
A publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society

Special Points of Interest:

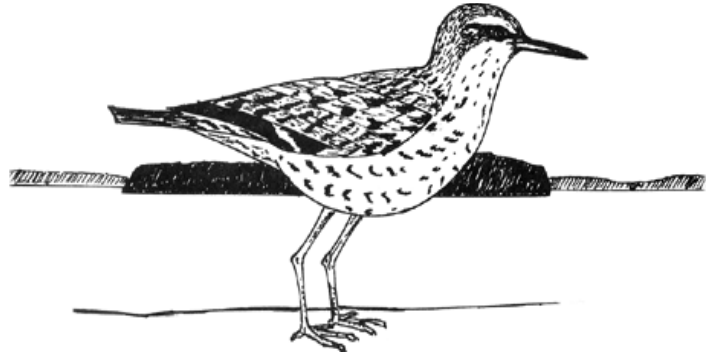
T.O.A.D. presentation

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Calendar of Events



T.O.A.D Presentation for November 19th Meeting

Anne Warren from the Marinette County Land and Water Conservation will be our speaker for November. Anne is the Information and Education Specialist. Previous to coming to Marinette she was the Education Coordinator for Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center and has taught at Trees For Tomorrow. She has a Masters Degree in Recreation Management from U. W. La Crosse. She will present hands on program called T.O.A.D. (Teaching Outdoor Awareness and Discovery). There will be pelts, skulls, feathers and many other natural items for us to touch and feel. Bring a young person along as this presentation is for all ages.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that November is here already. If you did get a chance (between the rain) to be outside and see the leaves turning colors it was as beautiful as ever. Although turn out for the first two meetings was rather small we had excellent presentations and a lot of good conversation afterwards. I hope you can make it to the November meeting; Anne Warren will have lots of hands on “things” for us. Bring along a youngster, as this presentation will be perfect for them to see and feel all sorts of pelts, skulls, etc. We take December off and in January the ever-popular members slide, DVD, photo show will take place. We have a commitment from Cathy Carnes of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a spring presentation on the Kirtland’s Warbler, Whooping Crane, Piping Plover and other endangered species. And of course we will have our 21st annual awards banquet in March. I look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

Cheers, Trygve

CHAPPEE RAPIDS REPORTER**Field notes
October 2009**

Alas! Rain has returned to our part of the world. I am sure most of us are kind of wishing for a few more warm sunny days, but this cool dampness is surely more “normal” for this time of year. I am still thankful for the pleasant September and still surprised when I note our first freeze on October 1st and then the frost snowfall on October 12th. Bill and I have spent many an evening and weekend working in our woods this year gathering firewood from the low, swampy areas that were amazingly assessable. After nearly six inches of rain in four weeks, I can finally say the creek is flowing again and we will not return to those areas until all is frozen solid.

Autumn color and fruit ripening came late and most bird migrations followed the vegetation. Bluebird movements were predominantly the first two weeks of October. A quick woodland jaunt October 13th and I found myself in the company of dozens of hermit, wood, swainsons thrushes. I think of these as the silent migrators, always seemingly deep in the coniferous woods, moving silently southward in the shadows. Palm and yellow rumped warblers moved through quickly the first ten days of the month. I still heard a few meadowlarks this week. White throats and white crowned sparrows are numerous yet under the feeders and I must add that both nuthatches and the chickadees are using the feeders very regularly now. Juncos are just starting to trickle in and robins are in the yard in force cleaning out the mountain ash, grapes, dogwoods and small fruited crabapples- if you like robins and bluebirds- just plant these. Trust me, they will come!

Among the larger fowl sandhills are moving in good number but still very present in our area. Large flocks of Canada geese are observed everywhere each morning and evening moving from field to field. Rough legged hawks appeared on October 15th for me. Marsh hawks are still moving through. Eagles seem a little lower than previous years. Ravens and crows are in good numbers. I have had little chance to check out the water fowl on the lakes and bays but I have seen many rafts of ducks out in the waves. Which brings up a little point I'd like to make.....I cannot possible see all the birds there are to see in our two counties! I could really use some help. If you have an interesting observation, feel free to call or email me (wdtaylor@wildblue.net) I would love to hear from you!

