

# The Kettle

## Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter

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 served 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.



**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 and classroom and field studies.

### Join Straits Area Audubon Society

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEWSLETTER BY: Email: \_\_\_ or US Mail: \_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

**Straits Area Audubon Society**

Single Membership: \$15

Family Membership: \$15

Mail Checks to:

Rose Rynerson, Treasurer

10490 East US 23

Cheboygan, MI 49721

## Virtual Program on “Secrets of Songbird Nesting”

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm



"Secrets of Songbird Nesting" will be presented by Susan Kielb. Beautiful songs, flashes of color. Soon the songbirds will be back. While we might think their goal is to entertain us, the birds have the very serious work of nesting and producing a new generation in a limited time.



Their goal is to do this without leaving clues for predators, humans included. What secrets can you unlock with the bits of clues you see and hear?

Anyone who has done wildlife work in the field can tell you that there can be a lot of time spent waiting for your target animal to show up or do something. When all of your senses are wide-open you discover a lot of things. By being unobtrusive, visiting the same places repeatedly over time, and keeping careful records, you can view the private lives of birds and discover far more than answers to the initial questions you had.



In this presentation we'll look closely at the nesting cycle of a variety of Michigan birds, especially songbirds, with tips for observing on your own without endangering the success of nests. By using a few outside reference materials you will learn how to map out a bird's nesting cycle from your observations, which may in turn help you make sense of behaviors you observe without ever being near a bird's nest.

### How the Zoom Program Will Work

The actual Zoom invitation is on page 3 of this newsletter. An email invitation will also be sent via an e-Blast closer to the date of the program.

On Wednesday, the 14th, a few minutes before 7:00 pm, open this Kettle or the e-Blast and touch the meeting link to join. You may be asked for a 'password', which is provided.

You can see and hear Susan Kielb and even have an opportunity to ask her questions.

If your computer doesn't have a camera, you will not be seen by other viewers, but could otherwise view, listen and ask questions.

## Zoom Invitation to Songbird Nesting Program

Scott Davis scheduled a Zoom meeting, Wednesday, April 14 at 7 pm.  
He will open the call around 6:30

To Join the Zoom Meeting, click the link below, and follow the instructions on the screen

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89096072915>

If you are asked to enter a passcode, please enter  
Passcode: **911080**

Scroll down if you'd like to learn how to join the meeting via phone, and listen to the presentation without viewing it.

Dial the phone number below

+1 312 626 6799

And when prompted, dial in the Meeting ID followed by the # key:

890 9607 2915 #

If prompted for a passcode, dial in Passcode: **911080**

## Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday, May 12th

**'Michigan Orchids' by Steve Baker**

## Mid-May SAAS Birdathon Notice

SAAS has a tradition of a Big Birding Day or Birdathon, which has been our main annual fundraiser and the favorite day of the birding calendar. Members support the effort by pledging an amount per bird species seen so every effort is made to grow the list.

The 2021 Birdathon will have the same precautions as last year. No group birding. Solo or family birding is encouraged. Look for birds around your home, your neighborhood, a favorite nature preserve, or anywhere your birding heart leads you in the Straits area. Follow social distance rules. List all the bird species seen on Sunday, May 16th and email to Steve Baker at [steveandsuebaker@gmail.com](mailto:steveandsuebaker@gmail.com) or phone 231-238-8723.

An eBlast reminder will be sent the week before. A second eBlast will be sent after the tally and will include the group's list of species and a pledge/donation request. Stay tuned.

## Bio - Susan Kielb

Susan Kielb grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, where she explored ‘empty’ lots, woods, and ponds. Her curiosity about nature was nurtured by parents who were active with Sierra Club and Audubon chapters and the University of Wisconsin Arboretum.

