

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 Street. 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 Rose 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:
Rose Rynerson - Treasurer
10490 E. US 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Attention

Please note the change of email address for our SAAS Secretary, Janet Trudeau to: jktru@icloud.com

October Program

“Sound as an Indicator of Ecosystem Health: Sex and the Soundscape” October 14, 2015

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

“Sound as an Indicator of Ecosystem Health: Sex and the Soundscape” is guaranteed to expand your awareness of your surroundings. Stuart H Gage, Ph. D., of the Global



Observatory for Ecosystem Services, Michigan State University, will explain his several decades of research on the soundscape in different areas, and consequences of the changes he has recorded. Remember the 1970 hit *Big Yellow Taxi* by Joni Mitchell, with the refrain “Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got til it's gone?” You will learn

in this program what changes have happened in the past 45 years in terms of human-generated noise. Think about it – what if your sweet cooings of endearment to your loved one get drowned out by freeway traffic? Will you have to move your home in order to be heard? Come and learn whether this is happening to wildlife, restricting their usable habitat. During his extensive professional career, Dr. Gage has worked or taught in Saskatchewan, Australia, New Zealand, and San Diego and La Jolla, California. From his summer home on Twin Lakes, this entomologist (insect ecology specialist) will lead a field trip for SAAS later in the week to demonstrate his recording techniques and findings on this site. The evening is free and open to the public. Door and raffle prizes will be available to all attendees. After nature sightings and upcoming field trips, we will enjoy refreshments brought by Diane Morand and Al and Jean Moberly.

November Program

“Bring It Cheboygan: Reducing Plastic Bag Waste” By: David Martin - Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice and the Environment November 11, 2015

Field Trip Reports

Walk the Railroad Grade and Green Timbers Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Submitted by: Bev Kirby



On a late summer morning, 7 members of the Straits Area Audubon Society walked along the Railroad Grade in Pigeon River Country looking and listening for birds, watching for dragonflies, checking out plants and enjoying the great Michigan outdoors.

Led by Don and Donna

Mittlestat, we walked to an old abandoned beaver pond where we were happy to see a Solitary Sandpiper, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, and not so happy to see a Double-Crested Cormorant which was sitting in the pond. American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Great Blue Heron, Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Phoebe, Black-throated Green Warbler, Northern Flicker, Swamp Sparrow, American Robin, American Crow, Common Raven and Pileated Woodpecker were seen or heard. A buck was seen crossing back and forth across the trail ahead of us. After two hours here, we drove to the Cook's Woods and Green Timbers area. Elk tracks were seen along the field of buckwheat and lots of Vesper Sparrows were flushed from the grass as we approached. Wild Turkey, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Sandhill Cranes were all seen and the best bird of the day was the Golden Eagle which flew over the fields before disappearing above the distant trees.



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A Praying Mantis was spotted landing in the grass. With Blue Jay, Starling and Mourning Dove added, 26 species of birds were noted. A delicious lunch was had at the newly renovated Thirsty Sturgeon restaurant in Wolverine. Thanks to Don and Donna for again sharing one of their favorite spots. Participants.... Don and Donna Mittlestat, Jack and Bev Kirby, Steve Baker, Gloria and Tom Cadwalader.

Forest Habitat and our Area Birds September 21, 2015

Submitted by: Al & Jean Moberly



Brittany VanderWall, area forester, was well received as presenter at our SAAS general meeting on September 9, 2015. On September 21, Brittany followed up on that presentation, leading a group of SAAS members and guests into the woods of Cheboygan State Park. The group explored a variety of settings including wetlands, open forest lands and waterfront. Brittany ably explained the natural succession of the forest, effects of both good and bad cutting of woodlands and told of the effects on wildlife including birds. Attending the field trip were Jim and Kathy Bricker, Al and Jean Moberly, Dale Giddings, Sylvia Haller, Esther Summers, Herm Boatin, Darrell Schwalm, and Chris Ross. A rare sighting was of the destructive Dalecupine gnawing on a park sign.



