

# Chappee Rapids Reporter

A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

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Spring 2009

## Economics and the Environment

Dr. Julie Urban, Associate Professor of Economics at UW-Marinette, will present a talk on Environmental Economics at our February 19 meeting. Dr. Urban will discuss how economists analyze the problem of pollution and suggestions they offer to address it. She will

touch on the topics of emission taxes, cap and trade, global climate change and the environmental aspects of the federal stimulus package.

With her focus in natural resource economics, Urban's recent research has focused on natural gas. Her most recent publication in the *OPEC*

*Energy Review* is entitled "U.S. Access to the Global LNG Market." Dr. Urban has also done research on western water rights and women's labor force issues.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 19** at 7:00 pm, Room M-110 at UW-Marinette. □

## The Poetry and the Practicalities of Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula - 2009 Banquet

Eric Hansen will be the featured speaker at the twentieth annual Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet. Hansen, author of Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula - A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in the U.P., will present a slide tour of the Upper Peninsula's best hikes and offer his thoughts on the land, its compelling themes and its almost mythic place in the imagination of people throughout the Midwest.

The banquet will be held at Schussler's Supper Club, Peshtigo

on **Friday, March 20**. The social hour begins at 6:00 P.M. with the dinner and program at 7:00 P.M.

The 2009 Environmental Achievement Awards will be presented. Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit our General Project Fund and a viewing platform at Peshtigo Harbor. Door prizes will also be awarded.

The family style dinner includes 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 18. □



*Eric Hansen on Norwich Bluff in the Trap Hills - For more information about the banquet and Mr. Hansen, please turn to page five.*

## Wisconsin Audubon Council

Meeting in Marinette March 21. Details on page 4.

## Snowshoe Outing

February 21. Details on page 3.

## **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](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

Website

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

### **Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers**

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WI Audubon Delegate -

Ethyle Bloch

Newsletter -Laurie Lata

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Education - John Helfert

Chappee Rapids Site -

Denise Taylor

## **Message from the President**

Twenty years ago we debated if members of the community would attend an annual environmental banquet. When over 100 individuals turned out at the first banquet we had our answer. Over the last twenty years the annual Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet has been our most popular event. This year, at the 20<sup>th</sup> banquet, we can look back on a number of deserving award winners who have contributed to preservation and appreciation of the environment.

This year we had no trouble settling on two outstanding candidates. Howard Lorenz has repeatedly given of his time to teach old and young about the environment. Most recently, he created a video of orchids found in our area. We hope to have the video

on display at the banquet. He is certainly deserving of this award.

Leroy Lintereur, for whom the Environmental Achievement Awards are named, initiated efforts to identify unique flora in the Carney Fen. For years we have admired the countless hours and hard work put in by members of Friends of the Carney Fen to continue this work. Now, as the time nears when the fen will be officially preserved, we feel that it is necessary to recognize their efforts.

Add a nationally known author as the keynote speaker and we have a banquet worthy of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. I'm sure Leroy would approve.

- Paul

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

### **Reminder**

If your mailing label reads Renewal Due Sept 08, you still need to renew your membership for 2008 - 09. 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 view 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

## February

**19**– February Meeting  
**Economics and the Environment**  
**Speaker: Dr. Julie Urban**  
Details on page one.

**21**– Snowshoe Outing at the  
**Lake Noquebay Trail**  
Meet at the north trailhead at 9 am. Bring snowshoes, a snack and your binoculars. We will snowshoe for about two hours. We may even be treated to some of Carmen's famous hot chocolate!  
Call Carmen Bugaj at (715) 582-4165 for more information.  
You can find a map to the Noquebay Trail under the Places header on our website.

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



## March

**20** - Annual Environmental Achievement Awards Banquet  
**Poetry of the U.P.**  
**Speaker: Eric Hansen**  
Details on pages one and five.

**21** - Wisconsin Audubon Council Meeting  
**Stephenson Public Library**  
**9:00 am**  
Details on page four.

## April

**16**– April Meeting  
**Soils of Marinette County**  
**Speaker: Howard Lorenz**  
Details in next newsletter and on our website

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

## May

**5,12,19,26**– Tuesday  
**Bird Walks**  
Details in next newsletter and on our website

## Did You Know?

*by John Helfert*

The pelican can carry three gallons of water in its pouch.



As an adult, the loud cry of a whooping crane can be heard for two miles.

The largest egg, of course, is that of the ostrich. It would take 40 minutes to hard boil.

Although owls have a narrow field of vision, they can turn their heads upside down.

The blue winged teal, nesting in North America, will migrate south in the fall to Argentina, a journey of more than 6,000 miles.

Banding has shown that house wrens, robins, and bluebirds return to the identical nesting site year after year.

In no living bird are teeth present.

