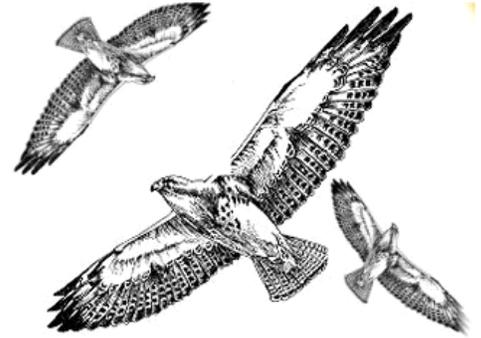


The Kettle



Straits Area Audubon Society newsletter dating from 1983

September 2009

Vol. 10 No. 6

President: Kathy Bricker
627-4830 kathyhomeaccount@hotmail.com

Vice President: Jim Bricker
627-4830 pivot77777@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Nancy Nowitzke
537-0015 nowinan@yahoo.com

Secretary: Vickie Lyon
989-370-9303 vlyon@m33access.com

Past President: Ben Lillie
627-5128 lilliepad@nmo.net

Executive Com. At-Large: Gloria Cadwalader
597-0426 gcadwalader@gmail.com

Michigan Audubon Society Rep.: Jim Veller
420-8489 jveller@gmail.com

Youth Outreach: Mike Supernault
238-8029 msupernault@hotmail.com

Greeters: Roy MacFarland
597-8173 roymac@charter.net
Marie Bartlett

Field Trips: Steve Baker
238-8723 2sjb@sbcglobal.net

Bird Reports/Counts: Ed Pike
758-3319 aes05@localnet.com

Conservation Co-Chairs: Maureen Conklin
625-9058 Maureen_conklin@yahoo.com

Position Available

Raffle/Door Prize: Judy Vanderhart
627-6249 vantagegdh@charter.net

Hospitality: Alice MacFarland
597-8173 macfarlands@charter.net

Kettle Printer/Producer: Ann/Roger Benter
627-3992 rogerbenter@webtv.net

Audiovisual/Web Master: Roy MacFarland
597-8173 roymac@charter.net

Website: www.straitsareaaudubon.org

Meetings: PLEASE NOTE that SAAS meetings are held at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, starting at 6:30 pm. We thank the Library for providing this space at 100 S. Bailey St.

September Meeting

by Jim Bricker

Please note that our meetings in 2009 will start at 6:30 pm, not 7 pm. After the September 9th meeting, attendees will enjoy refreshments including biscuits and, of course, honey! Thank you to Alice MacFarland for arranging this. We will also offer the popular re-gifting table, door prize, and raffle drawings, thanks to Judy Vanderhart.

Presidential Chirping

by Kathy Bricker

This issue of the *Kettle* marks the launch of another wonderful season of Audubon programs, food, field trips, and conservation projects. I could not hope for a more terrific group of people to enjoy and protect nature together, and know we again will have a lot of fun and laughs along the way. Please join us for as much as you can, and spread the word. To learn the latest about trips and programs, visit www.straitsareaaudubon.org.

This year for the first time, we have a Youth Outreach program headed by Mike Supernault. Expect to see more activities aimed at younger people and families. To make it easier for school students to attend programs, we have switched our start time from 7 pm to 6:30 pm, and kept the convenient site of the Cheboygan Area Public Library. See you there or in the woods!

Loons at Roberts Lake

by Kathy Bricker

Six SAAS members and four guests enjoyed a casual vesper stroll along Roberts Lake near Indian River on May 16. The pair of common loons treated us to long looks at closeup range. They later demonstrated how to circle this small lake a couple times to gain enough altitude to fly over the trees. Other highlights were seeing and hearing melodious rose-breasted grosbeaks



and large flocks of feeding tree swallows. Thanks to Jeff Lange, Michigan Loon Watch, for leading this foray.

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.

Field Trips

by Steve Baker

Sept. 19, Saturday

Tour the Fiborn preserve of the Michigan Karst Conservancy. Aubrey Golden of the Karst Conservancy will guide us around this special preserve of unique geology and plants. We will see sinkholes, fissures, and caves as we tour this historic location where there was once a thriving community centered around the limestone quarry. For those interested, there will be an opportunity to slither into one of the caves for a brief exploration. Everyone should wear sturdy footwear and if caving floats your boat, bring a helmet or hardhat and a flashlight or headlight. We will meet at the Mackinaw City Highway Rest Area to carpool and will leave at 9am sharp. Lunch optional afterwards at the Cut River, followed by some birding and botanizing at the Epoufette coastal wetlands. Please register with Steve Baker at 231-238-8723.

