

# Grand Traverse Audubon Club

July 2010

[www.grandtraverseaudubon.org](http://www.grandtraverseaudubon.org)

[Info2@grandtraverseaudubon.org](mailto:Info2@grandtraverseaudubon.org)

## **BIRD NOTES**

HAPPY SUMMER

*From the pen of the President*

It's that time of year for vacations, picnics and family fun.

There are also Grand Traverse Audubon Club activities in which to participate. We start the season of programs and meetings Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., with a Breakfast Potluck, at the Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road. If you have never been to one of these, why not join us? It's a lot of fun. Check your program schedule for time and date.

The fall season will bring our Annual Dinner Meeting which means election of new officers for the GTAC board. Please consider taking a position if you can. Any level of participation you give will help preserve the Club for the future. We're always looking for new ideas. Planning the next year's program schedule is a huge undertaking. Thanks to Tom Ford and the Board we have had a great run of interesting speakers. If you have any suggestions concerning trips or programs please let one of the Board members know.

GTAC also disburses moneys from the Walter Hastings Educational Fund. Is there any organization(s) that you think we should support with these funds? Let us know about this, also. Try to get involved to help support our Audubon Club.

See you at the August Potluck,  
Ed Moehle, President

Guess who came to Breakfast at the Brooks' home?



## Summary of Earlier Club Field Trips

Lake Erie Trip, 2010

John Mesch

Our 2010 Lake Erie adventure was a success. We found 135 total species, including 24 kinds of warblers. Participants this year were Leonard and Barb Graf, Larry and Cindee DuBey, John and Shirley Mesch, the Mesch's daughter, Susan with husband Justin Carinci, John and Jo Kreag and Jo's sister the Rev. Jackie Holdsworth, Steffi Podolan, Kay Beerthuis, and Char Blanchard.

We not only had a variety of birds, but also a variety of weather. It was 84 degrees when I checked into the Maumee Bay campground on Wednesday afternoon; it was 34 when we started birding on Saturday morning. In between there were strong winds, rain, hail, and a tornado 20 miles away. Fortunately, our crew came through unscathed. We have birded in rain gear before. The wild weather must have had an effect on the shorebirds because they were very scarce this year, unlike prior years when we've had hundreds of Dunlins and others flying around us at the Ottawa federal refuge. The boardwalk at Magee Marsh did not disappoint. The warblers were there and plentiful, but maybe somewhat lesser tonnage than other years.

The week-end prior to our Lake Erie trip, the Antioch College Ecology Institute in Yellow Springs, Ohio, sponsors a morning bird hike followed by an afternoon wild flower hike. These are given at no charge other than a \$2 parking fee. I have enjoyed these for the last 2 years. Louisiana Waterthrushes are common there, as are Virginia Bluebells and Dogwood. Contact me if you are interested in this for next year.

Tawas State Park and Tuttle Marsh

Cindee and Larry DuBey

On May 14-16, 15 members and friends of the Club made our annual trek to Tawas. The weather was the best in recent memory, with light breezes, temperatures in the 60's and SUNSHIRE. The weed started with a 7 a.m. call from the Grafts announcing the presence of a Purple Gallinule at Tuttle Marsh. Those interested trekked over to the Marsh to find the bird.. They were met by the Grafts and Caleb Putman, who had the bird in sight. Which was fortunate as it quickly disappeared in to the deep weeds.

Meanwhile back at the point, there were warblers galore and many of us had a hard time coming in long enough to eat. Friday evening we trekked back to the Marsh to see what we could find. We dutifully hiked back to where the Gallinule had been in the morning. With Caro Towers help it was spotted no more than 30 yards from the shoreline. Providing all of the group with a GREAT look. From there a couple of quick looks at Sora, Ospreys nested very close to the road and hundreds of Swallow's (all species but Cliff). Bruce and Sam Bojack heard a Whip-poor-will.

Saturday was another very exciting day at Tawas Point State Park with a Kirtland's Warbler (unusual for Tawas) singing in the open for all the folks to see. (It stayed around the park for most of the day). Later in the day, a male Prothonotary Warbler put in an appearance. It too being and unusual visitor to Tawas).

In total, the group logged 149 species (1 short of our record 150) including 27 warbler species (a new high) Participants were: Barb and Leonard Graf, Sam and Bruce Bojack, Elise and Joe Brooks, Carol Towar, Kay Beerthuis, Holly Vaughan and friend, Karen Crane, Steffi Podolan, Krista Greenwood and Larry and Cindee DuBey.

