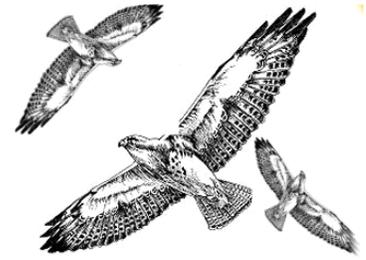


# THE KETTLE



## Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 pm.** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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**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

## September Program

### **Hawks in the Hand: A Falconer's Experience**

Wednesday September 10, [6:00 pm]

Presented by Kenn Filkins

Come see a live hawk and hear about them from Kenn Filkins, a falconer from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Kenn breeds Harris's hawks, a western species, hunts with them, and has cared for many other raptors, including a snowy owl.

Kenn Filkins and Roger Benter



Photo by Jim Bricker

Kenn served as president of both the Indiana Falconers Association and the Iowa Falconers Association before moving back to his home state of Michigan in 1990. Kenn has written ten books and thousands of magazine and news articles, on falconry, fly fishing, and faith. He edited and wrote for the award-winning North American Falconers Association book, *Bond with the Wild: A Celebration of American Falconry*. Two of his other books are *A Sophisticated Form of Hawk Watching* and *Fly Fishing for Salmon and Steelhead of the Great Lakes*. Kenn has served as a Christian pastor for 30-plus years, currently at New Beginning Church in the Sault and is past editor of the Sault Ste. Marie Evening News daily paper. Along the way, Kenn has won several writing and photography awards. Refreshments along with a raffle drawing will follow the meeting.

## SAAS 2014 - 2015 Programs

2014

Sept. 10 - **Hawks in the Hand: a Falconer's Experience** - by Ken Filkins  
 October 8 - **ebird: Easy Tracking of Field Trip Birds** - by Darrell Lawson  
 November 12 - **Bicycling with Lewis and Clark: The Katy Trail** - by Dale and Connie Rieger  
 December 10 - **Potluck and Member Slide Fest** - by SAAS members

2015

January 14 - **Great Lakes Invasive Species and Coastal Conservation** - by Jennifer Muladore, Huron Pines  
 February 11 - **Secret Lives of Michigan Salamanders** - by Jim McGrath, Nature Discovery  
 March 11 - **[to be determined]**  
 April 8 - **North Country Trail** - by Al and Jean Moberly  
 May 13 - **Six-legged Obsession: Why I look down** - by Mike Grant

## September Field Trips

### **Fall Mushrooms with Marilyn Smith**

Friday September 12, [10:00 a.m.]

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 this time we'll be exploring the Seven Springs Nature Preserve near Indian River

Marilynn Smith



Photo by J Kirby

We will meet at the entrance to Seven Springs Preserve on Chippewa Beach Rd. in Indian River. There is no need to register for this field trip. The trip will be cancelled if the weather is nasty. Questions, call Steve Baker; 231-238-8723.

### **Hike and Trail Maintenance at the Pat Grogan Bog**

[This is a Michigan Nature Association Field Trip]

**Thursday, September 18**

Enjoy a pleasant hike through this impressive wetland, home to numerous plants and animals. Bring knee boots if you want to venture into wetter parts of the sanctuary. We will be performing minor trail maintenance along the way. Contact Steve Baker for details, 231-238-8723 or [steveandsuebaker@gmail.com](mailto:steveandsuebaker@gmail.com)

Pat Grogan Bog



MNA Photo

**Birding Pigeon River Country****Monday, September 22**

Visit some very productive bird habitat in the Pigeon River Country with Don and Donna Mittlestat. We will walk a section of the railroad grade and see how a beaver site has changed over the years along with a variety of migratory birds. We will also travel an extensive field and savannah habitat for great bird sightings. Lunch after at the Thirsty Sturgeon if interested. Call Donna and Don for details and sign up. 906-201-0285 we will cancel if raining.

2013 Field Trip



Photo by J Kirby

**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. 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](mailto:SaraGiles@fws.gov) or call (906) 586-9851 x10.

