

Chappee Rapids Reporter

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

Volume 23. No. 3

Spring 2008

Member Slide Show

Snow cancelled our January meeting, but the ever popular Member Slide Show will still be held at the February meeting.

Come for a treat on a cold February evening.

If you would like to show your slides at the February 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, February 21 at 7:00 pm in room M-110 at the UW–Marinette. ☐

Circumnavigating Ireland in a Kayak - 2008 Banquet -

Sam Crowley will be the featured speaker at the nineteenth annual Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet. Crowley, despite rain and strong unstable winds, circumnavigated Ireland by traveling over 1000 miles in 82 days by kayak. Crowley will share his tale of the friendly people met along the way, puffins and gannets, and magical places he visited while paddling around the Emerald Isle.

The nineteenth annual Banquet will be held at Schussler's Supper Club in Peshtigo on **Friday, March 28**. The social hour will begin at

6:00 P.M. with the dinner and program at 7:00 P.M.

The 2008 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 25. ☐



- For more information about Mr. Crowley, please turn to page five.

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), 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.

EditorLaurie Lata
Assistant Editor....Paul Lata

Website
www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

President - Paul Lata
Vice President - Trygve Rhude
Secretary - Joan Campbell
Treasurer - Marlene Nelson
Programs - Open
Librarian/Historian -
Georgia Jensen
Conservation - Wendel Johnson
Field Trips - Open
MI Audubon Delegate -
Denise Taylor
WI Audubon Delegate -
Ethyle Bloch
Newsletter -Laurie Lata
Legislative - Trygve Rhude
Education - John Helfert
Chappee Rapids Site -
Denise Taylor

Message from the President

Hopefully, all of you are enjoying this old fashioned winter as much as I am. It's nice to be able to see the blanket of white for a change. The snow cover has made it possible to get out and do some snowshoeing and skiing. The Lake Noquebay trail has been getting some use but I had it all to myself last week. This year, Marinette County is plowing the parking area at the northern trailhead so you don't need a 4 wheel drive vehicle to park there any more.

Snowshoeing at the Harmony Hardwoods was also enjoyable but a bit noisier due to the new snowmobile trail. You'll be hearing more about this soon. One outing I unfortunately had to miss was the snowshoe trip with the Rosts (see article in this issue). The snow is still great. Try going out in the evening. If you get lucky, you might hear owls.

Don't miss our upcoming

activities. Our member slide show, postponed from January because of a snowstorm, will be held in February this year. The slideshow is always popular and I am always amazed at the variety of things our members have to share. We expect another good turnout at our banquet this year. Our speaker, Sam Crowley, will describe his trip around Ireland by kayak. Don't miss it. Our last meeting of the year will feature raptor rehabilitator, Kay Blazek. Kay's last presentation to our group was so well received that we have invited her back.

It's almost time to start thinking about board members for next year. If you have any interest in serving as a board member, please inform one of our current board members. We have about four board meetings per year and they are just as fun and interesting as the regular meetings. Enjoy the rest of the winter!

Paul

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

Reminder

If your mailing label reads Renewal Due Sept 07, you still need to renew your membership for 2007 - 08. 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

21 - February Meeting
Member Slide Show
Details on page one.

March

28 - Annual Environmental
Achievement Awards
Banquet
Speaker: Sam Crowley
Kayaking Around Ireland
Details on pages one.

April

19 - Sandhill Crane Count
Details in next newsletter.

20 - April Meeting
Raptor Rehab
Speaker: Kay Blazek
Details in next newsletter.

May

6,13,20,27 - Tuesday
Evening Walks
Details in next newsletter

Rost Magic

A Snowshoe Outing

The magic began as soon as we drove along the tree-lined driveway. And it only got better. Don and Judy Rost's homestead and hospitality were like a step back in time, a retreat into a slower paced world. From the sunny kitchen with the wood cook stove to the fireplace in the great room, we felt welcome. Of course, Judy's hot cider, banana-chocolate chip bread, and sloppy joes did help too. She certainly was prepared for us.

Don had set a good track so we skied in his track instead of snowshoeing. We skied the trail through cedars until we came to the

maple hardwoods and the sugar "shack". A magical place - Walden Pond with serious maple syrup making capacity. The wood stove warmed us in minutes.

Back on the trail, we skied through Black Spruce and Tamarack until the trail opened up onto Hansen Bog. Quite the vistas. And we were skiing on a lake! I can see why Don and Judy want to have this beautiful place officially preserved.

Thank you to Don and Judy for sharing with us. They live the way we all should. Rost magic.

