

The Kettle

Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 PM** 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 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.

To reach us by mail - **Straits Area Audubon Society**: c/o Rose Rynerson, 10490 E. US 23, 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: _____ 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:
Rose Rynerson - Treasurer
10490 E. US 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

December Program

“Potluck and Member Slide Fest” December 9, 2015 6:00 at PM at the Cheboygan Public Library

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Share friendship and food as well as photography and nature tales at the holiday potluck and slide fest. You will first engage in a culinary repast to celebrate the season together. Table discussion theme – “my most memorable nature experience of the year.” During desert you will enjoy nature photos taken by members. If possible, bring a dozen or two pictures on a computer disk or thumb drive. Also bring a dish to pass with serving spoon if needed, and tableware.

DON'T FORGET THE DRAWING!!!

Win this Christmas Ornament

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader



Send an email to kettleeditor@gmail.com correctly identifying the bird in this picture.



Entries must be received by December 5th and should include the name of the bird, your name and contact information. All those correctly identifying the bird will be included in a

drawing to be held at the December Potluck at which time the winner will be announced and the prize awarded. If you are not in attendance the prize will be mailed to you.

January Program

“Adventures in Peru and Ecuador” By: Doug Fuller and Martha Lancaster January 13, 2016

Field Trip Reports

Hike from Carp Creek Gorge to Burt Lake October 30, 2015 & November 13, 2015

Submitted by: Kathy Bricker

Field trips on Oct. 30th and Nov. 13th took first five, then seven intrepid hikers along the Little Carp Creek from headwaters at Riggsville Rd. to the mouth at Burt Lake. The round trip was good exercise, with nearly 4 miles of nature discovery and human history. In October, participants enjoyed remnant fall color and sunny skies. The second date brought a wet beauty of its own, with raindrops clinging to the tips of pine needles and a mysterious fist-sized frothy spittle that we did not disturb for fear of invoking the wrath of some enormous insect inside. The creek, formed by sapping of water from Douglas Lake, bubbled along unfazed by anything on both days. It remains at a steady 50 degree temperature and flow level year-round, with many tongues creating a deep gorge characterized by Eastern white cedar, Eastern hemlock, clubmoss, and sensitive fern. We spotted old cuttings, dams and lodge of beaver; fresh porcupine browse; a red squirrel; and holes of pileated woodpeckers. Birds that showed themselves were hairy woodpecker, black-capped chickadee, American goldfinch, red-breasted nuthatch, and blue jay. Afterward, we gratefully ate our sack lunches in the warm indoors at the University of Michigan Biological Station, which owns and protects the gorge. Participants included Jim, Kathy, and John Bricker, Dennis Fay, John Hastie, Jean Moberly, Diane Morand, and Eva Walker, with four people who attended both trips.



Photo by: Diane Morland



Photo by: John Bricker shows Diane Morand, Jean Moberly, Kathy and Jim Bricker

Waterfowl Extravaganza Monday, November 2, 2015

Submitted by: Bev Kirby

This trip was originally scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2015, but due to the prediction of gale force winds on the Straits, we rescheduled for Monday, November 2, 2015. There were 17 participants...10 members of the Straits Area Audubon Society joined by 7 members of the Sault Naturalist's Club from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, so this turned out to be an international trip. ☺ It was a sunny, mild 50 degree day as we birded around the Straits of Mackinac. We met at Bridge View



Park in St. Ignace with leaders Ed Pike and Steve Baker and here we watched 1,300 or more Redhead ducks, and saw Bufflehead, Mute Swans, Turkey Vulture, Canada Geese and Ring-billed gulls. Following along the waterfront we saw Hooded Mergansers, Mallard, American Robin, White-Winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Long-tailed ducks, Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, American Coot, Gadwall, and Bonaparte's gulls. At the Mackinac County sewage lagoons we found Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Herring gull. Returning to Bridge View, there were now 3,000 Redhead ducks and we continued along Pte. LaBarbe where we found many more Redheads, Black-capped Chickadee, and 5 Horned Grebes. Farther along the lake we encountered Common Raven, 16 Bald Eagles, Snow Buntings, Tundra Swans and a Black-bellied Plover. Moving inland we visited 4 other inland lakes and discovered Pileated Woodpecker, American Golden-plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, 44 Tundra Swans, 11 Common Loons, Common Mergansers, Belted Kingfisher and Rusty Blackbird. At the Brevort sewage lagoons we added Lesser Scaup to the list. On the way home after the trip was done, a few members were able to see a Surf Scoter along the waterfront in downtown St. Ignace and while watching the Scoter, a mink popped up out of the rocks. All in all we saw 43 species of birds after visiting many different areas around the lakes.

Thanks to Ed and Steve for taking us on another great outdoor adventure.



