

Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society
Volume 21, No. 3

Spring 2006

Insects of the World and Their Conservation

Dar Brown will present a program on insects of the world and their conservation at our February meeting. Mr. Brown will bring his collection of butterflies and insects (started at the age of eight) from around the US and the world.

Dar is currently an officer with the Marinette County Sheriff's

Dept. He received a degree in Biology and Conservation from Western Illinois Univ. Since moving here in 1983, Mr. Brown has gradually converted his property, a two acre pasture, into an oasis. This property outside Marinette reflects his well known expertise in landscaping with

butterfly gardens and natural ponds.

Come hear about insect conservation and the chance to see Dar's extensive butterfly and insect collection.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 16** at 7:00 pm in Room M-107 at the UW-Marinette. □

Bird Stories - 2006 Banquet

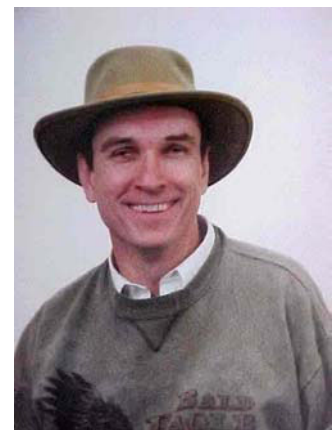
Al Blatt, newspaper columnist, radio & TV personality, storyteller, speaker, humorist and naturalist, will be the featured speaker at the seventeenth annual Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet. Mr. Blatt will present a program on "*Bird Stories: Finding wings of joy and feathered miracles. Snippets from life gone to the birds.*"

The seventeenth annual Banquet will be held at Schussler's Supper Club in Peshtigo on **Friday, March 17**. The social hour will begin at 6:00 P.M. with the dinner and

program at 7:00 P.M.

The 2006 Environmental Achievement Awards will be presented. A raffle, 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 \$20 per person, \$10 per child. They may be purchased from any Chappee Rapids Audubon board member or by calling 732-1277 or 735-5961 by March 14. □



- For more information about Mr. Blatt, please turn to page five.

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. 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

Website

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

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Denise Taylor

WI Audubon Delegate -

Open

Newsletter -Laurie Lata

Legislative - Trygve Rhude

Education - John Helfert

Chappee Rapids Site -

Denise Taylor

Message from the President

We are having a very unusually warm winter. This has been great for the heating bills but can be disastrous for the birds. I have heard about many bluebirds and hermit thrushes spending the winter here along with the robins and a turkey vulture seen just south of Green Bay. These are good reports but the bad news is that the warmer weather has been causing salmonella poisoning (salmonellosis) at feeders and large numbers of finches have been dying because of it. This bacterial disease is transmitted through fecally contaminated surfaces and food. Moldy seed also can cause a disease called aspergillosis which affects the respiratory tract. The answer to these problems is to be sure to keep our feeders as clean as possible (and the ground under the feeders too), by using a 10-percent bleach solution once a week (let the feeder dry completely before re-hanging). If this simple procedure is followed, we can all enjoy our birds without hurting them.

Our annual Banquet is coming up March 17th and the raffle we tried last year was such a success we have decided to do it again. It just seemed like more people got involved with it then with the Silent Auction and consequently, brought in more money for our Special Projects. I think everyone will enjoy our speaker and of course there will be lots of door prizes. Hope to see you all there.

The last Friday in April is National Arbor Day and to celebrate, why not plant a tree? Or, at least sit beneath one and appreciate all that it has to offer: shade, habitat, fuel, food, and mulch. If you feel an urge to hug it, don't hold back--this is a private moment.

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

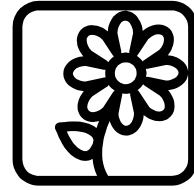
Regards,

Joan

Welcome New Members

Kathleen Bayerl
Don & Yvonne Brault

Calendar of Events



February

16– February Meeting
**Insects of the World
and their Conservation**
Speaker: Dar Brown
Details on page one.

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

March

17 - Annual Environmental
Achievement Awards
Banquet
**Speaker: Humorist Al
Blatt**
Details on page one.