**Owl Banding with Ed Pike****Friday, October 3 [7:00 p.m.]**

Ed has studied and banded owls for over 20 years in the Straits Area. Help Ed set up his mist nets at dusk and eagerly wait until dark when the Saw-whet Owl migration begins. If owls are captured, we will watch as Ed collects data on each bird, bands the bird and then releases them. This is a great opportunity to view owls close up. Dress warmly and bring a lawn chair.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

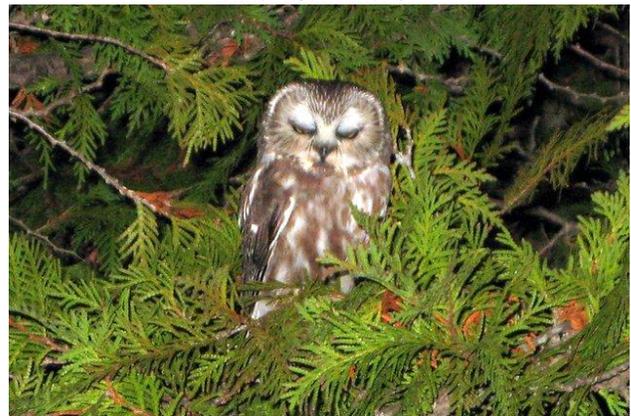


Photo by Jack Kirby

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.

**Field Trip Reports****Big Day Birdathon****Wednesday, May 21, 2014**

Submitted by Bev Kirby

Seven members of the Straits Area Audubon Society met at 6 am Wednesday, May 21, 2014 in Mackinaw City to begin

searching for as many species of birds as we could find. Pledges had already been made, and we were prompted to visit as many places as possible to see or hear lots of birds. It was 47 degrees with dense fog as we started, and we were hard pressed to see ponds, lakes or birds. The fog did not let up until after we crossed the Mackinac Bridge at 1 p.m. Led by Steve Baker and Ed Pike, we visited many habitats including French Farm Lake, Cecil Bay, 3 Wastewater Treatment Plants, 3 Motels, Mackinaw City waterfront and State Dock, 2 Gravel Pits, Dingman Marsh, Golf Course, Plant Nursery, Restaurant, Hawk Watch Site, Straits State Park, St. Ignace waterfront, Electric Plant, Cemetery, Pte.LaBarbe and many county roads in the Lower and Upper Peninsula. We found 20 species of Warblers with Wilson's, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Palm, Orange-Crowned, Bay-Breasted, Cape May, Magnolia and stunning Blackburnian leading the show. A surprise sighting of a Black-Crowned Night-heron was a highlight and it stayed around long enough for photos to be taken. Black Terns, Red-necked Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Northern Mockingbird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher and Green Heron were tallied. Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Common Goldeneye, Long-tailed Ducks, Common, Hooded and Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-Necked Duck, Bufflehead, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Canvasback, Redhead, Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal were waterfowl species checked off the list. We birded until 6 p.m. with a record total of 147 species seen or heard. Thanks to Ed Pike for compiling the species list. Participants were Steve Baker, Ed Pike, Jack and Bev Kirby, Don Mittlestat, Janet Trudeau and Kathy Bricker. Feeder watchers were Donna Mittlestat, Jim Bricker, Sue Baker, Dale Giddings, Glen Matthews, and Kevin Georg at the Hawk Watch.

For those who have already pledged money for each species or a lump sum, please send your check made out to:

Straits Area Audubon Society  
c/o Rose Rynerson,  
10490 East U.S. 23,  
Cheboygan, Michigan 49721

For those of you who have not contributed and still wish to do so, it is not too late. Please send your check to the above address. For those who have already remitted your pledged money and checks, we thank you.

## Seney National Wildlife Refuge Twilight Tour and Day Trip

Thursday, May 29 and Friday, May 30, 2014

Submitted by Bev Kirby

Ten members of the Straits Area Audubon Society boarded a small bus with Seney guides Jen McDonough and Dusty

Hoffman at 9 p.m. Thursday, May 29, 2014 to experience the night sounds of Seney. Accompanied by a few million mosquitoes, we stopped five or six times to get out and listen for birds, frogs, toads, and whatever else we could hear. Five specific birds were targeted and we listened for the calls of the Yellow Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora Rail, American Bittern and Least Bittern. We heard only the deep, slow, repetitive 'oonk-a-lunk' song of the American Bittern.

A wonderful sunset was enjoyed by all with beautiful views of the refuge reflected in the many pools.

