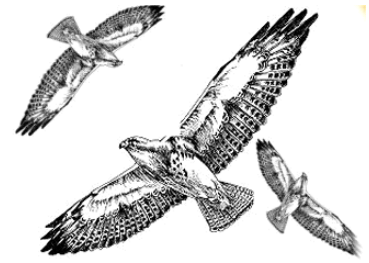


THE KETTLE



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 Gerry Vanderhart
7004 N. Straits Hwy., Box88
Mullet Lake, MI 49761

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:
Gerry Vanderhart – Treasurer
7004 N. Straits Hwy., Box88
Mullet Lake, MI 49761

September Program

Wednesday, September 12 [6:00 p.m.]

Forest Succession at the University of Michigan Biological Station



This program will be presented by Luke Nave, Ph.D., full-time resident of northern Michigan. Luke serves as Coordinator of the National Soil Carbon Network, based at the University of Michigan Biological Station. Dr. Nave gave a superb presentation at last April's EarthWeekPlus on his pivotal research on our forests. We

welcome him to SAAS to kick off our 2012 season. Luke will discuss changes from the forest floor to the top canopy caused by removing aspen trees from the forest. What trees take over? What implications are there for global warming because of carbon either taken up or released into the atmosphere? Refreshments along with raffle and door prize drawings will follow the meeting.

October Program

Wednesday, October 10 [6:00 p.m.]

What's The Point?

This program will be presented by Tony Janisch, the



Executive Director of the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, working at the Paradise headquarters. Tony has nearly 20 years of experience working for and managing environmental education and interpretive facilities.

Tony comes to WPBO from Illinois, where he worked as an Instructor for the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (WI), teaching adult basic photovoltaic's (solar electric) workshops and youth renewable energy programs. Besides bird & wildlife conservation and education; Tony has a passion for backpacking. In 2006, Tony and his wife thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail, completing the 2,000+ mile journey in 6 1/2 months.

Tony has a Masters in Recreation Administration from Aurora University (IL) and Bachelors in Natural Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Migrating from Illinois with Tony are his wife Tara and their two small daughters

Upcoming Field Trips

Tuesday, September 11 [8:00 a.m.]

Waugoshance Point Day Hike

Hike out to Waugoshance Point in Wilderness State Park in search of migrating birds and fall flowers and insects. We hope to find American Golden-Plovers, one of the real champions of long distance migration [9000 miles!].



Meet at the Mackinaw City State Welcome Center at 8 am. **Trip**

will be cancelled if rainy.

Please call or email Steve Baker to sign up. [231-238-8723] - SteveAndSueBaker@gmail.com

Saturday, September 15 [1:00 p.m.] **The amazing life of Honey Bees**

Learn about the amazing life of honey bees with expert Bee Keeper Dale Giddings. Dale will share his knowledge of bees and you will have the opportunity to don the Bee Suit and visit active hives. This is a great opportunity for families to learn together as most of Dale's Bee Suits are sized for the young. Directions: Head south of Indian River about 7 miles on Old 27/South Straits Highway and turn right onto Haakwood Rd, go 1/2 mile to "T" and go right onto Bilder Road and follow to dead end at Dale's place, 10710 Bilder Rd. **Cancelled if rainy day [bees don't like the rain].**

Thursday, September 20 [8:00 am]

Birding Pigeon River Country



Visit some very productive bird habitats in the Pigeon River Country with Don and Donna Mittlestat, who know this area well. We will visit a very impressive Beaver dam along the North Central Rail Trail which is a magnet for birds and other wildlife. Otters have been seen here recently. We will also travel to an extensive field and savannah habitat with abundant seeds and fruits which birds find irresistible.

Meet at Shultz's Store and Gas Station, which is just east of the I-75 Wolverine exit. Call Don and Donna to sign up at 906-201-0285 **Cancelled if rainy day.**

**Saturday, September 22 [9:00 a.m.]
Fern Trip to the UP**

Celebrate the Autumnal Equinox with a trip to the Niagara Escarpment and see and learn about the many unusual ferns that grow there. Pack a lunch for eating at a nearby beautiful lakeside homestead of friends who are living off the grid. After lunch we will visit a northern Lake Huron beach fen for late blooming flowers and migrating birds.



Meet in Mackinaw City at 9 am at the State Welcome Center/ Rest Area.

Limit of 12 people and this is a combined trip with the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society. Rain or shine, this trip is a go.

Please call or email Steve Baker to sign up. [231-238-8723] - SteveAndSueBaker@gmail.com

**Wednesday, September 26 [9:00 a.m.]
U of M Biological Station - "Bug Camp"**



Join us for a walking tour of the U of M Biological Station with resident biologist Bob VandeKopple. Bob will share some of the interesting research projects at the "bug camp" such as the underground root lab, climate and weather studies, Native American cache pits, and a visit to the bird study skin collection. Meet at the volleyball court by the dining hall down by

the lake shore in the center of the camp. The Bio Station is located off Riggsville Rd, west of I-75. Rain or shine.

Friday, October 12 [10:00 am]

Fall Mushrooms



Mushroom expert Marilyn Smith will lead us through a local forest and share her knowledge of the fungi, including those which are good to eat. This is always a popular trip and we are pushing the season a bit but are hopeful for an extended fall. Location to be determined. Call Steve Baker to sign up at 231-238-8723 and location and directions will be provided in October. Cancelled if snowing.