April

10- Frank Busalacchi, WI
**Secretary of
Transportation,** is
coming to the UW
Marinette campus. His
presentation will be on
Passenger Rail
Transportation and Other
Options for Northeastern
WI. The presentation will
be in room M-110 and will
last from 1:00 pm until
1:50 pm. The public is
invited.

20– April Meeting
Topic to be Announced
Details in next newsletter

22 - Sandhill Crane Count
Details in next newsletter.

May

2,9,16,23- Tuesday
Evening Hikes
Details in next newsletter

18 - May Meeting -
Topic to be Announced
Details in next newsletter



106th Christmas Bird Count

22nd Hayward Lakes, MI Count

December 31, 2005

Forty one species and 3433 individual birds were counted by Barb Bereza, Jim Goin, Rich, Joan, Kirk & Mitch Campbell, Dale Leitzke, Bill, Denise & Chase Taylor, and Ken Wingender. Count coordinator was Joan Campbell. ☐

American Crow	310
American Goldfinch	450
American Robin	37
American Tree Sparrow	76
Bald Eagle	8
Black-capped Chickadee	205
Blue Jay	88
Bohemian Waxwing	1
Canada Goose	2
Cedar Waxwing	293
Common Goldeneye	4
Common Raven	33
Cooper's Hawk	2
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored)	84
Downy Woodpecker	15
European Starling	723
Hairy Woodpecker	10
Herring Gull	3
House Finch	20
House Sparrow	191
Lesser Scaup	25
Mourning Dove	258
Northern Cardinal	12
Northern Goshawk	1
Northern Shrike	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Pine Grosbeak	18
Pine Siskin	246
Purple Finch	80
Reds bellied Woodpecker	4
Red Breasted Merganser	9
Red Tailed Hawk	4
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10
Ring-necked Pheasant	16
Rock Pigeon	94
Rough-legged Hawk	18
Ruffed Grouse	1
Snow Bunting	35
Song Sparrow	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	9
Wild Turkey	33

Did You Know?

by John Helfert

Many birds use spider webs to help strengthen their nests.

Ticks smell with their front legs.



With the remarkable persistence to survive, soil worms, called nematodes, have lived 25 years in a glass bottle in a laboratory. Another, a pest of wheat kernels, came back to life after 28 years in laboratory storage. A nematode which invaded rye plants was collected and revived after 39 years of complete dehydration in a herbarium.

The deer bat fly (*Cephenomyia pratti*) is the speed champion of the world. A rate of four hundred yards per second, or eight hundred and eighteen miles an hour, has been chalked up to him. The female does not fly so fast. The speed has been estimated by the best scientific observations.

The backswimmer or water boatman is a voracious predator and uses its powerful sting to kill not only insects but small fishes as well. Its sting is very painful to humans.

More About Al Blatt

Al Blatt comes to us from rural Hartland, Minnesota where he does commentaries for public radio. He writes 4 weekly humor and nature columns for many newspapers and does a regular local radio show about nature. He writes a number of popular cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally, including *Dennis the Menace*, *Marmaduke* and *Frank and Ernest*, among others. He has written jokes for a former President of the United States and written for the movies. He has also written for a number of magazines and books, including the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. He is a contributing writer to the book *Minnesota Bird Watching*. He

speaks at various festivals, conferences and conventions all over the United States.

Among awards that Blatt has received is the Ed Franey Conservation Media Award from the Izaak Walton League. The readers of the *Albert Lea Tribune* named him best columnist in 2002. He was named Birder of the Year by *WildBird Magazine* and was recognized by *Bluebirds across Nebraska* for his outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation. He has been featured in the *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Star Tribune*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Writer's Digest*, *Agri News* and *Home & Away Magazine*.

