

A good time was had by all



Photo by S Baker

The Pigeon River was rushing along and sparkling in the sun and a great area for a Beaver to call home. We saw a Wolf Spider, Meadow Hawk Dragonfly, Lipstick Powderhorn lichen, Inky Cap mushrooms and heard a Hairy

Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Robin, Raven and Black-Capped Chickadees. At the end of the hike, we toasted Mother Nature with Apple Cider after enjoying a most inspiring time on a beautiful autumn day in the woods. Participants: Steve and Sue Baker, Jack and Bev Kirby, Janet Trudeau.

we came to the end of a great bird outing. Our thanks go to leaders Steve Baker and Ed Pike.

Waterfowl Extravaganza with Steve Baker and Ed Pike

Friday, October 25, 2013.

Submitted by Bev Kirby

There was slush on the ground as we approached our meeting place at 8 a.m. at the Welcome Center in Mackinaw City where we were met with sporadic rain, wind and temps of 37°. We began birding at the State Dock in Mackinaw City and then crossed over the bridge to Straits State Park. Following the shoreline of St. Ignace we made many stops, seeing Long-tailed ducks, Redheads, 3 close White-winged Scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe, Snow Buntings, Tundra Swans, Gadwall and Green-winged Teal. Three freighters were anchored in Moran Bay due to the high winds that were to come later that day. Just before lunch we saw a kettle of 12 Red-tailed Hawks along with a Turkey Vulture and Red-shouldered Hawk migrating south across the Straits.

Redhead flight at the Straits



Photo by S Baker

Our first Rough-legged Hawk was found near Hay Lake and we hit a bonanza at Brevoort Lake with Hooded Mergansers, Greater Scaup, Canvasback, Common Loon, and Common Goldeneye along with other species seen previously. American Wigeon were found along with Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead at the Brevoort Wastewater Ponds and we travelled on to Round Lake where we found a Kingfisher and American Coots. A Greater Yellowlegs was noted at Point Aux Chenes and 4 Horned Larks were seen at Point LaBarbe. Bald Eagles counted throughout the day numbered 8, and for a grand finale, four of our group saw a Peregrine Falcon on the Mackinac Bridge. After a total of 32 stops and 46 species of birds, 25 of which were waterfowl,

The group at Hay Lake



Photo by S Baker

Participants: Jack and Bev Kirby, Don and Donna Mittlestat, Janet Trudeau, Joey Arbaugh, Marilynn Smith, Darryl Parish and Beth Ensor.

SAAS Chapter Notes

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Rose Rynerson

In addition to printing and mailing the Kettle newsletter, our dues fund monthly meeting expenses of \$50 gratuity to guest speakers, juices for our refreshment time, and printing fliers to advertise each program in advance. A huge SAAS thank you for special additional generous donations!

Welcome new members: **The Berry Patch/Clarks, Jean Gross, Katie Parker and Bert Ebbers.** 😊

"Butcher Bird"

Submitted by Donna Mittlestat

As the days cool more birds arrive from the north. The Northern Shrike is one of these birds. This bird nests from Alaska across northern Canada and the Northwest Territory, northern Quebec and central Labrador, going as far north as the tree line. It is also found in many of the northern regions of Eurasia. However, in the winter it can be seen from the southern part of its breeding range to as far south as northern California and east to New Jersey. This bird is often seen here in the fields of northern Michigan or around bird feeders.

Northern Shrike - NSHR



Photo by J Kirby

The Northern Shrike is the only songbird to repeatedly prey on vertebrate animals. They feed on small mammals and birds for much of the year. They have a distinctive habit of impaling their prey on thorns or barbed wire fences. This habit has earned this bird the nickname "butcher bird". As a songbird both the male and female Shrike sing throughout the year. The males especially sing in late winter and early spring. So, as you travel around the north keep a sharp eye out for this very striking bird as it often perches on bare tree branches in fields.

From the Conservation Chair

By Glen Matthews

Straits petroleum pipeline

For those who may have missed the issue during the summer, the National Wildlife Federation provides concerning information related to the risk of an oil leak in the Straits. Upgraded pumps are going to push more crude through the 60 year old Enbridge pipeline. The following links are worth checking out.

<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

The North Wind Doth Blow

The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will the robin do then,
poor thing?
He'll sit in a barn,
And keep himself warm,
And hide his head under his wing,
poor thing!

Mother Goose/Traditional

Bluebird Nest Box Results

Submitted by Bev Kirby

Talking to three of our members who have been monitoring Bluebird houses for the 2013 season, the following results were found.

Dale Giddings: On his property in Wolverine, Dale had 49 nest boxes. 12 pair of Bluebirds nested and most had 2 broods. 20 Tree Swallows nested, but most abandoned the nests. He had 1 box with Black-Capped Chickadees. This year Dale had put up 3 American Kestrel boxes. From these he had 1 nest with 4 eggs.

Eastern Bluebird hatchlings



Photo by Al Moberly

Al and Jean Moberly: These boxes were monitored at the Cheboygan Middle School. They had 10 nest boxes there. 7 boxes had nests, and 3 had no nests. They had 9 Bluebirds, 2 House Sparrows, 8 Tree Sparrows and 6 Black-capped Chickadees.

Alice and Roy MacFarland: They had 3 active boxes at Major City Park in Cheboygan. 4 Tree Swallows fledged

with 1 egg un-hatched from the first box, 5 fledged from the second box and 6 fledged from the third box. In four years of monitoring these boxes, the MacFarlands have never had a Bluebird nest at this site.

Thanks to all of the above caring naturalists for watching out for the birds in our area.

Straits Area Audubon Society 2013 - 2014 Officers and Volunteers

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eno.melanie@cheboyganlibrary.org

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

Upper Peninsula Bird Listing

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 4th day of the month.

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

Happy Thanksgiving