Bald eagles mate for life. A pair of eagles or their successors occupied a nest for 35 years without a break until the tree rotted and fell during a storm.

# Wisconsin Audubon Council Meeting Here

## March 21

Mark **Saturday, March 21** on your calendars. The Wisconsin Audubon Council is holding its quarterly meeting in Marinette.

Members from several Audubon chapters throughout Wisconsin will attend the meeting. This is a good chance to network with others who

share the same interests and goals as we do.

The meeting will be held at the Stephenson Public Library, Marinette. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am with breakfast provided by Chappee Rapids and last until early afternoon.

After the meeting concludes, Chappee Rapids members will lead a field trip to a local area.

Chappee Rapids Audubon members are encouraged to attend. Call Paul Lata for more information at (715) 735-5961. □

## Remembering Georgia Jensen

Long time Chappee Rapids Audubon Society member Georgia Jensen passed away on January 27.

At 91, Georgia remained active as our Historian/Librarian. She attended all board meetings and regular monthly meetings. Thanks to

Georgia, we have a complete record of our club's activities. She carefully collected newspaper clippings, photos from outings, newsletters, and banquet programs and organized them in scrapbooks. These scrapbooks and photo albums will

be on display at our March 20 banquet for all of us to enjoy.

Georgia will be remembered as well for her extensive world travels and her enthusiasm for life.

We will miss her. □

## Birding on Our Website

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

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 results from the Hayward Lake, Peshtigo, and Carney December 2008 Christmas Bird Counts are posted on the site for you to see right now.

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

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

# More About the Banquet

## Eric Hansen

In the fall of 2001, on assignment from Backpacker Magazine to search out one of ‘The Best Mountains Nobody Knows’, Milwaukee-based Eric Hansen hiked the twenty-eight mile length of Ontonagon County’s Trap Hills. Widely traveled, he is a veteran of twenty-six treks to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and successful ascents of most of the high peaks in Glacier National Park. “I was stunned by what I saw in the Trap Hills. The views, solitude and beautiful older forest were compelling evidence that there were many inspiring landscapes in the U.P. still new to me and unknown to the general public. That idea led to the idea of a U.P.-focused hiking guidebook.”

Hansen had already hiked 800 miles to research his first book, Hiking Wisconsin, which was published in 2002. His second book, Hiking Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, resulted 900 more miles of hiking – this time in the Trap Hills. He found, “Miles of quiet Lake Superior shoreline, thumping waterfalls and sparkling cascades, and high rock balconies with knock-your-socks-off views that stretch 50 miles and more. Hidden gems like Shining Cloud Falls and the fabled Falls of the Yellow Dog as well as scenic viewpoints like the Trap Hills’ Norwich Bluff and the Tip of the Keeweenaw’s Bare Bluff.”

Evidence that Hansen has truly

discovered the essence of the landscape from Horseshoe Harbor to Miner’s Beach is found in the introduction to the book. “The Upper Peninsula is a mighty land. Wild and off-the-beaten track, it has a long history as the backwoods retreat of the Upper Midwest – a 300-mile-long swath of quiet forests; sparkling, pristine water; remote shorelines; and eye-catching vistas. Better yet is the sheer mystery of the place. The U.P. has a well-deserved reputation for rewarding explorers who invest the time to explore its nooks and crannies.”

The 208 –page book Hansen created offers easy access to information for those wanting to explore. Included are detailed directions, maps, photographs, and descriptive text and a hike-finder section grouping the walks into categories. Eric will have both books available for purchase at the banquet.

Hansen has further highlighted the U.P.’s natural heritage in adventure features in Backpacker Magazine, the op-ed pages of the Chicago Tribune and in numerous interviews on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Also a conservation activist, Hansen is part of a widespread citizens campaign to block ill-advised proposals for metallic sulfide mining in the U.P. In 2006, the Outdoor Writer’s Association of America awarded him first prize for conservation and environment newspaper

writing for his Chicago Tribune op-ed essay which highlighted the U.P.’s iconic coaster brook trout and the threat of metallic sulfide mining there.

In his talk Eric will address the questions: what exactly is special about the U.P., what is the power of this landscape?, and why do people in Chicago daydream about being up north? “I think it’s because of critters and grouse hunting and fly fishing, waterfalls and loons yodeling and eagles flying by.”

Hansen says life as he sees it is a search for authenticity sometimes conducted in the same arena of music or art or spiritual affairs. But for many of us a lot of times it happens in the arena of the land, and there are many different avenues... You sit on these high ledges and watch the sun rise or the sun set, and you can feel your brain cells growing and this great sense of well-being.”

He looks forward to an evening of practical advice and thoughtful reflection, all presented with great photos.

