

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CHAPTER CONNECTION – October 2008

Please share the Chapter Connection with your members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brigham Audubon (Central Region) Oct 8

Dr. Lowell Schake, author of Walkinshaw's biography, On the Wings of Cranes

7:00 pm - Binder Park Zoo

Straits Area Audubon Society (Northern Region) Oct 8

Birdfeeding 101 and Nuts About Squirrels - Richard Mallery

7:00 pm - Cheboygan Area Public Library

Muskegon Nature Club (Southwest Region) Oct 11

CraneFest at Baker Sanctuary – Field trip

Chartered Bus, Afternoon & Evening, \$25 per person

Contact: Feller DeWitt (231) 755-6767

Oakland Audubon Society (Southeast Region) Oct 14

Hawk Migration – Paul Cypher, naturalist, Lake Erie Metropark

7:30 pm - First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham

Laughing Whitefish Audubon (Upper Peninsula) Oct 19

Waterbirds and Late Season Migrants – Field trip

All day - Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

Regional Chapter Meeting – Nov 1

Grassland Birds – Dave Kennedy, DNR and Dea Armstrong, City of Ann Arbor

9:30 am - Dahlem Center, Jackson

Michigan Audubon Birding Events remaining in 2008

October 11 – 12: CraneFest – Baker Sanctuary, Bellevue

December 6: A Chickadee Christmas – Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, Manistee

December 14 – Jan 5: Christmas Bird Counts, statewide

DATES SET FOR MICHIGAN AUDUBON'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Michigan Audubon's Annual Conference will be held on March 6 & 7, 2009 at the Kellogg Center on the campus of MSU. While our schedule is still being put together, we anticipate some great sessions on Michigan's magnificent birds and some wonderful surprises too. Room rates for staying at the Kellogg Center have been set at \$85 for a single or double room. You can make your reservations now by calling 1-800-875-5090. Make sure to tell them you are with Michigan Audubon. The deadline to make reservations is February 4. Watch for details of the conference schedule in future Chapter Connections.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Planning is underway for the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Knowing more lead-time is needed for publication, they're sending their news release earlier, hoping you will consider letting your readers know about the GBBC, either in a calendar listing, or in a larger feature story. They can also share some of the more than 4,000 digital photos submitted for their annual photo contest. You can view some of the images in their online photo gallery:

www.birdcount.org/gallery. Additional background information is available on the GBBC web site:

www.birdcount.org (check out the FAQ section).

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

The Michigan Audubon Central Region will hold its third annual meeting on November 1, at Dahlem Environmental Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd., Jackson, Michigan. The meeting will be from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

This year the focus will be on management of grassland birds. Dan Kennedy, a representative of the DNR will make a presentation on management of grassland birds on State and private land. Dea Armstrong, Ann Arbor City Ornithologist will speak on what the city has done with managing urban grasslands. Jonathan Lutz, executive director of Michigan Audubon will give us some prospective of the vision and direction of Michigan Audubon. In addition there will be time to review the work that was done with the Safe Passage program and again explore ways to work together. It is also a great time to renew friendships across different chapters and connect with new people.

While reservations are not required, it would be helpful to know how many people will be in attendance. Indicate your interest in attending by October 15 to: John Baumgartner, 713 Spring St., Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 or E-mail: jeb1015@comcast.net

TIME FOR CHAPTER CONTACT UPDATES

Please update your chapter leadership and contact information. Include name, office, address, phone and email. Send your chapter's information by October 15 to Caroline de Mauriac, Information Services Director, 6011 W St Joseph Hwy, Suite 403, Lansing, MI 48917 or email mas@michiganaudubon.org. We will be distributing the chapter leader directory in November.

