

The Kettle

Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 p.m.** 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 the 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.

Straits Area Audubon Society
c/o Dale Landes
1340 Crist Isle Drive
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/ZIP CODE: _____ 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:
Dale Landes - Treasurer
1340 Crist Isle Drive
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Yup!!! Happened again 🐼... A “typo” in our publication. Apologies to David Euler, the presenter of the March Program. Your name is now reflected correctly on the Program page.

October Program

“Raving about Raptors”

By: Kathy Bricker, Co-Founder, Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch
October 10, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cheboygan Area Public Library

The October 10th program of the Straits Area Audubon Society features Kathy Bricker in her role with the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch. Her informational and fun “Raving about Raptors” talk covers the special adaptations of birds of prey along with their ecology, identification, migration routes, and conservation. She will explain how the Straits of Mackinac region has gained national attention for the large numbers of raptors moving through it. The hawk count here boasts the most Golden Eagles counted east of the Mississippi and the highest number of Red-tailed Hawks tallied anywhere in the United States. Kathy will explain these and other results of the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch, which celebrates its fifth birthday this year. The public is encouraged to visit the research and count sites near Mackinaw City and St. Ignace, with two field trips scheduled in October to enable SAAS members to experience waterbirds and hawks. Although the owl trip took place in late September, anyone may visit that research by arrangement with Ed Pike.



Photo by: Steve Baker

“Trivia”

In looking at a 1923 Biological Survey Bulletin by W.L. McAtee on regionally used names for various fowl taken by gunners, I enjoyed the several names in use by Michiganders for the hooded merganser: little fish duck, morning glory, spike, spikebill, topknot and tuffle-headed duck. Only a single name was associated with Ohio: hootamaganzy. Maybe there's an explanation. Folks in Wisconsin called them helldivers, a name probably used for other waterbirds in other places.

Thanks to Glen Matthews for this....

Scheduled Field Trips

Come and Sit Field Trip for Hawks **Saturday, October 20, 2018**

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Ed Pike, Chair of Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch, will lead this experience at the MSRW hawk watch site west of St. Ignace. Come anytime between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to observe migrating raptors, songbirds, and butterflies. Stay as long as you like. Bring very warm clothes, a lawn chair, water, and snack if desired. There is no limit on the number of people, no cost, and no need to register.

Take the second exit to go west onto Rte. 2 after crossing the Mackinac Bridge. Turn left onto Boulevard Dr. at the Quality Inn. Pass Fr. Marquette National Memorial to Densmore Ave. Turn right and continue as it merges back onto Boulevard Dr. Watch for the MSRW sign and small parking lot on the right. Weather date is Sunday, October 21, 2018.

Waterfowl and Winter Raptors Field Trip (SAAS Members Only) **Wednesday, October 31, 2018 (8:30 a.m.)**

Submitted by: Rose Rynerson



Meet Ed Pike and Steve Baker for their annual trip around the waterfront of Mackinaw City and St. Ignace in search of migrating waterfowl. We will make several stops and should see abundant redheads, loons, grebes, and an assortment of other ducks, geese, and swans, which are being counted now by Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch. We will check out several vantage points on the Straits and visit a few inland lakes and sewage lagoons. We will keep an eye to the sky for the many raptors that could be on the move, hoping for Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles and maybe even an early Snowy Owl.

This will be an all day trip with lunch at a UP restaurant. Dress for the weather as these shoreline sites are exposed to the elements. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Mackinaw City State Welcome Center/Rest Area and carpool as much as possible. Please email or call Steve if you will be joining us that day (steveandsuebaker@gmail.com or [231-238-8723](tel:231-238-8723)). If weather is nasty, the alternate date will be Friday, November 2, 2018.

Field Trip Reports

Milbocker's Pond Hike - Thursday, September 13, 2018

Submitted by: Rose Rynerson

It was decided and announced the evening of our September program that a seasonal period of abundant heron and egret sightings should prompt a hike into Rose and Dave Rynerson's neighbor's property. We met in the evening to walk the sandy, mushroom-lined, two-track road to Milbocker's Pond, created by beaver damming along Greene Creek in Benton Township. We were greeted at the pond by a Great Blue Heron watching us from a low, dead tree in the evening sun.

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Field Trip Reports - continued



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Although in much lower numbers than observed earlier in the week, our list of sightings at the pond were as follow: 2 Kingfishers, 1 Great Egret, 4 Great Blue Herons, 2 Northern Harriers, 1 Flicker, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Blue Jay, 1 Chickadee, 1 Beaver, which graced us very nearby, and numerous frogs and toads. On a short excursion past the pond we managed to rustle up a few rare mosquitoes, which, in turn, brought us a dragonfly. Diane Morand, Al and Jean Moberly, and Rose and Dave Rynerson's final observation was that two beautiful hours flew right by us.