*For links to Eric Hansen’s Op Eds in The Mining Journal, The Appleton Post-Crescent, The Madison Capital Times, and The Chicago Tribune as well as audio clips from his interviews on Wisconsin Public Radio, go to Eric’s website:*

**[eric-hansen.com](http://eric-hansen.com)**

## 2009 Environmental Achievement Awards Recipients

### Individual

Howard Lorenz

### Group

Friends of the Carney Fen

# 108th Christmas Bird Count

## Hayward Lake

December 27, 2008

This was a very foggy day for birding. Little or no wind, temperatures ranged from 35-40 degrees. Thirty two species for a total of 1526 birds were counted by Joan & Rich Campbell, Vicki Lempke, Mary Dumpke, Dale Leitzke, Marlene Nelson, Jim Goin, Barb Bereza, and Bill & Denise Taylor. Count coordinator: Joan Campbell.

American Crow 63  
American Goldfinch 193  
American Robin 10  
American Tree Sparrow 65  
Bald Eagle 4  
Black-capped Chickadee 104  
Blue Jay 24  
Common Raven 18  
Common Redpoll 55  
Cooper's Hawk 1  
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored) 39  
Downy Woodpecker 6  
European Starling 278  
Hairy Woodpecker 6  
House Finch 1  
House Sparrow 29  
Mourning Dove 124  
Northern Cardinal 9  
Northern Shrike 1  
Pileated Woodpecker 2  
Pine Siskin 245  
Purple Finch 10  
Red bellied Woodpecker 2  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 7  
Ring-necked Pheasant 56  
Rock Pigeon 46  
Rough-legged Hawk 2  
Ruffed Grouse 2  
Snow Bunting 9  
White-breasted Nuthatch 11  
White-winged Crossbill 29  
Wild Turkey 75

## Carney

December 18, 2008

A beautiful day for counting birds with clear skies and no wind. Temperatures ranged from -7 to 5. Thirty two species for a total of 2,035 birds were counted by Joan & Rich Campbell, Marlene & Wayne Nelson, Mike Blohm, Howard Lorenz, and Dale Leitzke. Count coordinator: Dale Leitzke.

American Crow 343  
American Goldfinch 249  
American Tree Sparrow 35  
Bald Eagle 13  
Black-capped Chickadee 201  
Blue Jay 43  
Common Merganser 3  
Common Raven 16  
Common Redpoll 67  
Cooper's Hawk 1  
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored) 21  
Downy Woodpecker 14  
European Starling 117  
Gray Jay 2  
Hairy Woodpecker 16  
Hawk Species 2  
Mourning Dove 172  
Northern Cardinal 1  
Northern Shrike 2  
Pileated Woodpecker 2  
Pine Grosbeak 27  
Pine Siskin 246  
Purple Finch 1  
Red Bellied Woodpecker 1  
Red Tailed Hawk 3  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 6  
Ring-necked Pheasant 42  
Rock Pigeon 72  
Rough-legged Hawk 11  
Ruffed Grouse 4  
Snow Bunting 76  
White-breasted Nuthatch 4  
Wild Turkey 222

## Peshtigo

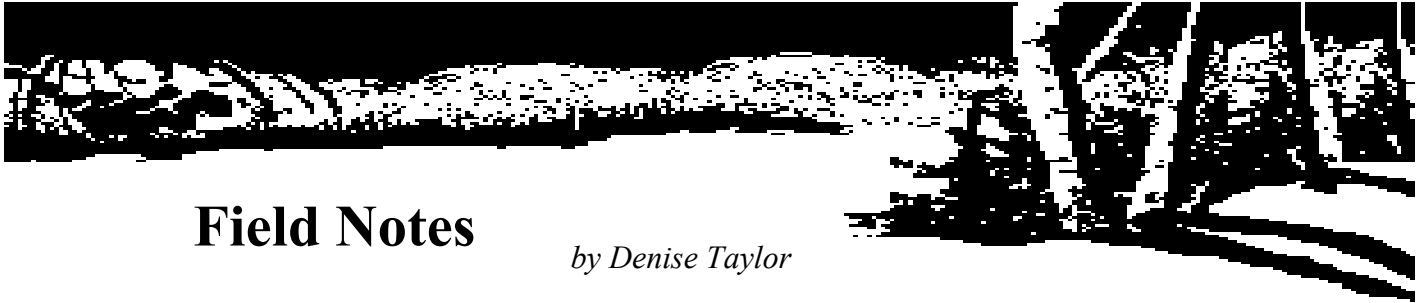
December 20, 2008

Snow heavy most of day. Forty three species for a total of 4,968 birds were counted by Jim Goin, Joan & Rich Campbell, Bob & Kay Kavanagh, Claude Vanhefty, Don Vanhefty, and Barb Bereza. Counting at their feeders were Rosie Leslie and Vicki Lempke. Count coordinator: Barb Bereza.

