

Chappee Rapids Reporter

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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Spring 2007

Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey

Bob Howe, Professor, Director of the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at UWGB, will present a program on the Trends and Patterns in the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey.

Dr Howe has conducted a breeding bird survey in the new

state lands in Marinette County, through a grant from the Wisconsin DNR. He is on the Science Advisory Committee for The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter. Dr Howe was the Data Management Director for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas.

Dr Howe will give us an update on the trends and patterns he has seen in the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 15** at 7:00 pm in Room M-107 at the UW-Marinette. □

UP Weather Stories - 2007 Banquet

Karl Bohnak, Chief Meteorologist at WLUC TV6 in Marquette, MI, will be the featured speaker at the eighteenth annual Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet. Mr. Bohnak combines his love of history and weather to present a program on "*U.P. Weather Stories: An Entertaining Chronicle of How Weather Has Affected the Inhabitants of Our Unique Climatic Region.*"

The eighteenth annual Banquet will be held at Schussler's Supper Club in Peshtigo on **Friday, March**

30. The social hour will begin at 6:00 P.M. with the dinner and program at 7:00 P.M.

The 2007 Environmental Achievement Awards will be presented. A silent auction, 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 863-8609 or 735-5961 by March 27. □



- For more information about Mr. Bohnak, please turn to page three.

Help Preserve the Carney Fen! - Details on Page 5

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

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Message from the President

Every so often in the history of a great organization events occur that strengthen and unite us. The DNR meeting in Stephenson three weeks ago was such an event. I was thrilled to see the excellent turnout of our members and to hear the comments of supporters of the Carney Fen.

After years of work by a small but hardworking group of volunteers it was time for the rest of us to contribute. The meeting in Stephenson was inspiring and encouraging but the Friends of the Carney Fen still need our support. The Michigan DNR will accept comments through February 17 and will consider these comments when they decide whether the preservation process should continue. A description of how to make formal comments can be

found on page five of this newsletter. Please let the DNR know of your concern for the fen and, if in the future the Friends of the Carney Fen ask that we attend another hearing, make an effort to attend.

Our annual banquet is always our most attended event. This year will be no exception. Our speaker Karl Bohnak, a television meteorologist from Marquette, MI and author of a new book So Cold A Sky, will spin a web of tales intertwining weather and UP history. With weather being such a hot topic these days, it should be an interesting night. Be sure to get your tickets today from any Chappee Rapids Audubon Board member. See you there.

Paul

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

Reminder

If your mailing label reads Renewal Due Sept 06, you still need to renew your membership for 2006 - 07. 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.

Calendar of Events

February

15– February Meeting
Nicolet National Forest
Bird Survey
Speaker: Bob Howe
Details on page one.

17 - Winter Snowshoe
Outing
Details on page six.



March

30 - Annual Environmental
Achievement Awards
Banquet
Speaker: Meteorologist
Karl Bohnak
Details on page one and below.

April

14 - Sandhill Crane Count
Details in next newsletter.

20– “An Inconvenient
Truth”
A showing of the Al Gore
movie. The public is
invited.
Details in next newsletter.

May

3,10,17,24– Tuesday
Evening Hikes
Details in next newsletter

More About Karl Bohnak

Weather has been Karl Bohnak’s passion since his youth. Severe weather captivates and excites him even today.

Karl’s interests led him from a communications degree in broadcasting to the equivalent of a bachelors in Meteorology at the University of Wisconsin.

He worked at radio stations in New Hampshire and Wisconsin and later as a television reporter and weather forecaster. He received his AMS seal (American

Meteorological Seal Of Broadcasting Approval) in 1988. That same year, he accepted a weather anchoring position at WLUC TV-6 Marquette, Michigan. A fondness for severe snowstorms drew him to one of the snowiest regions in the United States.

Karl’s love for the weather of the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan has become a strong influence for this region’s weather enthusiasts. His new book, So Cold A Sky, is based on his research and

experience while forecasting weather for more than eighteen years in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Karl will have copies of his book available for sale at the banquet.

He has two grown sons and lives with his wife and killer cat in Negaunee. Karl maintains a weather blog, “That’s What Karl Says!” Check it out before the Banquet to see a sample of Karl’s UP weather history knowledge. □



106th Christmas Bird Count

24th Hayward Lakes, MI Count

December 30, 2006

Thirty nine species and 2610 individual birds were counted by Bob Brisson, Barb Bereza, Jim Goin, Rich & Joan Campbell, Dale Leitzke, Bill & Denise Taylor, Joe Fournier, and Marlene Nelson. The morning started out very foggy, cleared by 11:00 and the afternoon was cloudy. Temperatures were mild - from 32-36 degrees. Count coordinator was Joan Campbell. □

