Welcome to the 2016-17 Chappee Rapids Audubon season. The planning committee is very busy putting together meetings, arranging for speakers, bird counts and worthwhile environmental endeavors. We continue to seek new input (hint, hint) and interested persons to lend a hand. We may seem a little bit behind but I think that can mostly be blamed on this very warm, and extended summer weather….we didn’t realize it was fall!
I think the entire club can be proud of last season’s informative meetings and another successful awards banquet. Our bird walks are well known and much anticipated by members of the community. I was especially impressed with the actions taken by some of our members in preserving public access to the Pond Rd. observation deck. Well done!
Currently there are plans to improve the Kowalski Walking trail, maintain the Harmony Hardwoods trail and build a Swift Tower together. All practical, hands on, and locally benefiting projects. Perfect for bringing the kids or grandchildren. Perfect for building the next generation of environmentally concerned citizens. We hope to see you join us…..bring friends!

Denise Taylor

Pond Road
The following letter was sent to the Town of Peshtigo on behalf of Chappee Rapids Audubon regarding the Towns proposal to close pond road. We are writing on behalf of Chappee Rapids Audubon Society in regards to the proposed closure of Pond Road in the Town of Peshtigo. It is our understanding that the Town would like to close the road due the higher Green Bay water levels that are washing out the far eastern end of the road. If the town is not interested in maintaining the road, it should be turned over to the State so they can take over the maintenance of it. If the Town is interested in keeping the road and not doing the necessary repairs and gating the damaged area off, we would like to suggest that gating be done approximately 100 feet east of the observation platform. Chappee Rapids Audubon and other donors have invested considerable money and time into building the observation platform for the general public to use. It has been constructed per state codes including a wheel chair accessible ramp. Closing of Pond Road where it turns from asphalt to gravel will render the deck inaccessible to a large number of local citizens, schools, and tourists to the Marinette area including those with disabilities.
If the road is gated east of the observation platform, there will be some additional work required to provide enough room for vehicles to turn around. Unfortunately the end of Pond Road has been used as a convenient spots for folks to get rid of all sorts of trash. If the road is gated east of the platform, one would expect this trash to now be disposed of at that location. Some sort of small trash containers located at the gate and maintained by the Town may be one way to cut down on the trash problem. Chappee Rapids Audubon Society officers are willing to meet with the Town Board to explain the importance of this road access.
It is our hope that the Town and State can come to an agreement that will satisfy both parties and continue to provide access to this part of the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area. Public access to state land close to populated areas is becoming increasingly more valuable and should be a priority consideration when making this decision.
The Kowalski Walking Trail... A New Project for CRAS

About 3 miles south of Marinette on County BB, the KWT is a 20 acre parcel of land owned by the Town of Peshtigo. Prior to the mid-1950's, the land was farmed for many years. Today, this mostly open field lies feral and is gradually re-seeding with a few trees (mostly jack pine) and a mix of invasive species and native plants. Some might call this a northern oak savanna. It is capable of supporting northern prairie species although the soil is very poor. Presently, there is a non-motorized trail of less than a mile in length. The Town of Peshtigo has gated and signed this trail, and encourages our involvement in enhancing the biodiversity and beauty of the KWT. Plantings of native savannah/prairie species, periodic controlled burns and birding structures (bluebird houses are already present from some of our previous work) are all possible. A "Pollinator Habitat" sign from CRAS has been erected at the site. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department are interested in being involved with CRAS. In the future, field trips and work outings will be possible. Given this is the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of our National Parks, this project would be a great way to think globally, but act locally.

Wendel Johnson

Menominee River RAP Open House

There will be an open house held Thursday September 15th. to inform the community and provide an outlet for discussion on the current state of the Menominee River. The Citizen's Advisory Committee will hold a Walking Tour of Menekaunee Harbor and an Open house. The walking tour will begin at 5 pm at the southwest parking lot off Ogden Street and conclude at 5:45. The open house will take place in the cafeteria of UW-Marinette from 6-8 pm. Keynote speaker, Steve Galarneau, WDNR will provide an introductory presentation on the AOC and an overview of projects completed as well as Beneficial Use Impairments proposed for removal. The remainder of the time will be an open floor with project-specific booths set up for a question and answer period.

Rare Bird Sightings

Anyone seeing a bird that looks to be rare or unusual, or just has a bird question please give one of us a call:

Joan Campbell  715-732-1277
Dale Leitzke  906-863-3163
Marlene Nelson  906-864-3040
Denise Taylor  715-923-4183

Leroy Lintereur Plaque at the WI Conservation Hall of Fame
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2016
15th Meeting
6:00 pm, Cafeteria at U.W. Marinette
*****NOTE THE TIME CHANGE*****
Menominee River Remedial Action Plan Update
See page 2 for more information.