American Crow 266  
American Goldfinch 603  
American Kestrel 2  
American Robin 2  
American Tree Sparrow 28  
Bald Eagle 9  
Black-capped Chickadee 250  
Blue Jay 147  
Chipping Sparrow 26  
Common Goldeneye 9  
Common Merganser 12  
Common Raven 16  
Common Redpoll 3  
Cooper's Hawk 2  
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate colored) 195  
Downy Woodpecker 45  
European Starling 1465  
Evening Grosbeak 4  
Hairy Woodpecker 38  
House Finch 25  
House Sparrow 153  
Mallard 25  
Mourning Dove 284  
Northern Cardinal 37  
Northern Harrier 2  
Northern Shrike 2  
Pileated Woodpecker 11  
Pine Grosbeak 29  
Pine Siskin 141  
Purple Finch 18  
Red bellied Woodpecker 9  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Red Tailed Hawk 5  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 12  
Ring-necked Pheasant 3  
Rock Pigeon 633  
Rough-legged Hawk 10  
Ruffed Grouse 8  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
Snow Bunting 20  
White-breasted Nuthatch 17  
White-winged Crossbill 15  
Wild Turkey 385

- See these and more birding results on our website. Click on Birding, then on the birding event database you want to see.

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



## Field Notes

by Denise Taylor

Today the thermometer sings the happy song of warmer temperatures, at least for one afternoon. As I slipped out the door to enjoy a fresh breeze without fear of burning my lungs with frigid air it became apparent that, yes indeed, the mini-ice age was melting into ponds and rivulets all about the doorway and walks. How amazing the illusion that frozen water can give to us? We may walk on top of it, walk through it while staying relatively dry, hide with it, cover summer projects that we may not have gotten accomplished, landscape with it by placing the used Christmas tree wherever we really can't plant a new shrub! But today the water flows clearly towards the lower ground to fill the shallows beneath the snow and start the creeks flowing long before we will behold the spring break-up in late March. This cold period has lasted basically since Thanksgiving with seasonably cold temps and regular snows with little melting; hey this is how we get out of the drought! Here at the farm we reached -20F on four occasions in January- the 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>; OK, that's enough for me!

The avian observations have been steady and quite interesting since late Fall. Some of the unusual sights have been a flicker staying at John Helfert's feeder in November into December. More recently Janet Gustafson observed a rose-breasted grosbeak! Wha!

Here at our feeder we were visited by a Bullocks oriole from November 17<sup>th</sup> till December 11th. I have had an unconfirmed sighting of a great gray owl in the Carney area dining on peacock and Martin reported a snowy owl north of Stephenson in January. Robins were very common into the second week of January. Eagles are quite noticeable this winter especially many in immature plumage. As the snow cover has increased I have noticed somewhat fewer raptors as rough legs and accipiters have either moved southward or into towns. Great horned owls have been calling now since January 16<sup>th</sup>, a bit later than usual and ravens have just started their areal dances in the last week or so.

Bird feeder activity has been brisk for those of us still feeding in spite of the economy. Interestingly, almost all whom I have spoken with report very similar types of birds in similar sized flocks- all the way from Escanaba down to Green Bay! My own backyard buddies include about 30 pine siskins with 6 redpolls joined in, 15 goldfinches that keep their own schedule, 6 blue jays, a dozen chickadees, another dozen American tree sparrows, a resident 20 juncos... always the first at the feeder in the morning..., 3 morning doves, 1 red-bellied woodpecker, 2 cardinals... always the last at the feeder..., one hen pheasant, one

northern shrike and one immature goshawk the glides through once a week just to keep everybody alert. Other birds of interest this season have been the white-winged crossbill invasion that started at least in mid-November.

As the jet stream wavers northward and the days lengthen I suspect we are at the beginning of the changing of the season. Many birds such as the juncos that have been bound to little feeding stations will now disperse to feed on open ground. Raptors will move back northward quickly in search of rodents no longer able to hide beneath the snow. We now have a resident pair of red-squirrels and they are sporting their little ear tufts indicative of the mating season. Horned larks are due back within a week. Keep an eye posted for waxwings as I have not seen many yet this winter and there are still a few fruits left on the trees!

Within a few hours these southerly winds will shift and we will be back to the reality of February. I'm pretty content with that for now, not really ready for the yard work, still basking in this year's garden as a dream, still able to enjoy the sculptures that snow makes of bare trees and the swirling leaf patterns the frost carves in my bathroom window. I am still enjoying the feeling of hopefulness for the change ahead, but preparing for the work that will need to be done when the snow really does melt! Stay Warm! ☐

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

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