



# Chappee Rapids Reporter

[www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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## “An Inconvenient Truth” - The Movie

“An Inconvenient Truth”, the Academy Award winning Al Gore movie, will be shown on **Thursday, April 19**, hosted by the Chappee

Rapids Audubon Society.

The film will be shown at 7:00 P.M. in room M-117 at the UW - Marinette. Popcorn and beverages

will be provided. The public is invited.

Election of officers for 2007-08 will also be held. □

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## Tuesday Bird Walks

**MAY EVENING BIRD WALKS - Tuesdays - 6:30 PM**

**May 8** - Dale Leitzke-906-863-3163 - DNR property at end of Pond Road

**May 15** - Joan Campbell-715-712-1277- DNR property at end of Pond Road

**May 22** - Denise Taylor-906-863-7397 - Menekaunee Walkway on Hosmer St.

**May 29** - Barb Bereza-715-582-0884 - Harmony Hardwoods. Park at Master Gardeners pavilion

Wear layered clothing as it can be cool in the evenings

**MAY MORNING BIRD WALKS - 7:45 AM - DNR Property - Pond Road**

The best time to see birds is in the morning, so Joan Campbell will be leading walks on **Tues. on the same dates as above**. The DNR property has many kinds of habitats for a great variety of bird species and is a very good corridor for migrating birds. Wear layered clothing as it can be cold in the morning by the bay and shoes or boots for walking in woods and fields. Binoculars can be helpful; Joan will have a scope. Plan to be out for approx. 2 hours. More info call Joan at 715-732-1277.

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## Girl Scouts Need Your Help on May 12

One of our organizational goals at the beginning of the year was to get younger people interested in nature. As spring approaches, we have such an opportunity. A local Girl Scout troop has asked that we share our expertise with them. They, along

with other local troops, would like to have an educational day. This could involve over 100 girls.

We are looking for volunteers on the morning of **May 12** to share their knowledge with these girls. It is our hope to break up into small

groups and introduce them to birds and/or plants that are out in the spring. If you are not a nature expert, we can still use volunteers to round up stragglers, etc. To volunteer, call Paul Lata, 735-5961. □

## 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](mailto: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.

Editor .....Laurie Lata  
Assistant Editor....Paul Lata

Web Site  
[www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

## Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

President - Trygve Rhude &  
Paul Lata

Secretary - Joan Campbell

Treasurer - Marlene Nelson

Programs - Vacant

Librarian/Historian -

Georgia Jensen

Conservation - Wendel Johnson

Field Trips - Vacant

MI Audubon Delegate - Vacant

WI Audubon Delegate -

Ethyle Block

Newsletter -Laurie Lata

Legislative - Trygve Rhude

Education - John Helfert

Chappee Rapids Site -

Denise Taylor

Website -Vacant

## Message from the President

The Banquet is just over and as usual things went well. As you have heard many times in the past planning this event is never a lot of work for any one individual as we always have lots of help. Thank you to all who helped and attended.

The past few months I have been reminded of Aldo Leopold's book "A Sand County Almanac". In February I was helping a neighbor split up a large oak tree and thought of his writing on Good Oak. As Leopold saws through the tree's growth rings he recounts important events of the past, I too think of what this tree has gone through and how it has survived all these years. I also had to laugh at myself after getting a splitting wedge stuck in a three foot diameter, knotty, twisted grain cross section. As Leopold wrote, "Many a hastily driven wedge lies rusting in the woods, embedded in unsplittable cross-grain". Earlier in March as a flock

of geese flew overhead I thought of Leopold's passage, "A March morning is only as drab as he who walks in it without a glance skyward, ear cocked for geese". Soon I will hear first, and then observe, the sky dance of the woodcock as Leopold did and wrote about in his passages in April. What will the month of May bring?

We are still looking for some more folks to serve on the board for next year. If you are interested, but not yet willing to commit, come to the next board meeting to get a feel for how things go. The conversation is always interesting and the food is great.

