

# Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society  
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## Brownfields

Keith West, Assistant Professor of Geography at UW- Marinette, will give a presentation entitled ***Brownfields and Industrial Ecology*** at our February meeting.

Prof. West's research interests include the subject of brownfields.

Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or

reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment.

Come see what exactly brownfields are, and why you should be informed.

Members will also get a chance to tour the Chappee Rapids website at the meeting. Come check it out.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 17** at 7:00 PM, , Rm M-107, UW-Marquette. □

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## The State of the Environment

### 2005 Banquet

Harold "Bud" Jordahl, will be the featured speaker at the sixteenth annual Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet. Jordahl will present a program on "*The State of the Environment: How Politics Influence the Environment.*"

The sixteenth annual Banquet will be held at Schussler's Supper Club in Peshtigo on **Friday, April 1**. The social hour will begin at 6:00 P.M. with the dinner and program at 7:00 P.M.

The 2005 Environmental Achievement Awards will be presented. A Silent Auction, with proceeds going to our General Project Fund, will again be held this year. Door prizes will also be awarded.

The family style dinner will include chicken and fish. Tickets are \$15 per person, \$7 per child. They may be purchased from any Chappee Rapids Audubon board member or by calling 732-1277 or 735-5961 by March 30. □

*- For more information about Mr. Jordahl please turn to page five.*

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## Website Changes

Three years ago, Ray Williams designed Chappee Rapids Audubon's first website. The site has been stable and has served us well since that time. The worldwide web continues to change daily and regular maintenance of the site is important to continue to keep the site functioning as a resource and recruiting tool. Ray is active in several other community projects and we felt that it was unfair to continue to burden him with long term site maintenance.

For this reason we have hired a

*(continued on page 3)*

## The Chappee Rapids Reporter

The Chappee Rapids Reporter is the newsletter of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society. The Chappee Rapids Reporter is published four times per year.

Readers are encouraged to submit artwork, press releases, articles, expressions of opinion, letters and any information which may be interesting to Chappee Rapids Audubon members.

Articles may be submitted on paper (handwritten or typed), on disk, or by e-mail. Send submissions to Laurie Lata, N2946 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143. paull@mari.net

The opinions expressed in the Chappee Rapids Reporter are not necessarily those of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society or the Editor. The contents of the Chappee Rapids Reporter may be used without permission in other publications if acknowledgment of the source is noted.

The Chappee Rapids Reporter is mailed to all members of Chappee Rapids Audubon.

Editor .....Laurie Lata  
Assistant Editor....Paul Lata

Website  
www.chappeerapidsaudubonsocietyorg

### Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

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Chappee Rapids Site -  
Denise Taylor

## Message from the President

There is something about the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) that despite the cold weather and sitting in a car for hours, is just such a wonderful day. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful area and you really get to see that on the Count. Sometimes the roads in the count are snowy or icy, but you drive slowly, stop a lot, get out and look up into the trees or woods and really get a feel for winter in the north. You also get funny looks or asked what you are doing looking with binoculars into someone's yard to count the birds at their feeders.

We had company that weekend (my brother and his wife) and invited them along on the count because it has such a tradition and thought they might enjoy doing something different. I packed up sandwiches, oranges, coffee and tea and we left the house at 6 am. It wasn't a really cold morning as the temperature read 43 degrees but there was a very strong wind out of the south, and I wondered about seeing a lot of birds because of it. As the day progressed the wind grew stronger and the temperature dropped. I was right because the numbers and species of birds seen this year were down from other

years. We looked for a hawk all day and never saw one in our quad. What we did see, that really surprised my brother, were robins. I had told him we usually saw a robin or two and he wouldn't believe that. The first road we took into a swampy area produced a large flock of cedar waxwings and 21 robins! Along with the birds that day, we saw a porcupine, mink, seven deer, fox, pine and gray squirrels and I understand another group saw a pink flamingo (plastic, I think).

