

Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

Volume 24. No. 2

Winter 2008

Carney Fen Nears Protected Status

On October 20 a hearing was held in Stephenson for the proposed Carney Fen dedication. The first part of the gathering was informational. Most of the Friends of the Carney Fen were in attendance. Several DNR officials were there including the present and future Natural Areas Coordinators, local area managers, the chair of the UP ecoteam, the chair of the Natural Areas Council and Kim Herman, Monitoring Specialist Forest, Mineral and Fire

Management Division.

An excellent interchange of ideas for the management and future of the Fen occurred. A full, well developed, management plan is now in place. The state will continue to keep in touch with our group in a partnership effort.

As expected, the hearing was more or less a formality. Only two people testified; no one opposed the fen dedication. In practical terms, the last hurdle has been overcome.

Thanks to the support of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society with their letters of support and attendance at the previous informational meeting in Stephenson, dedication of the Carney Fen as a Michigan Natural Area is a 99% certainty. The actual dedication date will likely occur in January. The on-site dedication ceremony is somewhat at our discretion and may occur in June.

- Dale Leitzke

“Wild Utah”: America’s Redrock Wilderness

Clayton Daughenbaugh, Midwest Field Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), will host a multimedia presentation at our November meeting. This slideshow, narrated by Robert Redford, documents citizen efforts to designate public lands in

southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

SUWA and its partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition seek to gain local support for the "Citizens Proposal" to protect wilderness areas in Utah's red rock canyons.

In conjunction with the slideshow, Mr. Daughenbaugh will also give an update on the current status of the Utah wilderness movement.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 20** at 7:00 pm in Room M-109 at the UW-Marquette. □

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 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 15** at 7:00 pm in Room M-109 at the UW-Marquette. □

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.

EditorLaurie Lata
Assistant Editor....Paul Lata

Web Site
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 -

Dale Leitzke

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

Over the years, Chappee Rapids Audubon has contributed to the ability of local residents and tourists to enjoy our natural areas. In many cases we have collaborated with other groups to make this happen.

The Chappee Weber Learning Center is a collaborative effort with the Menominee County Historical Society. Hundred of school children travel to this site each year to learn about the history and flora and fauna found there. This fall a shelter was completed there.

Harmony Hardwoods is designated as an arboretum (although probably the only one with a snowmobile trail). Our members have spent hundreds of hours over the years constructing and maintaining the hiking trails there. Use of the area continues to increase. The last two years we led Girl Scout trips there.

Several years ago, Chappee Rapids Audubon reopened the Lake Noquebay trail. Since then, a Boy Scout Troop and the Spokes & Folks bicycle club have reconstructed some of the trails to

prevent erosion and avoid wet areas. Last month, a series of boardwalks was completed that will allow trail use during all four seasons.

Several dedicated members of our group have spent years collecting data and communicating with Michigan officials to have the Carney Fen classified as a protected area. As you read on page one, this dream is almost a reality.

We certainly should feel a sense of satisfaction about our contribution to the community.

Our treasurer, Marlene Nelson, informs us that we have funds in our treasury that are sitting idle. Two proposals to spend some of this money were made at our last board meeting. One proposal is to help buy picnic tables for the Chappee Weber Learning Center. The other is to build a viewing platform in Peshtigo Harbor. We will discuss these and other suggestions at our next meeting. If you have other ideas or support one of the two described above, be sure to attend and voice your thoughts.

- 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.

Thank you to all who have already sent in their renewal. □

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



November

20– November Meeting -
**Utah’s Red Rock
Canyonlands Wilderness**
Speaker: Clayton
Daughenbaugh
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette
Rm M-109. Details on page
one.

December

17 - Carney
Christmas Bird Count
Dale Leitzke - 863-3163
Details on page four.

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

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

January

15 - January Meeting
Member Slide Show
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette
Rm M-109. Details on page
one.

February

19- February Meeting -
TBA
7:00 p.m., UW-Marinette
Rm M-109
Details in spring
newsletter.

21 - Winter Snowshoe
Outing
Lake Noquebay Trail
Details in spring
newsletter and on our
website.



March

20 - Annual Banquet
**The U.P. & Northern
Wisconsin - An Iconic
Landscape**
Speaker: Eric Hansen
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.

18 - Sandhill Crane Count
Details in spring
newsletter.