BECOME A LOON RANGER

Michigan Audubon's affiliate, The Michigan Loon Preservation Association, has as one of its major functions, oversight of the Michigan Loonwatch Program. Loon Rangers serve a vital role in research and conservation efforts of this species through monitoring and protecting nesting loons and habitat. Anyone interested in learning more about Michigan Loonwatch or in serving as a Loon Ranger or Area Coordinator should contact the state coordinator at Michiganloons@yahoo.com, or call 989-828-6019.

MICHIGAN BIRD CONSERVATION NEWS LINKS

'Beach rangers' will monitor bird die-offs

September 09, 2008

Traverse City Record Eagle - Traverse City

Botulism poisoning killed an estimated 7500 native and migrating birds -- loons, ducks, gulls, cormorants and endangered piping plovers...

www.record-eagle.com/local/local_story_253094255.html

Cormorant comeback

September 20, 2008

Port Clinton News Herald - Port Clinton

East Sister Island was once a thriving sanctuary for plants, snakes and birds. Lush forest that supported a variety of wildlife covered the uninhabited Canadian island near the U.S. border on Lake Erie.

www.portclintonnewsheald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080920/NEWS01/809200304/1002

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER POPULATION REACHES ANOTHER RECORD HIGH

Department of Natural Resources officials have released annual survey information indicating the state's population of the endangered Kirtland's warbler is the highest number of birds recorded since monitoring began in 1951, with 1,791 singing males observed during this year's census. For more information on the Kirtland's warbler, contact the DNR Wildlife Division, Natural Heritage Program, Box 30180, Lansing, MI 48909, or visit the DNR Web site: www.michigan.gov/dnr.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT

Alicia Frances King, Director of the Bird Conservation Alliance, sent this request for action in support of the NMBCA reauthorization at higher funding levels. If you have not done so already, please contact your House and Senate representatives to ask them to support the bipartisan legislation S. 3490 in the Senate and H.R. 5756, in the House before they recess for the November elections. Both bills reauthorize the existing NMBCA, but at significantly higher levels to multiply the successes of the NMBCA.

It is easy to take action:

- to ask your House Representative to co-sponsor H.S. 5756 go to <http://www.actforsongbirds.org>.
- to ask your Senators to co-sponsor go to http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5400/t/2205/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=139

It is important that organizations and people who care about birds have a voice – showing our support for the NMBCA is one way we can act together to benefit birds. Thanks in advance for making sure we let folks know how important reauthorizing and increasing the funding for the NMBCA is for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds!

MAKE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Michigan Audubon welcomes the future gifts of our supporters. We honor all planned gifts including those in estate plans, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies, or other deferred means. Your gifts support our efforts to conserve Michigan's birds and habitat for future generations. For more information please call 517-886 – 9144 or email give@michiganaudubon.org.

CHAPTERS BENEFIT BY SELLING ADVERTISING SPACE

Any Michigan Audubon chapter that sells advertising for the *Jack Pine Warbler* can receive a 10% cut of sales to support their local programs and activities. For details contact mas@michiganaudubon.org or call 517.886.9144.

MICHIGAN AUDUBON EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Local Chapters and members are encouraged to become involved in our ever expanding list of festival venues. To volunteer on site, for pre-event preparations and post event clean up, please contact Wendy Tatar at 517-886-9144 or email her at programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org.

MEMBERSHIP LIST SHARING REMINDER

Local chapters are getting back into the fall swing of programs and membership drives. If your chapter would like receive the Michigan Audubon membership list for your service area, please contact the main office at mas@michiganaudubon.org. We continue to offer member development lists to any chapter that requests them.

SPEAKERS BUREAU REVISIONS

Michigan Audubon chapters across the state play a vital and active role in local research, conservation and education activities. By sharing information about programs and activities, all our chapters benefit. Michigan Audubon works to facilitate this sharing through its circulation of a statewide speakers list that chapters can use when developing local programs. We are currently in the process of updating our speakers' bureau list. If you or any of your chapter members would like to be added to the list, or if you would like to recommend one of your chapter's presenters, please contact Wendy Tatar at programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org.

Please share the Chapter Connection with your members