He is a former President of the *Minnesota Ornithologists Union (MOU)*, President of the Audubon Foundation, Master Gardener-Freeborn County, Past President of *Albert Lea Audubon Society* and a Christmas Bird Count Compiler

Blatt leads field trips, works with Elderhostel groups, does in-school programs, teaches community education, is a tour guide on the Pelican Breeze boat, teaches classes on birding, volunteers at several state parks, disappears into the woods whenever he is able, usually on the pretext that he is taking the dog for a walk and speaks to anyone who will listen. His mother thinks he is special. □

My Statement Re: The Carney Fen

by Marge Bjork

- As presented to the Michigan DNR on December 5, 2005
during a public meeting

For a long time, maybe eons, nature has been developing what we used to call the Carney Bog but now it is referred to more properly as the Carney Fen. I have been photographing since the early 1960's when Leroy Lintereur, game manager for the Wisconsin DNR, took groups on learning walks all over Marinette County, WI and into Menominee County, MI. In the late 1960's in the Fen I had the rare privilege of photographing an *Amerorchis* (*Orchis rotundifolia*), a wild orchid that usually grows and blooms farther north, but for some reason bloomed here in a place well enough adapted to support it for an uncertain length of time. It has

since disappeared.

Renewed effort in recent past years to inventory the orchids in the Fen has produced a list of 25 wild orchids that now exist there. Our Chappée Rapids Audubon members and other volunteers support the effort to have this area dedicated as a "Natural Area" through the Michigan DNR Heritage Program.

During the summer of 2005 we have had the good fortune to have excellent field assistance from Yarrow Wolfe who is writing her master's thesis on the ram's head orchid. She worked cooperatively with the Michigan DNR to create long term conservation efforts to deepen local appreciation for

natural areas, and especially wetlands. She has carried our knowledge forward and made us even more aware of the need to preserve the Carney Fen and to continue our cooperation with the Michigan DNR.

In this ever fast moving age of technology, we members of Chappée Rapids Audubon Society feel the importance of protecting ages old areas like Carney Fen in order to keep mankind connected to his roots. Perhaps Nature and "The Ghost of Leroy Lintereur" will help us achieve our goal. □

Rare Bird Alert

A Rare Bird Alert has been formed within the club. You are asked to call one of the following people if a rare bird for our area has been sighted:

Joan Campbell 715-732-1277
Dale Lietzke 906-863-3163
Bob Brisson 906-863-6850
Gregg Cleereman 715-732-7510
Marlene Nelson 906-864-3040
Denise Taylor 906-863-7397
Ken Wingender 715-735-6101

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.

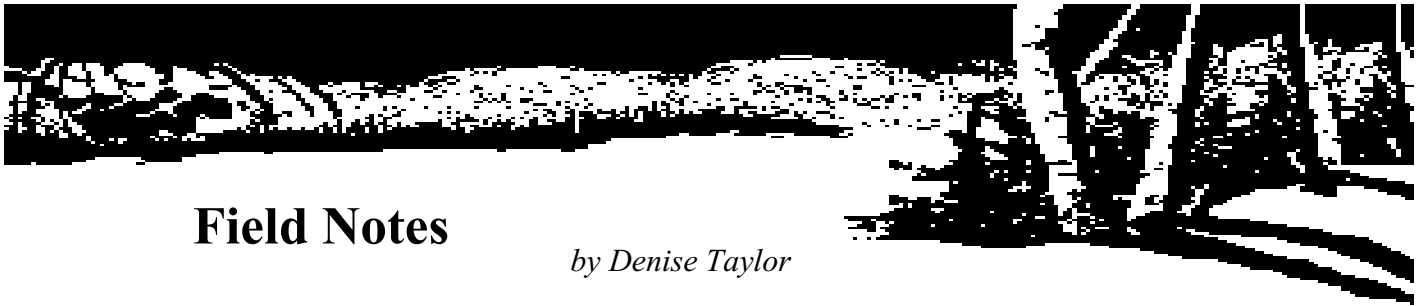
Field Notes (from page 7)

expect song sparrows and meadowlarks to return early unless the snow really piles up. Tree buds have already shown signs of swelling. Watch for returning woodcock and sandhills as there is a great deal of flowing water just under the ice at this point and this will provide a place to hunt for small invertebrates.