Beach Walk & Potluck Thursday, September 24, 2015

Submitted by: Donna Mittlestat and Bev Kirby

In June of this year for our last SAAS meeting of the season, and after a wonderful hike and potluck at the home of Doctor Roger and Ann Benter, it was decided that we should do this again in the fall so that we could see the change in the plants on the shoreline. And of course, we all love a potluck!! 😊

Thursday, September 24, 2015, was the designated date and 15 hikers walked the Lake Huron shore from the Benter's home to the Grass Bay Preserve. Even with water levels high, the walkers were able to keep their feet dry and notice some of the plants

which were still blooming along the beach..... Sticky False Asphodel, Horned Bladderwort, Fringed Gentians, Kalm's Lobelia, Purple Gerardia and Nodding Ladies'-Tresses to name a few. When the hikers returned they joined the others present to make a



group of 22 and we began enjoying the spread put out before us. What a feast of appetizers, dinner and desserts! Doc and Ann are the perfect hosts and we want to thank them again for opening their beautiful Lake Huron home to all of us. We always look forward to these gatherings and can't wait for the next one!





Sandhill Cranes at Rudyard Friday, September 25, 2015

Submitted by: Bev Kirby



This is the time of year when the Sandhill Cranes start to gather for migration. Led by Steve Baker, a group of 6 drove to Rudyard to see how many Cranes we could find in the fields.

On Hantz Road we found a gathering of 800-900 Sandhill Cranes. What a sight and what a noise!! We would never tire of the sound and sight of these wonderful birds as they jostled and flew and landed all around us.

We were all excited to see not one but two Peregrine Falcons, a Merlin, 2 American Kestrels, 1 adult and 3 juvenile Bald Eagles, 8 Rusty Blackbirds, and 4 Northern Harriers, one of which was a nice gray male. American Pipits flew in chattering flocks and we saw Savannah Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows and 2 Eastern Phoebes. The Sandhill Cranes were the stars of the show and we circled back to that field to watch them all over again. Thanks to Steve for leading another successful trip. Participants: Jack and Bev Kirby, Janet Trudeau, Bill Grigg, Esther Summers, and Sharon Szczesny.



Scheduled Field Trips

Soundscape Field Trip October 15, 2015

Contact: Al Moberly

On Thursday, October 15, 2015, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon there will be a Soundscape field trip near Twin Lakes. This is a follow-up to the SAAS program by Dr. Stuart Gage on October 14. We will meet at the Gage cabin at 9:30 AM, 9929 Crawford Lane, Cheboygan, MI, 49721. (Directions: Twin Lakes Rd to Smith Rd (on the way to Twin Lakes Campground) then left at first set of mail boxes (Crawford Lane) then right past new garage to Gage cabin (owl sign in the woods)).

The field trip will involve the collection of digital recordings from a nearby Song Meter which records the soundscape for 1 minute every 30 minutes 24/7. Then we will copy the recordings to a hard drive and listen to some of the recordings. Then we will compute soundscape indices from a selected full day of recordings (48 recordings). We will display pictures of the recordings to see the patterns in the soundscape. We will then discuss what we hear and see. We will point to a web site where we can hear and see lots of recordings. If you bring a USB stick you can have the recordings we examine.

Waterfowl Extravaganza around the Straits of Mackinac

Thursday, October 29, 2015, 8:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Steve Baker



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. 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.



Other Events

Invitation to Nature Film on Bhutan October 8, 2015

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Noted nature film-maker Tom Sterling returns north this October 8, presenting for the Petoskey Kiwanis Club's Travel & Adventure Film Series. His personally-narrated movie, *Bhutan: The Cloud Kingdom* will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 8, 2015, at the Petoskey High School Auditorium. Tickets at the door are \$8.

