

# Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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Summer 2005

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## Chapter of the Year!

Chappee Rapids Audubon has been named Michigan Audubon Society's Chapter of the Year. Chappee Rapids was selected from

43 chapters in the state for the honor. Patricia Cady, Vice President of Operations for Michigan Audubon, said, "Your Audubon group has done

an outstanding job educating the public, providing bird hikes, Christmas Bird Counts, and your

(Continued on page 6)

## The Birds....

Do you consider yourself a birdwatcher? Birding is one of the fastest growing recreations in the country today. Over 2 million people in Wisconsin alone consider themselves birdwatchers.

Our May program will be "Birding Your Backyard: How To

Identify and enjoy birds in your backyard", presented by our President, Joan Campbell.

Joan has been observing and studying birds for over thirty nine years and will share her love of birding with us. She will cover choices of field guides, how to buy

optics, types of feeders and seed for drawing in a variety of birds, and tips on identifying.

Come to the May meeting and get excited about birds and bird watching. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 19** at 7:00 P.M. in Room M-107 at UW-Marquette. □

## ...and the Bees

Phil Burgard will be present a talk on beekeeping at our April 21 meeting. Originally from Pennsylvania, Brugard is in Marinette with the U.S. Coast Guard at Marinette Marine.

Phil has raised bees and sold honey for twelve years. Most of his

experience is with a type of bee called "Italians."

Brugard will bring a brand new, whole beehive. For his talk he will take apart the hive piece by piece, demonstrating the process of honey making by the bees.

Bring the whole family for this

opportunity to see inside a real beehive and the chance to win some of Brugard's honey as a door prize.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 21** at 7:00 P.M. in Room M-107 at UW-Marquette. □

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

## 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 each 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 or other readers of this newsletter.

Articles may be submitted on paper (handwritten or typed), on disk, or by email. Send submissions to Laurie Lata, N2946 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143 or [info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](mailto:info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

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 included.

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

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

Web Site  
[www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

## Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

President - Joan Campbell  
Vice President - Paul Lata  
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Treasurer - Ruth Farrell  
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Field Trips - Open  
Social - Barb Bereza  
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Georgia Jensen  
Conservation - Wendel Johnson  
WI Audubon Delegate - Open  
MI Audubon Delegate -  
Denise Taylor  
Newsletter - Laurie Lata  
Legislative - Trygve Rhude  
Education - John Helfert  
Chappee-Webber Site -  
Denise Taylor

# Message from the President

I'm going to switch gears here and use the president messages for something I feel is very important – bird conservation. The organizations I belong to, American Birding Assoc. (ABA), Wisconsin Society of Ornithology (WSO), Cornell Lab. Of Ornithology, and American Bird Conservancy all publish monthly magazines and newsletters, plus I subscribe to monthly magazines *Birder's World* and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Many of the articles written are on conservation because so many of our continent's bird species, especially the neotropic songbirds, are declining at alarming rates.

At our banquet we have a raffle and the monies we receive will be used for Special Projects such as Chappee Rapids Learning Center, signs for Lake Noquebay ski/hiking trails and possibly for a bird conservation project like Optics for the Tropics.

Optics for the Tropics is a charity organization providing quality optical equipment in the Caribbean and Latin America where resources are very limited. They distribute equipment to ornithologists and educators working in further bird conservation. More than half of North American birds spend part of their annual life cycle in the tropics.

These birds do not recognize political boundaries. If we want them to return each spring, we must recognize the need for international partnerships supporting bird conservation. Their vision is two fold: to increase the resources needed to improve monitoring, inventory, research, management and education regarding birds and their habitats in the Caribbean and Latin American and to strengthen partnerships that work towards a comprehensive bird conservation effort. Currently, Eagle Optics, one of the partners, have given out 107 pairs of 10x50, water and fog proof binoculars to 22 programs in 15 countries.

How can we help? Our organization could sponsor an effort in the Caribbean or Latin America by providing the matching funds for equipment we would like to send to the project. All funds raised are matched dollar-for-dollar by Eagle Optics. I feel that this project is something we should definitely keep in mind when we decide where the money in our Special Projects will go. If you personally want to contribute, I will be glad to furnish you with the information needed.

Regards, *Joan*

***Gently Remind Your Friends to  
Keep Their Cats Indoors!***

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## New Members

Chappee Rapids Audubon welcomes our newest members

Dick & Sally Kirschmann  
Wayne & Marlene Nelson  
Stacy Rogall

# Calendar of Events



## April

**16- International Crane Foundation Sandhill Crane Count**  
Details on page five.

**21-April Meeting-  
Beekeeping**  
**Speaker- Phil Burgard**  
7:00 P.M.,  
UW-Marquette  
Rm M-107.  
Details on page one.