May

TBA- Tuesday Evening
Walks
Details in spring newsletter



Christmas Bird Counts

This year's Annual Christmas Bird Count will offer even more in our own backyard. The Count will be conducted in three different locations on three 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 17 - Wednesday - Carney

Leader: Dale Leitzke 906-863-3163

December 20 - Saturday- Peshtigo

What's fun-easy- and can be done close to home? It's the 2008 Peshtigo Christmas Bird Count. This is a great activity for beginning birders, and families who can only commit to counting part of the day. If you're lucky enough to live within the count boundaries-you can enjoy your morning coffee and watch the feeders out your kitchen window. We're flexible! Leaders: Barb Bereza and Jim Goin

715-582-0884

December 27 - Saturday - Hayward Lakes

Leader: Joan Campbell 715-732-1277

Bird Database on Our Website

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

A database has been created on our website that answers the above questions and others. After each

bird walk and some other outings, birds sited on that outing are entered into the database which can be viewed on our website. From the home page of the website, click on Birding, then click on the Birding Event you want to see.

The database was designed by our expert website designer, Jerome Vogel with assistance from Joan Campbell and Paul Lata. □

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org

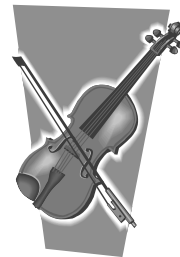
Did You Know?

by John Helfert

In Great Britain and Holland, almost all the wood they use is industrial.

Manufacturers place their label on a baseball bat. This is so the ball will strike the edge of the grain, making the blow more springy and sends the ball faster and farther.

A genuine Stradivarius cannot be identified by the age of the wood. Only by counting the rings on a stump where a tree is felled can a true age to told.



When some kangaroos are born, they are no larger than an aspirin tablet.

The opossum has the most teeth of any land mammal (60 teeth).

The champion "smeller" of the world is the moth. The moth can scent a female, during the breeding season, more than two miles away.



Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

You knew it was coming for weeks now, but the days were so nice there was always something else to do. You didn't prepare enough, there was always a distraction. Am I referring to the election? The Chappée Rapids newsletter deadline? NO! I am talking about the beginning of winter, not the solstice but the cold weather that has crept in here this past week with temperatures dropping with every passing cloud bank. This is quite a punctuation mark to the relatively benign autumn that is now past. The first frost here was on October 3rd followed by a moderate freeze on the 4th, and then it was smooth sailing till November 8th with cold winds and light flurries decorating the breeze. Dry weather has predominated as I have only noted 5 days with precipitation in the last 5 weeks- yup, it's still dry.

Bird movements have been fair to good through the period depending on what you hoped to see. Sandhill cranes were in good numbers through the end of October but they remained in smaller flocks than I was accustomed to seeing them- groups of 15 to 20 mostly. Canada geese started moving later than usual, about September 20th and of course are still flying through as they will be till snow cover. Wood and Hermit thrushes

were noticeable through the last two weeks of September. Bluebirds in flocks of 10 or 12 were also common through late October. Robins are in good numbers here at the farm still and many seem to be the very light colored form- they are loving the grapes and small crabapples that are now mature enough to produce loads of fruit for them! Meadowlarks showed some good numbers the last week of October as I saw several small flocks of 4 to 8 birds. Large groups of nighthawks never did materialize in September but I did see one (1) on September 23rd and that is a very late date for these birds. Marsh hawks are still present at the writing but rough legged hawks moved down about October 26th and are quite common now. Eagles seem a little lower this year.

I have had a few other "personal interest" observations that I think are worth sharing. On many occasions in September as the cranes or Canada geese took to the air, calling and circling for their buddies to come and join them, a flock or group of the "other" species would rise out of the fields. Calling in their own language, circle and join them! Thus we watched several mixed V shaped flocks head out for their day's journey together- it was really neat! On another days walk back from

the woods along the road I accidentally noted a ruffed grouse. Mmm, keep in mind I had the dog with me, we were moving briskly and this bird was no more than 10 feet away! He was perched upon a white birch log with many amber and brown leaves as his backdrop- absolutely frozen in place so that I was not sure he was breathing- I never broke my pace, the dog never saw him and he did not flush after we padded by- but what a beautiful testament to camouflage plumage and technique for survival!

I am sure we are all remembering one of the warmest election days in northern Wisconsin and upper Michigan history. While we were turning out in record numbers new temperature records were being set and no doubt many new "nature" records. On November 6th I saw a beautiful green darner dragonfly rise up out of a roadside ditch near the bay; this is the latest I have ever seen one of these creatures casually about and looking comfortable. It is surely time to say goodbye to our warm season. The blaze orange is appearing and as my son said today "The grass is brown, the trees are dormant brown, the ground is brown, the deer are brown... it's time for it to snow!" Till Later!

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