

Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society
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West Shore Fishing Museum

Eileen Behrend, President of the Bailey Property Preservation Association, will present a program at our November meeting on the progress at the West Shore Fishing Museum.

The Bailey property, adjacent to Bailey Park, north of Menominee on M-35, was the home of a commercial fishing family. Ten years ago only the house, chicken coop and carriage shed remained, all in poor repair. The Preservation Association was formed to restore

the property as the West Shore Fishing Museum.

The Association boasts hundreds of members, with a core group of twenty dedicated volunteers who have worked on the restoration. Ten years of hard work have transformed the property into a showcase museum. The restoration and commercial fishing exhibit are 99% completed. Restoration of the fleet of commercial fishing boats is the Association's next project.

Funding for the museum has

come through grants, from Menominee County, and from private donations. An annual Labor Day Ice Cream Social is the group's main fundraiser. The museum's grand opening is slated for 2007.

Come hear about a piece of our local history, preserved right in our own backyard.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 16** at 7:00 P.M., Room M-110 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 18** at 7:00 P.M., Room M-110 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

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Education - John Helfert

Chappee Rapids Site -

Denise Taylor

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Message from the President

A quick note from one of the Presidents. I was going to wait until the elections results were in to write this, but I've changed my mind. Regardless of who takes over or continues in elected positions we need to continue to speak up for the environment. There will always be those who do not give equal weight to the environment as they do to development, profits, or just plain having fun at the expense of a clean, healthy planet.

We need to continue to talk with our elected officials about global warming, clean water, a sustainable energy policy and all the other environmental issues of the day. By doing this we keep environmental issues on the minds of politicians and hopefully help them in making good decisions for the environment.

The most recent issue of the Fox Valley Sierra Groups newsletter had in large, bold print on the inside front page the following: "**Do You Want Us To Die**"? In small print at the bottom of the page it read, "Our Executive Committee does not have enough members to function". I don't think our group is in such dire straights although we could use some more help. As long as we have enough people to spread the work around no job becomes a burden. I have always enjoyed our executive committee meetings and have never felt I have had too much to do. Consider helping out, it's not only not much work but it's also a lot of fun.

- Trygve

Reminder

2006-'07 membership dues are due. If you haven't renewed, please send in your dues along with the membership form included on the back of this newsletter. Thank you.

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.

Calendar of Events



November

16 - November Meeting -
West Shore Fishing
Museum
Speaker - Eileen Behrend
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette
Rm M-110. Details on page
one.

December

17 - Wisconsin Christmas
Bird Count
Jerry Smith
Details on page four.

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

January

18 - January Meeting -
Member Slide Show
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette
Rm M-110. Details on page
one.

February

15- February Meeting -
TBA
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette
Rm M-110.
Details in spring newsletter.

TBA - Winter Snowshoe
Outing at The Bloch
Tract
Details at meetings, by
email and on our website

March

TBA - Annual Banquet
Karl Bohnak- Meteorologist
TV 6, Marquette
"UP Weather"
Details in spring newsletter
and on our website

April

15 - Sandhill Crane Count
Details in spring newsletter.

TBA- Harmony
Hardwoods
Workday
Details in spring newsletter

TBA- Hay Creek Cleanup
Details in spring newsletter

May

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



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Christmas Bird Count

Mark **Saturday, December 17th** and **Saturday, December 30** on your calendar 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 Marinette County count on **December 17**, call Jerry Smith .To learn more about the Menominee County count scheduled for **December 30**, call Joan Campbell at 732-1277. □

Chappee- Webber Learning Center

The eighth year at the center was another successful one, welcoming almost 350 students. Forth graders from public schools in Peshtigo, Marinette, Menominee, Stephenson, Carney-Nadeau and the Hannahville Indian School attended. Private, home schoolers and parochial schools also attended.

As the students arrive at the center they are divided into four groups, each going to four different locations at the center. Each learning session is about 25-30 minutes. They then move to the next presenter, guided on paths through the woods by volunteer helpers. This year Nicole Brisson kept time during the sessions.

On the banks of the Menominee River, this presenter, Randal Smith, dressed as a French trader, shows the furs he has traded for goods from the Indians. His goods of trade consisted of blankets, beads, hatchets, knives, pots, tobacco and perhaps even a muzzleloader. He explains the life of this trader called a coureur-de-bois.

Bob Brisson, in his learning station in a wooded area, shares his knowledge of many years as a forester for Marinette county. Bob shows how tools in forestry are used, having a hands on participation by the students, cutting wood, using a two-man saw and making cedar shakes. The history of Menominee's

1850's – 1880's logging era are also discussed.

Denise Taylor, her expertise in plant life, takes the group on a walk through the prairie, explaining flora and fauna. She also teaches the ecology and geology of our land, then and now. Like other stations, students participate in a question and answer session.

Beneath the canopy of a hundred year old white oak, John Helfert, dressed in Native American wear, takes the students back in time, when and how Native Americans lived off the land. He talks of plants that can be eaten - milkweed (nanaweesuk), and cattails (apakway), just to name a few. He explains other cultures of the Native Americans and shares the meaning of pow-wows (tribal gatherings).

These sessions are held over two weeks in mid-September, with the last Sunday open to the public. This year twenty-two attended the presentations and were hosted by Debbie and Randal Smith. Apple cider was made from an antique cider press, supplied by the Taylors, and operated by Bill and Martin Taylor.

Through generous donations, a pavilion will be built in the spring or early summer of 2007. The pavilion will be used in case of inclement weather.