News of Interest

Snakes Alive! by Jim McGrath - Coming to Local Schools this Fall!

Submitted by: Jim Bricker



The Indian River Area
Library and the Straits Area
Audubon Society present:

SNAKES ALIVE

Learn about Michigan snakes
alive and as up close as you wish

October 3rd at 6:00 pm at the

Tuscarora Township Hall

Offered for free thanks to the Straits Area
Audubon Society

For more information contact us at (231)238-8581

2014, more than 100 people opened their minds to learning about, respecting, and conserving snakes.

SAAS also thanks the Cheboygan Area Public Schools, Awakon Federal Credit Union, and Inland Lakes PTO for funding the programs. So far, Herm Boatin, Kathy Bricker, Dale Giddings, and Rose Rynerson have volunteered to help with showing the snakes to people first-hand, allowing Jim McGrath to focus on providing information about the animals. Other assistants or observers are welcome to attend as well. SAAS plans to have Snakes Alive! return in the winter of 2019 for more schools in the broader Straits region, if the SAAS Youth Fund and other sources support the cost.

As the October Kettle goes to press, we are finishing up with outside fundraising, scheduling, and finding volunteers for this fall's program to area schools of the popular *Snakes Alive!* program hosted by SAAS. I am happy to share that Jim McGrath from Nature Discovery will be coming for 3 days on October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

We especially thank the Presque Isle Gas and Electric Communities First Fund for its generous grant of \$1,000 to enable the program. Because these funds must be used this fall, we will target schools in Cheboygan County for this first of two visits in the 2018-2019 school year. McGrath will present his live Michigan snakes to 5th grade classes at Wolverine, Inland Lakes, and Cheboygan Middle School. Other area schools also have been invited to feature him, with an updated schedule available soon.

In addition, McGrath will give an evening community program on Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian River Library. When this was last presented in



News of Interest - continued



Learning about Mammals Using their Bones and Toes

Presented by: Eowyn Bates

Submitted by: Jim Bricker

Eowyn Bates will present her “Learning about Mammals Using their Teeth, Bones, and Toes” program for Onaway Friends of the Library on October 2, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. If you missed Eowyn’s superb program to SAAS in May 2018, you can still see it in Onaway. If you came, you can learn more as she presents new information. The program is at the Onaway Courthouse.

HMANA Conference 2018

Soaring Toward the Future: New Challenges in Raptor Migration

October 12-14, 2018, Detroit, MI

Submitted by: Karen Busch

The conference will be conveniently located at the [Detroit Airport Marriott Hotel](#). Discounted rooms are available through September 20, 2018 for conference attendees. Click on the Lodging & Travel menu to [book now](#).

Kate Davis, author and founder of the nonprofit Raptors of the Rockies, is our opening keynote speaker. She will talk about her 30 years as a raptor educator at schools throughout the west. Todd Katzner, research biologist, will be our Saturday evening keynote speaker. He will talk about his research with eastern Golden Eagles and how little was known about their migration ecology.

Field trips are planned to the Detroit River Hawkwatch, Holiday Beach Bird Observatory (Ontario), Marshlands Museum, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge visitor’s center, and more!

Join raptor enthusiasts, researchers, hawkwatch counters, birders, and those just wanting to learn more about raptors at this exciting every four year event, being held for the first time in the Detroit area.

2018 Cranefest: Sandhill Crane and Art Festival

October 13th-14th 2018

Submitted by: Karen Busch

Cranefest, sponsored by Michigan Audubon in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek, focuses to raise awareness and appreciation of our natural heritage and to support the ongoing educational and conservation efforts of Michigan Audubon and it’s Bernard W. Baker Bird Sanctuary. The festival is held at the Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area in Bellevue, overlooking Big Marsh Lake.

Events run from noon to dusk. The fly in of hundreds of Sandhill Cranes typically begins slowly throughout the afternoon with the best viewing between 5:00 p.m. and dusk.

The festival is free with a minimal parking fee. Additional info can be found at [Cranefest.org](#).

SAAS Chapter Notes

Photography Development - Lightroom Training

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader

Note: To all you SAAS members who love to photograph your nature experiences... your fellow SAAS member, Tom Cadwalader, will be instructing two classes for the Cheboygan Area Public Library's "Lifelong Learning Education Series" during the month of October. They are: Lightroom 101, to be held on October 20th and Lightroom Develop Module, to be held on October 27th. If you are interested in getting the best from your wildlife and nature photos you may want to attend one or both of these classes to learn the intricacies of developing your photos. Please check the Cheboygan Area Public Library website for more information.