The last meeting for the season will be April 19<sup>th</sup>. All Gore's movie "An Incontinent Truth" will be shown and the elections for next year's officers will be held. Hope to see you there.

*Trygve*

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## Rare Bird Alert

Call one of the following people for a local rare bird sighting

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

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## E-Newsletter

If you have computer access, consider the advantages of having your newsletter delivered electronically - save paper, save money, more pictures (and in color). 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](mailto:info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org).

# Calendar of Events

## April

**14 - International Crane Foundation Sandhill Crane Count**  
Details on page four.

**19 - “An Inconvenient Truth”  
The Academy Award Winning Al Gore Movie**  
Details on page one.

**TBA- Harmony Hardwoods Workday**

**TBA- Hay Creek Cleanup**

## May

**7 - Frog Bicycle Ride**  
On **Monday, May 7**, Wendel Johnson, UW-Marquette 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-Marquette at 6:30 P.M. For more information, call Vern at (715) 587-4341.

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

**8 - Public Forum  
“Overview of the Ecology Of Lyme Disease”**  
Research spring and summer 2006 in Menominee County  
**Pamela Roy**, Michigan State University  
**7:00 P.M.**, UW Marquette Room M117  
For more information  
735-4300.

**12 - Girl Scout Outing**  
Time to be announced  
Details on page one.

## May (cont'd)

**8, 15, 22, 29 -  
Tuesday Morning Bird Walks  
DNR Property -Pond Rd**  
Details on page one.

**8 - Tuesday Evening Bird Walk  
DNR Property -Pond Rd.**  
Details on page one.

**15 - Tuesday Evening Bird Walk  
DNR Property Pond Rd**  
Details on page one.

**22 - Tuesday Evening Bird Walk  
Menekaunee Walkway**  
Details on page one.

**29 - Tuesday Evening Bird Walk  
Harmony Hardwoods**  
Details on page one.

## June

**TBA - Canoe Outing**  
Details to be announced.

## 2007 Banquet a Success

Over 85 people enjoyed the eighteenth annual Environmental Awards Banquet held on March 30 at Schussler's. Karl Bohnak, Chief Meteorologist WLUV TV6, Marquette, entertained with a program entitled, "U.P. Weather: An Entertaining Chronicle of How Weather Has Affected the Inhabitants of Our Unique Climatic Region."

The Leroy Lintereur Individual Award went to Ross Wolfe for his many years of work with the Hay Creek Clean Up and The Carney Fen.

The Organization/Group Award went to The Clean Water Action Council of NE Wisconsin for their continued work to protect the Fox

River and its watershed.

The raffle netted \$350. Proceeds will be used for the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Special Projects Fund.

Also, a \$400 donation was presented to Chappee Rapids Audubon from the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society (NEWOS). The grant money was received by NEWOS from the Mid America Orchid Society Conservation Committee to support the conservation effort of the Carney Fen. □

*- To view a video of interviews with Chappee Rapids Audubon members at the banquet, go to [videonetnews.com](http://videonetnews.com), a new local video news network.*

### Special Thanks to the Following for Door Prizes and Raffle Items for the Banquet

Aurora Books  
Barb Bereza & Jim Goin  
Marge Bjork  
Carmen Bugaj  
James Hammett  
Georgia Jensen  
John's Taxidermy  
Beverly Hayward Johnson  
Wendel & Judith Johnson  
K-Mart  
Larry Koesling

Kuber's Feed Mill  
Marinette Camera Fair  
Marinette Farm & Garden  
Wayne & Marlene Nelson  
Peshtigo Feed Mill  
Ron & Mary Renk  
Sentinel Structures, Inc.  
The Crescent Moon Shop  
The Eager Weed  
The Landing  
Ross Wolfe

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## In Search of Crane Counters

**Saturday, April 14 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.



## Did You Know?

*by John Helfert*

Wild geese and ducks have "telescope eyes" and are remarkably clever to avoid danger. A white swan is one of the most conspicuous birds in nature and depends almost entirely upon its eyes, keeping well away from suspicious cover, nesting on the flat tundra where an enemy is visible for miles.

