

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CHAPTER CONNECTION – November 2008

Please share the Chapter Connection with your members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Capital Area Audubon Society (Central Region) Nov 6

Sea Eagles - Dave Best

7:00 pm - Fenner Nature Center, 2020 East Mt. Hope, Lansing

Grosse Pointe Audubon Society (Southeast Region) Nov 17

Detroit Zoo's Conservation Programs - Tom Schneider, Detroit Zoo, curator of birds

7:00 pm - Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, Grosse Pointe

Pine River Audubon Society (Northern Region) Nov 18

Birding South Texas - Larry and Cindee DuBey

7:00 pm - Congregational Church, 200 E. Harris St., Cadillac

Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society (Southwest Region) Nov 18

Michigan Audubon Bird Conservation Projects in Michigan –

Tom Funke, Michigan Audubon, director of conservation

7:30 pm - Church of the Dunes, 717 Sheldon, Grand Haven

Chapree Rapids Audubon Society (Upper Peninsula) Nov 20

"Wild Utah": America's Redrock Wilderness - Clayton Daughenbaugh,

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, midwest field organizer

7:00 pm - Room M109 at the UW-Marinette

Michigan Audubon birding events remaining in 2008

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

December 14 – Jan 5: Christmas Bird Counts, for details visit www.michiganaudubon.org/cbc.html

A CHICKADEE CHRISTMAS

From 10 am – 3 pm on Saturday, December 6th at Michigan Audubon's Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, visitors will enjoy birding walks, backyard birding presentations and seeing the Gray manor house decorated for the holidays at this free event. Kids can enjoy making ornaments to decorate outdoor trees for the birds and other wildlife. Snow related activities are planned, weather permitting. Special hand-made chocolates will be offered for sale. Indoor tree ornaments created by local artists and Manistee High School art students will be offered in a silent auction that will also include hand-made wreaths. Purchase raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt created by the Victorian Quilting Guild. Proceeds from the raffle support the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary. The Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary is located at 2890 Lakeshore Rd. in Manistee. For additional information contact Wendy Tatar at the Michigan Audubon office, 517-886-9144.

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. Celebrate the natural history of North America as seen in the early 1800's through the tales of John James Audubon. Keynote speaker, Brian "Fox" Ellis, 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. Highlighted birds will be Kirtland's Warbler, Piping Plovers, Common Loons, Bald Eagles, Waterfowl and Pileated Woodpeckers. Room rates for staying at the Kellogg Center have been set at \$85. You can make your reservations now by calling 1-800-875-5090. Be sure to tell them you are with Michigan Audubon. The deadline to make reservations is February 4.

TIME FOR CHAPTER CONTACT UPDATES

Please update your chapter leadership and contact information. Include name, address, phone and email. Send your chapter's information to Caroline de Mauriac, information services director, 6011 W St Joseph Hwy, Suite 403, Lansing, MI 48917 or email mas@michiganaudubon.org.

QUILT RAFFLE SUPPORTS LAKE BLUFF BIRD SANCTUARY

Members of the Manistee Victorian Quilters Guild generously donated a beautiful quilt to Michigan Audubon's Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary. A raffle drawing for the quilt will be held on December 19th at 10:00 am at the sanctuary (the winner does not need to be present). Proceeds will benefit the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, located in Manistee. Tickets are \$3 each or 4/\$10 and can be purchased at Lake Bluff or through the Michigan Audubon office in Lansing. Call 517-886-9144 or email Wendy Tatar at programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org.

JOIN THE WINTER FEEDER SURVEY

If you can spend a few hours once a month counting the birds that visit your feeder station during the winter (November through April), we invite you to join the Winter Feeder Survey, a joint project of Michigan Audubon and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. We'll send you all the forms and information (other than a field guide) you'll need. Please contact Torrey at 269-381-1574 x12 or twenger@naturecenter.org.

BIRDING HOT SPOTS FIELD TRIPS 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.

ANSWER THE CALL

Michigan Audubon's annual appeal is scheduled for November 2008. Please encourage your members to make a contribution this year. Donations are tax deductible and will help us meet our conservation, education, and research goals in 2009. Chapters benefit from a successful campaign that will impact mini-grant funding, provide support for website developments including improvements in the online presence of all our chapters, and expand statewide programming opportunities. Anyone wishing to make a contribution can also contact the state office at give@michiganaudubon.org or visit the donor area of our website at www.michiganaudubon.org/how.html#donate.

BIRD CONSERVATION NEWS LINKS

Bird-watchers flock to sanctuary to see sandhills:

http://www.mlive.com/citpat/news/index.ssf/2008/10/birdwatchers_flock_to_sanctuar.html

Owl banding at Whitefish Point:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gFyH_cKWjk

Michigan Important Bird Areas:

www.michiganiba.blogspot.com

Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas:

www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_35523---,00.html

Global agreement to protect birds of prey:

www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/081022a.htm