

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON CLUB

January 27, 2011

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BIRD NOTES

From the pen of the President

Well here we go again, Our 2011 programs and trip schedule, starting in February, will be familiar but a little different! Meaning, that the trips will be the same but the people and sightings will be different. Maybe we'll see something that wasn't there before or folks that couldn't make it before will be here for the New Year. The regular programs will be held in the Nature Center but the topics and speakers will be new to all of us. Thanks to Tom Ford and the Board, we have another great schedule planned.

We have several new faces on our Board: Please welcome the following:

President – Holly Vaughn
First Vice President and Program Director – Missy Rassel
Second Vice President and Environmental – Matt Winkler
Secretary – Karen Crane
Treasurer – John Mesch
Newsletter – Julie Winkler
Members at large – Stephanie Podolan and Shirley Mesch
Michigan Audubon Representative (MAS) John Kreag
Past President – Ed Moehle

I have enjoyed my time as the GT Audubon Club President and I wish Holly the best.

Ed Moehle, Past President

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, HOLLY VAUGHN

I grew up in a State Park in Indiana and some of my earliest memories include calling barred owls with my dad, seeing herds of whitetails in our large backyard, and chasing blue racers in our garden. It's no surprise, that I decided to become a naturalist, with a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife and an M.S. in Park, Recreation and Tourism resources from M.S.U. During my college years, I worked 7 summers at the Clinch Park Zoo, in the education room and as zookeeper. Following graduation, I worked for 3 years as Education Coordinator and Land Stewardship facilitator at Woldumar Nature Center in Lansing, and then returning to Traverse City, as a substitute teacher in TCAPS and spending my summers with the DNR/DEQ's Urban Outreach Program in Southeastern Michigan, teaching inner city kids outdoor skills.

My serious interest in birds began about 4 years ago, including the goal of developing my bird identification skills and creating a life list (231 and counting). I look forward to adding a Great Gray Owl and a Gyrfalcon to my 2011 list at the Soo this winter, along with you (fingers crossed).

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your President and look forward to working with our talented board. I also look forward to meeting each of you and hope that you will be active participants in our group's field trips/meetings. We've got some excellent speakers lined up and we'll be visiting some great places (Arcadia Lake and Marsh, Tawas State Park, Crane Creek and Magee Marsh, Muskegon Wastewater System and much, much more)

Good birding to you all and have a great New Year.

Holly Vaughn, President

The G.T. Audubon Club regular meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road, T.C. MI. (where the railroad track crosses the road 1.5 miles south of S. Airport Rd). A brief business meeting begins at 7:00, followed by an informative and entertaining program at 7:30. [Field trips are held in June and July but there a no *Regular Meetings* held]

PROGRAM SCHEDULE FEBRUARY THRU JUNE 2011

February

11-13 Field Trip: Sault Ste. Marie: Meet at the Plaza Motor Inn at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday. Leaders: Leonard & Barb Graf – 946-5120. (Make your own motel reservations.

18-21 Great Backyard Bird Count – www.birdsource.org/gbbc. Cindee DuBey 231-839-2758

24 Regular meeting: “Texas Adventure” presented by Leonard & Barb Graf, Robbie & Jerry Kolak & Larry & Cindee DuBey.

March

12-Beginning Birders Workshop: 10:00 to 12 Noon a.m. at the Boardman River Nature Center. Coordinators: Tom Ford 922-9490 & Holly Vaughn 276-6150

24 – Regular meeting: “Bird Identification Challenge” by Tom Ford & Holly Vaughan.

April

13 – Field trip: “Dance of the Woodcock” 8:00 p.m. at the Boardman River Nature Center. (wear dark colors & bring a flashlight)

16 – Field trip: Arcadia Marsh. Meet at Tom’s 14th Street & Division at 7:00 a.m. Holly Vaughn 231 276-6150.

24 – Adopt-a-Highway & Adopt-a-Trail pickup. Meet at Windy Moraine Trail Head, Sleeping Bear Dunes, off M-109, at 9:30 a.m., Joe & Elise Brooks 231 269-4343

28 – Regular meeting: “Spring Wildflowers” Paula Dreezen, at Boardman River Nature Center

MAY IS A BUSY BIRD MONTH

May

7 Grand Traverse Migratory Bird Count. Contact Nate Crane at (231) 499-5460 if you are interested in participating.

13-15 – Field trip: Magee Marsh/Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio. Meet at Magee Marsh west boardwalk at 6:00 p.m. Friday for evening picnic. Contact John Mesch, (231) 946-3624 for details.

20-22 – Field Trip: Tawas Point State Park and Tuttle Marsh. Meet at the Bambi Motel 7:30 a.m. Saturday Contact Cindee DuBey (231) 839-2758

26 – Regular meeting: Potluck Dinner and Birding at the Boardman River Nature Center at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. Leaders: All Board Members

June

4 - Field trip: Birding Blitz in Benzie County (near Arcadia Bluffs). Paula Dreezen (231) 275-7199.

11 – Field trip: Birding Blitz at Grass River Nature Center. Contact Peg Comfort (231) 377-7512 for further details.

29 – Field trip: “Edible and Medicinal Plants” Meet at the Boardman River Nature Center at 7:00 p.m. (231) 946-5120.

OCTOBER 2010 ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

Grand Traverse Audubon Club's Annual meeting was held on October 16, 2010, with 50 members and their guests in attendance. Ray Adams, gave a well-received program, on the updating of the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas. The updating is nearly complete and, according to Ray, will be available on the web when it is completed. As he explained, the birds of Michigan, their numbers, breeding areas, etc., are changing. His photography was outstanding and much admired.