The Megapode of the Philippines and the Australian region builds a nest the size of her body on the ground. Her eggs are enormous in proportion to her body. After laying goose size eggs she pays no more attention to her nest and leaves the fledglings to care for themselves. They are able to fly almost from the moment of hatching.

The Gila Monster stores food in its tail.

When the wild turkey leaves her nest, she flies away, leaving no scent for the hungry fox or wild cats to pick up.

When starting a campfire on a damp or rainy day, old birds nests, birch bark, small twigs at the lower part of the tree trunks, particularly pine and fir, make great tinder.





## Field Notes

*by Denise Taylor*

First. I would like to update everyone on the outcome of my dog's extensive visit to the veterinary hospital- the collie lives and is doing just fine! Secondly, because this is a somewhat "bird feeder" related story, I feel I must pass along a little warning...please do not allow your beloved pups to open sliding doors when you are not home and first eat the squirrel playing on your bird feeder then follow that with a pound of bird suet for a chaser! For some dogs (mine among them) this can be a deadly combination, it's hard on squirrels too!

Recapping the winter so far it is safe to say we have had two distinct weather periods this past season. The first was mild, a bit rainy but generally pleasant. This pattern lasted through the second week of January and during this time a large number of fall migrant birds remained in the area. There were many reports of robins, bluebirds, red-winged blackbirds, grackles, a few meadowlarks, marsh hawks and a few great-blue herons. After January 12th temperatures dropped into the 20's during the day and single digits at night allowing most water to freeze. Waterfowl left the area but the above land birds continued to linger. The usual chickadees, blue jays, American tree sparrows and American goldfinches starting

frequenting my feeder as well as a few Cardinals. Woodpeckers were scarce for me through February. This colder period also brought down the rough-legged hawks in good numbers while red-tails again spent the winter in our area.

February continued a downward slide in temps with many nights dropping below zero but still little snow. Ice skaters, ice boaters and ice fishers were all enjoying the conditions but snow skiers were migrating northward in mild desperation. February 25th brought our first real storm of the season with the followup on March 1st. Most birds in the area showed up at the feeders including the shrikes! On March 6th I had the opportunity to view downys, hairys, red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers all in the yard at the same moment, very neat!

The winter segway was shortlived and horned larks arrived on March 8th, 50F on March 10, bluebirds on the 12th, red-wings the 14th, and a few pairs of sandhill cranes the 11th. I had to walk out of the house at 5 AM on the 22nd to hear the first woodcock, song sparrows the 23rd, and meadowlarks the 25th. Then there was the amazing sound of wood frogs and peepers on March 26th as the temps rose to

78F here on the farm (remember I am about 12 mi. north of Menominee)! This is my earliest record, but as I learned at the banquet from Mr. Bohnak, this was NOT the earliest date for frogs! Well, I think that is reassuring in some very small way.

This last week of March and early April has started the typical spring rush- the life around me is simply moving so fast that it is difficult to keep up with arrivals, passages, nestings and matings and migrations..unless they are very short ones. What a contrast to watch the whistling swans pass by so smoothly like most birds racing overhead then to come upon a blue spotted salamander that has slogged its way through cold mud and slush a few hundred yards. Careful rinsing of the soil reveals a beautiful, delicate, and endearing creature. The dark ground color of midnight, strewn along the sides with distant blue star-like spots and seemingly overlain with some band of sparkles that could pass for the Milky Way. Silly to compare the galaxy to a tiny earth creature that drags its belly through the cold? No more so than for us to wonder at all the possibilities of a seemingly infinite universe. Enjoy the blooms to come! □

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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I wish to receive my newsletter by  Mail  Email (check one)

Mail to:  
Chappee Rapids Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1133  
Marinette WI 54143

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