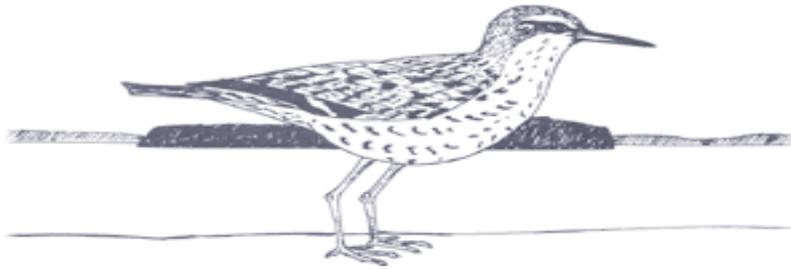


Chappee Rapids Reporter

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Presidents Message

This September begins our clubs 33rd year, a third of a lifetime and as yet more than half of mine. We began as a small, diverse group of about a dozen people. One of our first tasks was to decide upon a name, no big deal...right? But some time was spent carefully considering what we wanted to stand for in our community. Should we be Audubon or Naturalists? We chose to stick with Audubon as they were our sponsoring organization and it conveyed an interest in birds....but we also agreed to consider all aspects of the environment that supported those birds, for sure!

Then we considered the rest of our name. Leroy Lintereur suggested Chappee Rapids, a real historical place name that predated the states of Wisconsin or Michigan. A place on the Menominee River, where two cultures and the environment flowed together. The purpose of this name was to signify unity on both sides of the river, on all ecological realms with a special emphasis on the local area. So now you know the rest of the story, come join us for a meeting or volunteer for an activity or two this year and participate in making some local history for the future!

Denise

Meeting set for September 18th.

Dr. Renee Richer from U.W. Marinette will be our guest speaker. The title of her talk will be "Using Clues from the Arabian Desert to Understand Wisconsin Animal Health". Hope you can join us at 7:00pm in room M-110 in the main building of U.W. Marinette.

Dr. Richer joined UW Marinette in August 2014 from Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar where she taught general biology as associate professor for 8 years. Dr. Richer received her BA in biology from the University of Chicago and her PhD in biology from Harvard University in 2004. Prior to her work in Qatar, Dr Richer was Director of the Environmental Conservation and Research Center of the American University of Armenia. There she taught environmental science and ecological economics. Her work with bird life in Armenia was recognized by the Whitley Award, the UK's largest conservation award. Her current work focuses on the intersection of biological processes, conservation and sustainable

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/>

Field Notes

By Denise Taylor

Every year each season holds something unique, at least in our relatively short lifetimes. After a long and lingering spring, this summer has been a series of building heat and humidity then punctuated by strong Canadian cold fronts. Many nights have been in the low 40's and upper thirties. Moisture has been ample to say the least with our first week of September tallying 8 inches! Our creek overflowed to say the least.

The cold spring led to reduced insect activity and somewhat fewer birds in my observations. Bluebirds, wrens and flycatchers seemed most affected. Sandhill cranes were very resilient with many successful nests. Turkeys fledged late and many poults are still in down. Cedar waxwings were very abundant in August on the farm with flocks of up to five hundred some evenings....I wonder if it had anything to do with the mulberry trees???

Orioles, nighthawks, buntings and many others are gone for the season. Sharp-shins are still moving but I have yet to see any large kettles of raptors? Warblers have been moving for a month, you never know which species might come to check you out- last Sunday a Blackburnian joined me for coffee- fall avians are so social!

Hummingbirds are still with us but numbers are much reduced at this writing, I don't expect them to stay as late this year. We had a few good Monarch butterfly migration days the first week of September- not like it used to be, they need our help.

Overall its been a short summer, so much so I can hardly believe that frost will likely occur tonight?

For perhaps the first time in my life- I could do with a little more warm weather, maybe it will happen, maybe not. Check back with me in spring and keep observing nature!