Also, to give a great big "Thank you" to the businesses and friends who donated prizes for the raffle that is held during the dinner. Those are: Donna Burgan of Wildflowers in Glen Arbor, Brian Zimmerman, Four Seasons Nursery, Carol & Mike Morris of Breeze Hill Greenhouses, Brad & Amy Peterson, the Front Porch in Suttons Bay, Tim Lampton of McGough's Inc. Judy Barret of Wild Birds Unlimited, Larry Street of Square Deal Country Store, Peggy of Waterscapes Unlimited in Lake Ann, Betty Green and Joe & Elise Brooks.

Christmas Bird Count - 2010

The morning of Saturday, December 16th, 25 plus members headed out, into various directions to get to their designated "areas" in order to look for and count as many species of birds as could be found. It was a little bit chilly but then again it was December in Northern Michigan. At 5:00, the counters gathered at the Cottage Café to tabulate the numbers of the different species. A complete report is available to view on the Club website.

WALTER HASTINGS ENVIRONMENTAL & EDUCATION FUND **2011**

At the beginning of each year, the Board reviews and considers the possibility of donating some of the moneys from the Walter Hastings fund for active projects. It is hoped, that although the sums are relatively small, the donations will demonstrate the support these organizations have from our Club. The following are those projects chosen for this year.

Whitefish Point - \$200.00
Boardman River Nature Center \$200.00
Grass River Natural Area \$100.00
Brian Allen's Peru bird habitat project \$100.00
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy - \$200.00
(earmarked specifically for the Acme Shoreline project)
The balance of the fund at this time is: \$621.83

We would also encourage you to visit places like Whitefish Point.

The “Soo” in Winter - February 11, 12, 13 (Sault Saint Marie)

Leonard and Barb Graf are the leaders for the “Soo” trip the weekend of February 11-13. If you are planning on spending a night or two, you will need to make your reservations soon. For details, please contact the Graf’s at 946-5120. Birding in the Soo in winter is a special field trip and in past years, Snowy Owls, Great Grey Owls, Hawk Owls, Boreal Owl?, Northern Shrike, Gray Jays, Pine Grosbecks, Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Bohemian Waxwings, Gyrfalcon and much more have been seen. The caravan into the area will begin on Saturday at 7:30 a.m., with participants meeting at the Plaza Motor Inn, across from the Michigan State Police Post. On Sunday the group may travel over to Hulburt to look for Gray Jays and Boreal Chickadees. So, join the Graf’s for a weekend at the Soo in Winter for a little history, birding, food and fun.

Arcadia Marsh and Portage Lake – April 16th

Holly Vaughn is leading this “annual” field trip for the GT Audubon. It is a wonderful beginning to the “spring of things”. Sightings have included Tundra Swans, Trumpeter Swans, White Pelicans, American Bitterns, Snipe, Glaucous Gull, Wood Duck, etc. Please contact Holly at 231 276-6150 and meet at the Tom’s Market 14th Street and Division 7:00 a.m., to caravan down to the Marsh.

Lake Erie and Magee Marsh – Ohio (near Toledo) May 13, 14 & 15

John Mesch will be the leader for this “annual” trip. This trip will coincide with International Migratory Bird Day. It will be over May 13, 14 & 15th. Because of the weekend, there will be several programs available which are organized by Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Black Swamp. Speakers and hikes have been conducted by persons such as Kenn Kaufman and Don and Lillian Stokes. There are also well versed birders spaced throughout the area to assist with locations and identification questions. Last year the group found 135 bird species, including 24 kinds of warbler. Many of the members will be camping at Maumee Bay State Park or staying at the Comfort Inn in Oregon, Ohio. There are usually ample campsites to choose from but motel rooms in the area fill up quickly. Meet at the west boardwalk entrance on Friday, at 6:00 p.m. for a picnic dinner. Please contact John at 231 946-3624 for further information

Tawas State Park and Tuttle Marsh – May 20, 21 & 22

Cindee DuBey will be the leader for this “annual” field trip. This is a continuation of the wonders of the spring migration of our fine feather friends. Last year, more than 147+ species were found, including a Prothonotary Warbler, Purple Gallinule (Tuttle Marsh), and more. Meet Cindee at the Bambi Motel parking lot in Tawas. Several of the participants will be staying there. Contact Cindee at 231 839-2758 for further information.

I want to thank Julie Winkler for graciously agreeing to become the "Bird Notes" editor. Now that both John and I are retired, the opportunities for visiting our daughters in St. Paul, Edmonton and Portland are becoming more common and we are taking full advantage of the new flexibility to travel to those places more often. But also looking forward to travel to other interesting places which have been calling to us such as Alaska, Yellowstone, High Island, Churchill, Poland, Ecuador, Galapagos, Brazil.....?

Have "travel trailer" should travel.

Shirley

You can reach Julie at (231) 275-0454 – e-mail address: winklerj25@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011 NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Membership in the Grand Traverse Audubon Club allows a member to be a participant in the Bird-alert e-mail program. The Bird Alert program provides a way that members who have seen an interesting sighting such as the Snowy Owls of Winter, the first Warblers of Spring, etc. to let the rest of us know where and what is being seen. It also includes a "Bird Notes" newsletter, published 4 times a year. Membership dues received prior to February 28, 2011 will also be included in the Club Membership Booklet

MEMBERSHIP FORM

_____ Family \$20.00 _____ Single \$15.00 _____ Student \$ 8.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

E-mail address: _____

I would like to receive:

_____ Mailed copy of Quarterly Newsletter

_____ [or will use website for copy]

_____ GT Audubon e-mails (club news)

_____ Bird-a-lert e-mails (news of area bird sightings)

Enclosed is a check, made out to Grand Traverse Audubon Club – Mail to:

John Mesch, Treasurer

9793 Edgewood Ave.

Traverse City, MI 49685