

# Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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## American Tree Farms - Sustainable Forests

Tom Jacobs, Regional Forester for the Department of Natural Resources for NE Wisconsin, will be the featured speaker at the

September 20 meeting.

Mr. Jacobs will present a program, "American Tree Farm, Programs and Sustainable Forests."

The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 pm in Room M-110 at the UW-Marquette. □

## The Nature Conservancy in NE Wisconsin

Mike Grimm, Conservation Ecologist for The Wisconsin Nature Conservancy - Door County office, will be the featured speaker at the

October 18 meeting.

Mr. Grimm will present a program, "The Nature Conservancy - Its Program for the

Green Bay Area."

The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 pm in room M-110 at the UW-Marquette. □

## National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day, a nation-wide effort to contribute to the well-being and awareness of our publicly-owned federal, state, county and municipal lands is **September 29**. Chappee Rapids Audubon will be part of this effort at Tommy Thompson State Park.

We will be meeting at **9am at the Park Office** and will be doing trail maintenance, pruning, brush clearing on several of the park

trials. Our event will go from 9 until noon. Participants should bring gloves, pruning tools, water bottles, etc. Some of us may stay and eat our lunches there. Contact Wendel Johnson at 735-9204 for more info.

We hope that this will become an annual event attended by many citizens in Northeast WI. More information may be obtained at: [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org) □

## Chappee Site

### Help!

Volunteers are needed to help with the annual grade school outing at the Chappee Weber Learning Center in late September. Duties range from "herding" the children, to guiding and narrating the hikes. Help with the ongoing site maintenance and development would also be welcomed.

To volunteer, contact Denise Taylor at 863-7397. □

[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 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- Paul Lata

Vice President - Trygve Rhude

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**

Each time we learn about nature some of the information remains in our memory. As these learning experiences accumulate, the amount of information can become substantial. The best use of this information is to share it with others, particularly with younger individuals who will shape our future and who have tremendous capacity to learn.

Last year our organization identified increased involvement of young people as one of our goals. During the past decade, some of our members have been educating hundreds of children at the Chappee Weber Learning Center. Last spring we took another step towards involving youth. Several of our

members volunteered a Saturday morning to share their knowledge with an enthusiastic Girl Scout troop at the Harmony Hardwoods. The Girl Scouts had a great time and reportedly have been pointing out their discoveries to others.

We hope to continue this focus in 2007-08. We are planning to have at least one meeting with programming that will appeal to children. We also hope to have other outings like last spring's Girl Scout outing. I urge all of you to bring a child to one of our events or volunteer to lead or assist with one of these outings. Let's share our knowledge with those who will benefit most.

- Paul

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## **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. □

## **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](mailto:info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org)

# Calendar of Events



## September

**20**– September Meeting -  
American Tree Farms-  
Sustainable Forests  
Speaker - Tom Jacobs  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-110. Details on page  
one.

**29**– National Public Lands  
Work Day  
Tommy Thompson State  
Park 9:00 am  
Details on page  
one.

## October

**18**– October Meeting-  
The Nature Conservancy  
in NE Wisconsin  
Speaker - Mike Grimm  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-110.  
Details on page one.

**TBA** - Lake Noquebay  
Trail Workday  
Details at meetings or on  
our website.

## November

**15**– November Meeting -  
TBA  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-110. Details in  
winter newsletter.

## December

**TBA** - Michigan Christmas  
Bird Count  
Joan Campbell -732-1277  
Details in winter  
newsletter.

## January

**17** - January Meeting  
Member Slide Show  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-110. Details in winter  
newsletter.

## February

**21**- February Meeting - TBA  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-110.  
Details in winter  
newsletter.

## February

**TBA** - Winter Snowshoe  
Outing  
Details in winter  
newsletter

## March

**TBA** - Annual Banquet  
Details in spring newsletter  
and on our website

## April

**17**– April Meeting - TBA  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marquette  
Rm M-110.  
Details in spring  
newsletter.

**19** - Sandhill Crane Count  
Details in spring  
newsletter.

## May

**TBA**- Tuesday Evening  
Hikes  
Details in spring newsletter

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

## Crane Count Results

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 19.

- Laurie Lata

## New Species of Butterfly for NE WI

This summer Judith observed two Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies (*Papilio sp.*) at Phlox plants at our house. The WI State Entomologist, Phil Pellitteri, confirmed our photos. These sightings are about one state north of where they usually occur. Most telling is their brilliant, iridescent

## 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

blue hind wings. Look for them next summer and water your phlox plants.

-Wendel Johnson

- To view the photo of the butterfly, see our website [chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org).

## Michigan's Kirtland's Warbler Population Continues to Grow

Department of Natural Resources officials released annual survey information indicating Michigan's population of the endangered Kirtland's warbler continues to increase. The 2007 population represents the largest number of singing males recorded since monitoring began in 1951.

This year, singing males were identified in five Upper Peninsula counties: Baraga (1), Chippewa (8), Delta (7), Marquette (8), and Schoolcraft (8).

In the U.P., females were observed with the males, indicating nesting activity. The Kirtland's warbler population remains dependent on northern Michigan's

jack pine barrens ecosystem for nesting habitat. These stands were created by natural wildfires that frequently swept through northern Michigan. Modern fire suppression programs altered this natural process, reducing Kirtland's warbler habitat and population to the point that they were listed as endangered.

Management programs have provided sufficient habitat to support the warbler population through the foreseeable future.

