

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CHAPTER CONNECTION – February 2009

Please share the Chapter Connection with your members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Capital Area Audubon Society (Central Region) Feb 5

Michigan Lakes – Tom Cooley, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
7:00 pm – Fenner Nature Center, Lansing

Oakland Audubon Society (Southeast Region) Feb 9

Costa Rica – Nancy Tar
7:30 pm – First United Methodist Church - Room 152, Birmingham

Sault Naturalists Club (Upper Peninsula) Feb 10

The Future of our Boreal Forests - Mike Flannigan, senior Research Scientist, Canadian Forest Service - Great Lakes Forestry Centre
6:30 pm – Annual dinner / 7:45 pm – program - Cafeteria, Sault College, 443 Northern Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Michigan Highlands Audubon Society (Northern Region) Feb 12

A Florida Winter ~ Birds, Beasts and Beyond - Ray Valentine
7:00 pm - United Way Building, Grayling

Grand Rapids Audubon Club (Southwest Region) Feb 23

Parklands and Nature in Populated Areas - Roger Sabine, Director of Kent County Parks
6:30 pm – social hour / 7:30 program - Theological Seminary Auditorium at Cornerstone University, 3000 Leonard NE, Grand Rapids

Michigan Audubon Birding Events coming up in 2009

Feb 14 – 15: Specialty Tour: Birding Hot Spots, Sault Ste Marie
Feb 14: Sanctuary Program: Great Backyard Bird Count - Baker Sanctuary, Bellevue
Feb 14: Sanctuary Program: Great Backyard Bird Count - Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, Manistee
Feb 14: Sanctuary Program: Great Backyard Bird Count - Otis Sanctuary, Hastings
March 6 – 7: Annual Conference: Michigan's Magnificent Birds – MSU Kellogg Center, East Lansing.

MICHIGAN'S MAGNIFICENT BIRDS

Remember to get registered for Michigan Audubon's annual conference. Early registration has been extended to February 9. The regular registration deadline is February 25. Michigan Audubon's 105th Annual Conference will be held March 6 & 7, 2009 at the Kellogg Center on the campus of MSU. Check our website for conference registration information and forms which are posted at http://www.michiganaudubon.org/annual_meeting/annual_meeting-2009.html.

MICHIGAN AUDUBON NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAPTER GATHERING

Chapter leaders and members from across the state are cordially invited to attend the annual Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative's Ornithological Congress which will be held April 3-5 in Petoskey. The gathering will also serve as a Regional Michigan Audubon meeting for our Northern Regional Chapters. To attend the chapter meeting on Sunday you do not need to register or pay for the congress which occurs on Friday and Saturday. The regional meeting will be held at the North Central Michigan College in Petoskey from 9 am to 11:30 am on April 6 following the two day Ornithological Congress. The regional meeting will be an opportunity for chapters and members to learn about the state's IBA program, Birder Certification, and Backyard Bird Sanctuaries. To propose additional topics or to RSVP for the event, contact Tom Funke, Michigan Audubon's Conservation Director, at 269-275-0004 or at tfunke@michiganaudubon.org.

MIBCI ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2009

April 3 – 5, 2009 - North Central Michigan College, Petoskey

This should be an exceptional year for the congress. The line up includes:

Tina Phillips from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Terry Rich from Partners in Flight

Bill Bowerman, noted Bald Eagle Researcher

Michael Hutchins, CEO of the Wildlife Society

Tom Funke, Conservation Director of Michigan Audubon

Other programs include an update on Michigan's Birding and Nature Trail program; Coordinated Bird Monitoring in the Midwest; special sessions on whippoorwills and nighthawks. There will also be a "Citizen Science Fair" on Sunday, which will be open to the public. Various conservation groups will be on hand to share ways citizens can gather data for various conservation and research projects. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Petoskey Days Inn. The rates are very reasonable and their snack bar, open 24 hours, is a great place to do some networking. You can get all the information about the congress by visiting www.mibci.org. Please inform your membership as this is for anyone with an interest in bird research and conservation.

BIRDING BLOGSPOTS

Bird Blogger Shelley Martinez will be presenting an introduction to the blogging world at this year's annual conference. Check out her beautiful blog at: <http://birdinginmichigan.blogspot.com/>

Blogger Bird Girl of My Bird Tails and Photography Adventures says her interests are birds*photography* birds*photography* birds*photography*birds*. You get the picture.

<http://mybirdtales.blogspot.com/>

Books and Bird watching come together on this site featuring book reviews of birding books and field guides. <http://boooksbirdwatching.blogspot.com>. Yes, that is 3 "o"s in the URL!

John Trapp supplies a lengthy list of North American Bird Blogs that will keep you birding in cyberspace until spring migration. <http://birdstuff.blogspot.com/2008/12/north-american-bird-blogs.html>

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CHAPTERS AND BIRDERS IN THE NEWS

Grand Rapids Junior Audubon featured in National Audubon's Chapter Networker
<http://www.audubon.org/local/cn/pdf/Winter2008.pdf>

Patience nets Novi birder photographs of a rare flock

<http://www.freep.com/article/20090203/FEATURES07/902030379>

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER SURVEY

Some Michigan Audubon chapters distribute newsletters via email. For chapters interested in learning more about the cost-savings and public relations value of e-newsletters, we are curious to learn about the challenges and successes that chapters have had in this endeavor. At your convenience, please respond to the following questions.

Do you send all or a portion of your newsletters via email?

How many people receive the electronic form of your newsletter?

How many hard copy newsletters do you send via snail mail?

Do you use any special programs for emailing your newsletter to a large group?

Are there any challenges you've dealt with in making your newsletter electronic?

What suggestions do you have for chapters interested in distributing a portion of their newsletters via email?

Please send your responses via email to mas@michiganaudubon.org or by post to Electronic Audubon Newsletters, 6011 W St Joseph Hwy, Suite 403, Lansing, MI 48917.