



Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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Winter 2007

Snowmobiles in Harmony Hardwoods ?

As stewards of the Harmony Hardwoods Arboretum for the past 15 years, we are disappointed the Marinette County Land Information Committee recently approved the construction of a snowmobile trail through the Hardwoods. The River Riders Snowmobile Club has

already completed the 16-32 foot wide trail. It appears the trail construction was done as quickly as possible to discourage any alternative route discussions.

This issue is on the agenda for the 9:00 am Nov. 12 meeting of the Marinette Co Land Information

Committee meeting at the Marinette Co Courthouse. We need to show our support for maintaining the Hardwoods as the quiet area it was envisioned to be. Attend the meeting or contact Trygve Rhude at 732-8985 for more information. It is not too late! ☐

Wind Farms in the Northwoods ?

Angela Nejedlo, certified wind site assessor and photovoltaic, will be the featured speaker at the November 15 meeting.

Ms. Nejedlo will present a program about alternative energy sources, especially wind resources, in our area. Angela will discuss displacement of coal usage, average family energy usage, and trickle

down economics with the use of wind energy.

Angela's dream is to see a community wind farm development project locally. She is developing a business plan to have her own wind turbine on her dairy farm near Wausaukee by 2008.

Come hear how wind farms can work in our area. And maybe

Angela will fill us in on those big white turbines and blades we have been seeing on ships and trucks near the Menominee River harbor.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 pm in Room M-110 at the UW-Marinette. ☐

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 17 at 7:00 pm in room M-110 at the UW-Marinette. ☐

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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Web Site
www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

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Message from the President

Chappee Rapids Audubon has always supported the protection of the environment. This month, we have done this in a more visible manner than in the past.

It makes no sense to complain about diversion of our water to other states if we do not protect the quality of our water. I recall mountain biking along a stream in Colorado several years ago. The stream looked crystal clear and I was very thirsty, but I could not drink from it because of mine contamination from a hundred years ago. The mine planned in Menominee County has the potential to contaminate local water supplies. Chappee Rapids Audubon has therefore joined forces with other U.P. Audubon chapters to oppose mining that has not been proven to be safe. A copy of this resolution is printed in this newsletter.

Recently, we were surprised to learn that a snowmobile trail was planned through the Harmony Arboretum, an area where members of our organization have spent

hundreds of hours designing and maintaining trails and leading nature walks. Although several of our members attended the Marinette County Land Information Committee meeting about this, we were not allowed time to look for another route around the Arboretum. The trail has already been cut. We have voiced our displeasure with the County's decision and hope to have as many members as possible at the next meeting in an effort to mitigate the damage.

These actions, taken by a few Chappee Rapids Audubon members, have had a large impact, but they may not be enough. Support from the rest of our membership would greatly enhance that impact. This support could come in the form of writing or calling representatives about either of issues or by attending meetings when they occur. Even one or two letters will have an impact. Do your part today.

Paul

Dues Are Due

It's that time of year again. Your membership needs to be renewed.

You may pay your dues at the November meeting. Or 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. It will save us money on postage too!

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, let us know by e-mailing info@chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

Calendar of Events



November

15 - November Meeting -
Wind Farms
Speaker: Angela Nejedlo
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette
Rm M-110. Details on page
one.

December

16 - Peshtigo Christmas
Bird Count
Barb Bereza -582-0884
Details on page four.

18 - Armstrong Creek
Christmas Bird Count
Dale Leitzke - 863-3163
Details on page four.

20 - Summit Lake
Christmas Bird Count
Joan Campbell -732-1277
Details on page four.

29 - Hayward Lakes
Christmas Bird Count
Joan Campbell -732-1277
Details on page four.

January

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

February

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

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-Marinette
Rm M-110.
Details in spring
newsletter.

19 - Sandhill Crane Count
Details in spring
newsletter.

May

TBA- Tuesday Evening
Walks
Details in spring newsletter

TBA- 24 Hours of Birding
Details in spring newsletter

Bird Database on Our Website

Have you ever wondered how the results of this year's local Christmas Bird Count compared to past years? Have you wondered which birds were seen on the bird walk you missed last week? You may wonder less in the future.