A few years ago, Tom gave a special film for SAAS as a fundraiser and also did a free youth program for SAAS at the Cheboygan Middle School. Jim and I have seen his Bhutan film several times and highly recommend this exploration of the tiny Himalayan Kingdom. Tom respectfully treats the history and culture of Bhutan, while offering natural history pluses of footage from the cloud forest and of wildlife. Over 72% of Bhutan is still forested and wildlife sanctuaries and national parks fully protect 25% of the country. These natural havens are home to some of the world's most spectacular creatures such as blackneck cranes, golden langur monkeys, tigers, takins, blue sheep and gorals.

MSRW Owl Survey/Banding October 9, 2015

Submitted by: Ed Pike

MSRW (Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch) will host a field trip the evening of Oct. 9th (rain date Oct. 10th). Participants should meet at the Bridge Overlook, (just west of I-75 off US 2 turn south [at the Moose] and go by the Father Marquette memorial) at 7:00 pm., at the overlook building. From there all will travel to the Survey location. Bring a chair, a flashlight, and a snack depending upon how long you plan to stay. (Campfire wood, which can be purchased at the Holiday Station, is appreciated). Surveys run from dusk to dawn except during inclement weather or when there are high winds. We will discuss the Owls migrating through the area and hopefully capture a Northern Saw-whet Owl for everyone to see being measured, banded, and released. This trip is limited to 15, contact Ed Pike, EdandAnne6750@gmail.com or tx [231-758-3319](tel:231-758-3319) to sign up.

Celebrate 50 Years! October 13, 2015

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Our sister Audubon society in Alpena has invited SAAS members to join their 50th anniversary celebration. Register as soon as possible for the Thunder Bay Audubon Society's event on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. Jim and I can personally vouch for a very high quality program, as we have supported Sergej Postupalsky's raptor research since the 1970s. Jonathan Lutz, of course, heads Michigan Audubon and also is a superb presenter. And the Besser Museum is a gem of the North.

October 13, 2015

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan,
491 Johnson Street, Alpena
5:00 Self-guided Museum Tour (optional)
6:00 Welcome & Hors d'oeuvres
7:00 Program includes**

- Jonathan E. Lutz, Executive Director of Michigan Audubon Society
- Sergej Postupalsky, Wildlife biologist/Osprey researcher
- PowerPoint presentation of the last 50 years

Cost: \$12 per person, payable at door. Please RSVP by October 1st to Linda lklemens@ymail.com or Karen 989-595-3585

News of Interest

Comments to [Kettleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kettleeditor@gmail.com)

Members Steve and Kathy forwarded this interesting observation. Has anyone else experienced this behavior? Send comments to: kettleeditor@gmail.com

"This summer we have been watching some busy hummingbirds in our yard. We put out a couple of those nectar feeders and soon got a couple of hummers nesting in the trees out back. Those two added three young to the neighborhood."

"They go through two cups of nectar in three days and if I'm not out there cleaning the feeders and replacing the nectar when its low we get hummingbirds hovering in our faces, a foot or two away, if we show up outside. This never happens when the feeders are not low. It's happened at least twice to Kathy and I in the past month. Very comical, I wonder if anyone else had this happen?"

SAAS Chapter Notes

Program Schedule

December 9, 2015 - "Potluck and Member Slide Fest"
By: SAAS members

January 13, 2016 - "Adventures in Peru and Ecuador"
By: Doug Fuller and Martha Lancaster

February 10, 2016 - "Kirtland's Warbler Initiative:
Sustaining the Success"
By: Abigail Ertel - Huron Pines

March 9, 2016 - "Frogs of Michigan and Their Voices"
By: Jim McGrath - Nature Discovery

April 13, 2016 - "Plight of the Monarch" Film
By: Kirby and Cindy Pringle - Dogtown Artworks, IL

May 11, 2016 - "Bird Song of the Spring Woods:
Identifying Birds by Ear"
By: Gerard Lillie, Audubon Society of Portland, OR

June 8, 2016 - "Hike and Potluck"

SAAS General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau, Secretary

Date: Sept. 9, 2015 - Attendance: 48 members 10 guests

Program: Forest Management "It's For The Birds", By Brittany VanderWall

President Jean Moberly welcomed members and guests. Kathy Bricker introduced Brittany VanderWall, District Forester for Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties. She presented slides showing how forest management will emulate and benefit birds as well as wildlife. She works with private landowners giving advice and education on landscape ecology. Questions and answers followed the presentation which was also informative.