13th, 20th & 27th Bird Walks
8:00 am Meet at the Segul Bar parking lot. For more information check out the website http://craudubon.com/calendar/

October 2016
15th & 22nd Work Days
Harmony Hardwoods Work Day
Meet at 9:00 am at the Harmony Arboretum parking lot. See the article for more information

November 2016
17th, Meeting
7:00 pm, Room 110 U.W. Marinette
Speaker to be announced

December 2016
14th Carney MI Christmas Bird Count
17th Peshtigo Christmas Bird Count
31st Hayward Lakes Christmas Bird Count
Watch the website for more information

January 2017
7th & 14th Work Days
Chimney Swift Tower Building

February 2017
16th Meeting
Annual public multi media presentations.
7:00 pm, Room 110 U.W. Marinette

March 2017
31st, 28th Annual Environmental Awards Banquet
Speaker to be announced
Little River Country Club Marinette, 6:00pm

April 2017
20th Meeting
7:00 pm, Room 110 U.W. Marinette
Speaker to be announced
22nd Earth Day
For more information check out the Earth Day Network at: http://www.earthday.org/2016

Harmony Hardwood Work Day
We have scheduled two Saturdays for working at Harmony Hardwoods this fall. If we get everything accomplished on the first Saturday we will cancel the second. (See the calendar for Dates) As is always the case we have plenty to do including trimming tall grass on the boardwalk, tree trimming and general trail clean up. We will also put up new bluebird boxes, owl platforms and houses if they are built in time for the work days. We will meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot next to the arboretum. Dress appropriately for the day and bring along pruners and loppers.
MDEQ Announces Proposed Permit Decision on Aquila Resources Back Forty Project, Seeks Public Comment

The following is taken from the Michigan DEQ web site. If you are concerned or have questions contact the DEQ and plan on attending the public hearing scheduled for October 6th.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) announced today its proposed decision to grant a mining permit to Aquila Resources for the Back Forty Project, a proposed gold, zinc and copper mine and processing facility in Lake Township, Mich. and a public hearing to be held October 6, 2016.

The MDEQ determined the application meets the requirements for approval under Michigan’s mining law, Part 632 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, which requires that mining operations must be protective of natural resources, the environment, and public health and safety.

As part of the decision-making process, the MDEQ is seeking comments from interested persons on the proposed mining permit decision, as well as two other pending permit decisions for the project: an air emissions and surface waters discharge permit. The MDEQ will hold one consolidated hearing and public comment period for all three permit decisions to ensure convenience for citizens. A fourth permit application for impacts to wetlands will be considered by the MDEQ in a separate review process.

The public hearing will be held at Stephenson High School on October 6, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. CST to accept public comment on the proposed decisions. The Department will also accept written comments until November 3, 2016. The MDEQ is required by law to issue a final mining permit decision on or before December 1, 2016. However, the decision date may be extended if additional information from Aquila is needed to address issues raised by public comments.

Aquila submitted its permit application on November 11, 2015. A team of technical experts from the MDEQ and Michigan Department of Natural Resources carried out a thorough review of the application and required Aquila to submit extensive additional information. The MDEQ also held a public meeting on the application on January 5, 2016 and received public comments throughout the review process.

For more information about Aquila Resources and the Back Forty project, visit: www.aquilaresources.com/projects/back-forty-project.

For more information about the MDEQ, visit: www.michigan.gov/deq or contact Joe Maki, 906-228-4853, maki3@michigan.gov or Michael Shore, 517-388-9211, shorem2@michigan.gov
**Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas**

“This is the second year of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II project. Our first year was very successful. We confirmed well over 100 Marinette County breeding species including the Canada Warbler, Orchard Oriole, American Bittern, and Trumpeter Swan. Most of the nearby breeding blocks are still open and lots of birding is yet to be done. Anyone with moderate birding experience is welcome to help out. Just contact Dale Leitzke at 906-863-3163.”

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**TUESDAY FALL BIRD WALKS**

If you want to get out and enjoy the last days of summer and do some bird watching, join us on our September Bird Walks. We will be going out September 13th, 20th and 27. See the calendar for additional information. Weather permitting, we will walk out to the point of Seagull Bar and look for shorebirds and warblers making their way back south. Because the water in the Bay is up this year the walk can be a little challenging. Many of the trees are lying across the beach so on part of the walk we have to go on the east side of the peninsula which has tall grasses and some ankle deep water (and poison ivy). Its well worth the trouble as we never know what we will see when we get to the point. Dressing for the weather can also be a challenge as it can be very warm or windy and cooler at the point so layering helps. Water shoes are great when it’s warm and rubber boots when it’s colder out. I suggest that a birder not wear white, if you are moving it tends to frighten the birds. White is a color in nature that can mean danger for animals, when a deer runs away, his tail is flashing white. It's best to blend in to the landscape. Call Joan at 715-732-1277 for more information. Also call if you need to use a pair of binoculars for one of the walks.

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**How To Keep Informed**

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.

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**Wisconsin Legislative Environmental Scorecard**

At the end of each legislative session, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters brings you the Conservation Scorecard so that you can see how your legislator is voting on the issues you care about. One of the most important things you’ll find in this year’s Scorecard is the amazing story of you. It’s pretty clear that this was one of the worst legislative session on record for conservation. And yet, because conservationists from every corner of the state got involved, we were able to do things like save and fund the Stewardship Program, stop efforts to privatize drinking water systems, make vast improvements to the horrid Polluter and Developer Grab Bags, and protect the Great Lakes from plastic microbeads. That makes you a Conservation Champion in our book! Hopefully, your legislators are Conservation Champions too. To see how your representative voted on environmental issues check out the web site... 


Information from The Wisconsin Conservation League of Conservation Voters Web Site

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**Membership Dues**

Have you never been a member of Chappee Rapids Audubon? Have you not paid your 2016-2017 dues yet? Take a moment and fill out the membership form on the back of this page with your dues and drop it in the mail.

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**2016-17 Chapped Rapids Officers**

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