Participants were Steve Baker, Ed Pike, Jack and Bev Kirby, Janet Trudeau, Jean Moberly, Joey Arbaugh, Marilynn Smith, Sharon Szczesny, Carl Linhart, Valerie Walker, Ron Prickett, Vivian and Don Hall, Murray Nott, Bill Van Atte, and Tony Walker.

Scheduled Field Trips

All Submitted by: Steve Baker

Eastern UP -- Wintering Northern Bird Trip Friday, December 4, 2015 at 8:30 AM

Join Steve Baker in an exploration of the Eastern UP for wintering northern birds. We will visit the St. Ignace waterfront for waterfowl (Long-tailed Ducks, Scoters, and Redheads expected), the Rudyard area for raptors (Rough-legged Hawks and maybe Snowy Owls), the Dafter Dump (Glaucous, Iceland, Great Black-backed gulls all possible), and Dunbar (hoping for Pine Grosbeaks and Waxwings).

Meet at 8:30 AM in Mackinaw City at the State Welcome Center/ Rest Area.

This will be an all day trip with lunch out. No need to register, but if the weather looks to be nasty, email (steveandsuebaker@gmail.com) or call Steve (231-238-8723) the evening of December 3rd to learn if the trip is still on.



Cheboygan Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 7:30 AM

The Cheboygan Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a 7.5 mile radius circle centered at the intersection of M-33 and Old 27. Ed Pike is the compiler (231-758-3319). Bird counters are needed to cover this large area. Come join us and be a part of a nationwide CBC. If you live in the count area counting and



reporting for feeder birds is also a valuable addition. Please call Ed to sign up ahead of time if you are interested in either counting birds at your feeder in the count area OR participating in the field work so territories can be assigned.

We will meet at 7:30 am at McDonalds in Cheboygan.

Mackinaw Straits Christmas Bird Count Wednesday, December 16, 2015

The Mackinaw Straits Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is centered on the Mackinaw Bridge and includes the Mackinaw City area, St. Ignace area and Mackinac Island. Please contact Steve Baker (231-238-8723) for the meeting place if you would like to join us for this low key count.



Pickford-Cedarville Christmas Bird Count Friday, December 18, 2015

Photo by: Steve Baker



Be a part of the Pickford-Cedarville Christmas Bird Count (CBC) call Steve Baker (231-238-8723) for additional information. Travel to some new areas to explore the birds of this terrain.

News of Interest

MSRW NEWS (Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch)

Submitted by: Judy Frock

As 2015 draws to a close and our work for this year is completed, we are so pleased to report that it was a very successful year.

We most sincerely wish to thank all of our supporters, our counters, both paid and volunteer, and all who came out to enjoy both the thrills of seeing raptors in the sky over Mackinaw City and/or the banding of an owl at night in Cheboygan or St. Ignace. It's so exciting and gratifying to be able to provide these experiences.

Our 2015 Fall Owl Survey, conducted by Selena Creed with support and leadership from Ed Pike, banded 250 Northern Saw-whet owls, 3 Long-eared owls, and 1 Barred Owl. Fifteen of the Northern Saw-whets were foreign re-traps (birds banded at other locations), and two were recaptures (birds previously banded at St. Ignace). Fall netting took place on 45 nights from September 20 to November 10 with a total of 454.75 hours spent on the survey. Winds proved to be the greatest challenge this fall and caused erratic movement of birds which resulted in a more even migration than is normally expected. An interesting difference in age ratio occurred between the 2014 and 2015 banding experience. In 2014, hatch-year birds made up almost 60% of capture compared to about 30% in 2015. Perhaps the breeding season this year wasn't as successful? It will be interesting to observe this in coming years.

On a personal note, it's well worth spending a fall evening learning about the owl banding process with the bright stars above, the night sounds around, and the possibility of seeing the capture and banding of a silent creature of the night. Thank you Selena and Ed we and our granddaughter will never forget.

Hawk Count in Corpus Christi

Submitted by: Gloria Cadwalader

One of our members provided a summary of "Hawk Count" data from the Corpus Christi area. Likely some of the same exact birds that were counted here during their migration and interestingly, by one of the same counters "Kevin Georg". On October 26th and 27th the number of Turkey Vultures counted was 64,171 and 83,994, respectively. Earlier in the month huge numbers of Broad-winged Hawks were counted, as well. Many of you probably already know this, but for those of you who don't, this data can be found at www.hawkcourt.org.

Other Events

For Birders with an interest in Photography and Videos Cheboygan Area Photography Club December 3, 2015 from 6 PM - 8 PM Cheboygan Public Library

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader

The Cheboygan Area Photography Club is having a presentation on working with video and doing slideshows and time-lapse movies.

This is a 2 part session and you have already missed the first part. But don't despair, you can get caught up at the next session.