The membership of Chappee Rapids Audubon has voted to create a database on our website that would answer the above questions and others. After each bird walk

and some other outings, birds sited on that outing will be entered into the database which can be viewed on our website. The database is being designed by our expert website designer, Jerome Vogel with assistance from Joan Campbell and Paul Lata. It should be up and running in time for the spring bird walks or possibly in time for the Christmas bird counts. □

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Christmas Bird Counts

This year's Annual Christmas Bird Count will offer even more locally. The Count will be conducted in four different locations on four different days in December. Don't miss these opportunities to commune 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. □

December 16 - Saturday- Peshtigo

Leader: Barb Bereza 715-582-0884

December 18 - Tuesday - Armstrong Creek

Leader: Dale Leitzke 906-863-3163

December 20 - Thursday - Summit Lake

Leader: Joan Campbell 715-732-1277

December 29 - Saturday - Hayward Lakes

Leader: Joan Campbell 715-732-1277

Did You Know?

by John Helfert



While the annual migration is now underway, champion of long distance migration is the Arctic tern. Another migratory bird of long distance is an albatros, banded on Kerquelon Island in the Antarctic south of Africa and found 12 days later, 3,150 miles away. Another was found 6,000 miles away from its breeding island.

Although hummingbirds are the champions of flying backwards, occasionally warblers fluttering at a tip of a branch as they pick off insects will flutter backwards to a better position.

Unlike mammals, which do not completely empty their lungs, birds expel all the air from their lungs with each breath.

The term "bird brain" has been used to indicate someone of light brain or a brainless person. On the contrary, the brain of a bird is very large and heavy in proportion to the weight of its body.

The skin of a bird produces its feathers.



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

Today the skies are dressed in layers of soft grays, winter whites and muted golds as if to herald in the coming season's fashions of sweaters and soft color. It is all a most odd contrast to the brilliant emerald green still present in the grass as the temperatures out here have not yet dropped below 25 degrees! Indeed it is by most standards a warm day for November, well into the fifties with strong southerly winds soon to wrap around the passing high and swing to the northwest in a few days. Possibly by the time you read this we will at last have our first snow- I believe this will be the latest I have ever recorded the first flurries. Certainly these are interesting times weather wise in which to live.

So on with some migration information: Canada geese were in great numbers through the end of September till mid October. Sandhill cranes have been flocking in area corn fields all month but today (Nov. 2nd) I have noticed the local birds swirling upwards and fighting the southerly headwinds possibly for their departure from our area. Bluebirds were gone by the first week of October. Robins are now scarce. Warblers (mostly palms and yellow-rumps for me) were numerous from Oct. 2- 25th. White throats and white-crowned

sparrows slipped through in mid-October without much notice here. Juncos are numerous but very erratic this fall. One day I'll have a couple hundred in the yard then none for two or three days. Northern shrikes showed up October 25th. I have not seen any Snow buntings yet! Chickadees and blue Jays are settling into their feeder routines and the mourning doves returned to the pines for their winter roosting October 28th. I had an interesting sight on October 8th at the Mackinac Bridge; hundreds of turkey vultures were kettling up to cross the straights- following right along the bridge itself- and no tolls for them!

Local trees were somewhat revived by the October rains and seemed to hold on to their leaves as if to make up for lost work time this summer. Fall colors were sporadic and not as vivid as most years unless you were driving along a lake or river shore where the plants fared a bit better. Deer are in good numbers and just now starting to move about in preparation for the breeding season. Squirrels are down a bit here on the farm but be careful along River Road- they are lurking at every turn! A large number of these are the black morph of the gray squirrel which has made quite a presence in the last ten years.

Insects are still very active and many are trying to come in and join us for the winter. Presently we have at least two large woolly bear caterpillars (later to become Tiger moths) seeking a quiet place in the cellar and several leaf-footed bugs upstairs hanging out in-between the storms. Asian lady beetles are down a lot around here this year! This is just one of a long list of things to be thankful for this fall.

Now in anticipation of our season of reflection and thanks, what a wonderful part of the world we live in! Most all who read this are well fed, warm and able to enjoy the comforts of family and community, both wild and domesticated. Most all of us are also dedicated to the preservation of those communities. But as I write this and read daily news reports and record weather data as well as pay energy bills I KNOW I must do more! Perhaps, we as a group can do more to help each other discover unique ways in which to reduce resource use? Simple things that all of us can do- beyond putting in compact fluorescents and turning off the lights (and the TV...) I know I could use the help, and I am very thankful for all of you who are working on these issues. Have a great Thanksgiving! ☐

Chasing a Rare Bird

By Joan Campbell

“A Mango”? I asked? It was a late September Sunday afternoon and my Internet hadn’t been working for 10 days since the phone lines went dead so I hadn’t kept up with WisBirdNet. That’s the hotline for Wisconsin birders to know what birds are being seen around the state. The woman I had called had just gotten back from Beloit where a Green-breasted Mango had been hanging around two houses for the past month. I got off the phone and told my husband Rich about the Mango and he said “let’s go see it”. I was hesitant because I had to be home by Tues. morning but he insisted so I called her back, got directions and within the hour we were on the road. Beloit is on the Illinois border and about a 5 hour drive for us. We have a camper van and can spend the night just about anywhere so when we arrived in Beloit about 11:00 we pulled into Wal-Mart parking lot and went right to sleep.

