

# Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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## Update: Gov. Thompson State Park & Peshtigo River State Forest

Sara Pearson will give an update on the Peshtigo River State Forest and the Gov. Thompson State Park at our April meeting.

Sara has been the Ranger / Assistant Property Manager of the State Forest for the past four years. Originally from Reedsburg, she graduated from UW-Madison in 1998 with a degree in History. She

has worked in Wisconsin State Parks since 1995, seasonally and now permanently.

Sara's talk will include a timeline of development and what facilities will be available at the Gov. Thompson State Park. The Peshtigo River State Forest is still undergoing the master planning process. Sara will talk about what

development and facilities are being considered in finalizing the Forest's plan.

Come hear about these two areas being developed right here in our back yard.

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

## Insects of the World and their Conservation

**- Rescheduled from the February 16 meeting, cancelled due to a blizzard -**

Dar Brown will present a program on insects of the world and their conservation at our May 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, May 18** at 7:00 pm 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) 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)

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# Message from the President

This was an exciting day today as I just returned from the announcement by Governor Doyle of the “largest land conservation purchase in Wisconsin History” held at Red Arrow Park. With sandhill cranes and Canada geese flying overhead the governor spoke about the 64,633 acres – 101 square miles - “Wild Rivers Legacy Forest” of pristine rivers and lakes, abundant wildlife, and hardwood forests that would be forever protected and remain a working, sustainably-managed forest available for the recreational enjoyment of generations to come. The project, which takes in parts of Florence, Forest and Marinette counties in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and International Paper, represents the largest land conservation effort in

state history and one that will protect working forests, public access for recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

This will be my last letter as president and I want to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed these two years as your president and hope that I can continue working with the Board in some capacity.

*“There is a symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of birds. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring comes after the winter.” Rachel Carson*

Enjoy the spring and summer!  
Regards, Joan

Gently remind you friends to keep their cats indoors!

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## Electronic 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.

In addition to receiving the newsletter earlier than the printed version, you also save Chappee Rapids Audubon money. This year electronic subscribers saved the club \$45.

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

# Calendar of Events



## April

**20**–April Meeting-  
**Tommy Thompson**  
**State Park & Peshtigo**  
**River State Forest**  
**Update**  
**Speaker– Sara Pearson**  
7:00 P.M.,  
UW-Marquette  
Rm M-107.  
Details on page one.

**22**- **International Crane**  
**Foundation Sandhill**  
**Crane Count**  
Details on page six.

## May

**8**– **Frog Bicycle Ride**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
Details on page six.

**9**– **Tuesday Evening Walk**  
**Menekaunee Walkway**  
Details on page seven.

**16**– **Tuesday Evening**  
**Walk**  
**Riverside Cemetery**  
Details on page seven.

**18**- **May Meeting -**  
**Insects of the World**  
**and their Conservation**  
**Speaker– Dar Brown**  
7:00 P.M.,  
UW– Marquette,  
Room M-107.  
Details on page one.

## May

**23**– **Tuesday Evening**  
**Walk**  
**DNR Property**  
**Pond Road**  
Details on page seven.

**30**– **Tuesday Evening**  
**Walk**  
**Henes Park**  
Details on page seven.

## June

**June 3 or 24** -**Canoe**  
**Outing**  
**Menominee River**  
Details to be announced.

## Banquet a Success

Over 80 people enjoyed the seventeenth annual Environmental Awards Banquet held on March 17 at Schussler's. Al Batt, humorist, naturalist, storyteller, entertained with a talk entitled, "*Bird Stories: Snippets from life gone to the birds.*"

The Leroy Lintereur Individual Award went to Wendel Johnson for his many years of helping raising environmental awareness in Chappee Rapids Audubon and for his contributions to local

environmental groups and the UW Marinette.

The Organization/Group Award went to Rick Gebhard, photographer for the Eagle Herald, for his support of Chappee Rapids and of the environment through his exceptional nature photography in the Eagle Herald.