## May

**9- Frog Bicycle Ride**  
6:30 P.M.  
Details on page six.

**10- Tuesday Evening Walk**  
**Marinette Nature Walk**  
**Bay Shore Street**  
Details on page six.

**17- Tuesday Evening Walk**  
**DNR Property on Pond Road**  
Details on page six.

**19- May Meeting -  
Beginning Birding**  
**Speaker- Joan Campbell**  
7:00 P.M.,  
UW- Marquette,  
Room M-107.  
Details on page one.

## May

**20-22- Birding by the Bay**  
**Munising, Michigan**  
Talk on eagle research by  
Bill Bowerman  
A birds of prey presentation by  
MUCC's Wildlife Encounters  
program.  
For more info: (906) 387-2138

**24- Tuesday Evening Walk**  
**Riverside Cemetery**  
Details on page six.

**31- Tuesday Evening Walk**  
**Menekaunee Walkway**  
Details on page six.

## June

**19 -Canoe Outing**  
**Menominee River**  
Details on page six.

# Did You Know?

by John Helfert

Bees carry honey from their flower to the comb in their crops or stomachs. Mead is a Scandinavian drink derived from boiling honey combs. Hops and a small quantity of brandy was added.



While a flock or even a few crows feed on the ground, one or more act as a sentry high in a tree. One cry of warning sends the birds winging away to safety.

The tortoise is the world's oldest living animal.

Millions of years ago, whales and porpoises actually lived on land and walked on four legs. A porpoise or a whale must hold its breath while under water and would drown if submerged too long. Porpoises, like whales, give birth to their young alive and feed them on milk. They both have warm blood, as do other mammals.

A pelican's pouch can hold three gallons of water.

## Owl Invasion

An invasion of uncommon owls made the U.P a hotspot for birders during the winter. When prey is scarce in their northern range, raptors such as the great gray owl, northern hawk owl, and snowy owl move south from Canada to

Minnesota and Michigan.

In February, birders reported seeing several great gray owls, mostly in Chippewa County; a white-phase gyrfalcon; and a northern hawk owl near Kelden.

*-Michigan Out-of-Doors, 4/05*

## Wilson Ornithological Society

Established in 1888 and named after the renowned ornithologist Alexander Wilson, the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) "is a world-wide organization of nearly 2500 people who share a curiosity about birds."

Hosted by the U of Michigan, the Society website offers

information about holdings in the WOS library, research grants, and annual meetings. The site contains links to many downloadable copies of the *Wilson Bulletin* (the Society's long-standing scholarly journal).

<http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/birds/wos.html> □

## Banquet a Success

Over 80 people enjoyed the sixteenth annual Environmental Awards Banquet held on April 1 at Schussler's. Harold "Bud" Jordahl, gave a talk about politics and the environmental movement in Wisconsin.

The Leroy Lintereur Individual Award went to Dale & Judy Paust for selling their resort and land to the state of Wisconsin for the

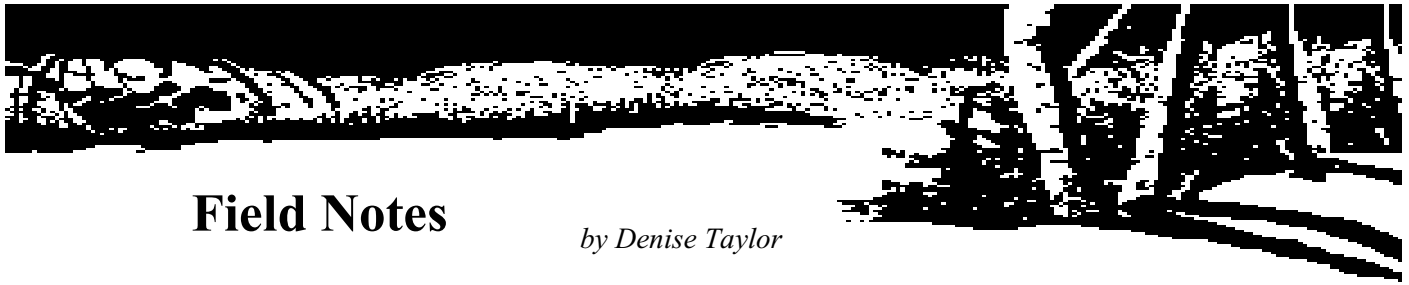
creation of Governor Thompson State Park.