After a long morning of birding up and down the roads and our portion of the Menominee River, we met the others for lunch and to catch up with what they had seen. We do a quick count to see how many species we had all seen and off we go again to finish the roads we haven't covered yet in our quad .

It's just a great day of birding, being out in the country, sharing your love of birds, wildlife and nature with other Audubon friends. Next year, consider this as part of your holiday season. We hold our count on the Saturday between Christmas and New Years.

Regards,

*Joan*

**Reminder**– If your mailing label reads Renewal Due Sept 04, you still need to renew your membership for 2004 - 05. A membership form is included on the back of this newsletter.

*Thank you.*

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## Welcome New Member

Anna Perez-Pelaez

# Calendar of Events

## February

**17**– February Meeting  
**Brownfields and Industrial Ecology**  
**Speaker: Keith West**  
Details on page one

**TBA** - Winter Outing  
Details at February meeting and in e-mail

## March

**3**– Epidemiology Seminar  
**UW-Marinette 12:15 pm**  
Dr Taneja will explain what regional epidemiologists does, how data are collected, how they help communities deal with public health issues and how they track and project the spread and future of diseases such as HIV, SARS, West Nile and Lyme Disease.

## April

**1** - Annual Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet  
**Speaker: Harold Jordahl**  
Details on page one

**16** - Sandhill Crane Count  
Details in next newsletter

**21**– April Meeting  
**Beekeeping**  
**Speaker: Phil Burgard**  
Details in next newsletter

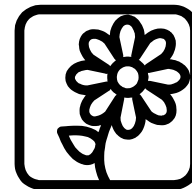
**TBA**– Harmony Hardwoods Workday  
Details in next newsletter

## May

**3,10,17,24**- Tuesday Evening Hikes  
Details in next newsletter

**TBA**– Hay Creek Cleanup  
Details in next newsletter

**19** - May Meeting -  
**Bird Identification**  
**Speaker: Joan Campbell**  
Details in next newsletter



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## Website (from page one)

website designer, Jerome Vogel to maintain the site. He typically builds small sites like ours. Vogel liked our site design and hasn't made major changes. You will, however, see some updates. You will notice a few minor changes on some pages and that the pages will load a little faster than previously.

It will now be easier for us to e-mail members with breaking news. We hope to offer an e-mail delivery option that would get the newsletter to members faster and save money and possibly paper.

Keep checking the website for other changes. Members will have

the opportunity to tour the website at the February 17 meeting.

If you get a chance, stop into Trends and Traditions and thank Ray for his contribution to Chappee Rapids Audubon. □

The website address is still [chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)



## Christmas Bird Count Results

### Hayward Lakes, Michigan December 31, 2004

Thirty five species and 1468 individual birds were counted by Barb, George & Betty Bereza, Bob Brisson, Rich & Joan Campbell, Joe Fournier, Jim Goin, Dale Leitzke, Bill & Denise Taylor. Count coordinator was Joan Campbell. □

American Crow	283
American Goldfinch	148
American Robin	28
American Tree Sparrow	13
Bald Eagle	14
Black-capped Chickadee	110
Blue Jay	27
Cedar Waxwing	31
Common Goldeneye	10
Common Merganser	9
Common Raven	73
Common Redpoll	113
Dark-eyed Junco(Slate colored)	17
Downy Woodpecker	8
European Starling	177
Gull Species	32
Hairy Woodpecker	5
Herring Gull	4
Mallard	4
Mourning Dove	78
Northern Bobwhite	3
Northern Cardinal	1
Northern Shrike	4
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Pine Siskin	20
Purple Finch	2
Red Tailed Hawk	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
Ring - billed Gull	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	12
Rock Pigeon	92
Rough-legged Hawk	6
Ruffed Grouse	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	6
White-winged Scoter	3
Wild Turkey	122

## Birding Babylon

### Christmas Bird Count in Iraq

*Excerpts from the Internet blog, "Birding Babylon", by a young American soldier from New England, stationed in Iraq.*

#### Wednesday, December 22, 2004

I haven't been for a good long walk for a few weeks. Tomorrow morning I'll have an opportunity. I'll consider it a Christmas Bird Count. Because of this deployment I've missed the last two counts with the local Audubon society that I have participated in since I was 14. The first CBC I went on I remember seeing a flock of Pine Grosbeaks in the snow. At home I usually get to count the birds at a huge American Crow roost. Here I have my Rooks.

