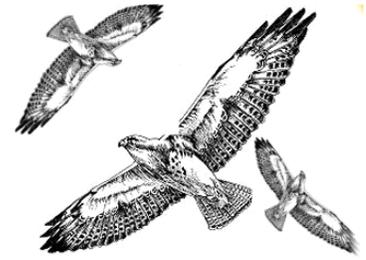


THE KETTLE



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**.

[312 West Elm Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721 - Phone: 231-627-7020 -- Fax: 231-627-7477] **Please consider them for all your Computer, Copier, Printer and Fax needs**

SAAS thanks **Benter Chiropractic** for sponsoring our **Straits Area Audubon Society WEB Site**.

[320 North Huron Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721 - Phone: 231-627-4345] **Please consider Benter Chiropractic for your - Whole-person Health Care**

To reach us by mail - **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 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

October Program

eBird: Easy Tracking of Field Trip Birds

Wednesday October 8 (6:00 pm)

Presented by Darrell Lawson

Darrell Lawson, president of Petoskey Regional Audubon Society, member of Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch committee, and frequent field trip leader, will demonstrate the use of the revolution called eBirding. This web-based reporting and tracking system provides – simultaneously – an easy way to keep and compare your birding lists, a collaborative approach to finding and learning about bird populations and distributions, and a fun, competitive challenge for birders. [Photo by Jim Bricker of Darrell leading a UP field trip]



Developed and maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, it uses crowd-sourced data from tens of thousands of bird-watchers to help scientists better understand how bird species shift over time and place. Since its launch in 2002, eBird has collected more than 141 million reports and created maps for more than 300 species in 169 countries. The data, screened

by experts to help ensure accuracy, has been used to identify and then protect critical bird habitats. EBird also allows birders to view each others' sightings and easily store and access their species lists.

If you cannot attend this hands-on demonstration, you may join the 12,456 people who have viewed a concise explanation of it, "eBird: Engaging Birders in Science and Conservation" at <http://www.plosbiology.org>.

After the program, attendees will enjoy refreshments and the chance to win door and raffle prizes. A unique highlight will be drawing the winning ticket for the "For the Birds" quilt donated by Rivertown Patchworkers to benefit the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch.

eBird



November Program

Bicycling with Lewis and Clark: The Katy Trail

Presented by Dale and Connie Rieger

December Program

SAAS Member's Potluck and Slide Fest

Presented by the SAAS membership

October Field Trips

Owl Banding with Ed Pike and Selena Creed

Friday, October 3 [7:00 p.m.]

Ed Pike and Selena Creed, the MSRW owl bander, will demonstrate how owls are banded and what data is required for each owl banded.

Ed has studied and banded owls for over 20 years in the Straits Area. Selena Creed is a recent graduate biologist from LSSU and has worked with Ed in the past.

When owls are captured, we will watch as Ed and Selena record data on each bird, band the bird and then release it.

Ed and Selena banding



Photo by Bev Kirby

This is a great opportunity to view owls close up. Dress warmly and bring a lawn chair.

Northern Saw-whet Owl with band



Photo by Bev Kirby

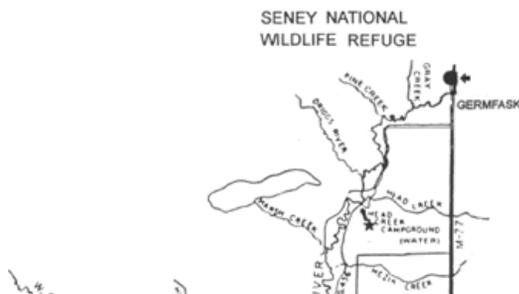
We will meet at the Bridge View Park at the northwest end of the Mackinaw Bridge at 7 PM and Ed will guide us to his banding station. To reach the park, cross the bridge, exit US 2 west and immediately turn left (south) onto Boulevard Dr. and follow down to park on the lake shore. Boulevard Drive is directly across from the Shell Station. Questions, call Ed Pike 231-758-3319. Rain date will be Saturday, October 4, same time and meeting place.