The Organization/Group Award went to Todd Lapacz, Marinette City Forester for his work going above and beyond in developing the forestry plan for the City of Marinette. The raffle netted \$450. Proceeds will be used for the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Special Projects Fund. □

### Special Thanks to the Following for Door Prizes and Raffle Items for the Banquet

A & K Feed & Seed  
Aurora Books  
Bayshore Massage  
George Bereza  
Marge Bjork  
Book World  
Camera Fair  
Rich & Joan Campbell  
Cooper's (Menominee Bagel)  
Jim Goin & Barb Bereza  
James Hammett  
Georgia Jensen  
John's Taxidermy  
Beverly Hayward Johnson  
Kuber's Feed Mill

Larry Koesling  
Walter Leitzke  
Marinette Farm & Garden  
Mary Moss  
Mikutowski Woodworking  
Northwoods Wildlife Gallery  
Peshtigo Feed Mill  
Peshtigo Pharmacy  
Schloegel's Bayview Restaurant  
Schussler's Supper Club  
Sentinel Structures  
Denise Taylor  
Touches of Natural Healing  
Trends & Traditions



## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

I don't know anyone who lives in this area who doesn't look forward to that perfect spring day. For me, that day was today; 68 degrees, partly cloudy with a light easterly breeze. If this weather had occurred at any other time than early April the effect would not be the same no matter what good fortune might have come my way. This exuberant feeling only follows winter-period. In spring, it is possible to believe that everything can be accomplished and nature adds to this illusion. As yet, the breeding and growing seasons have scarcely begun...therefore not much has failed. Much of my morning was spent examining buds on trees and shrubs both looking for greening and signs of winter injury. Grasses have not shot up yet and there is still ice in most small streams and ponds as well as covering the bay. Frost is well entrenched in low lying areas. It is hard to believe that folks living on sandy uplands were spotted planting onions today- more spring optimism!

The winter just passed seemed long, but looking over my calendar I don't see any added days???? Nor can I notice many record breaking snows or low temperatures. Cold settled in around Christmas. Snows were average and occurred weekly. Coldest temps here at the farm were -15 to -20 in late December, mid January and then for a two

week period in mid-March. February was very mild with many days in the mid forties. Bird activity was good but I did not have many unusual visitors- just lots of old friends.

Chickadees and Blue Jays were abundant with up to 30 of each at my feeder whenever there was snow on the ground. Juncos and tree sparrows were present all winter at most feeders. Redpolls and goldfinches were sporadic visitors. I noticed up to 6 cardinals on a daily basis here and had reports of up to 14 at a feeder at one time. Morning doves are in average numbers and starlings and a dozen English sparrows camped out around the buildings this year (they usually head for town). Robins spent the winter in many locales around the two counties and I would have to say they were the big news of the winter. I know there were at least three Coopers hawks in the city of Menominee and two young Goshawks here at the farm; Goshawks eat a lot...ask me about it!

As far as spring migrants, we are as yet behind but catching up fast. I have no recorded returns in February. Bill and Char Taylor noted a meadowlark the first week of March at Bark River Michigan. Len and Ronnie Guirette of Wallace reported the first bluebird on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The month was slow then except for the first Menominee

crane on March 17 along with a Merlin. I was out of town for a few days then returned to woodcock, killdeer and redwings on the 29<sup>th</sup>, whistling swans on the 30<sup>th</sup> (as well as Blue Jay carrying nesting material), Cowbirds and song sparrows on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Moving in to April we have phoebe on the first and tree swallows on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Red tails are increasing and we have lots to look forward to!

Among the plethora of other goings on in spring are the insects- honestly I don't know most of them. Other than the ubiquitous cluster flies (which will leave your homes soon...) Barb Bereza sighted the first butterfly, a Morningcloak, on April first. While making my rounds this AM I was bemoaning the fact that I had not seen any butterflies yet this season when a beautiful specimen, a Compton Tortoiseshell, came flitting through the old orchard. As I watched, this bright gem landed upon one of the most putrefied and degenerated of the remaining fall apples. The wings spread over the rotting russet fruit and the insect blended perfectly and enjoyed its meal in the sun. The lesson in contrast was profound. Nature is at its best when gathering up what is available and nurturing new life, new beginnings. This was nothing I had not seen before, but I am so glad spring reminds me just the same. Happy watchings! □



cranes@savingcranes.org

## In Search of Crane Counters

**Saturday, April 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 A.M.** will offer bird enthusiasts the chance to trek to area wetlands in Marinette County and enjoy a springtime sunrise while on the lookout during the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane

Count.