#### Monday, December 27, 2004

My CBC was somewhat abbreviated because several projects were sprung on some in the last few days. I only hit two spots, our laundry pond and the dump.

Little Grebe - 2  
Cattle Egret - 4  
Grey Heron - 1  
Mallard - 7  
Shoveler - 4  
Ferruginous Duck - 1  
Marsh Harrier - 1  
Moorhen - 3  
Coot - 11  
Black-headed Gull - 1500  
Lesser Black-backed Gull - 2  
Yellow-legged Gull - 3  
Armenian Gull - 8  
Rock Dove - 200  
Collared Dove - 18  
Crested Lark - 7  
White Wagtail - 12  
White-cheeked Bulbul - 3  
Graceful Prinia - 6  
Common Babbler - 1  
Jackdaw - 12  
Rook - 65  
Hooded Crow - 9  
House Sparrow - 35

**24 Species 1915 Individual Birds**

## Did You Know?

by John Helfert

John James Audubon was the first person to band birds in the early 1800's. He tied silver threads to the legs of two young phoebes, one of which returned the following year.

In the 1800's, bison were so abundant out west it would take three and a half days for the massive herd to pass by.

Strangely enough, camels originated in America millions of years ago. Our western plains swarmed with little camels about the size of sheep, but for some unknown reason left their homeland and migrated to Asia and Africa.

During his observations on the Mississippi River, John James Audubon witnessed a migration of the passenger pigeon that blackened the sky for one and a half minutes. Records show the last bird was shot in April 1904. They are now extinct. This came about as a result of the ruthless slaughter by the white man. Hundreds of thousands of birds were shipped to restaurants on the east coast.

"Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unknown generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander."

- Theodore Roosevelt

## More About Harold Jordahl

Harold Jordahl received Bachelors and Masters degrees in Forestry from the University of Michigan. He then went on to earn a Masters of Public Health Administration from Harvard University.

His career started with the Wisconsin Conservation Department in 1950. He continued with the state working for the Department of Resource Development. There he worked closely with then Governor Gaylord Nelson implementing his state program on conservation and recreation planning. He continued with Nelson developing the

Outdoor Recreation Aids Planning that provided funding for land purchases for state parks, forests and wildlife management areas as well as other public land.

He was appointed by the Secretary of Interior as the regional coordinator for the Upper Mississippi and Western Great Lakes Region and served as the Federal Co-chairman of the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, being appointed by the President.

He has served as both a member and Chair of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and spent many years teaching at the University of Wisconsin Madison in the

Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Since retirement he continues to be active in a wide range of natural resource issues. Some of these include serving on the Apostle Island National Lakeshore Friends group, analysis of the Brule River State Forest Master Plan and amendments to Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law. He recently stepped down as President of Gathering Waters Conservancy where he was a founding member. On April 9<sup>th</sup> of this year he will be inducted to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. □

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## A Good But Troublesome Read

### The Beast in the Garden

By David Baron 2004

This 277-page book is an important contribution to our understanding of the increasing interactions between large carnivores and humans. The author is a seasoned writer about science and environmental issues for National Public Radio and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This factual book chronicles the series of developments in both human and mountain lion behavior that eventually lead to an unthinkable fatal interaction. The subtitle: *A Modern Parable of Man and Nature* is more than that; it is a *warning we best not ignore*.

The true story takes place in the Boulder/Idaho Springs areas northwest and west of Denver, Colorado in the late 1980's and 1990's. The book is a grabber and will keep you turning pages until

the end. What Mr. Baron has so artfully done is clearly explain the major biological, cultural and demographic factors that inevitably lead to humans becoming potential prey for an increasing cougar (mountain lion, puma) population. There is a cautionary note for all of us, even if we do not now live in an area inhabited by this largest purring cat in North America.