American Crow	488
American Goldfinch	185
American Robin	1
American Tree Sparrow	131
Bald Eagle	15
Bard Owl	2
Black-capped Chickadee	213
Blue Jay	56
Canada Goose	181
Common Goldeneye	3
Common Merganser	7
Common Raven	15
Cooper's Hawk	1
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored)	112
Downy Woodpecker	19
European Starling	536
Golden Crowned Kinglet	3
Hairy Woodpecker	6
Herring Gull	4
House Finch	51
House Sparrow	51
Mourning Dove	62
Northern Cardinal	5
Northern Goshawk	1
Northern Harrier	1
Northern Shrike	3
Pileated Woodpecker	7
Purple Finch	32
Reds bellied Woodpecker	3
Red Tailed Hawk	4
Red-breasted Nuthatch	41
Ring-billed Gull	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	8
Rock Pigeon	305
Rough-legged Hawk	10
Ruffed Grouse	1
Snow Bunting	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	15
Wild Turkey	30

Did You Know?

by John Helfert

Close to primeval chaos is the sponge, lowliest of animals. It is an animal without a brain, nervous system, heart, lungs, stomach, muscles, or blood. But it has an "I am." The sponge is the simplest, most primitive of metazoa, or many-celled animals. If a sponge is cut or torn away from the sea bottom in such a way that some fragment remains, this fragment will continue growing.

The beaded lizard of Mexico and the Gila monster are the only living venomous lizards.

Armadillos lack teeth in the front of both upper and lower jaws, and are members of the toothless animal group which includes the anteaters. The foods which they eat are licked up by the sticky surface of their extensile tongues.



The sperm whale, sometimes reaching 60 feet, feeds mostly on squid. The huge upper jaw is toothless.

Bison have been known to produce calves at 30 years of age. They do not lose their horns each year, but retain them through life.

Carney Fen Nomination for Michigan State Natural Area

On May 1st, 2006 the Friends of Carney Fen submitted documents to the Michigan Natural Areas Council, proposing that the 3,500 acre site known as the Carney Fen should be dedicated as a Michigan State Natural Area.

The documents showed that the site is an excellent example of what the Michigan Natural Features Inventory describes as a 'northern fen', extremely rare in Michigan. All Michigan DNR departments gave the documents a 'thumbs up'. Forestry Department, however, counter-proposed a revised boundary excluding nearly 1,000 acres of upland hardwoods from the original proposal. Their plan would remove 600 acres of hardwoods from the southeast and 352 acres from the northwest hardwoods near the headwaters of the fen. DNR Forestry suggested that the 352 acre site should become a Special Conservation Area (SCA). SCAs have guidelines not legally dedicated the same as a State Natural Area and can be changed at DNR department review (performed every ten years). This SCA designation will allow DNR Forestry to continue to 'manage' the 352 acres at the headwaters of

the fen. Permanent protection of the headwaters habitat of the fen is critically important for the continued functionality of the entire ecosystem.

Mineral rights issues of four 40 acre parcels within the fen boundary have been brought to the attention of William Schmidt of the DNR's legal department through the investigative work of Dale 'The bloodhound' Leitzke. Mr. Schmidt has been in contact with VMS Development, the rights owner of two these forties, to ensure that the correct procedures are followed for donating the rights to the State of Michigan.

On January 17th, MI DNR held a required public information meeting in Stephenson, MI. to receive comments from local citizens. While many spoke of the benefit of preserving the fen for future generations of naturalists and students, some residents were concerned about restrictive public access to the fen. Existing logging roads would no longer allow motor vehicle traffic within the dedicated natural area boundary. Hunting would still be allowed.

The recorded presence of Goshawk nesting within the headwaters area of hardwoods and within the proposed SCA, located by DNR Forestry ten years ago, reached the investigating team of the Friends of Carney Fen at the meeting on the 17th. The department took steps to ensure the preservation of the nest habitat through a re-negotiation of the on-going timber sale contract. □

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

After reading this article it is hoped that the reader will be compelled to offer his or her comments in support of the Carney Fen State Natural Area dedication. Your comments in favor of Carney Fen dedication and permanent protection of its critically important headwaters are needed to ensure the protection of this ecosystem. Could you please take a few moments to express your concern for this important issue?

- Kip Knudson, *Friends of the Carney Fen*

Send your comments before February 17 to:
Eric Thompson - Unit Manager
Escanaba Management Unit MDNR
6833 Hwy 2, 41 & M-35
Gladstone, MI 49837

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead, *Culture and Commitment*

Snowshoe Outing

Mark **Saturday, February 17** on your calendars for the Chappee Rapids Audubon snowshoe outing.

We will meet at the plaque at the **Bloch Tract** on County BB at **9:00 am**. We will snowshoe for about an hour and a half. Those

interested, will drive for coffee or lunch afterwards.

Bring snowshoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. For more information or directions to the Bloch Tract, contact outing leader Trygve Rhude at 732-8985.