Harmony
Hardwood
Boardwalk-
Trail



Menominee River Update

If you have been paying any attention to the local news or traveling the twin cities you would be aware of all the activity on the Menominee River this summer. Taking place currently in and around the river includes:

1. **Dredging of the Menekaunee Harbor**

After some 30 years of talk and planning the harbor is finally being dredged and improved not only for boating but also for fish and wildlife habitat. Approximately six-million dollars are being spent, most of this is to dredge and dispose of the contaminated sediments. This is just one more step in getting the Menominee River removed from the Great Lakes Area of Concern list.

2. **South River Channel Restoration**

Currently in the planning stages with work scheduled to begin in 2015. This will include final sediment removal and improvement in the channel for fish and wildlife habitat.

3. **Sturgeon Passage**

Construction is under way for the fish lift at the first dam. This lift will enable sturgeon to be transported by truck/trailer around the 2nd (Park Mill) dam. The downstream passage construction at the Park Mill dam has also begun. This will enable the young fish to move downstream without being harmed by the hydro turbines. And the final planning is being done for the downstream passage at the 1st dam.

4. **River Island Improvements**

Strawberry, Little and Big Blueberry and Boom islands will continue to have habitat improvement work done. The focus will be restoring native plant communities and restoring colonial nesting bird habitat. This will include removal of the non-native buckthorn and planting of native tree species favorable to colonial nesting birds.

5. **Tyco Betterment Project**

Plans have been approved and Tyco will begin the final phase of the arsenic removal from the river. They will be dredging down to a maximum level of 20ppm from the current 50ppm after last years dredging. This will get the Menominee River AOC one large step closer to being delisted.

As a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for some 30 years this is great news. Not only will the river be cleaned up of the arsenic contaminated sediments but we have been able to address all the other issues mentioned above. I look forward to the day when I will no longer be serving on the CAC!

Trygve Rhude

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2014

16th Seagull Bar Bird Walk
 18th Meeting
 "Using Clues from the Arabian Desert to Understand Wisconsin Animal Health".
 UW-Marquette Campus Room M-110, 7:00pm
 25th Seagull Bar Bird Walk

November 2014

20th Meeting
 Lower Menominee River Remedial Action Plan Area of Concern Update (Birds and Habitat)
 Speaker is Laurel Last, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Area of Concern Coordinator.
 UW-Marquette Campus Room M-110, 7pm

December 2014

Christmas Bird Counts

January 2015

15th Meeting
 This is the meeting where we show our photos, videos, artwork of birds, flowers and any other nature related items.
 UW-Marquette Campus Room M-110, 7pm

February 2015

March 2015

20th Environmental Awards Banquet
 "Emblem Birds of the Northwood's"
 Speaker John Bates, of Trails North, Manitowish Waters, WI
 Little River Country Club Marinette, 6:00pm

April 2015

16th Meeting
 Final meeting of the 2014-2015 year, speaker and topic to be determined! Check back soon!
 UW-Marquette Campus Room 110, 7pm

May 2015

Seagull Bar Bird Walks

Scheduled for September 16th and 25th. We will be looking for fall migrants including shore birds, longspurs, pipits, rusty and Brewer's blackbirds, warblers, raptors and more.

Meet at 7:30am in the parking lot at Red Arrow Park, plan on about a 3 hour walk. Dress in layers for cooler weather off the bay. The walks will be canceled and rescheduled for another day if the weather is bad. If you have questions or are concerned about the weather call Joan Campbell at 715

Chappee Webber Learning Center

Again this year volunteer presenters will give a program to area 4th graders on local history and ecology at the Chappee Webber Learning Center on River Road 5.5 mi north of Menominee. We are seeking a few volunteers to act as guides and time-keepers for the activities. It is generally light duty work and the kids are most enjoyable. Dates that are currently scheduled are September 16th, 17th, 24th and 26th. The program starts at 9am and last approx. 3 hours or a little less. If you can join us one of these mornings please contact Denise Taylor wdtaylor@wildblue.net or 715-923-4183

THANKS!

2014 Chappee Rapids Officers

President—Denise Taylor
 Vice President—Karen Purgill
 Secretary—Vacant
 Treasurer—Marlene Nelson
 Program - Wendel Johnson
 Conservation/Legislation—Wendel Johnson
 Field Trip - Vacant
 Historian- Joan Campbell
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 Newsletter - Trygve Rhude
 Chappee Rapids Site - Bob Brisson

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