A major player in this story of habituated-to-humans cougars are deer...their traditional and major prey. Boulder County reduced the hunting harvest of deer and allowed citizens to feed deer around their dwellings. With cougar hunting greatly limited in the second half of the 1900's, these usually solitary hunters began to reclaim their native habitat, which now contains a very large deer population. All animals have natural factors that

limit their numbers. For *Puma concolor*, theirs, gray wolves, are gone. In short, the sequence goes like this: humans move into good quality lion habitat, deer increase in numbers and move into human neighborhoods, both wild species become more active during the day, dogs and cats are easy prey and humans are of no consequence to lions. Lions are excellent ambush hunters. The rest you can piece together.

So, as we celebrate the return of lions in many areas of their former habitat, we have an added responsibility to understand the consequences of our wildlife policies; and by the way...watch your behavior with deer, pets and any habituated large carnivore.

- Wendel Johnson

BOOK REVIEW

## The Lost Call

Are whip poor wills gone from our area as well as the bob-o-links and the meadowlarks? I hope not.

It was so nice to hear them whipping away. One needs to be alert. There was a time, at least three years ago, when I could hear him every night. He would come and sit on our clothesline pole and whip away. Then he'd move to our front steps. I even sneaked a peak by nimbly moving the curtains ever

so slightly. He was about two feet away with only the door in between. I was in awe. His body was quite low as his legs were quite short. Big eyes so he can see well and his plumage is dull and variegated.

I'm lucky to live in the country with forty acres around me, plus the rest of acres of forest south, west and east. At least one hundred acres next to ours. Keeping the windows

and doors open allows all the natural sounds to be heard. Of course, there is a state highway in front of our house so it can detract from some wild sensations.

I'm waiting for spring to see if Mr. Whipp-or Will will be back on his tour of yesterday. Hope so. Listen just before dawn or early nightfall. Good luck!

- Hazel Hammett

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## Birding Websites

### Avibase– The World Bird Database

An extensive database information system about all birds of the world, containing over 1.4 million records about 10,000 species and 22,000 subspecies of birds, including distribution information, taxonomy, synonyms in several languages and more.

[www.bsc-eoc.org/avibase/avibase.jsp](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/avibase/avibase.jsp)

### All About Birds

#### From Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Information about bird watching, identification, and study of birds. The site features the browsable "Online Bird Guide", a guide for bird species identifications and in-depth information, including sounds, video, and distribution maps. Also includes information about favorite birding locations, attracting birds, bird conservation efforts, choosing binoculars and scopes, and materials for educators.

[www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/allaboutbirds](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/allaboutbirds)



## Great Backyard

### Bird Count

February 18-21

Birders of every age and skill level are encouraged to participate in the 8th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Results will add vital new information to the understanding of our birds and their environment.

This national count asks families, individuals, classrooms, and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders, local parks, schoolyards and other areas during any or all of the four count days.

Instructions can be found on the web at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org). □

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## T-Shirts, Sweatshirts (and Bird Feeders) for Sale

