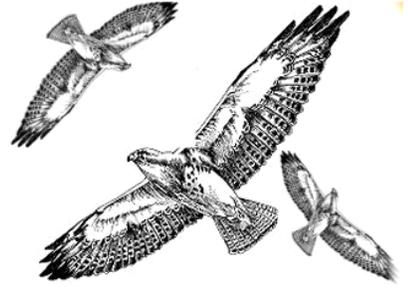


The Kettle



Straits Area Audubon Society newsletter dating from 1983

October 2010 Vol. 11 No 7

SAAS meetings are held at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey St. at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided. You may also 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 Supply 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

Straits Area Audubon Society Calendar

Upcoming Programs

Oct 13 **Bluebirds**

by Dale Giddings and Cheboygan Youth Center

Last spring, SAAS partnered with the Cheboygan Youth Center. Children built, painted, erected, and monitored bluebird houses at two sites. They will share their experiences with us. Dale Giddings also will speak on his long-time bluebird box trail, sharing his results on property near Wolverine.

Nov 10 **Down Upon the Suwannee River**

by Dale and Connie Rieger

The Suwannee River, made famous by the songs of Stephen Foster, stretches from the Okefenokee Swamp in southeast Georgia to Florida's shore along the Gulf of Mexico. Dale and Connie Rieger will take you on their 150 mile Suwannee canoe trip, showing you the old Florida not seen from the freeways and tourist traps.

Dec 8 **Potluck and Member Slide Fest**

by Roger Benter

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. NOTE that dinner STARTS AT 6 pm, one-half hour earlier than normal meetings to give us plenty of time to eat. After dessert, we will enjoy images and stories from any members and guests. Bring up to 20 pictures per person in a photo album to pass around, or on a computer disk or thumb drive. The meeting will end at least by 8:45 p.m.

Big Birding Day Report

by Ed Pike

We had a good day for the 2010 SAAS spring bird count on May 19, with sunny conditions, warm temperatures and light winds. Eleven people counted birds from 6am till 4 pm. We birded on the south side of the Straits in the early morning, then we moved across to the north side of the Straits.

The 126 species included some nice looks at a number of warblers. Several ducks still lingering included some that we usually see in the winter: Long-tailed Ducks, Goldeneye, and White-winged Scoter. Visit the SAAS website for a full list of species seen.

Thanks to observers Steve Baker, Ed Pike, Jim, John, & Kathy Bricker, Janet Trudeau, Jack & Bev Kirby, Tom Cadwalader, Tom Grahame, and Gerald Vork. Thanks also to everyone who pledged to this fundraiser, which brought in more than \$600 for SAAS objectives.

Upcoming Field Trips

Oct. 8 **Owl Banding**

by Ed Pike

Meet at the St. Ignace Bridgeview Park at 7 pm. We will drive a short distance to the owl banding site on Pt. LaBarbe. Our goal is to see, catch, study, and band saw-whet owls during their migration through the Straits of Mackinac. This is a great opportunity to learn about owls, how researchers capture them in mist nets, the banding process, and what biologists discover from banding. A lucky participant may get to release an owl. People may stay as late as desired, since nets will be checked every half-hour for captured birds. Dress warmly for cold and windy weather. If it is raining, the trip will be canceled. To reach Bridgeview Park, turn west on US-2 after crossing the Bridge. After a short ways, turn south (left), across from the Shell station. Continue down the hill to the park. Call 627-4830 for more information or in questionable weather.

Oct.17 **High Springs/Carp Creek Gorge Hike**

by Jim and Kathy Bricker

Meet at the High Springs (Carp Creek Gorge) parking lot on Riggsville Rd. at 2 pm. This trail offers a rare chance to hike from the headwaters to the mouth of a beautiful stream, in one afternoon. We will look at landscape ecology, including plant and animal life on this excursion from Riggsville Road to Burt Lake through Reese's Swamp. Optional potluck supper will follow the trip at Brickers' house just off Riggsville Rd. To reach the starting point, drive 3.7 miles west of I-75. Call 627-4830 for more information or in questionable weather.

Oct. 26 **Waterfowl of the Mackinaw Straits**

by Steve Baker and Ed Pike

Meet in Mackinaw City at the State Highway Rest Area at 8:30 am. We will carpool to search the Mackinac Straits and inland lakes for migrating and wintering waterfowl. The Straits are well known for autumn concentrations of ducks, swans, and geese. We hope to see scoters, redheads, long-tailed ducks, and grebes amongst the many waterfowl species present this time of year. Dress for the weather as these shoreline sites are exposed to the elements. Optional lunch in St. Ignace and optional afternoon birding for those interested. Call Steve Baker at 238-8723 with any questions or in questionable weather.