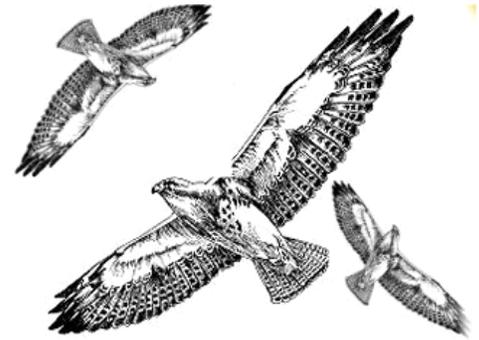


The Kettle

Straits Area Audubon Society newsletter dating from 1983



September 2008

Vol. 9 No. 5

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September Meeting Announcement

by Jim Bricker

Come on September 10, 7 pm at the Cheboygan Public Library to hear our local biologist and bird of prey expert, Ed Pike, tell about the exciting owls of northern Michigan. Learn about the unique design of owl wing feathers and other adaptations for a life of hunting. Children in particular may envy owls, since owl parents don't give a hoot when their babies swallow their food without chewing it. Ed's research confirms how our region attracts owls. He has banded hundreds of them, from the tiny saw-whet to the majestic great horned owl. Besides these breeders, winter visitors such as the great grey owl and snowy owl, will also be discussed. On October 4, Ed will offer a night-time field trip so we all

can see these secretive predators first-hand.

Refreshments after the meeting will be provided by Dorothy Woosley. In addition, we

will offer a door prize and a raffle. Every member who brings a guest will receive a free raffle ticket. Come prepared to win and enjoy our first evening back together.



Photo by Steve Baker

Things You Missed in the May Meeting

by Susan Hansen

A large crowd of one hundred people attended on May 14 to hear Marilyn Smith's informative, often humorous, program on mushrooms of Northern Michigan. An interesting fact I picked up is that fungi are more related to you and me than to plants. Also, they contain no chlorophyll. Contrary to popular belief, fall is the best time for mushrooming, though the popular and familiar Morels show up in early spring. We thank Marilyn for returning

her honorarium as a donation to our chapter and will give her a membership in return. Thank you too for sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge with us, and promising a fall field trip.

President Kathy Bricker led a short business meeting. The proposed bylaw changes were made available for review again and passed by a vote of 11 yes, 0 No, and 14 Abstain. Members also voted

(Continued on page 2)

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.

Meetings

PLEASE NOTE that SAAS meetings for 2008-2009 will be held at the Cheboygan Public Library, no longer the middle school library. Call 627-2381 for directions to the Library at 100 S. Bailey St

Join or Rejoin SAAS Now

by Kittie Kramer

Dues is the most appropriate word this month because that's when they are Due. Please renew now, via the form in this *Kettle* or in person at the September or October meeting, for the 2008-2009 SAAS season. Our membership remains one of the best deals in Cheboygan, at only \$12 for Singles and \$15 for Families. You will receive monthly *Kettles*, program and field

trip announcements, bird news, and other information. Plus you will help with our mission of nature education and conservation.

Presidential Chirpings: What's in it for YOU?

by Kathy Bricker

A sunny afternoon the end of August on Burt Lake. Sounds idyllic, and it was, as several volunteer leaders from SAAS gathered at a potluck dinner to discuss what our group might achieve in the 2008-2009 season. We first pondered the question, how do people benefit from joining SAAS?

Now it's your turn. When you send in your dues or come to the September meeting, please share what's in it for you. Star each of the features below that you appreciate as an SAAS member.

- Receiving the Kettle newsletter from September through May
- Attending entertaining and educational programs on nature or conservation
- Sharing bird and other nature sightings at meetings
- Learning about attracting birds to feeders and yards
- Being with like-minded people socially before and after meetings and at potlucks
- Sharing personal nature photos at Members' Photo Fest in December

- Being with and learning from expert naturalists at meetings and on field trips
- Getting outdoors for exercise, fresh air, camaraderie, and a nature fix
- Visiting great places on field trips
- Participating in bird counts for the competition and challenge
- Introducing new people to nature and seeing their excitement
- Using strength of organization's membership to achieve progress for conservation
- Being able to post nature sightings and get information on the SAAS website
- Other: _____

If reading this list makes you realize that any friends, family, or neighbors would also enjoy Audubon, please invite them to the September 10 program. You will receive a complimentary raffle ticket for every guest you bring to this great show by Ed Pike on Owls About Us. If you want to learn more about our retreat decisions, please visit our website or contact me.

SAAS 2007 Statement of Income and Expenses

Income

Dues and miscellaneous donations	\$433
Spring Bird Count fundraiser	\$224
Grant from Michigan Audubon Society for student marsh study and education	\$1,000(a)
Total income	\$1,657

Expenses

Postage and mailing expenses	\$182
Newsletter printing	donated
Speakers	\$150
Publicity	\$32
Grants (Cheboygan Middle School and Whitefish Point Bird Observatory)	\$200
Total expenses	\$564

(a) spent by Cheboygan Middle School spring 2008

(Continued from page 1)

to award a grant from funds raised by the Spring Bird Count. The winning project was Owl banding; recycling was second; and the Grass Bay Youth Stewards was third.

Because of the bylaws change, this became our annual meeting. Will Mandrick spoke for the nominating committee, made up of Will, Jim Bricker, and Susan Hansen. The following slate was elected unanimously by members present: Kathy Bricker as President, Jim Bricker as Vice President, Susan Hansen as Secretary, and

Kittie Kramer as Treasurer. Kathy thanked everyone who served on the executive committee this year and all other volunteers.

