

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CHAPTER CONNECTION – January 2009

Please share the Chapter Connection with your members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jackson Audubon (Central Region) Jan 8

The Captive Care and Conservation of Local Reptiles -Scott Hasbrouck

7:00 pm – Ella Sharp Museum

Chapsee Rapids Audubon (Upper Peninsula) Jan 15

Member slide show

7:00 pm - Room M-109, UW - Marinette

AuSable Valley Audubon Society (Northern Region) Jan 17

Field Trip - Wintering Trumpeter Swans - Mark Misenheimer

Meeting Point - Westgate on M-65 near Rollaways

Michiana Audubon Club (Southwest Region) Jan 26

Raising Wood Ducks - Jim and Martha Flanders

7:00 pm - White Pigeon High School Library

Hartland Audubon Society (Southeast Region) Feb 3

Arthropods - Ben Blazier

7:15 pm – Hartland Senior Center

Michigan Audubon Birding Events coming up in 2009

Contact Wendy Tatar for details, programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org

Jan 17 – 18: Specialty Tour: Birding Hot Spots, Sault Ste Marie

Feb 14 – 15: Specialty Tour: Birding Hot Spots, Sault Ste Marie

Feb 13 -15: Sanctuary Program: Great Backyard Bird Count - Baker Sanctuary, Bellevue

Feb 13 -15: Sanctuary Program: Great Backyard Bird Count - Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, Manistee

Feb 13 -15: Sanctuary Program: Great Backyard Bird Count - Otis Sanctuary, Hastings

March 6 – 7: Annual Conference: Michigan's Magnificent Birds – MSU Kellogg Center, East Lansing

HAPPY BIRDING NEW YEAR AT SAULT STE MARIE

Looking to add a Great Gray Owl, Gyrfalcon, Northern Hawk Owl, Red Crossbill or Gray Jay to your Life List? Chuck and Colleen MacDonald will again be leading field trips to Sault Ste. Marie for winter birding at its best. Start your 2009 bird list off right by adding some of these northern species. Chuck and Colleen, long-time Michigan Audubon members from the Sault area, know where to find the birds in that region. There are two weekend trips planned; January 17 – 18 and February 14 – 15. These trips are limited to 15 people each and fill up fast. The fee for these trips is \$60 for Michigan Audubon members and \$90 for non-members. The fee does not include meals or lodging. To register or more information contact Wendy Tatar at 517-886-9144 or programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org.

MICHIGAN'S MAGNIFICENT BIRDS

Michigan Audubon's 105th Annual Conference will be held March 6 & 7, 2009 at the Kellogg Center on the campus of MSU. The conference will begin noon Friday and run through 5:30 pm Saturday. Keynote speaker, Brian "Fox" Ellis as John J. Audubon, will bring one of America's greatest naturalists and wildlife artists to life. Attend sessions on avian botulism, birding trails, high tech birding, selecting optics, and birding by kayak. Room rates for staying at the Kellogg Center have been set at \$85. You can make your room reservations now by calling 1-800-875-5090. Be sure to tell them you are with Michigan Audubon. The deadline to make room reservations is February 4.

Check our website for conference registration information and forms which will be posted soon at http://www.michiganaudubon.org/annual_meeting/2009.html#registration.

MICHIGAN AUDUBON SPEAKER AVAILABLE

Tom Funke, Director of Conservation, is available to visit local Audubon chapters to share Michigan Audubon's conservation initiatives. Of particular interest are chapter stewardship opportunities at sanctuaries and Important Bird Areas across the state. For more info, email Tom at tfunke@michiganaudubon.org

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BIRDERS - WORKSHOP

Join professional photographer Wayne Pope for a one-day workshop that will improve your bird photography and digital camera-handling skills. Wayne is a photography instructor at Lansing Community College and writes the "Photography Corner" column for the *Jack Pine Warbler*, Michigan Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter.

This one-day workshop (May 15, 2009) will be held during the Tawas Point Birding Festival at the Tawas Bay Beach Resort in East Tawas and will include an afternoon field trip to the Shoreline Park bird viewing platform near the Oscoda/Au Sable Chamber of Commerce.

The topics covered will include the basics of photography such as exposure, lighting, composition, digital camera menu options, lenses, and teleconverters. He will also discuss how to improve your bird photography: how and when to stalk birds or use a photo blind, photographing birds in flight or on the nest, silhouettes or black & white photos.

Wayne will demonstrate camera skills in the classroom and in the field will offer one-on-one personal instruction to each participant to help them better understand how to use their equipment and navigate camera menus. He will also provide Canon and Nikon telephoto lenses for students to try under his direct supervision. There will be plenty of photo opportunities: migrating songbirds at feeding stations, hummingbirds and shorebirds along the bay. Participants are encouraged to bring their cameras and owner's manuals to the lecture and field trip.

Registration is \$75 per person. Michigan Audubon members may register beginning January 19. Registration will open to all on March 2. Call the Lansing office to register, 517-886-9144.

BIRDATHON CHALLENGE

The Noteworthy Naturalists, a birdathon team in Berrien County, has over the years raised funds to support publication of Michigan Audubon's science journal, *Michigan Birds and Natural History*. Last year they raised over \$1200 in pledges for the journal. This year we would like to challenge other teams to form across the state to participate in a friendly competition on May 16. The goal would be for each team to beat last year's Noteworthy Naturalists' Berrien County count of 137 species. Each team's pledges will help support Michigan's only journal of published bird survey data in the state. For information on forming teams and securing pledges please contact Caroline de Mauriac at 517-886-9144 or mas@michiganaudubon.org.

BIRDS ON THE WEB

Feeders at the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Fjx4biPUHw>

Michigan Loon Preservation Association receives environmental education grant

<http://michiganloons.blogspot.com/2008/12/association-receives-maep-grant.html>

Bird Count News from the Detroit Area

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081227/METRO/812270416/1409/METRO>

Wildlife feeding and bait ban

<http://www.leelanaunews.com/drupal/?q=node/2644>

Wild Birds Unlimited

<http://lansingwbu.blogspot.com/>