--NOTE: If we don't get more snow, the outing may be a hike! ☐



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

Handbook of Bird Biology

The Handbook of Bird Biology, put out by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is now available at the UW Marinette Library. This book

is a wonderful tome on virtually any aspect of bird biology you could think of; please check it out.

It has more information on our

feathered friends than perhaps even Bob Brisson.

- *Wendel Johnson*

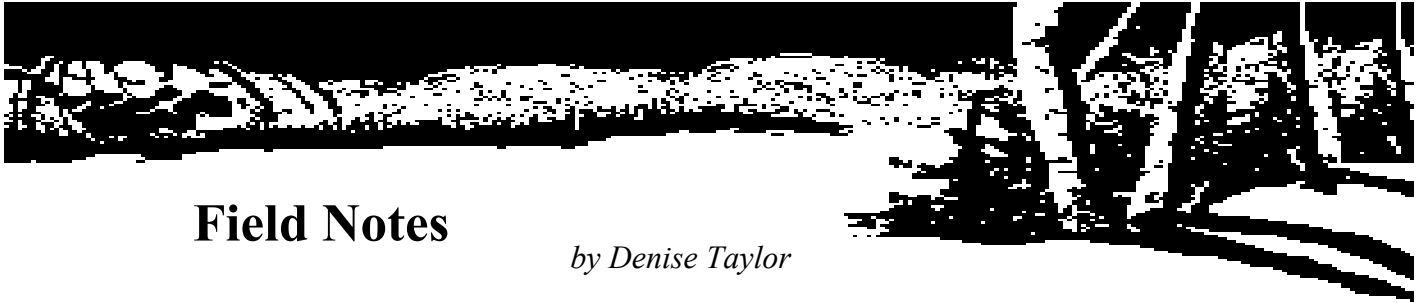
www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/

"Celebrating Wildflowers" is a website dedicated to the enjoyment of the thousands of wildflowers growing on our national forests and

grasslands, and to educating the public about the many values of native plants. It is a product of the

USDA Forest Service.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

***Editor's Note:** Denise is taking care of a sick dog and says it's just too cold to write! With this year's frigid temperatures, talk has been of the winter of 1996, our last really cold winter here. Below is Denise's Field Notes column from the February 1996 Chappee Rapids Reporter. Denise will be back with a new Field Notes in the next Chappee Rapids Reporter.*

All those who missed out on winter the last few years ...take note, this winter is for you! This may also be one of those years for visitors from the "real" arctic tundra. Why? Because it really is colder up there than it is here. Reports include gyrfalcons at the Soo and Superior. A hawk owl and a harlequin duck at the Soo. Three snowy owls in one field near Freedom, WI. Anybody see any around here? On the twin county scene, chickadees are in good numbers and I've watched half a dozen fall prey to northern shrikes. Common redpolls are widespread but no reports of hoarics. Bohemian waxwings and pine grosbeaks are scattered throughout the area...the former in old apple orchards and the latter along roadsides gathering grit and weed seeds. One of the more unusual visitors reported must be the white-winged crossbills. Besides showing up on the Christmas count, Marion Bergstrom has spotted them at her feeder near the golf course on M-35...I'm still waiting for them here!

The early spring migrants are currently holed up in the southern tier of counties across Michigan and

Wisconsin. These include meadowlarks, horned larks, robins, red-tailed hawks, marsh hawks, and kestrels and such. As of this writing the weather is bitter cold and these birds may move on south another 100 miles or so. They will be our first birds back as the snow recedes and temperatures moderate...maybe late February early March this year.

A good, cold mid-winter morning gets me thinking about a lot of things. Things like the resounding scrunch of the snow underfoot, that the feeder is empty and those chickadees and tree sparrows have to be colder than I am. Then there is hot coffee and a good, warm fire. Just about the best wood for that fire is ash. No kidding, there have been songs and legends written about it. White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) has opposite leaf scars and buds of dark to medium brown including a prominent terminal bud. It is a tall tree of mixed deciduous woodlands. The bark is medium furrowed in a diamond pattern. Besides firewood, the lumber is useful for almost any thing you need to build and especially tool handles. Black Ash

(*Fraxinus nigra*) has similar buds but they are sooty black. This is a tree of the swamps. The bark is not furrowed but scaly in long strips. When it is growing in standing water the lower trunk will widen substantially and be covered with mosses and algae, giving the effect of a Bald Cypress to my eye. This tree is prized by basket makers. The lumber is rich and tan. I am very fond of both of these trees, in the forest and in my house as furnishings. If you don't know these two trees yet, I invite you to look around and find them soon!

Ever since their arrival in early November I have been watching a small flock of snow buntings fly over just after dusk. They twitter and circle the farm and field two or three times. Then they fly down low to the ground and settle straight into a large pile of fieldstone in the middle of the field. They disappear in the rocks. I don't see them at any other time. That pile of stone has been there almost a century. Before that, there stood a forest there. Where did the snow buntings sleep then? Think warm thoughts. □

Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Membership Form

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Membership (circle one)

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