



# Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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Fall 2008

## What's in the Night Sky?

Join Dr. Paul Erdman, Assoc. Professor of Physics & Astronomy at UW-Marquette, for a look at the night sky. The field trip will be held on Wednesday, **September 24** on Johnson Rd. in the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area.

A car pool will leave from the greenhouse at UW- Marquette at 7:00 pm. Bring a pair of



binoculars and invite an interested child or teen. Sign up at the September Audubon meeting or call Carmen Bugaj after 5:00 pm at 582-4165. This trip will be canceled in the event of an overcast sky. (Check our website for the latest info) Be prepared for an awesome view of Jupiter and much more. □

## Gray Wolf Recovery

Brian Roell, MDNR Wolf Coordinator and wildlife biologist, will speak at our October meeting, during Wolf Awareness Week in Michigan. Brian, in charge of all wolf-related activities in MI, is also involved in wolf trapping, radio-collaring and surveying.

Mr. Roell will present the latest information on gray wolves in MI and future concerns with their recovering population.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, **October 16** at 7:00 pm in Room M-109 at the UW- Marquette. □

## National Public Lands Day

Chappee Rapids Audubon will be part of National Public Lands Day on **September 27** at the Kowalski Walking Trail, about 4 miles south of Marquette along Shore Drive

Meet at 8:30 to work on control of invasive species, prairie grass

seed collection, bluebird nest box cleaning and repair, trail mowing and signage. Participants should bring work clothes, gloves, water bottle and energy. For more information, call Wendel Johnson at 735-4326. □

## Joan's Birding Tips and Stories

Member Joan Campbell will present a program on her evolution from beginner to expert birder at our September meeting. Joan will tell how she got started in birding, describe the art of listing and keeping records, and reflect on how birding has changed over the 42 years she has been at it. She will also show slides from some of her birding expeditions, including her favorites to Ecuador and Cuba.

Enjoy an evening of fun from our own "birding bum." The meeting will be held on Thursday, **September 18** at 7:00 pm in Room M-109 at the UW-Marquette. □

## Bird Walks

Joan will lead bird walks in **September**. In the morning, afternoon, or evening. On Seagull Bar or on Pond Rd. If the weather is favorable for viewing fall migrants, Joan will contact you at the last minute for some great birding. Contact Joan at 732-1277 or [d0bird2002@yahoo.com](mailto:d0bird2002@yahoo.com) to get on her list. □

[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 - Carmen Bugaj  
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**

Many years ago Denise Taylor mused that if we wanted to involve younger individuals in our organization, we needed to go places such as the internet. Eventually we took her advice and started a website.

Today, not only the young but older individuals have come to rely on the web. Today, our website offers a number of functions. It serves as a point of contact and information for individuals moving to or traveling in our area. It provides an updated event calendar. For example, this fall's events were on the website a week or two before the newsletter was printed. It's also an easy way to inform members if an event is cancelled. The newest feature (see article in this newsletter) lists birds seen on club outings. A kids area (also suitable for adults) shows flora and fauna found in our area, including several photos taken at our Girl Scout outings. The online newsletter saves

paper and mailing costs, and enhances the appearance of the newsletter.

Some of our members do not have access to the internet. We will not leave you behind. However, it is important to offer this service for the growing number of members who rely on the internet. If you have interest in helping to coordinate the website, please contact a board member.

After several years of not having an outings chair, we finally have an excellent one. Carmen Bugaj has a number of interesting outings planned, the first of which will happen this month.

When planning our meetings, sometimes we forget that we have tremendous expertise right here in our organization. Joan Campbell is such an individual. Her talk at the September meeting will offer something for everyone. Don't miss it.  
*- 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

**18**– September Meeting -  
**Birding Tips and Stories**  
Speaker - Joan Campbell  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette  
Rm M-109. Details on page  
one.

**24** - What's in the Night  
Sky?  
Evening Outing with Dr  
Paul Erdman  
7:00 pm. Details on page one.

**27**– National Public Lands  
Work Day  
**Kowalski Walking Trail**  
8:30 am. Details on page one.

**TBA**– Bird Walks  
Details on page one.

## October

**16**– October Meeting-  
**Gray Wolves in Michigan**  
Speaker - Brian Roell  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette  
Rm M-109. Details on page  
one.

**4, 25** - Lake Noquebay  
Trail Workdays  
Details at meetings or on  
our website.  
Call Paul Lata 735-5961.

## November

**20**– November Meeting -  
**Utah's Red Rock  
Canyonlands Wilderness**  
Speaker - Clayton  
Daughenbaugh  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette  
Rm M-109. Details in  
winter newsletter and on  
our website.

## December

**TBA** - Michigan Christmas  
Bird Count  
Joan Campbell –732-1277  
Details in winter newsletter  
and on our website.

## January

**15** - January Meeting  
**Member Slide Show**  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette  
Rm M-109. Details in winter  
newsletter and on our website.

## February

**19**- February Meeting - TBA  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette  
Rm M-109.  
Details in winter newsletter  
and on our website.