The raffle netted \$500. 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 J Floral  
Aurora Books  
Barb Bereza & Jim Goin  
Marge Bjork  
Book World  
Bob Brisson  
Rich Campbell  
Cutting Edge  
Dew Hills  
Dexter's  
James Hammett  
Harper's Furniture  
Georgia Jensen  
John's Taxidermy  
Beverly Hayward Johnson  
K-Mart  
Larry Koesling

Kuber's Feed Mill  
Marinette Camera Fair  
Marinette Farm & Garden  
Mary's Touch of Style  
Mikutowski Woodworking  
Wayne & Marlene Nelson  
Peshtigo Feed Mill  
Peshtigo Pharmacy  
Ron & Mary Renk  
Schloegel's Restaurant  
Schussler's Supper Club  
Sentinel Structures, Inc.  
Denise Taylor  
The Eager Weed  
The Psalms  
Trends & Traditions

## Bird Song Guide on CD

Common birds are easy to recognize, but many small birds are more difficult. A good field guide is a must.

The newest information help on identifying birds comes in audio CD form: "Bird Song Ear Training Guide" by John Feith of Madison, WI. It features 189 species with

digital recordings, accompanied by a brief narration.

The CD is being made available through the NEW Audubon organization for \$17.

To order a copy, send a check payable to NEW Audubon, 1701 Ninth St., Green Bay, WI 54304. □

## Did You Know?

by John Helfert

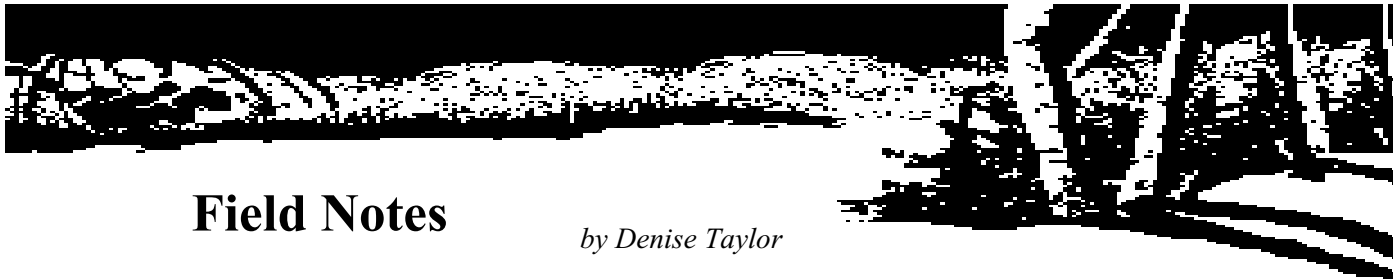
The tiny elephant shrew never closes its eyes. It is a desert animal, continually exposed to danger and must "see" even when it is asleep.



The common shrew is a solitary of such morose a disposition that if two are placed in a cage together they almost immediately go into furious combat and the victor devours the body of his companion in a single meal.

When in danger, the hoary marmot, resident of Idaho, gives a piercing whistle that is without doubt the shrillest, farthest – reaching sound made by any mammal. It is easily heard a mile away and, under favorable conditions, twice as far.

The South American sloth spends its life upside down – hanging from the limbs of trees. It can not stand on four legs like an ordinary animal. It forages during the night and sleeps during the day with four feet close together and head drawn up between its legs. It looks exactly like the stump of a bough.



## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

Frog Pond Road; I've never been there but I have seen the sign. If ever there was a sign that pointed to where spring must be it would be down a road ending at a frog pond! Those hopping slimy choristers started their season on March 31st 2006- mark that day because it is the earliest date that I have recorded in the 22 years that we have lived here on the farm in southern Menominee county. There was also another unusual twist to this date; my dear husband is the one who gets the credit for hearing the first lone spring peeper well after sunset. The wood frogs joined in a few days later. I have made at least three treks out to some nearby "wet areas" frequented by the noisy amphibians and have enjoyed hearing their songs resonate in my ears. Unfortunately at this time the season is turning into a warm and dry spring which does not bode well for reproductive success for our froggy friends. If you are so inclined, it's a good time to pray for rain!

