

# Grand Traverse Audubon Club

March 20, 2010

[www.grandtraverseaudubon.org](http://www.grandtraverseaudubon.org)  
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## **BIRD NOTES**

**From the President's Pen**

**Ed Moehle**

Greetings from "cold and rainy" Florida. We have been here three weeks and will return home about the middle of March. The weather is supposed to improve and the birding as well.

The exciting trips and programs, we all look forward to, will be starting soon. You should have your new program and trip schedules up on the web by now. What a great job our program director, Tom Ford, has done again this year. Magee Marsh (Crane Creek), Tawas and the local walks. We look forward, especially to thrilling spring birding.

From now until our summer break there is something of interest going on of which we can all take advantage of. Things are all planned out and ready to go for you to enjoy. JUST GET OUT There. **Ed**

### Congratulations GBBC PARTICIPANTS

Our area had the most species in the State of Michigan – tied with Kalamazoo

## The "Sentinel" of Secor Road



## Up North Birding – 2010

By Barb Graf

Kolaks, DuBeys, Meschs and Grafts spent Friday scouting known areas for special birds with some of us locating the Northern Hawk Owl in Harbor Springs on the way north.

The GTAC field trip started at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday at the Plaza Motor Motel with 14 people and a -5<sup>o</sup> temperature, but the weather warmed, and as is usual with good weather, the birds were dispersed over a greater range and finding them became challenging.

Target species of Northern Hawk Owl (4), Snowy Owl (3), Northern Shrike (5), and Sharp-tailed Grouse were located. A lone Lapland Longspur in a flock of Snow Buntings provided a bonus. Bald Eagles abounded. We even saw a pair of eagles near the nest across the river from the rest area in Dunbar Forest. I hope they will nest successfully. Three species of woodpeckers--Pileated, Hairy and Downy—flashed their beautiful black, red and white colors. Both Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches spoke up and were found. Red-tailed Hawks (2) and Rough-legged Hawks (3) flew into view. American Goldfinches, Black-capped Chickadees, Crows, and

Ravens were easy to see. Over the four days our searching was rewarded with a total of 35 species.

While watching one of the Northern Hawk Owls, we adopted and were adopted by a young gal, Krista, from Michigan State, who is new to birding. Krista joined us for lunch at a newly discovered restaurant in Rudyard, The Cowboy, which allowed us more time for searching the Snowys on Centerline Road and Glaucous Gulls at the Dafter Dump.. Because it was Valentine's Day weekend, we had made reservations at the Ramada Inn's Freighter's Restaurant for dinner where we had eaten the last couple of years. This restaurant provided us with time to visit and share our birding stores, and time to visit and share vacation tales, and more time to visit and just share. Steffi's granddaughters' Katie and Anna should have double gold stars for their excellent behavior while we waited the hour and a half for our food to arrive. Next year, I believe, that we will check out Studebaker's. When six of us visited there on Sunday evening, our entrée arrived before my salad was gone! It was exciting to have Krista identifying "life" birds. Mark your calendar to join us next year—I heard reports that a Gyrfalcon was located a couple of weeks after we were there.

Welcome  
To the recent addition of Parker to our birding world  
CONGRATULATIONS RASSELLS

## OUR VIRTUAL CLUB by Kay Beerthuis

Our email groups are one of the benefits of your club membership. Since 1999 we have been sending out emails about our local bird finds, our feeder activity, and sharing our enthusiasm for birding. Because so many of you have participated (we have 84 birdalert members), we have all been able to find birds we have enjoyed seeing and track the progress of the spring and fall migrations. As of March 2010, we have had over 3290 messages! Our club news group, GTAudubon, has also served to remind of us of *meetings, inform us of web updates, and alert us to interesting articles, places you have traveled, and environmental issues.* For some of you unable to make our meetings, this virtual club IS the Grand Traverse Audubon Club. We appreciate having you as a member, even if you are unable to attend our meetings and field trips.

It has been eleven years since I started the Yahoogroups, birdalert and GTAudubon, and I am happy to find a capable person to take over the list management. Missy Rassel will be the new list manager. She will get people on the list that are new club members, answer any questions you may have about the GTAudubon and birdalert emails, help with any problems, and send out meeting notices. If you are a club member who is not on our email groups, please contact Missy! Her email is misskitty3681....yahoo.com (put the @ sign in place of the ...).

## Beginning Birders Workshop

March 13, 2010

The “annual” Beginning Birders Workshop was held at the Boardman River Nature Center, located at 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City, MI 49786 (at the South Airport Road and Cass Road light, approximately 1.5 miles south, where the

Well known Club Members, Tom Ford, Holly Vaughan, Ed Kaminski and Leonard and Barb Graf were present for the Workshop

30+ people were in attendance. Tom “welcomed” everyone. Holly, presented information and options for new birders to consider such as “birding with other birders, websites to try, choices of field guides, binoculars, etc. Tom did a follow-up introduction to the availability of various field guides, binoculars, CDs, DVDs, etc Ed gave tips on cameras and telescopes, supplementing the information with some of his own photos. He noted that the recent development of the “lens and camera stabilization” feature is probably the most important new development in camera technology. It is now available on point and shoot cameras, a feature that should not be overlooked if purchasing a new camera. Leonard and Barb, fielded and assisted with questions those in attendance had. The workshop concluded with a hike at the Nature Center.

A great job by the presenters and knowledgeable folks according to Ed and Carolyn Risk, who were present for the workshop!

