

# Chappee Rapids Reporter

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WINTER 2014

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A Publication of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society



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## Presidents Message

New year same Audubon club? There is a certain comfort in familiarity, but we all crave change. I am looking forward to our banquet this year in hope that the Rocks will bring a fresh look into hummingbird gardening. I'm also excited about the social evening that is being planned for the IMBD in May. I am optimistic that some new bird and naturalist minded people will come and join our organization and inspire the rest of us!

Many years ago long time member John Helfert suggested that we all try to bring a kid with us to the meetings or outings. Our own children or the neighbors- didn't matter! Most of us wish that we had a more youth involved and have

found it difficult to find interest among the children. I think we need to interface more with scout and 4H type youth groups in order to reach this audience. Something to think about during this long cold winter! Keep in touch- send ideas!

## Annual Banquet March 28<sup>th</sup>

Dr. Mike and Kathy Rock from Madison, WI offer extensive experience in educating the community about how to garden for hummingbirds. While they are not professional ornithologists or botanists, they have been studying hummingbird behavior and gardening for hummingbirds for over 10 years. Their hummingbird garden in Madison, Wisconsin contains 100+ varieties of annual and perennial plants that attract hummingbirds and they maintain 20+ hummingbird feeders. They have traveled to southeastern Arizona, Texas, Louisiana and many other locations throughout the Midwestern United States to learn about hummingbirds and have consulted with and studied with many experts and hummingbird banders.

## Field Notes

By Denise Taylor

Pristine white mantles, crisp blue skies and a returning sun...sounds nice but wow is it cold outside this year! We started the winter slide around Thanksgiving, and it looks to me as though we will be here until, well, Spring. Snow has been accumulating nicely for most of January which should bode well for earth insulation. Most mammals, especially whitetail deer, are struggling a bit to find food. I must say though that the dozen deer that call my yard home are looking pretty well! Add to that six grey squirrels and 30+ wild turkeys, and there's never a dull moment. Perhaps some predators would be in order?

Bird life has been active and perhaps waning a little as of this cold mid-winter writing. Juncos and tree sparrows are abundant along with the usual chickadees, blue jays, morning doves and good numbers of hairy, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers. Red-tailed hawks are very abundant in the twin counties this winter, outnumbering rough-legs. I have not heard any owl species calling yet. Most winter finches are absent, except goldfinches, and I have seen one pine siskin on two occasions, whoopee! On the other hand, how about those Cardinals? and I don't mean the baseball team! Many people report 6-12 at a time visiting feeders. Robins have still been regular as of January 20th. A few highlights in the area include a screech owl, a varied thrush and Carolina wren. We are all looking to see some of those snowy owls that are being observed elsewhere in the Midwest. Cedar waxwings are wandering about the countryside enjoying the abundant fruit crops.

The weather forecast seems to be continually getting colder for the next few weeks. Many of us think of this as a normal winter, and so it's been time to remember how to get through it. Our household tends to feed the woodstoves and cook-breads, cookies, stews and other assorted treats.

That's how we make the mid-winter go by like this fieldnotes; short and sweet! Stay warm!

## Christmas Bird Count - Carney

Nine observers took place in the Carney, MI Christmas Bird Count this year. Dale Lietzke lead the group observing 27 different species.

Ring-necked Pheasant 6  
 Wild Turkey 109  
 Bald Eagle 23  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
 Cooper's Hawk 1  
 Red-tailed Hawk 3  
 Rock Pigeon  
 Mourning Dove  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Pileated Woodpecker  
 Northern Shrike  
 Blue Jay  
 American Crow  
 Common Raven  
 Black-capped Chickadee  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 4  
 White-breasted Nuthatch 8  
 European Starling 52  
 American Tree Sparrow 18  
 Dark-eyed Junco 75  
 Snow Bunting 10  
 Northern Cardinal 4  
 American Goldfinch 140  
 House Sparrow 40

## POND ROAD BIRDFEST

Mark your calendar for May 9th & 10th. We will be celebrating International Migratory Bird Day by holding two days of events.