Seney Sunset



Photo by Bev Kirby

The winnowing sound of a Wilson's Snipe could be heard and an American Woodcock flew close over us as we stood listening. Trumpeter Swans called. The intermittent call of Tree Frogs was heard, along with the continuous trill of toads and the banjo-like sound of the Green Frog. The stars and sky were beautiful. And, did I mention the mosquitoes? They were atrocious and ferocious and we did not stop slapping them or talking about them! As midnight neared, we were dropped off at spaced intervals on a path in the woods and were told we would be left for five minutes even though it would seem like twenty, ☺ to listen for different sounds that could be heard at night on the Refuge far from city lights and sounds. It was quite an experience. We returned to the Visitor Center after midnight and would come back in the morning to begin the tour again. On Friday, May 30, 2014 we boarded the bus at 9 a.m. with five more SAAS members joining our group along with two visitors. Dusty was our guide and driver as we drove the trails. We saw Muskrat, Beaver, Weasel, Bald Eagles, Common Loon, Trumpeter Swans, and many other birds along the route. At one of the pools that had been drawn down and had quite a bit of beach area, we saw Caspian Terns, Common Terns, Killdeer, Dunlin, Spotted Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Blue-winged Teal, Osprey and of course Canada Geese with goslings.

We saw a Belted Kingfisher and one of the members spotted its burrow in a sand bank. Near the ski trails we got out and walked through the woods admiring Canada Violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Spring Beauties and the beautiful greens of the spring woods. Our tour ended at 1 p.m. How lucky we are to have Seney National Wildlife Refuge close by so that we can visit whenever we choose. Thanks to Donna Mittlestat for making these arrangements for our visit to this great wilderness area.

Participants: SAAS Members Don and Donna Mittlestat, Jack and Bev Kirby, Janet Trudeau, Kathy and Jim Bricker, Gloria and Tom Cadwalader, Connie and Dale Rieger, Diane Morand, Darryl Schwalm, Jean and Al Moberly.  
Visitors: Doug Fuller and Martha Lancaster.

## Field Report

Submitted by Dale Giddings

She did it! That single Mom in the little house down the road raised her five offspring without help from the father, WIC, food stamps or the local food bank. Through hard work and determination she succeeded in sending all five out into the world, soaring to heights above their humble beginnings.

Dale checking box



Photo by Donna Mittlestat

I'm talking about the American Kestrels that nested in the same box as last year. This year a pair appeared sometime in April. I often saw both on the power line near the box. At the first nest check on May 17<sup>th</sup>, there was one egg. On May 24<sup>th</sup> there were five. (Last year they had four). The eggs were still there on June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>, and each time, the female flew from the box upon my approach. By the June 14<sup>th</sup> check, I realized I hadn't seen the male for quite some time, so I began spending more time watching the box, which is near the road, making it easy to observe from my parked car.

Chicks - 6/21/14



Photo by Steve Baker

By the time of the June 21<sup>st</sup> check, all of the eggs had hatched, probably two or three days previously. Again the

female flew out as I approached. No sign of the male. At this point, Steve Baker and /Don and Donna Mittlestat started making a photographic record of the progress, visiting once a week. We were not very optimistic about the chances of all five chicks surviving. It seemed like too much to expect from one parent so we always opened the box braced for what we thought was the inevitable. But each time, we counted five chicks, with no obvious runt.

During the raising of the chicks, I spent several hours watching from my parked car. One day I saw Mom fly to the box, stick her head in for a quick delivery, then fly across the road to a fence post where she could scan the hayfield. After a few seconds, she dropped down, grabbed something (most likely a grasshopper), flew back to the nest, and then repeated the cycle about once a minute. It wasn't always like that. One cool windy day I watched for over an hour and saw no food deliveries. (I'm sure she wasn't in the box because the chicks were too big by this time).

Chicks - 7/12/14



Photo by Donna Mittlestat

Finally, somewhere around July 25<sup>th</sup>, they fledged-----all five. The first couple of days I saw them sitting on the box or in nearby trees. Soon they were spreading out hunting in the hayfields farther and farther from their house. Now, August 12<sup>th</sup>, they have all left the area. Off to college I suppose.

## SAAS Chapter Notes

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Rose Rynerson

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings! I have good news to update you all with on the progress of our 2014 Big Day Birdathon pledges. \$1,253 has been collected and \$400 remains outstanding. Wow! Fundraising aside, the project is also significant as an annual snap-shot of Spring time bird populations in our area.