Sept. 23, Wednesday

Waugashaunce Point Hike. Join us for a hike out on Waugashaunce Point in Wilderness State Park. Our goal is to see Golden Plovers as they rest on their long migration south. We should see plenty of other migrants as well as many interesting plants including the Nodding Lady's-tresses. Hiking footwear recommended for walking in this cobble area. Meet in Mackinaw

City at the Highway Rest Area at 9 am. No need to register, but if you have questions, call Steve Baker at 231-238-8723.

Sept. 25, Friday

Sara Huebner, the botanist for the Hiawatha National Forest will lead us to some very special areas to show us some of the rare ferns that grow there. We will see Hart's Tongue Fern, Walking Fern, and several other ferns that grow only in these areas of limestone cliffs, boulders, and fissures. Not only are the ferns interesting, the scenery is beautiful as well. Meet in Mackinaw City at the Highway Rest Area at 8:30 am to car pool across the bridge. Phone Steve Baker to register at 231-238-8723.

October 10, Saturday

Owl Banding with Ed Pike at Point La Barbe by St. Ignace. Details will be in the October newsletter. Save the date for the opportunity to see Saw-whet Owls up close as Ed carries on his long term research.

Big Birding Day Report

On May 17, bird watching and fundraising came together, thanks to the eyes and ears of Steve Baker, Jim, Kathy, and John Bricker, Ed Pike, Janet Trudeau, and Jim Veller. They tallied 126 species in a day full of highlights. Topping the list was a male sora rail that ran out of the Mackinaw City marsh ready to attack Steve Baker, incensed by his sora calls that competed for choice females.



Photo by Fred Gray
Steve Baker removing Saw-whet owl from netting

What You Missed at the May Meeting

by Susan Hanson

On May 13, 2009, 76 people enjoyed the program "Hawks Alive!" by Glen McCune. Thanks to Marie Bartlett, Alice MacFarland, Nancy Nowitzke, and Dorothy Woosley for bringing refreshments.

Kathy Bricker announced that the executive committee has decided to continue to have SAAS meet at the Cheboygan Area Public Library and start at 6:30 in order to finish earlier. The members voted to start with club business, bird sightings, and field trip announcements, with program to follow. Refreshments will be available after the meeting, along with drawings. This option won easily by a vote of hands by the members over the option to have members only at a business meeting starting at 6:30, with the public joining at 7 p.m. for the program.

Kathy presented the Grant topics listed below for a membership vote:

- Owl banding research (\$50 to \$200 range) (Voted #1 with 36 votes)
- Supplies to educate the public on our dark-sky-friendly night lighting conservation project (\$20 to \$50 range). (#2 with 32 votes)
- Supplies to implement our North Central State Bicycle Trail and International Coastal Cleanup conservation projects (\$20 to \$50 range). (#5 with 18 votes)
- T-Shirts, hats, certificates, or other thank-you items for our cleanup volunteers (\$20 to \$20 range) (#6 with 9 votes so will

(Continued on page 3)

Can you guess what this chick is? Look for the answer in the Kettle next month.



Fauna heard or seen

bull frogs
chickadee
crow
doe
frog, small brown
hairy woodpecker
herring gull
killdeer
oven bird
red-eyed vireo
ring-billed gull
song sparrow
water striders

Flora

Arbutus, trailing
Bastard toadflax
Bearberry
Blue bead, Yellow Clintonia
Bunchberry
Canada Mayflower
Cherry, Pin
Cherry, Sand
Cinquefoil, shrubby
Club moss
Cress, rock, lyre-leaved
Horse's tail
Indian Moccasin/ Lady slipper, pink
Indian Paintbrush
Iris, dwarf (only leaves)
Ivy, poison
Knapweed, spotted
Marsh marigold (blown flowers)
Moss, pin cushion
Pea, beach
Pipsisseqa pyrola
Pitcher Plant
Polygala, fringed
Rose, roadside
Rosemary, wild
Sarsaparilla
Sedge with purple heads
Solomon's seal, false
Star Solomon's Seal, clasping leaves
Starflower
Sun dew (thread-leaved only)
Tansy, Lake Huron (plant only no flower)
Violet
Wintergreen, teaberry

Grass Bay Hike

by Ed Pike

The final potluck of our season was held on June 10, 2009 at the Cordwood Point Clubhouse. 13 members enjoyed the tasty buffet and camaraderie while Jeff Lange's Loon tape played. It amazes us that our unorganized potlucks always end up with plenty of everything and lots of variety.

