



CHAPTER CONNECTION

june 2009 • e-newsletter

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Petoskey Regional Audubon (Northern Region) Jun 3, 10, 17, 24

Surveying the Nesting Birds of the Bear River - Cindy Mom & Sally Stebbins

6:00 am – Meet in Mineral Well Park, Petoskey

www.petoskeyaudubon.org

Capital Area Audubon (Central Region) Jun 6

Saturday morning bird walk - Jerry Lisiecki

8:00 am - Meet in the Fenner Nature Center parking lot, Lansing

www.capitalareaaudubon.org

Sault Naturalists (Upper Peninsula) Jun 9

How not to get lost in the woods - David Szlag

7:30 pm - Great Lakes Forestry Centre

<http://soonats.pbwiki.com/FrontPage>

Macomb Audubon Society (Southeast Region) Jun 20

Water Tower Park field trip – Colleen Traylor

9:00 am– 1552 N Main St, Lapeer

www.geocities.com/macomb_audubon

Muskegon Nature Club (Southwest Region) Jun 20

Henderson Lake Nature Area, Clear Stream Nature Preserve, and White River Marsh field trip

8:00 am - Meet at the McDonald's on Apple Ave. near K-Mart

<http://users.tm.net/mcnc/>



BIRDS ON LINE

Not a new article, but an interesting one nonetheless recommended by Michigan Audubon's executive director, Jonathan Lutz.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/26/science/26crow.html?_r=3&oref=slogin

These two links may take a while to load depending on your internet connection speed. But they both feature spectacular images.

Osprey slide show

<http://www.miguellasa.com/photos/sspopup.mg?AlbumID=1001578>

Atlantic Piping Plovers (could just as easily be about our Great Lakes plovers)

http://ns.www.nps.gov.edgesuite.net/featurecontent/caco/plover_slideshow.html

The Michigan Bluebird Society helped Michigan Audubon establish a Bluebird trail at its Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary this year. Please support them and receive a free Bluebird nest box.

http://www.michiganbluebirds.org/images/michiganbluebirdsociety_membershipform.pdf

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SIGHTED IN FLORIDA

This photo of a banded Kirtland's Warbler was taken by Barbara Keskinen around 11 am on 24 April, 2009, in Lori Wilson Park, Cocoa Beach, Florida. She thought the members of Michigan Audubon might be interested to see it. According to Dave Ewert, a biologist with The Nature Conservancy in Michigan who studies the birds in Michigan as well as in their Bahamian wintering grounds, the following information was gleaned from the bird's bands.



"The superb photo of the Kirtland's Warbler is very exciting. The probability of finding a color banded Kirtland's Warbler during migration is incredibly low so congratulations to Barbara and Phyllis for a phenomenal sighting. You could almost read the band combination.

The bird photographed is a male Kirtland's Warbler that was banded in Oscoda County, Michigan (the "Big Creek" site), during the 2008 breeding season by Sarah Rockwell, a University of Maryland graduate student.

Thanks to all for this very valuable information! We will be looking for this bird on its Michigan territory to see if we can establish how long it takes to get from Florida to Michigan."

MICHIGAN AUDUBON SPECIALTY TOURS

Michigan Audubon is offering Specialty Tours of the Eastern Upper Peninsula on June 8, 12-14. These guided tours, led by UP birding expert Skye Haas, will be targeting Connecticut Warbler, Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Golden-winged Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

These one-day caravan tours will depart from Paradise, MI at 6 AM and will conclude at approximately 6 PM. Each date is limited to 12 participants. The cost of the tours is \$60 for Michigan Audubon members and \$75 for non-members. You can reserve your spot on a tour by contacting Wendy Tatar at 517-886-9144. Michigan Audubon accepts Visa and MasterCard for payment. The deadline to register is three days prior to the date of the tour.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON: AMERICAN ARTIST AND NATURALIST EXHIBIT

June 4 – August 29, 2009

Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 Fourth Street Jackson, MI 49203

Opening week-end events

Thursday, June 4, 2009 -Sneak Preview Party, 6-8:30 pm

Admission: Members \$40, Non-members \$50

Friday, June 5, 2009 –Night of Wings and Roses, 7:30-10:30 pm

Ella Sharp Museum joins the Rose Festival for a kick-off dance featuring local band "Jump Start".

Dance admission: \$5 (regular Museum exhibit admissions apply \$8 adults, \$5 for children)

Saturday, June 6, 2009

John James Audubon: American Artist and Naturalist-Exhibit Opens

A Day with John James Audubon event

Admission: \$14 adults, \$8 children (5 to 12 years old)

Sunday, June 7, 2009 -Party in the Park, 2:00-6:00 pm

Ella Sharp Museum's galleries will be open

Admission: \$8 adults, \$5 children (5 to 12 years old)

For more information call the museum at (517) 787-2320.



CERULEAN WARBLER WEEKEND



June 5 –6, Hastings

This year's Cerulean Warbler Weekend promises to be a great event for birders, families, and kids. Come take advantage of kayaking and canoeing opportunities on Glass Creek at Otis Sanctuary. Learn the fundamentals of nature photography from professional photographer, Jonathan Morgan. Guided hikes led by IBA Coordinator, Caleb Putnam, will include tips on birding by ear. Attendees will visit areas where they can find the elusive Cerulean Warbler, a bird whose numbers have been declining faster than

any other North American songbird. Check out the latest information at

<http://www.michiganaudubon.org/cerulean> or contact Wendy Tatar at the Michigan Audubon office by calling 517-886-9144.