SAAS Chapter Notes:

Important Notes from SAAS Planning Retreat 2012-2013

Notice : We discussed the possibility of starting monthly meetings earlier, so that we can vacate the Cheboygan Area Public Library earlier in the evening. This would help many people, especially Library staff, who face a long drive home at night. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to start our meetings at 6:00 pm instead of 6:30**, with the goal of ending by 8 pm generally and 8:30 pm at the latest.

**Straits Area Audubon Society 2012-2013
Officers and Volunteer Names**

VOTED BY MEMBERS at May 2012 annual meeting

Executive Committee

President:	Dale Giddings
Vice President:	Jim Bricker
Treasurer:	Gerry Vanderhart
Secretary:	Kate Caldwell
Past President:	Roger Benter
Executive Com. At-Large:	Gloria Cadwalader
MAS Representative:	Donna Mittlestat

Other Volunteers

Treasurer's Assistant:	Position Open
Greeter:	Susan Emerson
Greeter Assistants:	Dale Rieger
	Connie Rieger
	Kathy Bricker
	Steve Baker
Field Trips:	Ed Pike
Bird Counts:	Glen Matthews
Conservation Chair:	Judy Vanderhart
Raffle/Door Prize:	Maureen Conklin
Raffle Assistants:	Roy MacFarland
	Alice MacFarland
Refreshments:	Bev Kirby
Nature Sightings:	Vickie Lyon
N. Central MI Trail Cleanup:	Darrell Schwalm
	Bobie Crongeyer
Youth Outreach:	Position Open
EarthWeekPlus Liaison:	Jack Kirby
Kettle Editor:	Williams Office Supply
Kettle Printer:	Ann Benter
Kettle Producer:	Roy MacFarland
Audiovisual/Web Master:	Cheboygan Area Public
Meeting Space Provider:	Library

MIGRATION IN MICHIGAN

by Donna Mittlestat

Some birds are still feeding their young while others are moving south towards their winter homes. In an adult bird's life migration is the time of greatest danger with their highest mortality rates. Over 200 species of birds nest in Michigan and about 90% of them migrate to some extent. Michigan birds can belong to several groups: permanent residents (i.e. Black-capped Chickadees), summer residents (i.e. Kirtland's Warbler), winter residents (i.e. Juncos), and transients (i.e. White-crowned Sparrows).



There are also obligate partial migrants, where part of the population migrates annually like the American Goldfinch. We see them over the entire year but some of the ones seen during the winter may have nested in Canada. Finally there are irruptions of bird

species when a sequence of events leads birds not normally seen to come to our area (i.e. Snowy Owl, Redpolls, Pine Siskin, etc).

Grab your binoculars and head outside to enjoy seeing our feathered friends on their flight south. This can be done by taking any one of our SAAS field trips or by visiting your favorite Nature Website for their outdoor activities .

species when a sequence of events leads birds not normally seen to come to our area (i.e. Snowy Owl, Redpolls, Pine Siskin, etc).

SAAS FYI: What Do the Terms Crepuscular, Diurnal, and Nocturnal Mean?

Crepuscular, diurnal, and nocturnal are terms which are used to describe the period of the day during which an animal is active. Many animals develop distinctive behavioral patterns which are part of their overall adaptation to the environments that they live in. Periods of activity tend to be easy for biologists to observe, and they are commonly used as tools to assess whether or not animals are stressed, frustrated, or pressured into unusual behavior. Knowledge about when an animal is supposed to be active can also be used as an indicator to suggest that an animal might be sick; owls, for example, are usually seen at night, making an owl a cause for concern if it is seen at noon.

When an animal is said to be crepuscular, it is active during the twilight hours at dawn and dusk. The word "crepuscular" is derived from a Latin word which means "twilight." Many animals take advantage of the twilight to feed, seek out water, and engage in other behaviors because they know that predators are not as active in the twilight. Visibility is also challenging at dawn and dusk, making it easier for

animals to hide from potential threats. Rabbits and cats are both famously crepuscular.

Nocturnal animals, on the other hand, only come out at night. Many of these animals have a specially developed sense of vision which helps them to see in the dark, and they often have excellent hearing as well. There are a number of reasons for an animal to be nocturnal; many desert animals, for example, are active at night because it is cooler, and their rate of water loss is decreased as a result. Two famous nocturnal animals are bats and owls. Animals who are active during the day are known as diurnal. Like crepuscular and nocturnal animals, the daily patterns of diurnal animals are established through circadian rhythms, patterns built into their body chemistry. Being active during the day certainly has some advantages, especially for animals with poor visibility like humans. Humans also have a tendency to encourage diurnal behavior among the animals they interact with; dogs, for example, are naturally crepuscular, but they learn to become diurnal through human interactions.

A disruption of an animal's established biological rhythms can be harmful. Nocturnal animals, for example, tend to feel very disoriented when they are forced to be active during the day, and this can cause a feeling of stress and unhappiness which can have a negative impact on the animal's health. Diurnal animals are not adapted to being active at night, which means that they can be vulnerable to predation when they are out and about after dark, while crepuscular animals like deer can feel very stressed when they are out in the heat of the day or late at night, and this can cause them to engage in odd behaviors like running into traffic.

Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society



MICHIGAN audubon 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]