

# Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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## Yarrow Talks on the Carney Fen

Yarrow Wolfe has spent the summer working at the Carney Fen. At our September meeting Yarrow will tell us about her research and how it will help the with natural areas designation. She will share her pictures of the rare orchids and other plants that have been found there.

Yarrow will also describe how

her dad, Ross Wolfe, Kip Knudson, and Dale Leitzke are doing with the nomination papers to have the fen selected as a state protected area.

Yarrow is a graduate student at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, NH, majoring in Conservation Biology. She is currently in the process of writing a report on her master's thesis. She

has lived and worked in ten different states and explored Brazil and other parts of South America, mostly working with rare and endangered plants for the U.S. Forest Service.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 P.M. in Room M-107 at the UW-Marinette. □

## Quad 30 Campaign—A Bird Lover's Mission

### 30 Years-30 Days-30 Counts-\$30,000

Noel Cutright, a Wisconsin ornithologist, celebrated his more than 30 years of collecting Breeding Bird Survey data by completing one BBS route during each day of June, 2004 – 30 routes in 30 days-and in the process raise \$30,000 for bird conservation. Thus, he named it Quad 30 Campaign.

Noel spent May 30 to July 1 counting birds in Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

Beginning each day before sunrise, he counted birds along 33 different roadside routes and found 179 species and more than 24,000 birds.

At our October meeting Mr. Cutright will tell us how he lived on thousands of M & M's and peanut butter & jelly pancakes as he crossed the four states and logged 5,525 miles.

Noel has a doctorate in wildlife science from Cornell University

and was twice past president of Wisconsin Society of Ornithology.

Come and find out how much Noel has raised for bird conservation so far (and the money is still coming in).

The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 P.M. in Room M-107 at the UW-Marinette. □

[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 e-mail. Send submissions to Laurie Lata, N2946 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143.  
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  
chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

## Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

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## Message from the President

I am very excited about our programs for September and October.

The fen is an absolutely beautiful place and with Yarrow's help we hope to protect it from future use such as logging or development and to protect the many species of orchids there.

Noel Cutright, one of Wisconsin's top birders, will entertain us with stories of his experiences and the people he met during his bird count on his Quad 30 Campaign in October. Golfers pay greens fees, hunters pay for duck stamps, tennis players pay club dues for courts. But how do birders make sure birds have the habitat and protection from threats they need to make our hobby enjoyable and viable into the future? Noel certainly had that in mind when he said, "our birds need our involvement" and decided to do the 30 day count and raise money for bird conservation. Hope to see you at both meetings.

Here are a couple of Hummingbird feeding tips for you to use while they are still here: Don't use more than a 1 to 4 sugar and water mixture (no red food dye, please). Change and wash your feeders often in warm soapy water or if really dirty, soak for 10 minutes in water with a small amount of bleach added. Keep your feeders up late in the season as it will not stop the birds from heading south and will help late migrants get a much-needed boost. We owe these tiny gems the best care we can give them. Keep your feeders clean, your solution clear and fresh, and enjoy the ultimate reward-the company of hummingbirds.

To keep the Chappee Rapids Reporter coming, don't forget to pay your dues, which are now due. Also, we are in need of a Secretary. Please consider helping your club in this position.

Regards, *Joan*

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

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## 2005 - '06 Dues are Due

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## Photos Needed

Georgia, Jensen, Chappee Rapids Audubon historian, is collecting photos from club activities, especially fieldtrips and banquets. So if you have some good photos, get them to her now. Georgia has the scrapbooks ready and waiting. ☐

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## Welcome New Members

Jan Deetjen   Chuck Finnessy   Milan Ziesmer

# Calendar of Events



## September

**15** - September Meeting -  
**The Carney Fen**  
Speaker - Yarrow Wolfe  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-107. Details on  
page one.

**25** - Chappée Webber  
**Learning Center Public  
Presentation-**  
2:00 pm  
Details on page four.

## October

**1** - Wild Bird Days  
**8:00 am-noon**  
**Marinette Farm & Garden**  
Details on page four.

**5** - New Mexico Wilderness  
**Presentation**  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Nathan Small, of the New  
Mexico Wilderness Alliance, will  
be touring through Wisconsin with  
a slideshow, salsa and action  
opportunities.  
New Mexico's Otero Mesa,  
which offers some of the most  
pristine desert grasslands left in the  
world, is threatened by  
irresponsible oil and gas drilling.  
The New Mexico Wilderness  
Alliance is committed to keeping  
Otero Mesa wild and free.