- Laurie Lata

Did You Know?

by John Helfert

Of all our native birds, the turkey has the largest tail, also called the rectrices. Brought from Europe, the ring-necked pheasant has the longest tail. Pheasant fanciers raise the Chinese golden pheasant which have had tails over 30 inches long.

Of all land animals in the world, the ostrich has the largest egg. It also lays the smallest egg for its size.

The frigate bird weighing only 3 1/2 pounds has narrow wings which span 7 1/2 feet.

The Tyrannidae, the New World flycatchers, is the largest family, containing 365 species.

When autumn comes, ptarmigan and other species of grouse grow appendages on their toes which act as snowshoes in winter.

It is believed that woodcocks and many other shore birds which probe in mud for their food discover it by means of touch. The upper mandible of a woodcock's long bill is flexible, which is of service as it searches for food.



107th Christmas Bird Count

Hayward Lake

December 29, 2007

Thirty six species and 2314 individual birds were counted by Barb Bereza, Jim Goin, Rich & Joan Campbell, Vicki Lemke, Mary Lemke, Bill & Denise Taylor. Pat & Glenda Keiran counted birds at their feeders. Count coordinator was Joan Campbell.

American Crow 222
 American Goldfinch 93
 American Tree Sparrow 22
 Bald Eagle 19
 Black-capped Chickadee 2165
 Blue Jay 45
 Brown Creeper 1
 Common Goldeneye 30
 Common Grackle 1
 Common Merganser 1
 Common Raven 46
 Cooper's Hawk 4
 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored) 33
 Downy Woodpecker 10
 European Starling 708
 Gull Species 7
 Hairy Woodpecker 12
 House Finch 5
 House Sparrow 60
 Mourning Dove 200
 Northern Cardinal 6
 Northern Goshawk 3
 Northern Shrike 4
 Pileated Woodpecker 1
 Pine Grosbeak 7
 Red bellied Woodpecker 3
 Red Tailed Hawk 8
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 4
 Ring-necked Pheasant 27
 Rock Pigeon 180
 Rough-legged Hawk 13
 Ruffed Grouse 5
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
 Snow Bunting 270
 White-breasted Nuthatch 11
 Wild Turkey 87

Carney

December 29, 2007

Twenty six species and 821 individual birds were counted by Howard Lorenz, Mike Blohm, Dale Leitzke, Marlene & Wayne Nelson. Count coordinator was Dale Leitzke.

American Crow 139
 American Goldfinch 18
 Bald Eagle 6
 Black-capped Chickadee 193
 Blue Jay 28
 Common Raven 6
 Common Redpoll 5
 Cooper's Hawk 1
 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored) 9
 Downy Woodpecker 3
 European Starling 50
 Evening Grosbeak 2
 Hairy Woodpecker 6
 House Sparrow 21
 Mourning Dove 96
 Northern Cardinal 1
 Pileated Woodpecker 2
 Pine Grosbeak 17
 Red Tailed Hawk 3
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 4
 Ring-necked Pheasant 29
 Rock Pigeon 116
 Rough-legged Hawk 4
 Snow Bunting 31
 White-breasted Nuthatch 9
 Wild Turkey 22



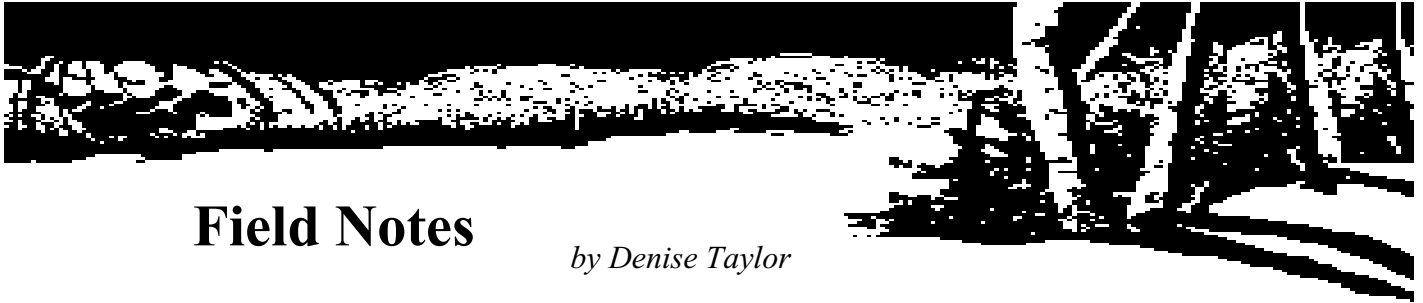
Peshtigo

December 16, 2007

Thirty eight species and 1776 individual birds were counted by Barb Bereza, Jim Goin, Dale Leitzke, Bob & Kay Cavanaugh. Paul & Bev Luhning counted at their backyard feeder.