For more information, contact the DNR Wildlife Division, Natural Heritage Program, Box 30180, Lansing, MI 48909. or

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). □

## Did You Know?

by John Helfert

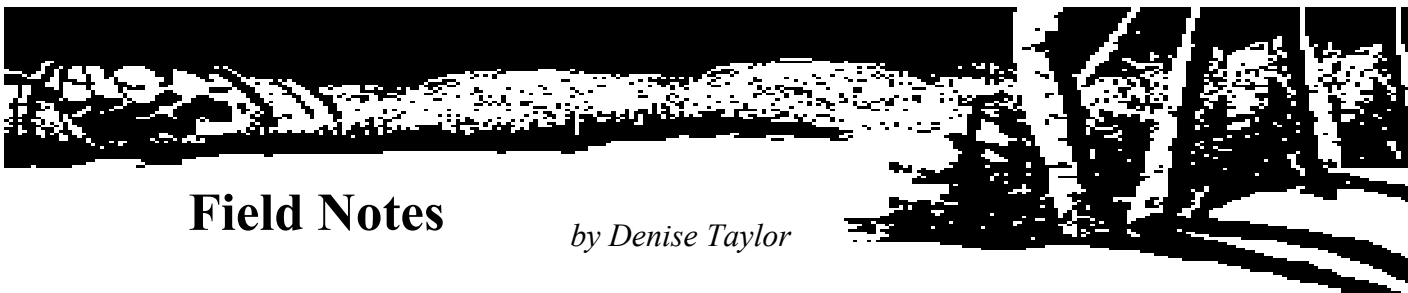
The three toed sloth of South America comes down from the treetops once a week to defecate. They then become prey to the jaguar.

Red squirrels are able to eat mushrooms that are deadly to man. Be careful what you pick in the wild. If you are unsure, don't pick it.

To many species of animals, the survival of the fittest means the survival of the fastest. The bot deer fly (*Cephenomyia Pratti*), an insect, is the speed champion of the world. A rate of four hundred yards per second, or 818 miles an hour, has been estimated by the best scientific observations.

Foxes, belonging to the dog family, are generally deficient in climbing ability. But the gray fox is unusual—it climbs trees readily by clasping the trunk with its front legs and pushing itself up with its hind feet.





## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

The big topic in the local area this summer and fall was and is the heat and drought! In other words, it's too hot to write this- almost. My walks this past month have been along the dry creek beds avoiding the tangles of exposed tree roots searching for moisture. Today in early September many trees are losing their leaves with each gust of wind. Basswood, birch, ironwood, ashes and sugar maple seem to be the most affected. Hemlocks have been dropping needles since late July. Grasses have invaded the low woodlands and I did note many aspen seedlings starting up there also. Fungi are waiting for some cooler, wetter days before they try to uh- "fruit", if that is still an acceptable term.

The nesting season for our avian neighbors started off early in April and through June then finished just as early and somewhat abruptly. Bluebirds, robins and swallows here on the farm appeared to raise only one brood. On the up side the cliff swallow colony on our old barn was the largest since we have owned the property (24 years) with over 40 clay "jugs" under the eaves. These birds are a real joy to observe building and repairing their nests as well as feeding on flying insects over the entire barnyard. I have wondered if my barn's population is increasing because of a lack of nesting areas as more people take down the old wooden buildings and replace them with metal pole buildings.

Other noteworthy observations were the Henslows sparrow and dickcissel that were here the first week of June and then moved on. We also had a whip o' will nesting within hearing distance for the first time in 5 years now. Goldfinches were in great numbers all summer but Indigo buntings were very scarce. Ravens, crows and jays all seemed to do well and show increases in numbers as fall approaches. Hummingbirds were concentrated along streams, ponds and gardens where flowers continued to bloom. American toads went into aestivation during the drought but have reappeared since the rains of late August. It is quite amusing to see my oldest son (now 18) patting our large, old dooryard toad a welcome back these warm evenings. Snakes are moving about in search of good wintering areas- just this week I have had a red-bellied and a DeKays (brown earth) snake show up in my kitchen!

Fall flora is certainly not luxuriant this year but the goldenrods and Joe- Pye weed are still putting on their usual show as well as some nice stands of bottle Gentians. Asters are just starting to bloom this first week of September. If the fall rains come many plants will possibly respond with a second bloom period. As a response to the possibility of more warm and dry years this is a good time to make notes about herbs and trees that have handled the summer well. Trees that still "look good" in spite

of the drought. Of course most of the oaks are in fairly good shape- especially the bur oaks. Most pines also seem to be taking this in stride. Apple trees that have been established for a few years are also in good shape. Grapes- wild and domesticated are very heat and drought tolerant. Just a few plants to keep in mind for future landscaping or reseeded woodlands.

I hope we are all praying, dancing and singing for rain. Water is such a basis for all life as we know it. We must conserve it, protect it and cherish it, not just for us but all that we share this planet with. One of the great moments this summer was an afternoon thunderstorm of August 19<sup>th</sup>. I love a good summer storm especially after a dry spell. This one like so many in recent years had a long, low roll cloud and a lot of updraft behind it. The sound of the ascending winds could be heard for 20 minutes before the roll cloud passed by. I watched its approach with awe and a little fear. As the horizontal winds started through the yard I noticed a few birds coming along with it ...then hundreds! Mostly nighthawks but many crows, gulls and swallows all sailing straight out of the clouds down to ground levels and through the yard and buildings- many only a few feet from me at lightning speeds. Thrill seekers every one of them!

I hope we all enjoy a long, slightly wet fall season. □

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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