### THE WALTER HASTING ENVIRONMENTAL FUND – DISPERSMENTS

Tart Trail (for western expansion program )-	\$1000.00
Whitefish Point Bird Observatory	200.00
Boardman River Nature Center	200.00

Grass River Natural Area (in Antrim County) 100.00  
Wings of Wonder (R. Lessard in Empire) 100.00

### May 7 – 9 Field Trip

## Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa Federal Refuge, Lake Erie

This May, GTAC members will make our 15<sup>th</sup> annual trip to southwest Lake Erie. We always see lots of birds on this trip. Last year we found 151 species, including 27 kinds of warblers. My favorites last year were Kentucky, Hooded, and Prothonotary Warblers. The Summer Tanagers were nice too. This year the Black Swamp Bird Observatory will be hosting digiscoping workshops and birding by ear workshops, in addition to their bird banding demos. Some years a group will set up a hotdog tent, but I recommend that we bring picnic food for supper on Friday and lunches on Saturday and Sunday. We will gather around the west boardwalk entrance of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on Friday at 6PM for our supper on the park picnic tables. If you are lucky, Steffi might introduce you to her friend, Kenn Kaufman. This year, several of us will be camping at Maumee Bay State Park, west of Magee and east of Toledo. Others will be staying at the Comfort Inn on Navarre Ave. a.k.a. SR2, in Oregon, Ohio. Maumee Bay campground usually has lots of campsites available that weekend, but the hotels fill up early. I suggest you call now for reservations. Comfort Inn reservations are at 800-533-2100. Ask for the 60+ rate if you qualify, which is better than the internet rate. My cell phone will be on during the trip – 231-499-1439. For any queries before departure, call me at 946-3624. Bring your hand-held radios to keep in touch. The weekend has its own website – [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)

Check it out for more info.

By John Mesch

## TAWAS STATE PARK AND TUTTLE MARSH

May 14 – 16

**MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW**, if you are planning on attending the “annual” birding event at Tawas State Park. Larry and I are camping at Tawas State Park. For the Saturday Morning field trip to Tuttle Marsh (black terns, American and Least Bittern, Virginia Rails,???) please be at the Bambi Motel at 7:30 a.m. (May 15, 2010), the late morning early afternoon will be adventures out to the Point in search of warblers, shorebirds, and everything else that you can think of during this amazing time of the year. Larry and I will also be there all day Friday and will probably take a Friday evening trip(7 PM ish) out to Tuttle Marsh with the potential of seeing owls, rails, Whip-poor-will!!! If you plan to join us, please e-mail us at [dubyc@hotmail.com](mailto:dubyc@hotmail.com) because we will not be home to take any telephone calls. See you there, Cindee and Larry Dubey.

## BOARD MEMBERS

President – Ed Moehle  
Vice President, Programs – Tom Ford  
Vice President, Environment – Holly Vaughn  
Treasurer – John Mesch  
Secretary – Karen Crane

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Elected Board Member – Stephany Podolan  
Michigan Audubon Rep –  
Past President – Cindee DuBey

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE APRIL – MAY – JUNE – JULY 2010

### APRIL

14 – Field Trip: Dance of the Woodcock, Meet at the Boardman River Nature Center. Wear dark colors (birders rarely wear white) bring a flashlight. 8:00 p.m. – 941-0431

17 – Field Trip: Arcadia Marsh. Meet at Tom's Market, 14<sup>th</sup> St & Division at 7:00 a.m. Contact Tom Ford at 946-0431

22 – REGULAR MEETING: "Wind Power: presented by Steve Smiley

24 – Adopt-a-Highway & Adopt-a-trail pick-up. Meet at the Windy Moraine trailhead, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, off of M-109 at 9:30 a.m.. Leaders Joe & Elise Brooks. 269-4343

### MAY

7-9 – Field Trip: Magee Marsh, Ohio. Meet Friday at 6:00 p.m. at the west boardwalk for a picnic dinner. Leader: John Mesch 946-3624.

8 – Grand Traverse Migratory Bird Count: Contact Nate Crane. 231 499-5460

14-16 – Field Trip: Tawas State Park & Tuttle Marsh. Meet at Bambi Motel 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Leader Cindee Dubey – e-mail at [dubeyc@hotmail.com](mailto:dubeyc@hotmail.com)

22 – Field Trip: Spring Wildflowers & Birding. Meet at Boardman Nature Center. 10:00 a.m. 946-0960.

**REGULAR MEETING:** Potluck dinner & birding. Meet at Boardman River Nature Center at 5:30 p.m.. Bring your own table service & a dish to share. Leaders: Board Members.

### JUNE:

5 – Birding Blitz in Benzie County. Leaders: Joe & Elise Brooks, 231 269-4343.

12 – Field Trip: Kirtland's Warbler and other Jack Pine inhabitants. Details to be announced, Contact Tom Ford at 946-0431

### JULY

17 – Adopt-a-Highway & Adopt-a-Trail pickup. Meet at Windy Moraine Trailhead, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, off M-109 at 9:30 a.m. Leaders Joe & Elsie Brooks. 269-4343

## YOU KNOW THAT "SPRING" IS COMING WHEN

Red-Wing Blackbirds, Sandhill Cranes, American Kestrels, Eastern Meadowlarks, American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, Tundra Swans, Killdeer, and certainly not to forget the anticipation of new maple syrup, morels, Trilliums, Ferns, Butterflies...And then when the Cranes fly over your house and chortle away and you are greeted by a Song Sparrow as you enter your office. What a beautiful time of the year. Enjoy each and everyone and more of these delights.