

Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society
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Winter 2005

Bird Friendly Forestry

Greg Cleerman, Director, Land & Water Conservation District, Marinette County, will present a program entitled "Bird Friendly Forestry" at our November meeting.

At the meeting Greg will educate us about how we can manage forests, woodlots, and even our own backyards to make them more appealing to birds for water, food, shelter and nesting.

Greg received his bachelors degree in Environmental Science

and has completed coursework in field research for his masters degree in Environmental Science and Policy. He has volunteered extensively with Audubon, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service in banding, census and education.

With the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation District, Cleerman is in charge of the Harmony Hardwoods and Farm. He is also involved with projects at

Peshtigo Harbor, including the new River Canoe Trail and the new Cedar Bend trail.

Come hear how you can make your yard the envy of your neighbors (or at least of the neighborhood birds!)

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 17** at 7:00 P.M., Room M-107 at UW-Marquette. ☐

Annual Member Slide Show

The ever popular Member Slide Show will be held in January. Come for a treat on a cold January evening.

If you would like to show your slides at the January meeting,

please arrive 15 minutes early so that we have time to organize the presentation. Any type of outdoor slides or digital pictures are acceptable. Power Point will be available.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 19** at 7:00 P.M., Room M-107 at UW-Marquette. ☐

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 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) or by email. Send submissions to Laurie Lata, N2946 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143. plata@new.rr.com

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.

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Assistant Editor....Paul Lata

Web Site

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

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Ethyle Block

Newsletter -Laurie Lata

Legislative - Trygve Rhude

Education - John Helfert

Chappee Rapids Site -

Denise Taylor

Message from the President

By time you receive this, the leaves should mostly be gone. I came across this in my Organic Gardening Magazine and want to share it with you

“Evergreen Myth”--According to ancient Cherokee legend, when plants were first created, they were told to fast and stay awake for seven days to gain spirit power. Many managed through the first night, but by the seventh night, only the cedar, spruce, pine, holly, and laurel were still awake. As a reward, these species would always be green while the others would lose their leaves in the fall.—James Mooney, *History, Myths, and Sacred Formulas of the Cherokees*. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area. I hope you had an opportunity to get out and enjoy this autumn season.

At the October meeting I announce that I would be going to Cuba on a Bird Study Program for ten days the first week in December. We will be working with Orland Garrido, Cuba’s senior ornithologist, and from the Museum of Natural History, Dr. Willaim Suarez, Curator and Arturo Kirkconnell, Curator of Ornithology.

Since 1995, more that 250 U.S. citizens have compiled information identifying significant trends with respect to specific bird species and

regional habitats otherwise unrecorded. The information is shared with Cuban conservation and tourism agencies, naturalists, the Museum of Natural History in Havana, and the growing National Parks system. Of note, in 2001 the surveyors helped identify what may be a new species of meadowlark for Cuba and in 2004 documented an immature Bald Eagle, a record for Cuba.

Individuals and organizations responsible for bird conservation in Cuba are very much in need of binoculars, scopes, cameras, and guild books for their field work. There are programs such as ABA’S Birder’s Exchange and Eagle Optic’s Product Matching Donation Program that can help with getting new and used equipment to the tropics. If you have a used pair of binoculars or a camera that you could give or want to contribute towards a field guide (cost \$11.37 plus shipping from ABA Sales), I will take an extra suitcase along to carry these items. Please call me at 715-732-1277 and I will be glad to explain about the above programs or pick up any donations.

Thank you so much,

Regards,

Joan

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

Welcome New Members

Dar Brown

Mike Erdman

Sue Hill

James & Janice Nagorsen

Calendar of Events



November

17 - November Meeting -
Bird Friendly Forestry
Speaker - Greg Cleerman
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette
Rm M-107. Details on page
one.

February

16- February Meeting -
Insects of the World
Speaker - Dar Brown
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette
Rm M-107.
Details in spring newsletter.