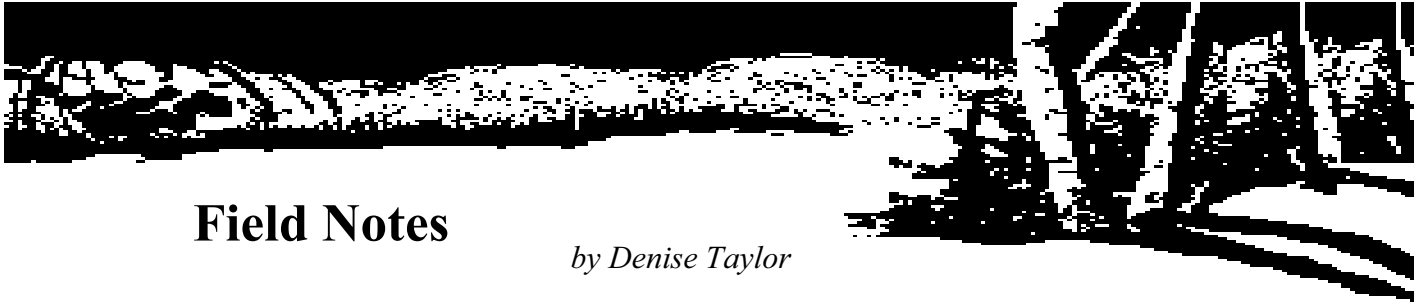
Chappee Rapids Audubon is selling long sleeve T-shirts for \$18 and sweatshirts for \$20 (both in new colors!). Our sandpiper bird logo is again featured on the shirts.

Bird feeders and bird houses are

also available for \$10 and thistle feeders for \$15 and \$18.

Items will be available at the February 17 meeting.

For more information, contact Barb Bereza at 582-0884. □



## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

*Editor's Note: Denise is under the weather this month. She asks that you re-read this column, written last year at this time. Compare it with our very different winter this year. Denise thanks everyone for reporting their observations to her. She will see you in the spring!*

Welcome to midwinter! It's such a relief to have made it thus far, even knowing we have a long ways till spring, it is all downhill from here. Please pardon my limited perspective on the world around us this month, my body was entertaining the flu virus for several weeks this season. I take great solace in knowing I now harbor some new antibodies and seem to be recovering fully. After a mixed bag of weather in December we sank below freezing on January 4th and have not been above 32 degrees again as of February 2nd. Snow has been accumulating here since January 7th. The lowest temperature recorded here on the farm was -22F on both the 6th and the 25th. Looks to me like we are having a nice, "normal" winter for the first time in a few years!

December birds seemed to match the late fall flocks. Most reports were that there seemed to be few to be seen. I missed the CBC's but there was open water, many Canada geese and daily overflights of mergansers and bufflehead. On a few woods walks before Christmas I did come upon some large mixed flocks of chickadees, nuthatches with a brown creeper and a handful of

goldfinches thrown in. Ravens seem to be in average numbers and crows are regularly about.

With the beginning of snow cover in January flocks descended on the bird feeders. We are presently hosting 20-25 chickadees, only about five blue jays, white breasted nuthatches, juncos, a few tree sparrows and one cardinal...hey, he adds a little warmth to the color palate! Woodpeckers seem to be down slightly in my area. There is good raptor viewing throughout the region in my opinion. Eagles are in average numbers, good sites for spotting will be near open water in the rivers and lake Noquebay area. Rough-legged hawks are everywhere and offer some spectacular sites soaring and diving against the winter landscapes. Redtails are also very numerous and easily observed this year, these birds certainly seem to be increasing in our area. I have seen one goshawk January 25 at Wallace. Kestrels start appearing in the Green Bay area as we head southward.

A few of the unusual sightings reported include a red-winged blackbird seen by John Helfert in early January near Menominee. I

saw one robin in Marinette on January 31st...no biggie but then Ronnie Garrett of Wallace had ten appear at her feeder on February 1st so there must be a good sized wintering flock in the swamps this year! A special treat for me has been the "invasion" of pine grosbeaks throughout mid-Menominee county. A true winter visitor - now where are the siskens?

As our daylight increases by nearly 15 minutes a week between now and the Spring equinox the rush will truly start. Meetings will increase, yard work, spring track, graduations....WAIT! Not those things, we really want to know and hear about what's really happening, the return of marsh hawks, horned larks and killdeer in February. Robins and grackles and bluebirds in March. The ice breaking up in the river, the sturgeon run, the smelt run, the first chipmunk, the first hepatica in bloom. Which things really matter? Where do we really want to spend our time? Winter will last but a short time longer, and it's awfully good sleeping weather, take advantage of it before it's gone. □