### Friday evening:

Location will be at Our Saviours Lutheran Church, 1600 University Dr. Marinette  
 6:30 Refreshments  
 7:30 Bird Program

### Saturday Sunrise to Sunset

Birding Pond Road and the Observation Deck  
 1:00 "Bird Talk" on the deck by Denise Taylor  
 Money raised will be used for bird conservation. Watch the web site for updated information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

11th Conservation Lobby Day 2014 sponsored by The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters from 10-5pm at the Monona Terrace in Madison, WI

### March

28th Environment Awards Banquet  
Dr. Mike and Kathy Rock - Hummingbirds

### April

17th Meeting  
Room M-110 U.W. Marinette Campus at 7:00pm Speaker TBA

### May

9th & 10th International Migratory Bird Day/Pond Road Birdfest  
See page 1 for more information

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Tuesday Morning Bird Walks - Times and places will be announced on the web site Calendar.

8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th - Thursday Morning Bird Walks - Pond Road. Meet at the Observation Deck at 7:30 am.

### June

7th Harmony Hardwood Trail Maintenance  
Meet at 9:00am at the Harmony Arboretum

## Menominee River Remedial Action Plan Update

At the last citizens advisory committee meeting we reviewed what has happened in the river this past year. (What you can tell your friends) The highlights include:

- The cleanup of two major contaminated sediment sites has been completed.
- A massive undertaking to restore sturgeon populations in Lake Michigan is happening right in our backyard.
- All possible sediment contamination sites in the river are being accessed.
- Habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife is being improved and protected at sites local residence helped to select.
- Began removing invasive species from the rivers islands within the area of concern.
- Produced a short video on the area of concern.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXtUfjgmok>

For more information on the Menominee River Remedial action plan follow the link  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/menominee.html>

Trygve Rhude

### 2012 Chappée Rapids Officers

President—Denise Taylor  
Vice President—Karen Purgill  
Secretary—Carmen Bugaj  
Treasurer—Marlene Nelson  
Program - Beth Goetzman  
Conservation/Legislation—Wendel Johnson  
Field Trip - Vacant  
Historian/Webmaster- Joan Campbell  
MI Audubon Delegate—Open  
WI Audubon Delegate - Beth Goetzman  
Education—John Helfert  
Social—Mary Dumke  
Newsletter—Trygve Rhude  
Chappée Rapids Site - Bob Brisson

## Bird City Wisconsin

The City of Marinette recently received a letter from Carl Schwartz, Project Coordinator for Bird City Wisconsin. Below are a few excerpts from that letter, congratulating the City of Marinette and Chappée Rapids Audubon.

On behalf of the Steering Committee for Bird City Wisconsin, our congratulations on renewing your recognition as a Bird City for 2014 at the Sustained Flight level. It is an accomplishment that keeps Marinette in the forefront of efforts to forge a state-wide coalition of citizens and public officials who know that birds are more than beautiful -- they are significant.

Our review committee continues to commend the role played by the Chappée Rapids Audubon Society and its leaders in helping the city achieve this recognition, notably through both its extensive bird monitoring activities and its efforts at educating the public.

Membership renewals are now due. Due to increasing costs associated with publication and mailing we have had to increase the dues. Please consider subscribing to receive your newsletter via email. If interested go to:  
<http://craudubon.com/>

## Web Site/Facebook

If you have not looked at our web site take a few moments to do so. We will continue to improve and add new features. You can also access our facebook page from the web site. Take a look, it's an easy quick way to keep in touch with others interested in birding and environmental issues in general. <http://craudubon.com>

## Rare Bird Alert

If you see a bird that you do not normally see in our area please let one of the following people know:

Joan Campbell 715-732-1277

Dale Lietzke 906-863-3163

Marlene Nelson 906-864-3040

Denise Taylor 715-923-4183

Ken Wingender 715-735-5785

## Banquet Ticket Information

Plan on attending this year's Environmental achievement awards banquet. We will be presenting awards to Menominee Township and Habitat For Humanity Restore. This is our way of saying thank you to those who are helping to make our local area a bit better.