April

15 - Sandhill Crane Count
Details in spring newsletter.

20- April Meeting
Details in spring newsletter

December

31 - Michigan Christmas
Bird Count
Joan Campbell -732-1277
Details on page four.



TBA - Winter Outing
Details in spring newsletter

TBA- Harmony Hardwoods
Workday
Details in spring newsletter

TBA- Hay Creek Cleanup
Details in spring newsletter

January

19 - January Meeting -
Member Slide Show
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette
Rm M-107. Details on page
one.

March

17 - Banquet
Al Blatt - Humorist, writer
storyteller, birder,
naturalist.
**Nominations for Environmental
Achievement Awards welcome**
Details in spring newsletter.

May

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

18 - May Meeting -
Details in spring newsletter

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

Attention Counters Christmas Bird Count

Mark **Saturday, December 31st** now on your calendars for the Annual Christmas Bird Count. Don't miss this fun day with fellow birders as you count species and numbers of birds for the National Audubon Society.

Please remember that you do not have to be an expert at bird

identification. You will be placed with someone knowledgeable and it will be a wonderful learning experience. Come join thousands of counters across the continent.

To learn more about the Menominee County count scheduled for **December 31**, call Joan Campbell at 732-1277. □

Reminder

If your mailing label reads Renewal Due Sept 05, you still need to renew your membership for 2005 - 06. A membership form is included on the back of this newsletter.

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.

Lake Noquebay Trail In Best Shape Ever

A joint effort between Chapee Rapids Audubon, Spokes & Folks Bicycle Club and Marinette County Parks Dept has resulted in the rejuvenation of the Lake Noquebay Cross Country Ski Trail.

Volunteers have worked to improve the trails while allowing them to follow the contour of the land and maintain the integrity of the forest. The five miles of trails wind their way through the woods, along an esker, and onto the edge of a marsh of the Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area. The gently rolling hills and the varied terrain provide

opportunities for multiuse - mountain biking, hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

New signs, co-funded by Chapee Rapids, Spokes & Folks, and Marinette County, have been put up to help mark the trails.

The work is ongoing but the trails are ready for use. They just need a little traffic to break them in. So get out there and hike, bike, cross country ski or snowshoe.

See the Chapee Rapids web site at chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org for a map of the trails and directions to get there. □

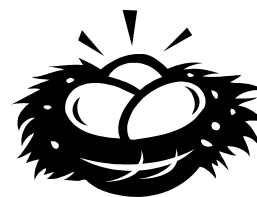
Did You Know?

by John Helfert

Many birds have been observed to place live ants in their feathers, a habit known as anting. No satisfactory explanation for this strange activity has been made. Some believe anting helps rid the birds of ectoparasites.

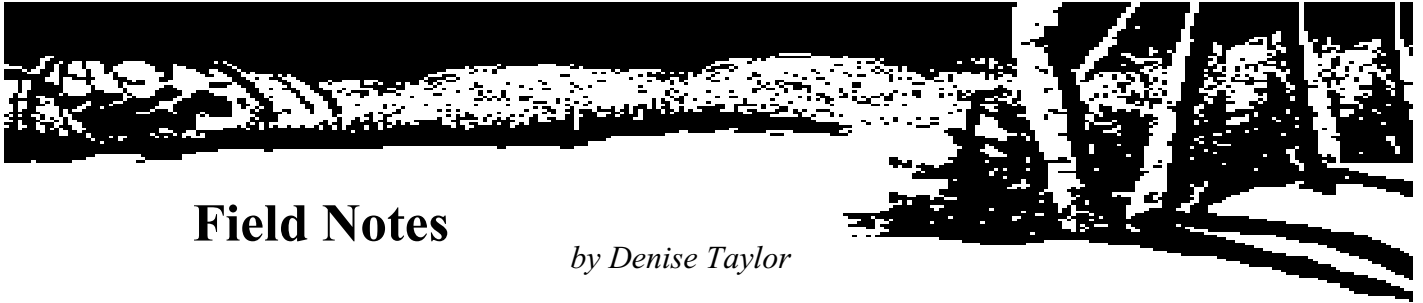
Some birds lay the same numbers of eggs each breeding season. Others lay varying numbers. Some such as sandpipers will lay four eggs and will not lay another if one is stolen or lost. Others keep on laying if their eggs disappear.