After studying biology in college, Susan helped conduct an environmental impact study in the peatlands of northern Minnesota. She went on to investigate how powerline corridors through the West Virginia forest affect the distribution of songbirds for her Master’s degree at West Virginia University. She taught there before joining Bob Payne at the University of Michigan to study song strategies and lifetime reproductive success of individually marked Indigo Buntings in southern Michigan.

For seven years, Susan was immersed in the world of Indigo Buntings. She became obsessed with tracking the lives of birds beyond the initial moment of identifying a bird or song. That passion to learn more led to this program.

After the bunting study, Susan settled in Ann Arbor with Mike Kielb and daughter Aleis. Susan discovered a love for middle schoolers and taught biology and mathematics in the Ann Arbor Public Schools until retiring in 2010. Susan and Mike, often with Alexis, continued bird research, volunteering with the annual U.S. Forest Service bird census in the Hiawatha National Forest in the 1990s and leading a breeding bird survey in the Huron Mountains.

A few years ago, they built a retirement cabin near Whitefish Point. For fun, Susan began observing the nesting cycle of Palm Warblers, individually marking birds, recording their songs, banding the young, and following the family groups after nesting. They also learned that Whitefish Point hosts many moth species as well as birds. Now they attract moths at night with lights, then photograph and identify them, connecting with experts for verification.



## SAAS Outreach is Working by Eileen Martini

The SAAS Zoom meeting attendance is on the rise! At our March hummingbird presentation via Zoom, there were 63 (including 34 guests) attendees up from our February attendance of 38 (including 18 guests)

SAAS Zoom program information is advertised on the SAAS website, local newspaper and the SAAS Facebook Page. SAAS Facebook members can help spread the word about birding and the Zoom programs. The March program was 'shared' on Facebook 11 times and that simple action allowed 3,750 people to learn about our Hummingbird Zoom presentation. Anytime our members make the effort to 'like' and 'share' our SAAS Facebook posts, they can spread the word about the love of birding! Share the joy of birding on Facebook!

The SAAS Facebook page now has 552 followers! The average post on our Facebook Page is viewed by between 50-100 people. Photographs of birds are by far the most popular, in fact, a grouping of images of Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings that was posted by Steve Baker was viewed by 744 people!

## Coming Events - Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch by Kathy Bricker

MSRW soon will launch its on-line speakers series on Zoom, called 'Raptors Revealed'. All talks will be at 4:00 pm and last approximately an hour.

Visit [mackinacraptorwatch.org](http://mackinacraptorwatch.org) to register.

April 15 – Joys of Hawk Watching: Basics to Beyond by John Richardson, Hawk Count Director and Naturalist, Hawk Ridge, Duluth Minnesota

April 22 – Hawks on the Wing: Identifying Hawks on the Wing by Josh Haas, Owner, Hawks on the Wing

April 29 – Broad-winged Hawk Natural History by Dr. Laurie Goodrich, Director of Conservation, Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, Hawk Mountain Bird Sanctuary, Pennsylvania

In place of the silent auction normally held in person, Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch offers an on-line auction to share three dozen beautiful items. You may bid right from home, without traveling to Mackinaw City, at [www.BiddingOwl.com](http://www.BiddingOwl.com). Bidding runs from April 10 to April 30.

Lastly, below is the link to the new hawk counting site at Fort Holmes on Mackinac Island, funded by Mackinac Island Community Foundation.

[http://hawkcount.org/month\\_summary.php?rsite=812](http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=812)

# Zoom Program Minutes for March 10, 2021

by Lori Cleland, Interim Secretary

Attendance: 63 people ( 29 members and 34 guests)

Herm Boatin opened the well attended ZOOM meeting of the SAAS at approximately 7:03 pm and introduced Allen Chartier. Allen, who resides in Inkster, Michigan, is a Hummingbird Bander with years of research and field experience under his belt. His presentation contained excellent information about hummingbirds focusing on the Ruby Throated which is the most common in Michigan.