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE  
AUGUST – SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER – NOVEMBER**

**August**

**7 – Regular Meeting: Pot-Luck Breakfast, Meet at the Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road, 8:00 a.m.. Bring a Dish to share and your own table service.**

14 – Field Trip: Birds and Plants Hike, Meet at the Boardman River Nature Center, 10:00 a.m.. Contact the Board River Nature Center (231) 941-0960

18-22 – Seney NWR. Birding by canoe, bicycle, and on foot. Trip includes a visit to the Blueberry Festival in Paradise. Leaders: Leonard and Barb Graf (231) 946-5120

**September**

11 – Field Trip: Observe Bird Banding. Meet at the Boardman River Nature Center, 8:30 a.m.. Contact the Boardman River Nature Center at 941-0960

18 – Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Trail pick-up. Meet at the windy Moraine Trailhead, Sleeping Bear Dunes, off M-109 at 9:00 a.m.. Leaders are Joe and Elise Brooks.

23 – Regular Meeting: Fall Wildflowers presented by Dick Fidler. 7:00 p.m. at the Boardman Nature Center.

**October**

9 – Field Trip: Jordan River Valley. Fall color appreciation event. Leaders, Larry and Cindee DuBey (231) 839-2758.

**16 – ANNUAL DINNER MEETING:**

“Michigan Breeding Birds,” by Ray Adams. 6:00 p.m. Meet at the G.T.C. Twin Lakes Camp off of North Long Lake Road.

**November**

18 – Regular Meeting: “Birding Gambell and Nome Alaska,” by Jerry Kolak. Boardman River Nature Center. 7:00 p.m.

**What do these words mean to you?**

Preservation?

Conservation?

Recreation?

Natural?

Native? Plants? Insects? Animals? Birds?

Protect?

Reserve?

Conservancy

Wild Life Refuge?

State Park?

National Park? Seashore?

**Seney National Wildlife Refuge Outing**  
**August 18-22, 2010**  
**Leaders: Leonard Graf**  
**(231) 946-5120**

From August 18-22, we are reinstating a trip that GTAC previously did for several years, with a couple of added features. We will be exploring Seney via many ways. We plan to drive, bicycle, canoe, and walk throughout the refuge, nearby areas, and also visit the Paradise Blueberry Festival. Birding would include sharpening your skills with those confusing fall warblers. Bicycling is slow (we're always birding!) and mostly level surfaces. One walk is on the Pine Ridge Trail, which surrounds the Interpretive Center. We will also walk/bike in the Diggs River area of the Refuge. Canoeing/kayaking is a leisurely afternoon trip on the Manistique River, which meanders throughout the Refuge. The trip over to the Paradise Blueberry Festival includes breakfast/brunch, jugglers, storytellers, musicians, over 50 vendors and whatever they have planned for the Festival! Isn't it nice that they have a party going for us? Those NOT interested in the festival will be heading to Whitefish Point to check out if anything is happening at the Tip. While returning from Paradise, we plan to search the Sleeper Lake Burn area for the elusive Black-backed Woodpecker. If you are interested in going, give Leonard/Barb Graf a call at (231) 946-5120) as we have gathered information from the two available motels, two campgrounds with canoe/kayak rentals (one also has bike rentals) and restaurants. If five canoes/kayaks are rented from one of the campgrounds, we would be eligible for a discounted rate.

---

FROM THE TREASURER, John Mesch - 2010 mid-year Treasurer's Report

General Fund -	\$3009.74
Walter Hastings Environmental Fund -	\$1421.83

MEMBERSHIP DUES – Dues for 2011 are accepted beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Membership dues can be mailed to:      John Mesch, Treasurer  
9793 Edgewood Ave.  
Traverse City, MI 49685

Individual -	\$15.00
Family	20.00
Student	8.00

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President	Ed Moehle, 947-8821
Vice-President, Programs	Tom Ford, 922-9490
Vice President, Environmental	Holly Vaughan, 276-6150
Secretary,	Karen Crane, 421-1001
Treasurer	John Mesch, 946-3624 9793 Edgewood Ave, T.C. 49685
Elected Members	Missy Rassel, 946-4715 Stephany Podolan, 276-6880
Past President	Cindee Dubey, 839-2758
Bird Notes Editor	Shirley Mesch, 946-3624

Our club has been growing at a steady pace, over the last few years. At the Annual Meeting in October, at the Twin Lakes County Park, the 2011 slate of officers will be elected. Each year, the Nominating Committee, this year consisting of Shirley Mesch, Tom Ford and Barb Graf, look to our members, seeking those who might be interested in serving on the Board. As you can see from the list above, there are several positions to fill. If any of you have any questions about what these positions might require, please contact Ed, and/or any of the other Board Members.

For instance, I am interested in finding someone to do the newsletter for 2011. The newsletter should be sent out 4 time a year, ideally, at the Spring Equinox, Summer Solstice, Fall Equinox and the Winter Solstice.

As a Board, we are also interested in hearing from you. Below, you will find a form to fill out, which you can mail to me at: 9793 Edgewood Ave., Traverse City, MI 49684.

---

### Grand Traverse Audubon Club Interest(s) and Ideas

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Cell Phone:  
E-mail address:  
What are your interests?

Are you interested in a Board position?  
Are you interested in assisting with different events, such as:  
    Beginning Birders Workshop  
    Bird counts and/or surveys  
    Other