

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CHAPTER CONNECTION – December 2008

A LETTER TO CHAPTERS FROM MICHIGAN AUDUBON'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There's no question that Michigan is one of our nation's greatest destinations for viewing birds. From Trumpeter Swans, to Kirtland's Warblers, Common Loons, and Sandhill Cranes—quality birding is found in our state every month of the year. The birds literally flock to our 3,000-plus miles of Great Lakes shoreline, Jack Pine ecosystems, wetlands, deciduous forests, and grasslands. Birders are never far behind.

Stronger connections between individual birders, local birding clubs, nature centers, regional land conservancies, and state-wide organizations are vital for Michigan to remain atop the list of birding hotspots. From Michigan Audubon's point-of-view, we are striving to maintain strong connections with our members, chapters, and affiliates in 2009. Through the adoption of a new governance model and growth of its staff, Michigan Audubon is now poised to offer greater benefits to its members and enhanced support to its chapters. Some examples of our stepped-up effort to unify the many elements of Michigan Audubon are:

- Offering new members discounted or reduced-rate memberships in their nearest local chapter
- Offering new and existing members the opportunity to stay the night at a rustic cabin in the Otis Sanctuary, or a cozy guest room at Lake Bluff
- Assisting Chapters with growing membership through list-sharing, setting up websites, and publishing newsletters
- Re-invigorating the Michigan Audubon Speakers Bureau for Chapter use

Look for the final list of new member benefits to be published in the March & April issue of the *JPW*. I plan to mail you a hard copy of the member benefit schedule, which will be accompanied by an input form. The form will allow each chapter to indicate how they choose to participate in Michigan Audubon's new member programs. I urge you to return these forms to the state office at your earliest convenience, so that we may begin including your chapter in our efforts. I look forward to celebrating my first year at Michigan Audubon with you and your members. Let's work together to maintain Michigan as a great place for birds!

Best regards,



Jonathan E. Lutz
Executive Director

CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE BLOG SPOTS

As Michigan Audubon continues to build its chapter and affiliate relationships. We encourage any chapter without a web presence currently to create a blog spot for your group. These are easy to create and maintain. As we continue development work on revisions to our website (launch planned for early 2009), we would like all chapters to have a web site to which we can direct visitors for more details about chapter programs. Any chapter with an inactive web site or no web presence can contact Michigan Audubon for assistance in creating one. Take a look at the links below.

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

This year's counts across the state start on December 14 and occur on various dates through January 5, 2009. Please check our website www.michiganaudubon.org/cbc.html for count areas and contact information. If your count area or contact has changed, please contact the count coordinators.

Michigan National CBC Compiler: Doug McWhirter; dmcwhir513@aol.com

Michigan State CBC Compiler: Glenn Palmgren: 810-635-3344; glenn.palmgren@comcast.net

LAST CALL FOR CHAPTER CONTACT UPDATES

Requests have been sent to all chapters regarding contact information. Please confirm or update your chapter contact information. We will distribute updated directories after the first of the year. 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.

IN THE NEWS AND ON THE WEB

Local winery teams up with Dexter Cider Mill with products that support Michigan Audubon
www.dexterleader.com/stories/103008/loc_20081030003.shtml

On the Wings of Cranes

<http://www.lowellschake.com/blog/michigan-audubon-societys-xiv-cranefest-an-unusual-success/>

Great Backyard Bird Count

www.birdsource.org/gbbc

Kirtland's comeback: Endangered species nesting in state

http://blog.uwgb.edu/inside/index.php/multimedia/video/10/29/kirtlands_warbler_research/

Saginaw Valley Audubon joins the Big Sit at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

http://www.mlive.com/saginawnews/entertainment/index.ssf/2008/11/steven_kahl_relives_big_sit_20.html

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.

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. 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.

PLEASE SHARE THE CHAPTER CONNECTION WITH YOUR MEMBERS