

Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society
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Fall 2006

Phragmites Management

John Huff, Wildlife Biologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will present a program on the Phragmites Management and Control Program at the September 21 meeting.

Come hear about the management of this common reed, a wetland plant species that has

become an invasive species along the shores of Green Bay.

The meeting will be held on

Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 P. M. in Room M-107 at the UW-Marinette. □

October Meeting TBA

The topic and speaker for the October 19 meeting will be announced at the September meeting. Or check the website at chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org for details.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 19** at 7:00 P. M. in Room M-107 at the UW-Marinette. □

County Gets Grant for Noquebay Trail

Work on the Lake Noquebay trail has continued since 2003, when a large contingent of Chappee Rapids Audubon volunteers reopened the trail. The trail has seen increased use from hikers, mountain bikers and others. Most recently, the Spokes & Folks bicycle club has done most of the trail maintenance and reconstruction. This has involved rerouting on two major hills to avoid erosion. A new loop on the north end of the trail is also being constructed. Although the trail has been rerouted to avoid one wet area, other wet areas remain.

This month, Marinette County

Parks Director Erik Aleson announced that his department was awarded a \$1,200 grant to buy materials for boardwalks in some of the wet areas. One of these boardwalks will be constructed by the LDS Church Boy Scout Troop this fall. When this boardwalk is completed, only one section of trail will have major wet areas remaining.

There will be a work day on **Saturday, September 23** to work on the new loop and other maintenance. Contact Paul Lata (735-5961 or plata@new.rr.com) if you are interested in helping.

- Paul Lata

See picture on back page

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 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.

EditorLaurie Lata
Assistant Editor....Paul Lata

Web Site
chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

President - Trygve Rhude & Paul Lata
Secretary - Joan Campbell
Treasurer - Marlene Nelson
Programs - Bob Brisson
Field Trips - Vacant
Social - Vacant
Librarian/Historian -Georgia Jensen
Conservation - Wendel Johnson
MI Audubon Delegate - Vacant
WI Audubon Delegate - Ethyle Bloch
Newsletter -Laurie Lata
Legislative - Trygve Rhude
Education - John Helfert
Chappee Rapids Site - Denise Taylor
Website - Vacant

Message from the President

After many years as a member of Chappee Rapids Audubon, I look forward to serving as co-president this year with Trygve Rhude. After Joan Campbell's leadership, we have a hard act to follow but we have an excellent board. I am optimistic.

We are still looking for someone to liaison with Michigan Audubon. This position has become more important this year because there is renewed interest in communication between Upper Peninsula chapters.

When my wife Laurie and I joined Chappee Rapids Audubon over 20 years ago, we were probably the youngest members in the club. Membership has grown but we are still among the younger members. While our older members are a great source of knowledge and have helped make our organization what it is today, we also need younger members to carry our group into the future. At our first board meeting this year, we discussed ways to recruit and involve younger

members. Please contact a board member if you have ideas about involving younger people.

Recently, our early meetings have been well attended but the number of members at our spring meetings has been sparse. We continue to have excellent attendance at the banquet. Last spring the board decided to eliminate the last two meetings of the season, making the banquet the last meeting of the year.

We are still in the planning process but we already have some great speakers committed for this year. John Huff will kick off our season by speaking to us about invasive plant species, an increasing problem in our area. Karl Bohnak, television meteorologist and author of a new book on U.P. weather, will be our featured speaker at the banquet. So while the quantity of meetings will decrease, the quality will not. Join us for a meeting or outing this fall.

- Paul Lata

Passages - Leo Feller

Leo Feller, long time Chappee Rapids Audubon Society member, died this past June. Leo coordinated the Marinette County Christmas Bird Count for many years. Leo was known for his extensive

collection of wildflower slides as well as his knowledge of birds. He was always eager to share his knowledge and slides with children as well as adults. □

Fieldnotes (from page five)

or young chicks, the other in a secluded river pool on his daily run. Hopefully I have not begun to lose my appreciation for things grand just because I have seen them before! But I have resolved to ask young people this question even more. "What did

you see this week that you really liked in Nature?" Go ahead, find some youth and start a conversation this way, and maybe like me you'll remember something great that you really need to see again. Take care—
□

Calendar of Events



September

17 - Chappée Webber
Learning Center Public Presentation
2:00 p.m.
Details on page four.

