
A publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

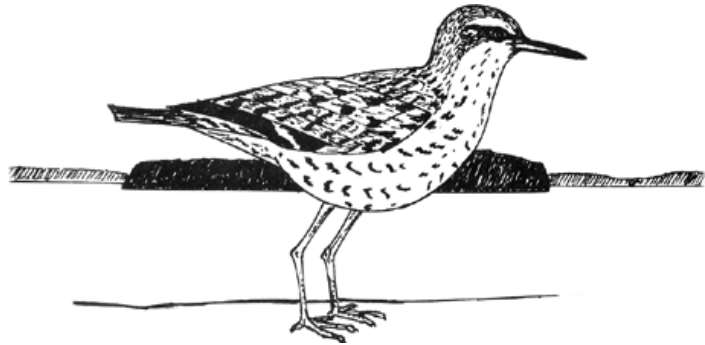
Special Points of Interest:

Message From the President

Fen Dedication

Field Notes from Denise Taylor

Calendar of Events



Message From The President

I did not think I would be writing this message this year but am honored to once again be the President of this organization. If you have not heard Paul and Laurie Lata have moved to Madison and are now working at the Veterans Hospital. I am sure that everyone who knows Paul and Laurie will miss them tremendously. They have given their time and talent to Chappee Rapids Audubon Society and other local organizations for many years and we applaud them for all that they have given us. The Audubon folks down in Madison are already aware that they are in their area and I am sure will be looking for their help. I wish them well in Madison and hope that they come back to visit us every now and again.

At the first board meeting we discussed the coming year's programs, field trips, projects and how we were going to fill the shoes of Paul and Laurie.

The newsletter may be a bit abbreviated until we get into the swing of things so bare with us. The programs are lining up and a field trip to a cranberry bog has been scheduled for October. I hope to see you all somewhere along the way this coming year.

Cheers, Trygve

Dedication of the Carney Fen

Several years of hard work by the Friends of the Carney Fen have finally paid off. On June 16, 2009, the Fen became Michigan's 21st dedicated Natural Area. It was only the second newly dedicated area in the past 20 years. The dedication ceremony was held in Carney and was attended by roughly 175 people. It featured many DNR officials including Kim Herman. Kim had jump started the process by speaking at our meeting about six years ago. Many thanks go out to all those who helped out.

CHAPPEE RAPIDS REPORTER
Field Notes— Denise Taylor

Well, this has certainly been a summer of confusion for me! The veggies in the garden looked like June while the weather insisted it was October. Currently I am basking in some unusually warm September sunshine as the summer birds flit their way southward through the yard. While this past season continued our long dry trend we did receive enough rain to keep many areas green on the surface and thus birds and most insects remained active in the upland areas. Robins were very abundant hatching broods well into July, bluebirds and phoebes seemed to do well also. Kingbirds are way down to what they were 5 to ten years ago- does anyone see these birds regularly in our area now? Crested flycatchers and wood peewees were also in good numbers and all these started south by August 25th. I also spotted Common yellowthroats, Nashville warblers and house wrens moving on by August 22nd. About this same time many flocks of flickers were working over the ant hills around the fields. I do enjoy the flickers and the blue jays, but we have a little dispute over “who” will get the grapes in the arbor and the fence line. It is undoubtedly a ridiculous site watching me exit the house early in the morning exclaiming my misdirected ownership- lets face it- I’m outnumbered!

Sandhill cranes were in average numbers this summer and have not been doing much staging yet. Canada geese were productive; kingfishers seemed to be in the right places (ponds, the river, lakes and bays). The local eagles fledged at least two young a few weeks ago- interesting to watch their early soaring practices accompanied by a few vultures. September 10th and 11th saw larger flocks of bluebirds starting through as well yellow-rumped warblers. Cardinals and chickadees are both returning to the feeders and setting up winter routines. Many sharpshins and Coopers hawks have been migrating since late August.

Monarch butterflies have been doing better this year as the milkweeds have not been killed by drought. I was able to observe several Comma butterflies on the front step- very beautiful, really worth looking for if you don’t know these! Some other small gems observed included a red-backed salamander while retrieving firewood from the slough and lovely , young blue spotted salamander currently living under a water pan near the hydrant. He is WELL supplied with slugs clustering there with him ! We have also been “blessed?” with a large Bald faced hornet nest about 50 feet from our front door- in an area we do not need to disturb too much....I do not really recommend a closer relationship but they are fascinating! That top shaped nest has been growing about an inch a week lately. We have had very few paper wasps on the front of the house and I do wonder if it is because they are predatory to these? As the season concludes the fertile queens will winter underground and emerge to start new nests next spring. When this nest is empty I hope to collect it for the décor – they are awesome and sometimes as good as a watchdog for making folks think twice about entering your house.

Finally a little reflection on migrations. On August 25th I started to see the first large flocks of night-hawks move through the farm. A beautiful calm evening, ground fog filling in the slough and the sunset ablaze upon some small cumulous clouds. As I stood on our hill looking west I wanted to see every one of them, enjoy every moment of their flight. A few days later I had traveled to the mid-Missouri area and there they were again- swooping and dodging. They haven’t ceased to exist, they are just as wonderful there as here...and they’ll be back to visit again. Kind of like our good friends Laurie and Paul, see ya soon and Good Luck!

Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

President - Trygve Rhude

Vice-President— vacant

Secretary— Campbell

Treasurer— Marlene Nelson

Programs— vacant

Conservation— Wendell Johnson

Field Trips— Carmen Bugaj

MI Audubon Delegate— Dale Leitzke

WI Audubon Delegate— Ethyl Block

Newsletter— Dale Leitzke

Legislative— Trygve Rhude

Education— John Helfert

Chappee Rapids Site— Denise Taylor

Website— vacant

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

17 - **September Meeting** 7:00 PM— Greg Cleereman of the Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department will talk on invasive plant species

OCTOBER

3rd ? - **Field trip to a cranberry bog** — Howard Lorenz will lead the trip. Meet at UW greenhouse parking lot at 7:30 AM. Please call Carmen 715-582-4165 for reservations.

15 - **October Meeting** 7:00 PM—Front 40 will provide updated information on proposed mining in Lake Township. Ron Henrikson and Marla Tunistra will give the presentation.

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. □

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 Dale Leitzke, 508 45th Ave, Menominee, MI 49858; spade@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— Dale Leitzke

NOVEMBER

19 - **November Meeting** — 7:00 PM —TBA

DECEMBER

Christmas Bird Counts in Carney, Hayward Lakes, and Peshtigo are yet to be scheduled. See details in next newsletter.

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:
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Marinette, WI 54143

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