One flicker whose single egg was removed from the nest each day, laid 72 eggs in 73 days.



The Megapode, a bird of the Philippines and Australia, lay their eggs and deposit them in decaying vegetation and then abandon the nest. Although the fledglings are on their own, they can fly from the moment of hatching.

The family of Long Beetles of the tropics have elongated bodies and heads of almost equal length.



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

If anyone would ever wonder what “perfect fall weather” in the Great Lakes would be like, they should have been here this year! Mild temperatures have continued along with enough needed rain that there has almost been a second growing season for some plants. Wild food crops managed to ripen beyond my shortsightedness and so the roadsides are bejeweled with winterberry and rosehips. Dogwoods are in gorgeous color but most of the berries are long gone! Wild grapes too have disappeared by way of robins, flickers and jays. A quick check has just revealed the Virginia creeper still has about 80% of its crop left. My chokecherries and honeysuckles had fruit until early October but now they are history. Cedar waxwings are here in flocks of 25 to 40 birds cleaning up mountain ash and crabapples. All this feeding frenzy seems a little early to me. It makes me wonder... are we going to have a hard winter? Or just a lot of fat birds flying south very slowly?

Speaking of migrations, the birds have been moving about as fast as the season progresses. Early and mid- September saw slow but steady numbers of robins, large flocks of flickers and many sparrows including chipping, song, vespers and some Lincolns here on the farm around September 20th. Canada geese were seen migrating

starting on the equinox and Sandhill cranes staged through mid October. I have seen no cranes in about a week at this point (November 3rd) Warblers were moving well in October with many yellow rumps and few palms. House wrens were still present through much of September also. White crowns and white-throated sparrows inundated the farm for the first three weeks of October...my secret for attracting these birds - weeds. The lakes and rivers are now featuring many waterfowl including wood ducks, mallards, blacks and mergansers, oh yea, Canada geese too. I saw very few large movements of raptors but many singles moving through the fields and woods. Marsh hawks are dropping in numbers but still present. Rough legs showed up on October 28th but today I saw 5 on my way to Menominee. I also spotted my first Northern shrike of the season. I have not seen snow buntings here yet but I did spot them in the Copper Country on October 22nd so they are coming!

Flora and insect activity has been high and is still continuing for this week at least. The first frost here was October 9th, very light and very late! We still have not affected the hardier plants like asters, dandelions, thistles, Queen Ann’s lace and a few Black-eyed Susans. Some trees gave it up to the drought in early September but many non-natives like apples, locusts and

lilacs are still green. The monarch migrations lingered until first frost as well as a few hummingbirds. At present I am still seeing many moth species, grasshoppers and earthworms but only a few woolly bear caterpillars. The ant species have gone deep in the ground for the winter, which makes my life a bit easier and they have a special liking for my ankles!

Without a doubt the grand flora of the fall is the trees! How fortunate we are to have leaves on our walks for it means we live among trees. I was out for a jaunt yesterday, crashing through the woods on the golden carpet realizing I would not see any wildlife that had ears. I did manage to see a few chickadees, a white-breasted nuthatch, downy and 2 goldfinches, and hundreds and thousands of new fallen leaves in colors and patterns only trees could imagine and like snowflakes no two would be alike. And like the ephemeral snow that will come to cover them they will be gone in a few weeks time. I pondered their purpose throughout the summer, the spring when they unfurled, the winds and sun and moisture adding to an artists’ pallet to create these fine works of art. I wondered if birds appreciated the colors. I know I do! It’s a limited showing folks, get out there and enjoy it! □