21 - September Meeting -
Phragmites Management
Speaker - John Huff
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette
Rm M-107. Details on page one.

23 - Lake Noquebay Trail
Work Day
Details on page one.

October

19 - October Meeting -
TBA
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette.
Rm M-107. Details on page one.

November

16 - November Meeting -
TBA
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette
Rm M-107. Details in next newsletter.

December

17 - Wisconsin Christmas
Bird Count
Jerry Smith
Details in next newsletter.

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

January

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

February

15 - February Meeting -
TBA
Details in next newsletter

April

TBA- Banquet
UP Weather History
Karl Bohnak,
Meteorologist, TV 6
Details in spring newsletter.

E-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. □

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. □

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 906-863-316
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

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA), by Cutright, Harriman & Howe, is now available. Data collection for the WBBA began the spring of 1995 and ended the summer of 2000. The purpose of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas is to:

- * provide a permanent record of the bird species breeding in the state.
- * provide baseline data for monitoring future changes in bird populations.
- * assess habitat needs of breeding species and document species diversity.
- * document abundance and distribution of rare and endangered

Crane Count

On April 22, 23 participants, including students from Wendel Johnson's UW Marinette science class, counted Sandhill Cranes at 15 Marinette County sites .

A total of 74 cranes were counted (27 breeding pairs). Next year's count will be on April 14.

- Laurie Lata

species.

- * provide comparisons with historical studies.
- * complement existing or on-going avian monitoring programs in Wisconsin and in nearby states.
- * assist international efforts to preserve neotropical migratory birds.
- * help in land use planning by local and state governments.
- * assist industry in preparing environmental impact assessments.

The Atlas may be purchased through the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology website at wso@uwgb.edu or by calling (262)-547-6128. □

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 11 to 15 and 18 through 21.

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 17** at 2:00 pm. Everyone is invited. From Menominee the site is five miles 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

Did You Know?

by John Helfert

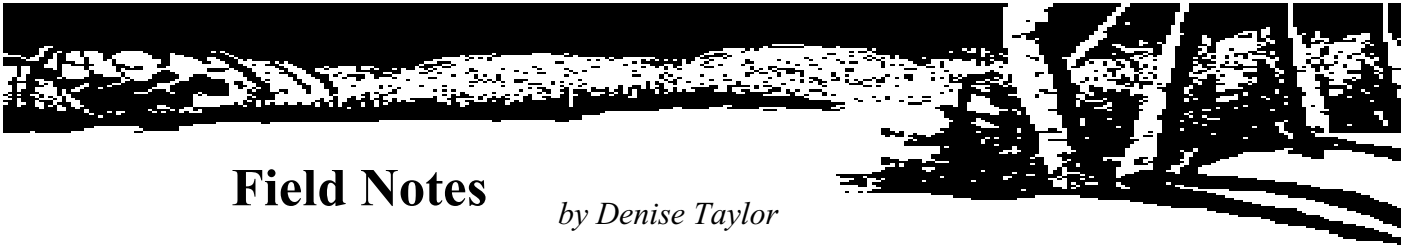
The whippoorwill is known for the regularity of its song and for the number of times the melancholy refrain is repeated without a pause. From 150 to 200 is not unusual. Naturalist John Burroughs claimed once to have counted 1058 such repetitions.

The incredibly sharp claws of the Great Horned Owl can drive through a man's wrist as easily as though they were puncturing tissue paper. The owls are solicitous parents and will attack any human that approaches their homes.



Except for vultures and parrots, wild geese live longer than any other birds. Authentic records give them as much as seventy years. - A vulture lived in a Zoological Garden at Giza, Egypt for ninety five years.