Al Moberly discussed the up and coming field trips which are in this months Kettle. Gloria Cadwalader moved and Linda Rogers seconded that we disperse our funds as recommended by the executive committee :

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch \$1500
Cheboygan Public Library \$150
Earth Week \$100

Bev Kirby led the nature sighting discussion. Ed Pike talked about counting migrating water birds at McGulpin Point. They are counting 3 days a week four hours a day. Hopefully the numbers of water birds will pick up as fall arrives. Refreshments were brought by Jim & Kathy Bricker and Ann & Roger Benter, Jean Moberly, and Diane Matthews.

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Door prize won by: Ann Benter - Book
"Audubon Guide to the Night Skies"
Raffle prize won by: Stan Neff - Honey
"donated by Dale Giddings"
Connie Fisher - Book
"North America Bird Feeding Guide"

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by: Rose Rynerson

Welcome to new members: Mark Paddock
The Lois Cantrell family

We hope you will share your bird sightings with us. SAAS currently has 115 members enjoying terrific scenes in the woods and at feeders this month.

For Your Information

Online Extras - Kettle Dropbox

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor

The October photos/videos have been added to the Kettle Dropbox. All you, the reader, has to do is click on the provided link to see these images (for those receiving the **Kettle** by snail mail: type the link information into your computer's browser to view the images) The pictures/videos have a retention limit of one year. If you take bird or nature pictures and think they might be of interest to our members, send them along to: kettleeditor@gmail.com

For October the extra content can be found at:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3t6tn5m82on28oi/AADWacoprvv0Qe1Rjx6Rd5B_a?dl=0

The photographers are sharing their work with the readers. By virtue of submitting their pictures to the **Kettle** they are granting permission to view their work. Permission should be obtained before downloading or copying any of the pictures or videos.

Hint For Using Dropbox:

On a **Mac**, after clicking on the dropbox link, a folder inside dropbox will open (takes a few seconds), a group of large thumbnails of the pictures will appear. Double click on the first picture to view it, use the right arrow key to move through the remaining pictures. The escape key will return you to the list view.

On an **iPad** the folder will open with a list view complete with the thumbnails of the pictures. Double click on the top thumbnail to open that picture/video. From there you should swipe to view the remainder of the pictures. Cancel to quit.

On a Windows Computer... you are on your own :>

Straits Area Audubon Society 2015 - 2016 Officers

President: **Jean Moberly** - 231-268-9726
normich@gmail.com
Vice President: **Chris Grant** - 231-238-8216
chrisgrant723@yahoo.com
Treasurer: **Rose Rynerson** - 231-597-9788
fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com
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jktru@icloud.com
Past President: **Dale Giddings** - 231-525-8874
Exe.Com. At-Large: **David Bricker** - 248-651-6865
brickerscd@yahoo.com
MAS Rep.: **Diane Morand** - 231-627-4282
mdlmorand@aol.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 Editors

All articles and photos for **THE KETTLE** should be submitted to the editors' email box (kettleeditor@gmail.com) five days BEFORE the end of a publication month. This will allow the email edition to be sent out by the 1st of the month and the printed edition to be mailed by the 4th. Thank you - Gloria Cadwalader, Publication Editor and Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor.

SAAS THANKS

Williams Office Equipment for donating printing costs for **The Kettle**. Please consider them for all your **Computer, Copier, Printer, and Fax needs**.
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