CERULEAN WARBLER WEEKEND SPONSORS

Our sponsors are offering discounts for online purchases at their websites. Just enter CERULEAN at checkout.

Moosejaw carries outdoor apparel and gear. 15% Discount at www.moosejaw.com excluding Bugaboo, Suunto, Scarpa, The North Face and Western Mountaineering brands.

Moosejaw



The Joby Gorillapod firmly secures your camera to just about anything — anywhere and everywhere! Unlike traditional tripods, the Gorillapod has flexible, gripping legs which can

wrap around almost any surface. It is now available in five versions! 20% Discount at www.joby.com



PIPING PLOVER MONITORS NEEDED

Two opportunities are available for contributing to Piping Plover conservation efforts in Michigan.

Volunteers are invited to spend a weekend on North Manitou Island to monitor piping plover nests. Volunteer duties will be to keep predators away, observe incubation, and watch for abandonment. Stay at the bird camp which includes kitchen and sleeping tents. Bring clothes, sleeping bag, and food. Preferred shifts are Friday morning thru Monday morning; shorter stays are possible. Time is available to explore the island. The National Parks Service will arrange a no-cost shuttle for you. For more information contact Lake Bluff at 723.4042 or email lakebluff@charter.net.

The Nature Conservancy is also looking for volunteers to help monitor Piping Plover nests and chicks in various locations across the Upper Peninsula: Grand Marais and Vermilion on Lake Superior, Gulliver, Escanaba, Indian Point, and Pte. Aux Chenes/Brevort on Lake Michigan. In addition to surveying the beaches and monitoring located nests, volunteers may also provide public outreach support and watch for possible predators such as gulls, ravens, and merlins. Volunteers are needed during June and July, and housing may be provided at some of the sites. Contact Lisa Niemi at lniemi@tnc.org or 906-225-0399 ext. 4014.



TWO CANOE OUTINGS PLANNED



Michigan Audubon is offering two Birding by Canoe/Kayak programs this summer. Both programs are part of the KanoetheKazoo event. All participants need to provide their own canoe/kayak. Pre-registration is required.

The first program will be held on June 12 (rain date June 13) and will travel on the Kalamazoo River through the Allegan State Game Area. Participants will meet at the Allegan Dam access on Allegan Dam Rd. at 7:15 a.m. The float is approximately 3.5 miles. Species that may be seen include Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, both Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, plus a wide variety of waterfowl and numerous wetland and shore birds.

The second float will take place on July 11 (rain date July 12) on Fish Lake in Barry County. Participants will meet at the Fish Lake Public Access on Guernsey Lake Rd. at 7:45 a.m. The float is approximately 2 miles. We expect to see herons and various waterfowl species, along with Osprey, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, as well as many species of turtles, frogs, snakes, and mammals.

To register, contact Wendy Tatar at the Michigan Audubon office 517-886-9144 or wendy@michiganaudubon.org. Fees for the floats are \$15 for Michigan Audubon members, \$25 for non-members. Both trips are limited to 10 vessels. Find more information on the KanoetheKazoo program at www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoethekazoo.

BAKER SANCTUARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

Seasonal Wildflower Identification

Enjoy the beauty of wildflowers at Baker Sanctuary! Local wildflower enthusiasts will help you locate and identify wildflowers along the sanctuary's trail network. No equipment or experience necessary. Participants are encouraged to bring a wildflower field guide if they own one. Cameras and binoculars are always encouraged. Trips depart from the West entrance of Baker Sanctuary.

Saturday, June 6, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 12, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person. Only \$5 for Michigan Audubon members

Pre-registration required. Contact Wendy Tatar at wendy@michiganaudubon.org. Limited to 20 participants.

Night Walk on the Meadow & Marshlands Trail

Join Baker Sanctuary Resident Manager and naturalist, Mike Boyce, for a bright night hike. Participants will listen for owls, woodcock, coyotes and other creatures of the night. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes if you want to explore the nearly full moon and night sky. Trip departs from the West entrance of Baker Sanctuary.

Saturday, June 6, 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person. Only \$5 for Michigan Audubon members

Pre-registration required. Contact Wendy Tatar at wendy@michiganaudubon.org. Limited to 15 participants.

Building & Maintaining Nest Boxes for Wildlife

Turn your backyard into a haven for wildlife! Installing a nest box is one way to attract birds and mammals to your backyard. Workshop participants will learn how to construct and maintain nest boxes for a variety of wildlife species, such as bluebirds, kestrels, screech owls, wood ducks, and swallows. Program takes place at Baker Lodge (East sanctuary entrance). Participants need to bring their own hammer.

Saturday, July 18, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person. Only \$10 for Michigan Audubon members

Pre-registration required. Contact Wendy Tatar at wendy@michiganaudubon.org. Limited to 12 participants.

PLEASE SHARE THE CHAPTER CONNECTION WITH YOUR MEMBERS