I do hope we have all been getting out and taking in the fall scenery. It is such a fleeting season and perhaps the most beautiful in my mind. We have been travelling about the state quite a bit more than usual this fall and enjoyed seeing some of my old forest friends. I grew up in southern Michigan in what should be the oak-hickory forests. I must admit to missing just coming upon hickory nuts or walnuts just as a matter of course upon my walks. Another drive took us towards Marquette, Bill and I were continually awed at the beauty of the tamaracks in full color! We concluded they look best against the dark and stormy skies of late fall, that their “smoky gold” as Aldo Leopold called it, just gets lost with the sugar maples in bright sun. Whatever you do, wherever you find yourself this season, just look around you and ask, “What is beautiful here, right now?” There will always be something for you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

19 - **November Meeting** — 7:00 PM
T.O.A. D. Presentation

DECEMBER

Christmas Bird Counts in Carney, Hayward Lakes, and Peshtigo areas. See details on page 5.

JANUARY

21 **January Meeting** — 7:00 PM
Member Slide Show, show off your favorite photos.

Fen Dedication

Seven years of working to protect the special place known today as the Carney Fen, has paid off. The Fen has finally been given the highest state protection available. Dedication was held on June 14th of 2009 at a memorable and emotional ceremony at the Carney High School with 150 plus attendees including local people, many Chappee Rapids Audubon members, Friends of the Carney Fen and members of the Native Orchid Conference group. The Friends of Carney Fen received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

FEBRUARY

18 **February Meeting** - 7:00 PM
T.B.A.

20 **Winter Outing** - Field Trip to Hemlock Trail, Peshtigo. This is your chance to get out with friends to enjoy the winter season. Contact Carmen Bugaj for details

MARCH

20 **March Meeting** - 7:00 PM
T.B.A.



Friends of the Carney Fen —photo from dedication ceremony

The plaque reads; “In appreciation for your valuable contribution to the Carney Fen Natural Area”.

CHAPPEE RAPIDS REPORTER

A SURPRISING TREASURE

48 sandhill cranes wading in the misty morning fog. Eagles soaring overhead. A green heron observing from a stump. A northern waterthrush singing from a nearby treetop. Geese, ducks, willets and warblers, killdeer and whitetail deer, the Elmwood Road Wildlife area is right in our back yard. The signs say that it is private property (part of the Landfill property) but it is open to all who have an interest in conservation and birding. 103 different bird species were observed there this year. Many can be seen from the viewing platform that overlooks the well designed 10 acre pond. The owners welcome your use of the property. Come out and enjoy.



Sandhill Cranes



OBSERVATION DECK UPDATE

The building of the proposed observation deck on the DNR property at Winegar Pond on Pond Road will not be built this fall. Necessary funds for the project have been raised but the approval by the DNR has not yet been obtained. The club may be asked to provide a maintenance agreement to assure that the platform will be looked after in the future. Preliminary clearing of the brush and grasses will occur this fall. We'll be asking for your help with the building of the platform in the spring or summer. Please call me with any questions or to help

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.

Christmas Bird Count

Ho-ho-ho
We need snow...

And a little cold, a few nice days, birds and people who like to help out. Yes its time once again for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. No you don't have to be an expert to participate. You can spend the entire day or just part of it, or if you live within one of the count areas you can stay home and be a feeder counter. We're flexible!

Contact the person in charge of the count(s) where you would like to participate and get the details.

Monday December 14th — Carney count MICN
contact Dale Leitzke at 906-863-3163

Saturday December 19th —Harmony Corners/Peshtigo WIPE
Contact Barb Bereza at 715-582-0884

Saturday December 26 — Hayward Lakes count MIHL
Contact Joan Campbell at 715-732-1277



Gray Jay



Snow Bunting



Rough-legged Hawk

Chappee Rapids Audubon Officers

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Treasurer— Marlene Nelson
Programs— vacant
Conservation— Wendell Johnson
Field Trips— Carmen Bugaj

MI Audubon Delegate— Dale Leitzke
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Education— John Helfert
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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
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I wish to receive my newsletter by: ___ **Mail** ___ **Email** (check one)

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