## October

**7** - Geology Bus Tour of  
**Marinette & Menominee  
Counties**  
Tour Leader—Howard  
Lorenz  
7:45 am - 5:30 pm. Coffee  
break included, but bring  
your own lunch for a stop  
at Dave's Falls.  
Cost is \$20 per person. To  
reserve call Amanda at the  
Marinette Land  
Conservation office at  
732-7780.

**20** - October Meeting -  
**A Bird Lover's Mission**  
Speaker—Noel Cutright  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette.  
Rm M-107. Details on page one.

## November

**17** - November Meeting -  
**Bird Friendly Forestry**  
Speaker—Greg Cleerman  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-107. Details in next  
newsletter.

## December

**30** - Michigan Christmas  
**Bird Count**  
Joan Campbell -732-1277  
Details in next newsletter.

## January

**19** - January Meeting -  
**Member Slide Show**  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-107. Details in next  
newsletter.

## February

**16** - February Meeting -  
**Insects of the World**  
Speaker - Dar Brown  
Details in spring newsletter

**TBA** - Snowshoe Outing-  
Details in next newsletter

## March

**TBA**- Banquet  
Details in spring newsletter.

## Dues are Due

It's that time of year again. Your membership needs to be renewed.

You may pay your dues at the September meeting. Or use the enclosed envelope to send in your check along with the renewal form on the back of this newsletter.

## Wild Bird Days

Marinette Farm & Garden will hold Wild Bird Days on Sat. Oct 1 from 8:00 to 12:00.

Chappee Rapids Audubon will be participating again this year selling thistle feeders. We will be available to answer any questions that people have about feeding birds, bird ID or any other general bird question. Also we will be judging the Wildlife Photo Contest. Categories are: Animals, birds, scenery and funnies photo.

Anyone interested in helping out please contact Joan at 732-1277.

- Joan Campbell

## Chappee Webber Learning Center

Presentations on the history of the Menominee River area will be shared with 4th grade students from Menominee County, Marinette and Peshtigo, September 12 to 16 and 29 through 23.

The program includes four sessions on "History of Great Lakes Fur Trade" by Randy Smith, "Native American Culture and History" by John Helfert, "History of Forests and Logging" by Bob Brisson, and "Natural History and Ecology" by Denise Taylor.

A session with refreshments and all presentations for the public will be held Sunday, September 25 at 2:00 pm. Everyone is invited. From Menominee the site is five miles

## E-Newsletter

If you have computer access, consider the advantages of having your newsletter delivered electronically rather than by "snail mail." Here's how it works. When the newsletter is ready, you receive an e-mail message with a link. Clicking on the link takes you directly to our website where you download the newsletter and print it (in color) if you wish.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, let us know by e-mailing [info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](mailto:info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org).  
□

## Crane Count

On April 16, 22 participants, including eleven students from Wendel Johnson's UW Marinette science class, counted Sandhill Cranes at 26 Marinette County sites.

A total of 72 cranes were counted (26 breeding pairs). Next year's count will be on April 15.

- Laurie Lata

north on River Drive where a sign and parking is provided.

Volunteers are needed to help direct classes and assist in presentations. Call Bob Brisson at 863-6850.

- Bob Brisson

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## Field Notes (from page 5)

it's nothing like the real thing. Let's keep it positive, we've got to get kids out there and let them explore. It might be a little messy, but it's worth it! □

## Did You Know?

by John Helfert

There are around 300 species of poisonous snakes in the world, killing as many as 100,000 humans each year. Polio was sometimes cured in the early 1940's by the injection of venom from poisonous snakes.

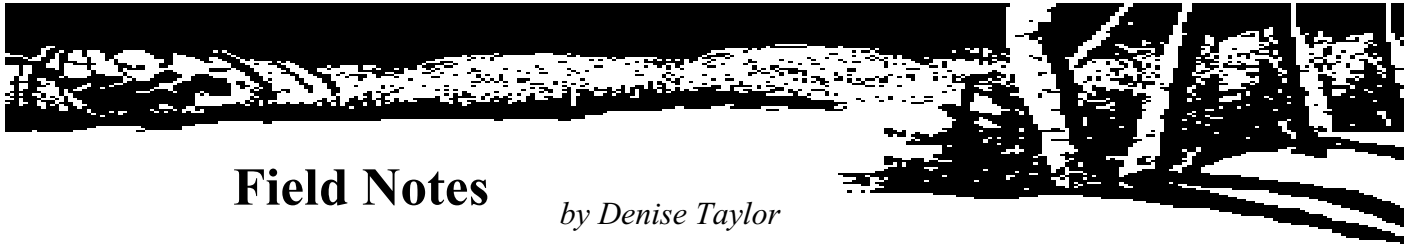
The glass snake, which can snap off at the touch and then grow a new tail, is not a snake at all, but a lizard.