Seney National Wildlife Sanctuary

Saturday, October 4

Take a beautiful float down the Manistique River and see the beautiful fall colors. Join refuge staff for a 4-5 hour canoe/kayak trip October 4th, 2014.

Manistique River



Early October is a beautiful time to visit the Refuge as the leaves will be changing color. Pack a lunch, dress for the weather (could be warm or cool), and remember to pre-register so we know that you're coming. Bring your own boat or rent one from one of the local outfitters Contact Sara Giles for more details at SaraGiles@fws.gov or call (906) 586-9851 x10.

Oden State Fish Hatchery

Friday, October 10, 2014

The new Oden State Fish Hatchery complex was completed in 2002 and is one of the most advanced fish culture facilities of its kind. This facility is a brown and rainbow trout brood stock station and is a major rearing facility of those two species. Come join us for a tour of the facility. Call Donna and Don for details and to sign up. 906-201-0285

Wolverine train car



Photo – MI DNR

Oden State Fish Hatchery - Main Hatchery Building.



Photo - MI DNR

Waterfowl Extravaganza around the Straits of Mackinac

Thursday, October 30 [8:00 a.m.]

Join field trip leaders Steve Baker and Ed Pike for this birding extravaganza. Explore multiple sites along the north shore of the Mackinac Straits as we search for migratory waterfowl

Expect to see 20 plus species of our web-footed friends, including White-winged Scoter, thousands of Redheads, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, and Common Loon.

more confident in our identification of these gourmet delights.

Thanks Marilyn

Scanning the Straits for waterfowl



Photo by Jack Kirby

Migrating raptors such as Rough-legged Hawk and Bald Eagle should be moving through the area as well as early winter birds, including Snow Bunting and Northern Shrike. Dress for the weather, trip goes rain or shine. We will meet at the Mackinaw City Highway Rest Area/ State Welcome Center. We will eat lunch at a local restaurant and you should expect to be birding all day. Contact Steve Baker at 231-238-8723 or e-mail steveandsuebaker@gmail.com to sign up.

Birding Pigeon River Country

Submitted by Bev Kirby

On a beautiful last day of summer, led by Don and Donna Mittlestat, we walked the Railroad grade of the North Central Railway near Wolverine past a large beaver pond. Birds were scarce, although we did find 34 species, and the scenery was hard to beat. A Northern Harrier gave us great views as it flew back and forth and around us in the marsh.

Northern Harrier



Photo by Jack Kirby

Field Trip Reports

Fall Mushrooms with Marilyn Smith

by Donna Mittlestat

With our recent rains and cool weather it was a perfect morning to explore the woods looking for mushrooms.

Marilyn showing mushrooms to the group



Photo by Donna Mittlestat

Friday, Sept. 12th Marilyn Smith led a group of 10 through the Seven Springs Preserve in search of edible and non edible fungi. She did a marvelous job of explaining the various mushrooms we found. We left feeling just a bit

A Solitary Sandpiper worked its way along the mud edge and Green Heron, Hooded Merganser, Canada Geese, American Kestrel and a mature Bald Eagle were noted here. Along the trail we spotted White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker and heard Ruffed Grouse drumming. Leaving this area we drove to Cook's Orchard which is an extensive field and savannah habitat. Vesper Sparrows were everywhere and we saw Horned Lark, American Pipit, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Flicker, Sharp-shinned Hawk and White-crowned Sparrow. We saw quite a few Leafy Spurge Hawk Moth caterpillars, a species we had first seen last fall on this trip, and a Woollybear caterpillar loping across the trail. Contrary to popular mythology, the Woollybear caterpillars are no better than the National Weather Service at long-range winter forecasting.

The Field Trippers



Photo by Steve Baker

On to lunch in Wolverine where we discussed all we had seen on our outdoor adventure. Thanks to Don and Donna

for taking us to some of their favorite areas in the Pigeon River Country. Participants were Don and Donna Mittlestat, Jack and Bev Kirby, Steve Baker, Esther Summers, Diane Morand and Janet Trudeau.