The program was entitled: **“Hummingbirds of the Great Lakes.”** The Zoom presentation was very informative and interesting. It included categories such as: Why Study Hummingbirds?, Hummingbird Haven, Predators, Longevity, Banding Procedures, Migration, Feeding, Feeder Care, Why and How they are Banded, Creating a Hummingbird Habitat, Identification, and Specie varieties found in Michigan and other states, just to name a few. The data maps, pictures and videos were engaging and the hour and a half presentation personally held my interest and left me wanting more!

Allen shared his blogspot and a few other websites of interest. He also indicated that he is always looking for private citizens who have many hummingbirds on their property and may be interested in allowing him to band them for future study. Please contact him, if you are interested in having him come to band hummingbirds at: [amazilia3@gmail.com](mailto:amazilia3@gmail.com)

## Other interesting websites Allen shared:

<http://mihummingbirdguy.blogspot.com/p/great-lakes-hummernet.html>

Journey North (hummingbirds) [www.journeynorth.com/hummingbirds](http://www.journeynorth.com/hummingbirds)

Operation Ruby Throat [www.rubythroat.org](http://www.rubythroat.org)

Hummingbird Central [www.hummingbirdcentral.com/hummingbird-migration-spring-2020-map.htm](http://www.hummingbirdcentral.com/hummingbird-migration-spring-2020-map.htm)

Meeting and presentation ended at approximately 8:15 pm.

If you missed the March program or wish to view it again, it is available on the following website:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nyk6J3P5vJHk4jwnRuDpDL\\_FJCRhaE3J0FjzAtPn0eJZge8XswkYdATfli8KqhyZ.OEFnBhwwwZEe5wfJ](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nyk6J3P5vJHk4jwnRuDpDL_FJCRhaE3J0FjzAtPn0eJZge8XswkYdATfli8KqhyZ.OEFnBhwwwZEe5wfJ)

[nyk6J3P5vJHk4jwnRuDpDL\\_FJCRhaE3J0FjzAtPn0eJZge8XswkYdATfli8KqhyZ.OEFnBhwwwZEe5wfJ](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nyk6J3P5vJHk4jwnRuDpDL_FJCRhaE3J0FjzAtPn0eJZge8XswkYdATfli8KqhyZ.OEFnBhwwwZEe5wfJ)

Required Password: Y6HGy7\*1

## Phone Numbers and E-Mail Addresses of Interest to SAAS Members

### STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

#### 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS

President: Herm Boatin 313-580-5439

[hermboatin@gmail.com](mailto:hermboatin@gmail.com)

V.President: Dale Giddings 231-525-8874

Treasurer: Rose Rynerson 231-597-9788

[fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com](mailto:fiddleheadfilly4@gmail.com)

Secretary (Interim): Lori Cleland

[wavedancerb@aol.com](mailto:wavedancerb@aol.com)

Past President: Jean Moberly

231-268-9726 [normich@gmail.com](mailto:normich@gmail.com)

Exe.Com. At Large: Cyndi Kress

231-238-4079 [cyndikress@gmail.com](mailto:cyndikress@gmail.com)

MAS Rep: Karen Busch 231-818-2901

[kbusch4980@gmail.com](mailto:kbusch4980@gmail.com)

### THE KETTLE EDITOR

All input for The Kettle should be submitted to: [kettleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kettleeditor@gmail.com)

Any questions call: Diane Matthews at

# 231-412-0833

### ONLINE EXTRAS

If you take a bird or nature picture and think it might be of interest to our members, please send to: [kettleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kettleeditor@gmail.com).

### NATURE LINKS

Straits Area Audubon Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/straitsareaaudubonsociety](http://www.facebook.com/straitsareaaudubonsociety)

MAS (Michigan Audubon Society)

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

Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch

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

Hawk Migration Assoc. of North America

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

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

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

Williams Office Equipment, 312 W. Elm Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721

Please consider this service for your computer, copier, printer and fax needs.