Throughout the next eight weeks we will gain a tremendous amount

of sunlight each day thus driving the spring dynamo of life. As I talked about the evening routine of our winter birds I also recalled that there is a similar morning schedule. And then as the year progresses things change from a few species in a frosty feeding frenzy to perhaps eighty species in a spring chorus! Just as there is an order at the feeder there is an order to their entrance into the morning song.

And as we all know, they start very early! The best mornings are those when we can leave our bedroom door slightly open and I can lie there quietly listening to each singer make his debut. We can all enjoy this symphony together, and next time I will share my notes on a spring morning's choir. You make your own and let's compare! Stay warm. ☐



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

One of the nicest things about February is that sunset is after five o' clock every day! I am able to finish my outdoor work with daylight to spare and then, most days, pause to watch the fading daylight. If you are lucky enough to have this time at home and you have a bird feeder, then you too have probably watched the birds "go to bed" so to speak. After the mid-day lull, the forty or so English sparrows congregate on the ground and in the lilacs nearby. About a dozen house finches mix with them and visit the tube feeder at the window through the afternoon. American goldfinches also stick to the strong daylight hours of mid day, this year numbering only a dozen or so. On very cold days another dozen pine siskens may join right in with the goldfinches. By three thirty in the afternoon the dark-eyed juncos are at their peak of 20 in, under and around the yard feeder and especially under the pines nearby. At this same time the family group of cardinals arrives. These birds started out in the fall as an adult pair and four youngsters-all dull like their mom. Currently the count is down to the adults and three young some of whom are showing more brilliant coloring. These dine until the sun drops below the horizon then vanish. Chickadees are active first thing in the morning and from three o'clock till sunset. Blue Jays, numbering only five this year, are just about the same. Just after sunset things

get a little interesting. The mourning doves arrive, but not at the feeder! Now this is a bit of a mystery to me. For more than twenty years I have fed wild birds on this old farmstead. We have open fields now planted with windbreaks, old shrubbery and an apple orchard. I feed sunflower with a little millet and safflower mixed in. I feed my poultry their feed with ample cracked corn, oats and wheat and this is in open pans available to visiting wild birds. The doves nest here in the summer, but in the winter they only roost in the pines and spruces leaving early in the mornings to feed at many of the neighbors feeders but NOT here! After the doves are hidden in the branches the great horned owl's distinctive silhouette appears in the tree tops; thus ends a winter sunset at my feeder.

Avian activities throughout the area have been a little odd this year with winter coming in November and spring weather arriving at the winter solstice! Fall migrants barely left and then, as many will attest, they moved back north. Robins were and probably are still in strong numbers throughout the area with as many as 50 being seen at a time. I actually heard a few singing in January. Eastern bluebirds were reported at least as far north as Wallace in mid-January. Juncos are numerous and comfortable. I had a good report of a varied thrush in the Bark River Michigan area January 25th. Goshawks, Coopers and sharp-

shins are all in average numbers, shrikes seem to be scarce and rough legs are not as numerous as usual. I have seen red-tailed hawks on a regular basis. Bald eagles are doing well with my high count of four at one time at US 41 and Twin Creek road the last week of January. My neighbor on the Menominee River, Jackie Dupler, reported the Twin Island eagle was tearing branches from the trees in her yard and building up their nest the first of February. Great horned owls are numerous in my area and quiet now for the last week. I have seen several barred owls, some with prey in mouth. I have had no reports of snowy or great grey owls yet. Pine grosbeaks and cedar waxwings are present but very erratic in the county. Watch for those Bohemians to mix in with the cedars!

Wild canine breeding season is well under way with much howling taking place out here in the country. Amazingly we seem to have both coyotes and a pair foxes staying in the territory so far. Grey squirrels are all white eared and feisty. Remember when they are at your feeder they are eating for six so be generous! Opossums, raccoons, even ground hogs and skunks have been out enjoying the mild winter so don't let anything surprise you on your walks. Later in February we can all be looking for more real signs of spring. Horned larks, killdeer, marsh hawks. I would

(Continued on page 6)