A note from the Treasurer:

Submitted by: Dale Landes

Thanks to all who have sent in money. I've tried to acknowledge all payments by email, but if you need a paper receipt, please let me know, and I'll send it out. We have now received \$854.00 in dues since June, and we have received a total of \$1066.45 for the Big Bird Day! If you have not paid either your dues or your Big Bird Day pledge (there are still 7 unpaid pledges), you can mail your check to me or you can pay at the next meeting. Thank You... Dale

General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau

Date September 12, 2018

Attendance: 44 (38 members/6 guests)

Program: "**Birding Adventure in Cuba**"

President Herm Boatin welcomed members and guests. Dale Giddings introduced our speaker Carter Dorscht and his program "Birding Adventure in Cuba". Mr. Dorscht, from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, is a graduate from Sault College's Fish & Wildlife Conservation Technician Program and is now the Product Manager for the Kensington Conservancy. Cuba has 368 species recorded... 28 which are endemic to Cuba. During his visit he saw birds, lizards, and bottle dolphin to name a few. Carter saw 76 species of birds... some of which were life species. His slide presentation was of the many bird and wildlife species there. Question and answer session followed.

Darrell Schwalm spoke on the stewardship of MAPS (Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society), partnering with Aloha State Park to help restore the park shoreline buffer with added trees (lost to the Emerald Ash Bore), and no-mow greenbelts on October 15th at 10:00 a.m. with the help of volunteers.

Ed Pike is planning an owl banding trip on September 28th, meeting at the Mackinaw City Welcome Center at 6:30 p.m. and car pooling to the Bridge View Center in St. Ignace, or meet at the Bridge View Center at 7:00 p.m. and then proceeding to the banding area.

Steve Baker is planning a water bird field trip on October 31st with more information to be in the next Kettle.

Treasurer Dale Landes reported on pledges from our annual Bird Count fund raiser.

Nature sightings were led by Bev Kirby.

Jason Bojczk reported on the Hawk Watch species count going on at Point LeBarbe and Kyle Wikton reported on the Water Bird Count going on at McGulpin Point.

Dale Giddings also spoke on the numbers and species he has had in his bird houses.

Bruce Seeger won the raffle prize - gift certificate from Sturgeon River Pottery.

Refreshments tonight were brought by Steve Baker, Eileen Martini, Diane Matthews, Jim Bricker, Bev Kirby, Darlene Boatin, Esther Summers, Jean Moberly, Dale Giddings, and Fay Johnston.

We are looking for at least three volunteers to sign up for future donations of refreshments for the monthly meetings.

SAAS Chapter Notes - continued

Program Schedule 2018/2019

November 14, 2018 - "Plant on the Wild Side: Gardening for Pollinators"
By: Elizabeth Pitzer

December 12, 2018 - "Winter Potluck/Member Slide Fest"

January 9, 2019 - "Mammal & Other Highlights of Pigeon River Country State Forest"
By: Scott Whitcomb, Unit Mgr.,
Pigeon River Country State Forest

February 13, 2019 - "Crazy about Corvids: Ravens & Crows"
By: Dr. Star Kraven-Madd and
Dorothy McCleer, U of M, Dearborn
Environmental Interpretive Center

March 13, 2019 - "Your Perception vs. Reality: What Birds have Increased or Declined in 40 Yrs."
By: David Euler, Past President,
Sault Naturalists Society

April 10, 2019 - "Wildlife Version of Candid Camera"
By: Taylor Hudson, Michigan Applied
Wildlife Ecology Camera Trap Study

May 8, 2019 - "Young Forest Habitat and its Creatures"
By: Heather Shaw, Wildlife Biologist,
Ruffed Grouse Society

June 12, 2019 - Hike & Summer Potluck

Nature Links

Straits Area Audubon Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/StraitsAreaAudubonSociety

MAS (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 (Hawk Migration Assoc. of North America)

http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=613

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org

Straits Area Audubon Society 2018 - 2019 Officers

President: **Herm Boatin** - 313-580-5439

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SAAS THANKS

Williams Office Equipment for donating printing costs for The Kettle. Please consider them for all your Computer, Copier, Printer, & Fax needs. Williams Office Equipment 312 West Elm Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721 Phone: 231-627-7020 -- Fax: 231-627-7477

Sturgeon River Pottery/NorthGoods, a family business owned and operated by Dana Andrews in Petoskey, has generously donated Gift Certificates to use for the SAAS monthly raffles in 2018/19. Besides the unique pottery, you will find all the bird feeding supplies needed to make your feathered friends happy. To shop on-line, see <http://www.sturgeonriver.com/>

Online Extras - Kettle Dropbox

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor

To view "online extras - photos and/or videos", all you the reader has to do is click on the link shown below, once there, a list of folders by month/year will be shown. You may select your choice by clicking on that folder, which, when opened will show a list of the photos/videos. 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. The photographers are sharing their work with the readers and by virtue of submitting their pictures to the **Kettle** they are granting permission for you to view their work. Permission should be obtained before downloading or copying any of these pictures or videos.

Link: [Click Here For Pictures](#)

Hint: double click on the image to enlarge it