- John Helfert

Did You Know?

by John Helfert

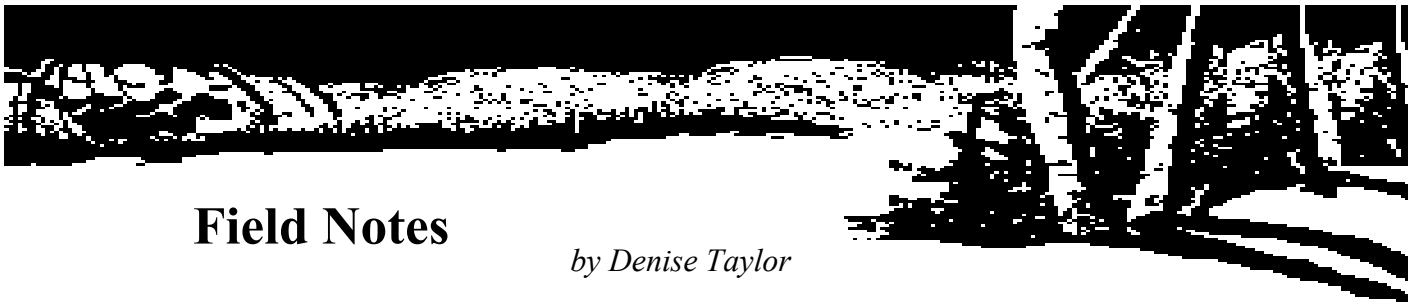
Ivy and holly, though almost scentless, bear much nectar.



The pineapple is a native of South America. 98% of the fruit is juice. If picked green, the pineapple will remain green, not ripening like other fruits.

The tomato was first used as food by the Aztecs. Introduced in Spain in the 16th century and later grown in England as an ornamental plant, it was known as the "love apple" and was considered mildly poisonous. Folks ate one now -and -then on a "dare."

Water is an absolute necessity to most creatures, yet many desert animals never have to drink. Kangaroo rats, pocket mice, prairie dogs, gazelles, wild asses, and dozens of the species, both large and small, pass their entire lives without touching a drop of water.



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

What a change of scenery the last two months has brought to us. The verdant forests of summer are now a dark framework of branches for the shadowy forms of owls and the starry skies. Our own Great horned owls started a little recreational calling the last week of October, but were easily discouraged when I called back. Looking through my calendar notes, September was a nice month with moderate temperatures and some decent rains to make up for our summer deficit. Highs were in the eighties to start the month but by the last two weeks we had several “near” frosts with morning lows in the mid-thirty degree range. The cooler temps along with the summer stress brought the fall colors on a few days earlier than usual with peak color here about the 3rd of October. The first week of October was beautiful and very warm with a few good thunderstorms that week...but hang on from there on out! From a high of seventy five on the 8th of the month strong winds and snow arrived on the 11th and daytime temps hovered around the freezing mark! The rest of the month saw scattered pleasant days and many other days that were a bit more brisk and invigorating. Oh well, welcome to the UP and thank goodness for our woodstove!

Bird numbers have been a bit low in my opinion this fall, I hope this is just due to my being in the wrong place at the right time. Moderate numbers of flycatchers, mostly Phoebe, moved through in September and fairly good numbers

of robins arrived by the end of the month. The robins were numbering about 50 here in the yard and needless to say the snowdrift crabapples are now bare. Flickers were here the last week of September through the first two weeks in October. The second and third weeks of that month saw a few good flocks of yellow rumped warblers and steady but not high numbers of bluebirds. Canada geese have been moving well since the equinox and are still very prevalent. An interesting observation this year was the large numbers of the smaller (cackling) Canada's that I observed and listened to early in the migration. There are often a few of these smaller, more arctic races moving with the larger geese but this year I saw whole flocks of as many 70 birds passing overhead. This does make me wonder what is going on in the far north!

Sandhill cranes were in averaged numbers and well dispersed about the counties. They were still present on November 1st. Wood duck numbers are below average at this time and ruffed grouse are in good numbers, I observed at least four on one drive into town a week ago. Bill observed snow buntings and rough-legged hawks at the airport on October 23rd. That's just about the average date for their arrival. I noted Juncos October 20th and a Northern shrike on the 23rd also. Marsh hawks are still present but not in the numbers that they held 5-10 years ago. I am also seeing very few kestrels this fall and only one

Merlin in mid September. I count myself fortunate to have 4 Cardinals, a red-bellied and two downy woodpeckers setting up to make my birdfeeder a regular stop this winter.

The deep winter months have a unique ability to make time stand still. On an overcast day at this time of the year, it is hard to know if it is mid-morning or late afternoon and only that it is not too long before or after dark. Oh how I can hardly imagine life in northern Canada or Alaska except that the aurora borealis would light the night skies! My late afternoon walks are rushed along by the fading light. Soon the woods and fields out here in the farm country will come alive with orange figures lurking in ever more complex structures looking for the seemingly elusive white tails..... which are quite happy keeping their jaunts restricted to the nighttimes. But really, how wonderful that all these folks are finally taking time to sit in the woods and fields and “be quiet” and listen to their hearts beat and the squirrels rustle and the chickadees flit about their heads. For so many it is the excuse they need to leave work and renew themselves in nature. For many a naturalist, this is just how a love affair with the natural world got started. Sitting with a parent or grandparent for many an hour in the woods and being told to “be still”. One looks long and hard at every leaf and twig nearby; an insect or a mouse is great entertainment. So this season, put on some warm clothes, find an excuse to go out in the woods and be very quiet. It's good for you! □

Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Membership Form

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

Membership

Category:

- Individual \$4.00
- Family \$5.00
- Supporting \$10.00
- Contributing \$25.00
- Other Donation

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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