Tree snakes from Brazil, dendrolopihis and chrysopella, leap from high limbs, stretched out and lengthwise and both flatten and broaden the body so that they present a concave surface. They glide to earth slowly, at an angle to the vertical and land without injury.

While female frogs are usually voiceless except for cries of alarm, male frogs summon their mates by voice, using the inflated vocal sac. Some can croak under water.

A grotesque creature abundant in the Kishasha Valley of Uganda is the three-horned chameleon. It grows to a length exceeding twelve inches and the males look like miniature versions of the ancient dinosaur monster, triceratops.



## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

I am not a great admirer of dried flowers. I much prefer fresh, glistening swaths dripping with dew and bathed by dawn's early light perhaps accented by a jeweled spider! Well, this summer I settled for dried flowers and lots of them. After a late and moist spring the rain stopped abruptly June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Early soil moisture carried us through most of June in spite of high day and night temperatures. Plant growth was for a short time lush but fast and weak. As July approached much new foliage began to brown and wither. Many shoots and branches literally snapped off in the wind. Grasses went dormant, flowers dried on the stems, and insects became scarce. I heard a dickcissel on June 1<sup>st</sup>, usually a harbinger of a dry summer....he left the next week- too dry. I continued to water my vegetable garden in the hopes that rain would begin again any time. I did not water the flower beds because hey, they are prairie plants, they'll be fine right? Wrong!! Oh well these times come and go in the natural world and as usual there were some interesting observations.

Robins nested in good numbers in May and fledged a good first brood. Canada geese also seemed successful with their early nests. Upland ground nesters such as turkeys and grouse did not fare well in May as rains and standing water washed out early nesting attempts. Turkeys are doing well with the late nesting. My personal observation is that bald eagles did not fare so well this summer as I am seeing very few dark birds and not many adults and adolescents. Waterfowl of most types seems diminished including

cormorants, terns, and herons. I saw very few young sandhill cranes and no pelicans this summer. Waxwings were down in numbers but Blue Jays did well through the drought here on the farm, raising at least two broods. Cliff swallows had a successful colony on the barn this summer, finding enough mud for daily repairs around the water troughs and enough shade in the eaves on the north side. The last were fledged in early August and left by August 20<sup>th</sup>. Hummingbirds were numerous on the farm enjoying the flowers of beans, tomatoes etc.... On a different tack, bats were scarce and only now (early September) am I seeing a few returning to the barn to prepare for winter.

A few late summer showers and cooler, longer nights have greened up most of the Menominee River basin. Migrants are passing through on schedule or a little early. Fruits, nuts and seeds are advanced in the season due to the high temperature and many birds are slipping by before I am ready. Nighthawks started moving August 13 and seem to be gone now- September 5<sup>th</sup>. Most of their flying activities coincided nicely with winged ant mating flights. The best Monarch butterfly flight so far was August 21<sup>st</sup> along the lakeshore, but many are still present and absolutely gorgeous! Wood pewees, phoebes, and crested flycatchers are moving through in good numbers this week. Warblers should start any day now. Cranes are just starting to gather and flickers are scattered but increasing. Vegetation is blossoming well in spite of the drought at this time. Asters look

good and goldenrods are a little shorter. If you happen to get into a low lying area many plants are blooming very well. Gentians may not show up this fall. I am still looking! Some blackberry patches are still loaded with fruit and the flavor is excellent this year even if the quantity is low, just a word caution; if the bears are there first, don't argue!

Fall weather is fast approaching hopefully with some rain! Cooler nights are already helping with sleep a possibility at last. With the shorter days the squirrel instincts in all of us awakens and it is time to get ready for winter; lie in the blankets and buy a new coat, set your acorns and walnuts in the cupboard. Wait! Don't know a walnut from a chestnut? A hackberry from a basswood seed? Of course most of you do, but where did you learn this? When? From whom? I have a challenge for all of us nature lovers; we must help young people to learn about the world around them. In the past year I have been astounded by the number of elementary students that I encounter that have NEVER caught and held a frog in their hands! How many know how to hold butterfly? A crayfish? Not to play with snapping turtles? In all of our advances in technology somehow children are not allowed to explore the world around them or has their world has been so sanitized as to deprive them of these simple experiences. Little things like holding a grasshopper and letting it spit saliva on you and finding out it didn't hurt, watching a Cecropia moth emerge from a cocoon in early spring and thinking it was the most beautiful thing on earth! No matter how good the TV program is,

**Continued on Page 4**