The Grass Bay hike at 3 p.m. was sunny and cool with breezes to keep off the bugs. The woods, swampy areas, ponds, creek and beach offered up a bounty for the seven hikers. The highlights seemed to be the plentiful and colorful Indian Paintbrush and Indian Moccasin (Pink Ladyslipper), although the masses of brilliant green pincushion moss were



Columbine

By Alice MacFarland

charming and the merry gaywings peeked up everywhere.

Our most constant, but invisible, companions were singing oven birds although others were heard and seen. Some members sighted a doe and one member saw a red-eyed vireo. See list of flora and fauna.

Inter-coastal Cleanup

by Maureen Conklin, Conservation Chair

One of the three conservation concerns that SAAS members agreed upon was caring for our coastlines. We have the opportunity to volunteer in this effort by participating in a beach clean-up on Saturday, September 19th at Cheboygan State Park.

Park manager, Mr. Paul Koszegi, will waive the daily entry fee for volunteers.

Meet at 9:00 at the park headquarters where Paul will show us a map and determine where groups will clean up. He will also pass out gloves and trash bags. In the past it has taken about 2 to 2 1/2 hours for 8–10 workers. How much ground is covered will depend on the number of volunteers and weather. The clean-up will be held rain or shine.

(Continued from page 2)
not be done).

Loaner bird books and field trip tally forms to use for future Audubon field trips (\$25 to \$100 range). (#4 with 19 votes)

Token amount offered to future field trip leaders for their costs (similar to what we offer people who present programs at meetings). (\$50 to \$500 range). (#3 with 25 votes)

Steve Baker reported for the nominating committee consisting of Roger Benter, Judy Frock, and Steve. They proposed a slate of: President—Kathy Bricker, Vice President—Jim Bricker, Secretary—Vickie Lyon, Treasurer—Nancy Nowitzke. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate, and it passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Kathy gave parting gifts to Kittie

Kramer, retiring treasurer and Susan Hansen, retiring secretary, for their work done on behalf of SAAS.

Jim Bricker introduced our speaker, Glen McCune, artist, teacher, and falconer, who entertained and educated us all with his paintings of hawks, and eagles as well as his red-tailed hawk, Tule, who sat observing us, then ignoring us as he picked at his jesses. Glen answered many questions asked by an interested and appreciative audience.

Following the program, refreshments were served and the raffle and door prize winners were announced. A decorative birdhouse donated by Ben and Marilee Lillie was won by member Janet Trudeau. Door prize of a tin box decorated with a map donated by Kathy Bricker was won by member Judy Frock. Door prize of a suet feeder donated by Faye Johnston was won by guest Ron Ramsey.

Membership Application
For
Straits Area Audubon Society

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

Make checks payable to:
 Straits Area Audubon Society

Please mail checks to:

Nancy Nowitzke, Treasurer,
 10086 Munro Lake Dr.
 Levering, MI 49755

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:

| | |
|----------|---------|
| 9/25/09 | 1/26/10 |
| 10/27/09 | 2/24/10 |
| 11/26/09 | 3/26/10 |
| 12/25/09 | 4/26/10 |

Send your submissions to
saas_kettle@yahoo.com

SAAS thanks Benter Chiropractic for its in-kind donation of the printing of the monthly *Kettle* and hosting of the SAAS website.

Coming Programs

Mark your calendars now to be sure you can attend.

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 9/19/09 | Fiborn Preserve tour |
| 9/23/09 | Waugashaunce Pt. Hike |
| 9/25/09 | Rare Fern Tour |
| 10/10/09 | Owl Banding |

SAAS meetings are held at the Cheboygan Area Public Library.

The scheduling of a meeting or program in the Cheboygan Area Public Library does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the library of the group or organization; its activities; or of the ideas and opinions expressed during the course of meetings or programs.

Straits Area Audubon Society
 c/o Nancy Nowitzke
 10086 Munro Lake Dr.
 Levering, MI 49755