Tom Cadwalader is doing the presentation and at the first meeting he went over the basics of video and the various settings in our cameras to capture quality video footage. In the next session Tom will be starting with a review of video editing and then get into building great slide show presentations using still pictures. Following that he will get into time-lapse movies. The techniques and skills presented are applicable to both windows and Mac users.

The next session is December 3rd from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Library. The presentation is free and you do not need to be a member of the Photography Club to attend.

SAAS Chapter Notes

Program Schedule

February 10, 2016 - "Kirtland's Warbler Initiative:
Sustaining the Success"
By: Abigail Ertel - Huron Pines

March 9, 2016 - "Frogs of Michigan and Their Voices"
By: Jim McGrath - Nature Discovery

April 13, 2016 - "Plight of the Monarch" Film
By: Kirby and Cindy Pringle - Dogtown Artworks, IL

May 11, 2016 - "Bird Song of the Spring Woods:
Identifying Birds by Ear"
By: Gerard Lillie, Audubon Society of Portland, OR

June 8, 2016 - "Hike and Potluck"

SAAS General Meeting Minutes

Date : November 11, 2015

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau

Attendance: 39 (33 members 6 guests)
Program: "Bring it to Cheboygan: Reducing Plastic Bag Waste"

President Jean Moberly honored all veterans. Kathy Bricker introduced our speaker, David Martin, Michiganders Against Plastics, who spoke on educating the public on reducing local and worldwide use of plastic bags. He explained why we don't need them and the many ways they harm the environment. He talked on how to choose and care for the reusable bags. He was assisted by Karen Martin. A "question and answer" session followed.

Glen Matthews spoke on microbeads and how they are making their way into the Great Lakes. Glen also spoke on Senate Bill 526 regarding farm raised fish aquaculture.

Alice MacFarland moved:

1. Oppose House Bill 4345 on sale of products containing microbes
2. Support Senate Bill 526 which opposes aquaculture specific to open Great Lakes Aquaculture and not to aquaculture in all forms.
3. Glen Matthews to prepare and submit a position paper of the Straits Area Audubon Society in regard to each of these legislative bills.

Kathy Bricker seconded the motion. A show of hands passed the motion.

Kathy Bricker spoke on the Raptor Festival on April 2, 2016.

Al Moberly discussed "what is expected of the Field Trip Coordinator", as he will be moving from that position to become the SAAS Web Master. SAAS is now looking for a volunteer to become the Field Trip Coordinator.

Nature sightings discussion led by Bev Kirby.

Raffle Prize: jar of honey donated by Dale Giddings won by Janet Trudeau

Raffle prize: a wooden fish for hor's d'oeuvres donated by Faye Johnston won by Bev Kirby.

For Your Information

Tips for a Trash-Free Holiday



Submitted by: Kathy Bricker
Adapted from: Ocean Conservancy

Bring your own bag: While we remember this now at the grocery store, take bags when shopping for holiday gifts as well.

Think outside the gift box and wrapping paper: Instead, give concert tickets, organization (how about SAAS?!) memberships, magazine subscriptions, or gift cards to eliminate packaging materials and save shipping costs.

Re-use: Boxes and gift bags, wrapping paper and ribbons from last year, and save for next year. (Remember to remove labels and gift tags!)

Buy vintage: Shop at secondhand and antique stores to decrease the use of new resources while providing unique gifts.

De-fuse: Save energy by unplugging holiday and room lights and electronics when not in use.

Use those gifts: Wear your new sweater and turn down the thermostat.

Online Extras - Kettle Dropbox

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor

The December photos/videos have been added to the Kettle Dropbox. All you, the reader, has to do is click on the provided link to see these images. 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 to view their work. Permission should be obtained before downloading or copying any of these pictures or videos.

For December the extra content can be found at:

[Click Here For Pictures](#)

Hint: Once in the folder, to view an image in a larger format just double click on the image.

Straits Area Audubon Society 2015 - 2016 Officers

President: **Jean Moberly** - 231-268-9726
normich@gmail.com
Vice President: **Chris Grant** - 231-238-8216
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Treasurer: **Rose Rynerson** - 231-597-9788
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brickerscd@yahoo.com
MAS Rep.: **Diane Morand** - 231-627-4282
mdlmorand@aol.com

Nature Links

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 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

Note from the Editors

All articles and photos for **THE KETTLE** should be submitted to the editors' email box (kettleeditor@gmail.com) five days BEFORE the end of a publication month. This will allow the email edition to be sent out by the 1st of the month and the printed edition to be mailed by the 4th. Thank you - Gloria Cadwalader, Publication Editor and Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor.

SAAS THANKS

Williams Office Equipment for donating printing costs for **The Kettle**. Please consider them for all your **Computer, Copier, Printer, and Fax needs**.

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