The water ousel, or dipper, builds its nest under water and behind a waterfall. This strange location has two advantages. Not only is the nest well hidden, but it has only one approach—through the falling water. The birds have no difficulty in flying through the waterfall to the nest, for their dense plumage sheds water like a duck's.



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

A morning walk through a pine and cedar woods after a gentle shower is one of life's most settling experiences. Today's early September jaunt under tall white pines was fresh and earthy. The damp needles hushed my footsteps completely as a troop of black-capped chickadees led me down the trail filled with rings of fruiting fungi. Gray squirrels were shadowy forms attending to their business and quite unconcerned with my presence. A few rays of late summer sun penetrated the deep woodland floor just as the first few golden basswood leaves fell to the ground. Words do not describe the easiness that these moments can bring, then that little sewing machine of a red squirrel goes off and I'm found out! Its not that I don't have as much right to traverse these woods as he does, it's just that "he" thinks I have an obligation to his opinion. Oh well!

Hopefully everyone is enjoying more restful nights now that the weather has cooled significantly. It's hard to believe that we are still statistically above average temperatures for this time of the year. July was absolutely blistering with at least ten days at or above 100 degrees here on the farm. Those temps coupled with six weeks of severe drought and months of dry weather have left this area in a rather different ecological state for the present. At mid-summer most birds left these uplands and settled into the lower areas near rivers and lakes. The June and July bird daily observations here were mostly common barnyard species- 3

different pairs of chickadees, chipping sparrows, several pairs of blue jays, abundant goldfinches and house finches, 2 pairs of phoebes, one pair of bluebirds, about 30 nests of cliff swallows on the barn (this is a new high for my time here) a small number of barn and tree swallows and several nests of ruby-throated hummingbirds. Ok, this is a nice group but these birds were all in the 3 or so acres that comprise my inner barnyard and they were here entirely for the water provided by the livestock watering troughs. I did water our vegetable garden a few mornings a week with a sprinkler- this was bird and insect party time! August rains have greened up the landscape but the creeks and sloughs are still dry.

Recent bird activity is slow at this writing but is showing signs of picking up. Sandhill cranes have been staging since late August and can be seen in many Menominee county fields- the Greenwoods area, west on 38th Ave, and west of Daggett, to name a few. Watch them closely with this early staging to see if it equals an early departure. Turkey vultures are fledging; I saw a nice family group on an old homestead on County J east of McAllister this last week. Nighthawk movements were weak this year with only one good flight that I noted on September 1st. Starling and English sparrows are abundant and forming large flocks- oh boy! Well, it is a good opportunity to see some partial albinos and other genetic anomalies at least. I started to see the first of the fall bluebird and flicker flocks

today- September 6th as well as numerous flycatchers- mostly phoebes. I also noted one small kettle of hawks- 5 to be specific, three broadwings, one red-tail and one bald eagle. Waterfowl should be getting together and I am seeing many wood ducks on the Menominee River. Egrets are now considered common. I am looking forward to much greater bird numbers in the next few weeks with thrushes and warblers and most raptors all yet to come!

Autumn is my favorite time for walking and looking for interesting nature tidbits. My forays might bring home any number of leaves, seeds, cones shells or insects. Fall bouquets are easy as asters and goldenrods or sprays of berry laden dogwoods or a cluster of white cedar boughs laden with cones. But I, like many adults, look for small and rare things (or large rare things). I sometimes get caught up in searching for something obscure as if this would be peculiarly mine. While trying to decide what to write about this week I did a little informal survey. My thought was that my boys had probably noticed something really special but just had not mentioned it or didn't think anyone would care. Their eyes and ears are sharper so they must have seen something I did not. Right? Yes and no. They both described nice encounters with Great blue herons. One was here in the yard probably hunting for grasshoppers

(Continued on page two)

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
Marinette WI 54143

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Members of Spokes & Folks at work on the Noquebay Trail