We left early the next morning before breakfast and found the house right away with our GPS. We thought we would see the bird early and be on our way home. Well, we missed the bird by about 15 minutes. We were told by others that it had arrived at sunrise and sat in a leafless tree for 20 minutes before it flew off. So we waited. More and more people started coming. The area we were in was a newer subdivision out of town 6 miles and the lots were very large

and there was an apple orchard behind them. You couldn’t see the second house the bird visited, which had 4 hummingbird feeders, because of a hill but you could certainly find it because of the trampled path between them from the many birders going back and forth hoping to catch a view of the Mango. And that’s what I did. Rich went off to find some breakfast and I stayed and talked to all the people there. Two men had cameras on tripods with large zoom lenses. One was from Sault Ste. Marie, Canada and one from Missouri. One lady was from Illinois south of Champaign and one was on her way from Minnesota back home to Ohio. The rest were from Wisc., some I knew from WSO. All had come in hopes of seeing a rare and beautiful life bird.

The Green-breasted Mango is a hummingbird that lives in Mexico, Central and South America. It sometimes is seen in Texas near the border but never before in Wisconsin. How did it get here? Some thought maybe on the wind of one of the storm that we had in the summer. And what will become of it seeing that it doesn’t know enough to migrate out for winter? Someone had offered to fly it to Mexico if it could be caught. I was told it was a juvenile male. They have a green back, white belly with rust on each side and a green stripe down the middle that can turn

purple in the sunlight and purple on its tail. A striking bird that is larger than our Ruby-throated Hummingbird with a long downward curved bill. (Page 272 in the 5th edition of National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America)

The day got hotter and still no bird. I was being to fear that we would not see the bird before we had to leave when someone yelled “there it is – on the feeder on the left” and sure enough, it was hovering by the feeder drinking and turning so we got to see the curved bill. It didn’t stay long before it flew off into the orchard. We waited for it to return and when it didn’t we took off for home around noon, hungry and happy.

A few days after returning home when I got my Internet back up running, a post came through that the lady was stopping people from coming to her yard. She was a very gracious lady to allow so many strangers onto her property. Her yard had lots of feeders, flowers, shrubs, trees and vines that helped keep the bird there. She had a pad and she wanted everyone to sign their name and where they were from. Someone tallied the names and at least 689 people from 29 states and Canada came to her yard.

It was exciting and fun to chase a rare bird. Would we do it again? You bet!

Joint Resolution Opposing Metallic Sulfide-Based Mining in the Upper Peninsula Signed by Four U.P. Michigan Audubon Chapters

Four Upper Peninsula chapters of Michigan Audubon Society include the Laughing Whitefish Audubon of Marquette and Alger Counties; Lee LeBlanc Audubon of Iron River; **Chappee Rapids Audubon of Menominee**; and Bay de Noc Audubon of Escanaba. These organizations promote education, enjoyment and wise use of the Upper Peninsula's natural resources with an emphasis on protection of birds, bird habitat, and other wildlife.

Extraction of sulfide-based metallic minerals is being actively pursued by a number of mining companies. It is well-documented that metallic sulfide ore mining has the potential to adversely impact water resources. A sulfide ore body and its associated mining practices are quite different from the traditional extraction of native copper and iron ore that has been practiced in the Upper Peninsula for nearly 170 years. Most

Keweenaw copper was extracted in metallic form, not incorporated in sulfides. Iron ore is only rarely found in contact with sulfide minerals, and is avoided where contaminated by sulfides.

Much of the Upper Peninsula currently being explored for these minerals is within sensitive natural areas. These include but are not limited to high quality streams and wetlands, forests of varying ages and compositions, rocky outcrops, bogs and swamps, and sand plains, all of which support many species of birds at some point throughout the year. In addition, much of this land is also high quality recreation areas for residents and visitors to the Upper Peninsula.

Mining of sulfide minerals will put these sensitive regions in jeopardy. The four U.P. Chapters of Michigan Audubon feel that water and air quality are of primary concern with the development of such a mining

operation.

This resolution is the best tool we have to insure mining in the UP will be done to the highest standards, that all environmental laws will be upheld to the fullest, that the land, air, and waters will be protected to the fullest extent possible. This can only be achieved if the DEQ can be shown that there is wide-spread, vocal, multi-interest support for either an outright ban on sulfide mining or, at least, for the fullest enforcement of all state and federal laws that regulate mining, clean air, clean water, and wilderness.

Therefore, it is resolved that until it has been verified that sulfide ore mineral extraction does not negatively affect the environment, the four Upper Peninsula Chapters of Michigan Audubon Society, listed above, oppose the permitting of any sulfide ore mineral extraction operation in the Upper Peninsula.

Signed:

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Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Membership Form

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

Membership

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