Guests Adrienne Kral and Dick Strom won door prizes of Bird Sound CDs. Member Dorothy Woosley won a flowered candleholder, and Laura Downing won a sea-horse folder. Thank you also to Sharin Clairmont and Roger and Ann Benter for bringing wonderful refreshments, especially tasty for yours truly who had not eaten dinner.

SAAS Field Trips

by Steve Baker

Sunday, September 14, 1 pm.

MUSHROOM TRIP with Marilyn Smith at Colonial Point on Burt Lake. Marilyn's program this May was so popular that we are thrilled she will share mushrooms with us in the wild too. Space is limited, so please register with Alice MacFarland at 231-597-8173 or macfarlands@charter.net to sign up and get directions. Moderate off-trail walking; bring hiking boots and jackets to suit weather.

Friday, Sept. 19

Sandhill Cranes and Michigan Monkeyflowers with Steve Baker. This is a 2 part trip. Meet at Mackinaw City highway rest area at 8 am. From there we will carpool to the UP to the Rudyard area where we hope to find gatherings of Sandhill Cranes preparing to migrate. Following the exploration of the fields around Rudyard, we will travel the back roads to Epoufette Bay on northern Lake Michigan to search for the endangered and rare Michigan Monkeyflower. We should see many more fall blooming flowers, including Fringed Gentians and the Lady's-tresses orchids. There should also be migrating birds moving along the shore. This is a wet lake shore meadow so wet feet may be a possibility. We will stop for lunch in the Epoufette area. No registration needed. Call Steve if you need more information. 231-238-8723

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Birding at Wilderness State Park's Waugoshance Point with Steve Baker. Meet at 8:30 am at the Mackinaw City highway rest area. From there we will carpool out to the park. We

will be hiking the beach hoping for shorebirds and migrating raptors. This area is rich in fall flowers as well. Moderately difficult hiking in sand and rocks with the possibility of wet feet. No registration needed. Call Steve if you need more information. 231-238-8723

Saturday, October 4, 8 PM

Owl banding with Ed Pike at Point Labarbe, St. Ignace. Join Ed in his efforts to learn more about the migration of Saw-whet Owls through the straits area.

To reach Ed's banding location, head north to the UP, exit on US 2 west, turn left (south) at the Quality Inn (there is life size American flag moose on the corner) onto Boulevard Dr. Go south to the Bridgeview Park and then follow the road west along the lakeshore for 1.8 miles where there is power line complex of many poles and transformers. Take the right fork for a block or so and the banding area will be on your right. The mist nets are first checked about an hour after dark. If the weather is rainy, this outing is cancelled.

Friday, October 24, 9 am

UP Waterfowl with Steve Baker and Ed Pike. Join Steve and Ed exploring the St. Ignace area for fall water birds and migrating raptors. This is the season when large rafts of Redheads gather in the straits along with many other duck species. Meet at the Bridge View Park at the north west end of the Mackinaw Bridge. We will stop for lunch in St. Ignace and will be out all day, but participants can leave anytime. Rain or shine, no registration needed.



Photo by Steve Baker

June 2008 Grass Bay Field Trip and Potluck

by Kathy Bricker

The third annual Grass Bay trip attracted a couple dozen participants. Birds and flowers cooperated galore, followed by a scrumptious meal. Thanks to Roy and Alice MacFarland for arranging this experience.

In appreciation for everyone's help last year, Kathy Bricker bought raffle tickets for all volunteers. Each of last year's officers, Steve Baker, Jim Bricker, Susan Hansen, Ben Lillie, and Ed Pike, received a ticket to the Michigan Audubon Society 2008 annual

raffle. Tickets to the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory's raffle for the Hummingbird Quilt were given to member-volunteers: Linda Baney, Ann Benter, Roger Benter, Doris Buxton, Sharin Clairmont, Patti Dobias, Jeff Dykehouse, Laurie Dykehouse, B.D. Gillig, Faye Johnston, Nora Kilpatrick, Marilee Lillie, Roy MacFarland, Alice MacFarland, Will Mandrick, Knute Nadelhofer, Lynne Nissley, Marilyn Smith, Mark Stormzand, Mike Supernault, Janet Trudeau, Torrey Wenger, Penny Wright.

**Membership Application
For
Straits Area Audubon Society**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

Please make checks payable to: Straits Area Audubon Society

Please mail checks to:

Mr. Ed Pike,
6750 Island View Road,
Harbor Springs, MI
49740

Single Membership:
\$12.00

Family Membership:
\$15.00

**Kettle Contribution
Due Dates**

In order to deliver The Kettle in a timely matter, please submit your photos and articles by the following due dates:

9/24/08

10/22/08

11/19/08

12/24/08

1/21/09

2/18/09

3/25/09

4/22/09

Send your submissions to
lbaney@ncmich.edu

Have you had an unusual sighting, or maybe a sighting of a bird you've never seen before? Do you have a photo you want to share? Send your stories or photos to baneyl@msu.com and we'll publish it in the newsletter.

Thank you

- Cheboygan Middle School generously provides meeting space for our meetings.
- Roger Benter of Benter Chiropractic donates printing for this newsletter.

Straits Area Audubon Society
c/o Ed Pike
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Harbor Springs, MI 49740