## February

**21** - Winter Snowshoe  
**Lake Noquebay Trail**  
Details in winter  
newsletter and on our  
website.

## March

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

## April

**16**– April Meeting - TBA  
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette  
Rm M-109.  
Details in spring newsletter  
and on our website.

**18** - Sandhill Crane Count  
Details in spring newsletter  
and on our website.

## May

**TBA**- Tuesday Evening  
Hikes  
Details in spring newsletter  
and on our website.

## Crane Count Results

On April 19, 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 18.

- Laurie Lata

## 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

## Birding on Website

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



Not able to make last week's bird walk? Interested in what birds have been seen in our area this year? Wondering which birds you can expect in central Menominee County versus Seagull Bar? Now, thanks to the collaboration of Joan Campbell and our Webmaster, Jerome Vogel, you can answer these questions.

The Chappée Rapids Audubon website now lists the birds sighted on each of our outings. You can at least find out what others saw at the outing you missed. Peruse the list of the five outings last spring to find

out what's out there. For example, did you know that 16 Horned Grebes were sighted at the Henes Park outing? As these lists accumulate, you will be able to get a pretty good idea of what you can expect to see.

To access these lists, go the Chappée Rapids Audubon website at [www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org) and click on birding. You will see a list of our most recent outings. Click on the outing you would like to access. It's that simple.

Remember though that there's no substitute for getting out there yourself. □

***Don't refuse to go on an occasional wild-geese chase;  
that's what wild geese are made for.***

- Henry S. Haskins

## Did You Know?

by John Helfert

The ruby-throated hummingbird feeds on spiders, insects, and nectar but has an intestine only two inches long.



Many birds have been observed to place live ants in their feathers, a habit known as anting. No satisfactory explanation for this strange activity has been made. Some believe anting rid's birds of ectoparasites.

Prickly ash roots or chokecherry leaves can be boiled and used as a gargle for sore throat.

Cedar bark can be boiled and used as an astringent for the skin (acne medicine).

Indian tobacco, Kinnickinnik, a mixture of mullein leaf, red willow, and sumac leaves, can still be gathered today.



## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

Usually by this date I am so tired of hot, humid and dry weather that the fresh cool promise of fall is more anticipated than spring, but not this year! A relatively late spring and cooler than usual June and July have seemingly left some events undone...well actually it's mostly my own "human" projects that are not getting done. Nature has a way of working out the schedule and "all things in their own time" comes true. Late spring wildflowers such as Lady Slippers, Ox eye daisies, and Indian paintbrush were all delayed well into late June. Black-eyed Susan's, Wild Bergamots and Vervains came in for July and lasted well into August. The early Goldenrod was right on queue on July 19<sup>th</sup> here and all the Goldenrods and Asters are in full swing now and look as if they will be through September. Some of the rough Goldenrods in the low areas are nearly six feet high here! Bottle Gentians are in good supply but significantly shorter.

Rain was adequate to abundant through the first half of the season resulting in a fair amount of growth on trees and shrubs that have managed to survive the last few years. Interestingly insect populations seem to be very low- possibly from the cooler temps or the extreme dryness of last year?

Regardless, I have missed many of the butterflies and moths, dragonflies and mayflies that really do make the warm season interesting. I am even quite happy to be hearing a great chorus of crickets this evening- no silent fall around here yet.

Avian numbers are a bit mixed. Blue Jays and American Goldfinches are doing very well. Robins and bluebirds were in average numbers- most of the other thrushes seemed to be down. Swallows arrived late and were fewer in numbers. Red-eyed vireos seemed very numerous but warblers as a group seem to be VERY low here- from spring to summer nesting to now very few fall migrants. Another low count group is the Nighthawks and whip o wills. I have not recorded such low numbers for these birds since I came to the area in 1980.

Raptors seem to be in a similar profile, marsh hawks have been very low- only one this summer! Broad wings are down a bit – red tails are common and I knew of at least two red-shouldered hawks on territories- a bit unusual. I have just started to notice a few eagles moving around and some scattered sharp-shin/Coopers migrations- hopefully MUCH more to come in this area!

From many of my recent jaunts about the woods it appears that mammalian activity is also down. I have seen little evidence of porcupines, only a few gray squirrels and a small colony of red squirrels. White tails are always present in good numbers around here but I'm not tripping over them...that's a good thing by the way! I got one good look at a black bear in the Wallace area trying to open some storage containers and there have been a moderate number of coyotes howling some nights. As I have been walking many muddy creek bottoms there have been few tracks to suggest that these observations are wrong. We'll have to see what a few good growing years may bring.

I would like to close this month with a little advertisement. The weather in the coming weeks will be absolutely perfect for hiking and biking in our northern Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula areas. The foliage is just starting to change and will only get better- we all know this, right? The outdoors is a very healthy place for us to be, it keeps us fit physically and mentally. So no excuses let's get out and enjoy our local area and conserve fuel! ☐

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

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

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