In addition to cranes, counters enjoy the early morning activities of songbirds, waterfowl and mammals.

Interested volunteers should contact Laurie Lata at 735-5961. □

## Carney Fen Update

On February 15, Kip Knudson and Dale Leitzke met with the DNR unit director Eric Thompson in Escanaba. Also in attendance were Kim Herman and two other DNR personnel. Very substantial progress was made.

We now have a better understanding of how we will select the boundaries of the fen. The results of our research were presented and the DNR members in attendance have indicated that they favor the registration of the Fen. Kim Herman answered numerous

questions about the dedication process. She has been an important asset to our group and continues to provide valuable assistance. The first steps in the approval process will be handled out of this Escanaba office.

We have been in touch with representative Tom Casperson’s office and all of our contacts have had positive results. Tom and his children visited the Fen in June.

The process of designating the fen should take about one and half to two years after our application is

submitted. Our immediate objectives are to investigate a few areas that we have not had a chance to investigate previously and to select boundaries that fit the criteria for natural areas and satisfy the concerns of the DNR. It’s going to be another busy summer but it looks like it’s all downhill from here.

Anyone who would like to participate in the process is more than welcome. Just contact Kip Knudson, Dale Leitzke or Ross Wolfe.

*- Dale Leitzke*

## Chapter of Year (from page one)

major conservation effort of preserving the Carney Fen. Your active involvement serves as a role model for other Michigan Audubon chapters.”

With over 150 members, the chapter is able to split up chores and spread the work projects around. Projects like publishing the area bird checklist, maintaining paths for hiking and skiing at Harmony Hardwoods and Lake Noquebay, holding the Sandhill crane count, and providing

educational programs for children at the Chapee-Webber Learning Center.

Chapee Rapids president Joan Campbell traveled to Lansing, Michigan on March 4th to accept the award at the Michigan Audubon Society awards dinner. Joan said, “It’s because of all our members that the chapter received the award. It’s a really great award for a well-deserving club.” □



# Electronic Newsletter

If you have access to a computer, consider the advantages of having your newsletter delivered electronically rather than by “snail mail.” Here’s how it will work starting with the Fall 2005 newsletter. When the newsletter is ready, you will receive an e-mail message with a link. Clicking on the link will take you directly to our website where you download the newsletter and print it if you wish.

Why would you want to do this?  
Here are some reasons:

- 1) It saves us approximately \$2.00 per membership per year.
- 2) It saves time spent sending out mailings. We currently mail over 500 newsletters annually.
- 3) It saves paper if you choose not to print the entire newsletter.
- 4) In most cases, you will receive the newsletter earlier than you would receive it in the mail.
- 5) The appearance of the newsletter will be better. It looks great on our printer at home but loses quality when we have it printed. We currently limit our use of photographs for this reason. Photographs will show up nicely in the electronic version.
- 6) We are considering adding color in the future. You would only see this on the electronic version. This would be particularly nice for pictures.
- 7) You can print an extra copy of the calendar to post wherever you wish.

If we don’t have your e-mail address, please send it to us at [info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](mailto:info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org) so that we can send you details on how to take advantage of this service.



# Spring Nature Walks



Joan Campbell, Denise Taylor, Bob Brisson and Dale Leitzke will be our guides for a series of nature walks on Tuesday evenings in May. Clip the following schedule and plan to join them and enjoy the birds, plants and wildlife in our local areas.

## Tuesdays - 6:30 pm

### May 10th - Marinette Nature Walk - Bay Shore St.

(Meet by bench north of Edwin St.)

Leader Joan Campbell 732-1277

### May 17th - DNR property at Pond Road

(Take County B, turn south at Little Red School House.)

Leader Dale Leitzke 863-3163

### May 24th - Cemetery-Menominee

(Meet by gate end of 14th Ave.)

Leader Bob Brisson 863-6850

### May 31st - Menekaunee Walkway

(Meet by Menekaunee Bridge.)

Leader Denise Taylor 863-7397

## Frog Ride

On **Monday, May 9**, Wendel Johnson, UW-Marquette biology professor, will lead a bicycle ride “hunt” for spring peepers. The ride, sponsored by Spokes & Folks Bicycle Club, will be approximately 12 miles long. Meet at the bay side parking lot at UW-Marquette at 6:30 P.M. Helmets are required. For more information, call Kathy Claycomb at (715) 789-2251. □

## Canoe Outing

Our summer canoe outing will be held in June. Details will be announced at the April and May meetings and on the Chappée Rapids Audubon web site: [chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