By way of recouping the late winter avian arrivals, after a brief

warm spell in early March, seasonably cold temperature returned from the 14th till the 24th of the month. Sandhill cranes were back at the farm on March 11th, marsh hawks the 10th and red-winged blackbirds the 14th (males only of course). After a lull of more than a week I saw my first E. meadowlark on the 22nd and Bill again had the first woodcock on the 23rd. Killdeer announced their arrival on March 26th- it's so much easier when they just fly around the house shouting incessantly! Song sparrows were under the feeder on the 28th and Whistling (Tundra) Swans were moving through from the 31st of March till April 5th. There is something really special about large v-shaped rafts of white wings cooing through the clouds while traveling from the east coast to the Artic nesting grounds; if you don't think so ...well, you need to think about it some more!

April has brought Phoebes on the 1st and turkey vultures on the 4th; this is the most common date for these to return here for me. Tree swallows on the 8th, which is a

little later than normal. Today, April 9, I also noted chipping sparrows and fox sparrows. Robins, blue jays, mourning doves, starlings, cardinals and resident Canada geese have all started nesting- I'm sure there are more! The first tick (a deer tick), the first wood ant and the first butterfly (a Compton's tortoiseshell) all appeared on April 1st.

Spring ephemerals, those plants that grow, bloom and return quickly to dormancy early in the growing season. Most of us know and love many of them. Spring Beauty (Claytonia sp.) Hepatica sp., Trilliums, Violets, Marsh marigolds, Dutchman's breeches, Squirrel corn, trout lilies... what names! All have their glory in April and May! Then relinquish the woodland floor to a cool shade of green and mosquitoes. Spring may return yearly but the show only lasts a short time. Don't pay the cable bill this month and get out to some wild woodlands or a city park. The color is small and on the ground mostly, but oh so delicately worthwhile. Enjoy! □

**One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring.**

- Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

# In Search of Crane Counters

**Saturday, April 22 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 31<sup>st</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. □



[cranes@savingcranes.org](mailto:cranes@savingcranes.org)

## Frog Ride

On **Monday, May 8**, Wendel Johnson, UW-Marinette 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. Helmets are required. Lights are recommended. Meet at the greenhouse, Main Building at UW-Marinette at 6:30 P.M. For more information, call Laurie Lata at 735-5961.

Take time to ride and stop and listen to the (frog) music. □



## Audubon's Ten Most Endangered Birds of 2006

1. Ivory - Billed Woodpecker
2. California Condor
3. Whooping Crane
4. Gunnison Sage Grouse
5. Kirtland's warbler
6. Piping Plover
7. Florida Scrub-Jay
8. Ash Storm-Petrel
9. Golden-Cheeked Warbler
10. Kittlitz's Murrelet

# Spring Nature Walks



Joan Campbell, Denise Taylor and Bob Brisson 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 9th - Menekaunee Walkway

(Meet by Menekaunee Bridge)

Leader Denise Taylor 863-7397

### May 16th - Riverside Cemetery

(Meet by gate end of 14th Ave.)

Leader Bob Brisson 863-6850

### May 23rd - DNR Property—Pond Road

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

Leader Joan Campbell 732-1277

### May 30th - Henes Park

(Meet at gate outside park)

Leader Bob Brisson 863-6850

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## Harmony Arboretum

### 2006 Nature and Horticulture Series

**May 20** - Plant sale, 9-12 am

**June 20** - Growing brassicas,  
6:30-8 pm

**Aug. 17-** Prairie Walk, 6:30 - 8  
pm

**May 20** - Wildflower walk ,  
9:30-11:30 am

**July 11** - Herbalist Jane Cole, 7-  
8 pm

**Sept 9** - Harvest Fest, 9 am-1 pm

**June 3** - Proper tree planting,  
9:30 –11 am

**July 15** - Plant pest clinic, 9-12  
am

**Oct 27-28** - Haunted Harmony,  
6-10 pm

**June 17** - Bird hike, 6-8 am

**Aug 8** - Midseason perennial  
care, 6:30-8 pm

For more information, contact UW- Extension at (715) 732-7510

## Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership

This is a **NEW** **RENEWAL** Membership  
(circle one)

### Category:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$4.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$5.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing \$25.00

Mail to:  
Chappee Rapids Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1133  
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