For ticket information contact:

Joan Campbell 715-732-1277, Marlene Nelson 906-864-3040 or any board member.



Barred Owl Photo By Kurt Miller

## Christmas Bird Count - Peshtigo

The Peshtigo Christmas Bird Count took place December 14, 2013. 379.5 miles were traveled during the count and there were 12 participants. It snowed all day making visibility low, especially in the early morning. Also participating were 2 Feeder watchers. Joan Campbell was the coordinator for the count. A total of 38 species were observed for a total count of 5,005 individuals. As always it was a great day, join us next year.

Mallard 5  
 Common Goldeneye 28  
 Common Merganser 18  
 Wild Turkey 471  
 Cooper's Hawk 1  
 Bald Eagle 8  
 Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
 Red-tailed Hawk 9  
 Rough-legged Hawk 19  
 hawk sp. 2  
 Eastern Screech-Owl 1  
 Rock Pigeon 397  
 Mourning Dove 354  
 Red-headed Woodpecker 1  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 19  
 Downy Woodpecker 32  
 Hairy Woodpecker 25  
 Pileated Woodpecker 7  
 Northern Shrike 1  
 Blue Jay 140  
 American Crow 362  
 Common Raven 9  
 Black-capped Chickadee 240  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 7  
 White-breasted Nuthatch 34  
 Varied Thrush 1  
 European Starling 1,085  
 Cedar Waxwing 406  
 American Tree Sparrow 75  
 Dark-eyed Junco 482  
 Northern Cardinal 35  
 Lapland Longspur 26  
 Horned Lark 104  
 Snow Bunting 50  
 Purple Finch 14  
 House Finch 23  
 Common Redpoll 2  
 American Goldfinch 307  
 House Sparrow 23

## Christmas Bird Count - Hayward Lakes

The Hayward Lakes Christmas Bird Count coordinated by Joan Campbell was held on December 28, 2013. A total of 4078 individuals birds consisting of 36 species were counted on a day that started off cloudy turning partly sunny as the day went on. Some 345 miles were traveled gathering this years data. Fourteen individuals took part in the count. This is the highest number of birds seen on this count since its beginning. High counts of red-tailed hawk, hairy woodpecker, black-capped chickadee, American tree sparrow and dark-eyed junco were recorded..

Common Goldeneye 12  
 Duck species 3  
 Ring-necked Pheasant 27  
 Ruffed Grouse 2  
 Wild Turkey 137  
 Cooper's Hawk 3  
 Bald Eagle 24  
 Red-tailed Hawk 15  
 Rough-legged Hawk 15  
 Belted Kingfisher 1  
 Rock Pigeon 222  
 Mourning Dove 428  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 16  
 Downy Woodpecker 26  
 Hairy Woodpecker 20  
 Pileated Woodpecker 8  
 Northern Shrike 5  
 Blue Jay 141  
 American Crow 331  
 Common Raven 30  
 Black-capped Chickadee 334  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 6  
 White-breasted Nuthatch 15  
 Brown Creeper 1  
 European Starling 1,242  
 American Robin 14  
 Cedar Waxwing 173  
 Snow Bunting 21  
 American Tree Sparrow 158  
 Fox Sparrow 1  
 Dark-eyed Junco 297  
 Northern Cardinal 20  
 Red-winged Blackbird 2  
 Purple Finch 6  
 House Finch 37  
 American Goldfinch 262

Chappee Rapids Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 1133  
Marinette, WI 54143

### Chappee Rapids Audubon Society Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a **renewal** or **new** membership (circle one)

I wish to receive my newsletter by **mail** or **e-mail** (circle one)

Membership Category: (check one)

Individual \$5.00

Family \$10.00

Supporting \$10.00

Contributing \$25.00

Donor \$50.00