Am clear skies, pm partly cloudy. 1-3 " snow cover. Calm winds in the am and 10-15 nw wind in the pm. 12 degrees in am, 22 degrees in pm. Count coordinator was Barb Bereza.

American Crow 143
 American Goldfinch 137
 American Kestrel 4
 American Tree Sparrow 45
 Bald Eagle 3
 Barred Owl 1
 Black-capped Chickadee 16
 Blue Jay 82
 Bohemian Waxwing 18
 Common Goldeneye 5
 Common Grackle 1
 Common Raven 14
 Common Redpoll 1
 Cooper's Hawk 2
 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored) 137
 Downy Woodpecker 25
 European Starling 146
 Great Horned Owl 1
 Hairy Woodpecker 14
 House Finch 4
 House Sparrow 88
 Mourning Dove 303
 Northern Cardinal 11
 Northern Flicker 1
 Northern Shrike 3
 Pileated Woodpecker 3
 Pine Grosbeak 3
 Pine Siskin 1
 Purple Finch 2
 Red bellied Woodpecker 20
 Red Tailed Hawk 10
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 13
 Ring-necked Pheasant 2
 Rock Pigeon 355
 Rough-legged Hawk 10
 Ruffed Grouse 8
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
 White-breasted Nuthatch 24
 Wild Turkey 119



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

What an amazing year! Here we are in the midst of a “normal” Wisconsin/Youoper winter. And almost everyone is happy about it. So far the temperature extremes here have been 41 degrees for a high on January 6th and -18 for a low on January 30th. Most of the snows have come during warm periods and thus had the added visuals of sticking to everything. Even the lowliest of deciduous shrubs have been a small wonder, and the large pines and spruces? Awesome forest monarchs! I have felt pretty small under some of these ancient white pines loaded with six inches of creamy snow, and more than a little afraid of what might happen to me if the bough above gives way.

Our feathered companions for this season have been rather subdued from my observations. Birds presently in my mid-county area are very similar to those observed on the Christmas bird count. So far I have seen very few winter finches although I did hear a flock in the tops of the spruces this first weekend in February; goldfinches I believe, however, they were off before I could

confirm their identities. The highlight of January has been two Bohemian waxwings visiting the viburnum. Blue jays and crows are in good numbers here on the farm, along with a few ravens, which is a welcome sign as to their recovery from West Nile virus a few years ago. Chickadees are about average and starlings have invaded the barnyard this winter- nothing personal but I could do with a smaller flock of those! Eagles are to be seen regularly in the twin counties along with average numbers of rough legged hawks and a few red tails. I have not heard of any robins hiding out this winter so far. Interestingly, I have not heard any owls so far this winter- I believe this is a first since I moved here in 1980! Let me know when you start hearing them!

White tails have headed to the swamps only to come out during warm spells to ambush passing cars- watch out! I have not seen much sign of opossums, fox or coyote for several weeks. I was privileged to follow a bobcat trail through the swamp in early December; their choice of course from and through the woods is most

interesting. Squirrel activity should start picking up soon; they have been uncharacteristically quiet so far this year. Mice and voles are tucked into their warm snow blanket, happily procreating out of reach of most predators; we'll have to see how their projects have progressed come spring.

Even with all this happy cold I must admit I am a little anxious for spring. Maybe it's just a short attention span on my part but putting on fewer layers of clothing or not carrying quite so many armloads of firewood can seem very appealing- although I know these are just the truly good and wonderful things that make life in the north what it should be. This year I seem to have two ways of getting through a cold day. One; tell myself not to be such a wimp, get dressed, get outside, move a lot and remember “It's great”. Two; build a good fire in the woodstove, bake cookies (preferably chocolate chip- throw in lots of nuts and oats) and remember every piece of firewood was such a lovely tree in the woods once- what a blessing to be warm in winter ☐

More About Sam Crowley

Sam Crowley lives in Marquette, MI, on the south shore of Lake Superior. There he paddles and instructs sea kayaking for Sea

Kayak Specialists while planning his next trip. Sam's trips have taken him to local places around the Great Lakes

but afar as well to British Columbia, Finland and Sweden. He is also a Massage Therapist, specializing in sports massage. ☐

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

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

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org