Our **For the Birds Quilt** raffle has already raised \$1,100 **beyond** its modest expenses of the State raffle license fee, ticket printing charges, and quilting costs. Amazing! Thanks, in advance, to our members, who generously help finance our upcoming SAAS programs. I have begun collecting membership dues for this **September, 2014 through May, 2015 season**. We don't invoice everyone -- instead we begin a campaign to follow-up for outstanding dues at the end of the calendar year -- submitting dues to me by mail or at a meeting really help make that job easier. Be sure to let me know if you have a new email address or phone number so that our roster can be updated. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again.

## Straits Area Audubon Society 2014 - 2015 Officers and Volunteers

### Executive Committee

President: **Dale Giddings** - 231-525-8874  
[No email]  
Vice President: **Connie Rieger** - 231-818-9065  
[conniereger@yahoo.com](mailto:conniereger@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: **Rosanne Rynerson** - 231-597-9788  
[fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com](mailto:fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com)  
Secretary: **Diane Morand** - 231-627-4282  
[mdlmorand@aol.com](mailto:mdlmorand@aol.com)  
Past President: **Roger Benter** - 231-627-3992  
[rogerbenter@gmail.com](mailto:rogerbenter@gmail.com)  
Exe.Com. At-Large: **Chris Grant** - 231-238-8216  
[chrisgrant723@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisgrant723@yahoo.com)  
MAS Representative: **Donna Mittlestat** - 906-201-0285  
[ddmstat@hotmail.com](mailto:ddmstat@hotmail.com)

### Staff Volunteers

Greeter: **Susan Emerson** - 231-625-9302  
[No email]  
**Darst and Eloise Grund** - 231-627-2980  
[dartsgrund@gmail.com](mailto:dartsgrund@gmail.com)  
Field Trip Coordinators:  
**Steve Baker** - 231-238-8723  
[steveandsuebaker@gmail.com](mailto:steveandsuebaker@gmail.com)  
**Donna Mittlestat** - 906-201-0285  
[ddmstat@hotmail.com](mailto:ddmstat@hotmail.com)  
Bird Counts:  
**Ed Pike** - 231-758-3319  
[aes05@localnet.com](mailto:aes05@localnet.com)  
**Steve Baker** - 231-238-8723  
[steveandsuebaker@gmail.com](mailto:steveandsuebaker@gmail.com)  
Bird Trail Monitors:  
**Roy and Alice MacFarland** - 231-597-8173  
[macfarlands@charter.net](mailto:macfarlands@charter.net)  
**Al and Jean Moberly** - 231-268-9726  
[normich@gmail.com](mailto:normich@gmail.com)  
Conservation Chair: **Glen Matthews** - 231-412-0833  
[gmatthews24@yahoo.com](mailto:gmatthews24@yahoo.com)

Raffle/Door Prize:

Gerry VanderHart - 231-627-6249  
[No E-mail]  
**Alice MacFarland** - 231-597-8173  
[macfarlands@charter.net](mailto:macfarlands@charter.net)

Refreshments:

**Karen Bush** - 231-625-2833  
[kbusch4980@gmail.com](mailto:kbusch4980@gmail.com)  
**Alice MacFarland** - 231-597-8173  
[macfarlands@charter.net](mailto:macfarlands@charter.net)

Nature Sightings: **Bev Kirby** - 231-625-9923  
[bevkirby@wowway.com](mailto:bevkirby@wowway.com)

Youth Outreach: **Al and Jean Moberly** - 231-268-9726  
[normich@gmail.com](mailto:normich@gmail.com)

EarthWeekPlus Liaison: **Judi Chimner** - 231-625-2691  
[judichimner@yahoo.com](mailto:judichimner@yahoo.com)

Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch:

**Kathy Bricker** - 231-627-4830  
[kathynaturelover@gmail.com](mailto:kathynaturelover@gmail.com)

Historian: **Gloria Cadwalader** - 231-290-0436  
[gcadwalader@gmail.com](mailto:gcadwalader@gmail.com)

## Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society



[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)

MNA (Michigan Nature Association)

[www.michigannature.org](http://www.michigannature.org)

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org/greatlakes>

Little Traverse Conservancy

[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

[www.wpbo.org](http://www.wpbo.org)

Upper Peninsula Bird Listing

[www.upbird.org](http://www.upbird.org)

Northern Michigan Conservation Network

<http://nmconservationnetwork.org>

HMANA Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

[http://hawkcount.org/month\\_summary.php?rsite=613](http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=613)

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

[www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

Thank you. **Jack Kirby** [[saaskettle2011@gmail.com](mailto:saaskettle2011@gmail.com)]