Field Report

**Audubon Bluebird Trail - Major City Park
2014 Final Report
July 2014**

by Alice MacFarland

This is the fifth year for this trail located along the east side of the Cheboygan River in an area of open field separated from the river by a section of trees and bushes. This year, we had only 3 boxes. Box #8, named Divine by the youth who constructed the box, was home to chickadees. This was the first box to be nested in this year (May 5th) and the nest was identified easily as a chickadee nest even though throughout the season no chickadee was seen. Nesting materials were almost exclusively moss and lichens. The eggs were small and white.



Each early visit I placed my hand into the box and felt the eggs. They were always very warm to the touch. Later it was the same with the chicks, but never a mom around. All birds fledged by June 21. On May 19th a complete swallow's nest was found in Box #9, Cool House. By May 28th six eggs were visible, On June 2 swallows were flying around. I noticed an interesting thing this year. The swallows formed what seemed to be guardian groups of 5 or 6 swallows that patrolled the nests, swooping and circling. On June 12 there were 3 eggs and 3 hatchlings.

The mom flew out of the box right at me instead of exiting via the circular entry hole. By July 11 this box was empty. Although there was a completed nest in Box 10, Greeny, by May 28, there were only 3 eggs and no mom visible.

However on June 2 there were 6 eggs and a single swallow flying around. On June 13 there were 4 hatchlings and 2 un-hatched eggs. The following June 21 6 birds were in the nest; June 28 about 6 adults were swooping visitors; and, finally on 7/11 the house was abandoned. Wrapping up, we estimate 18 successful fledges from 3 boxes. No predation, no interference from other bird species or people and no un-hatched eggs.



Field Report

Final Hawk Count Tally

By Kathy Bricker

The 2014 Hawk Count for the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch ran from March 15 through June 4, with the final tally of 43,191 raptors. Professional counter Kevin Georg and local volunteer experts counted for 481 hours and identified sixteen species, including the site's first Ferruginous Hawk, a prairie species. Below is the final count.

Turkey Vulture	3467
Osprey	122
Bald Eagle	649
N. Harrier	82
Sharp-shinned	1836
Coopers Hawk	38
N. Goshawk	5
Red-shouldered	58
Broad-winged	26709
Red-tailed Hawk	9702
Rough-legged	278
Golden Eagle	164
Am. Kestrel	37
Merlin	26
Unknown accipiter	11
Unknown buteo	3
Ferruginous Hawk	1
Swainson's hawk	3

Mackinac Straits fall Owl Banding Program

The Mackinac Straits fall owl banding began September 24, with four to nine owls caught nightly so far. For latest news on the numbers, species, and other interesting tidbits, visit www.mackinacraptorwatch.org. I just read professional biologist Selena Creed's news of 9-27 "Is that a long-eared in the net? Well, yes. Yes, the being had long ears. However, it wasn't an owl at all, it was a snowshoe hare.

Snowshoe Hare



I-net Photo

One can imagine my excitement as I approached the net and saw that something was in it. The excitement quickly subsided when I saw that it had fur instead of feathers. The snowshoe was released unharmed, but I cannot say the same for the net."

MSRW thanks all the in-kind and outright contributors to this research, including SAAS. Ed Pike, committee chair, says "We hope people will be inspired to help again with the first-ever comprehensive hawk and owl surveys in this pivotal region."

SAAS Chapter Notes

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Rose Rynerson

Thanks to all for your generosity and participation!
Welcome to our newest members:

Leslie Carmin
Catherine Freebairn
Jim Harrison & Family
Cyndi Kress
Mary Kress
Bob & Nancy Nutter
Mary Ellen Price & Family

In September the Straits Area Audubon Society received a very special donation in memory of **Catherine Monday**.

SAAS strives to be a responsible steward of the resources collected for preservation and enjoyment of our beloved local birds

Indian Summer

Along the line of smoky hills
The crimson forest stands,
And all the day the blue-jay calls
Throughout the autumn lands.

Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumachs on the hills
Have turned their green to red.

Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day
Wild birds are flying south.

By William Wilfred Campbell - 1860-1919
Born at Kitchener, Ontario
Was known as the Poet of the Great Lakes

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

Upper Peninsula Bird Listing

www.upbird.org

Northern Michigan Conservation Network

<http://nmconservationnetwork.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]