

MICHIGAN AUDUBON CHAPTER CONNECTION – March 2009

Please share the Chapter Connection with your members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brigham Audubon of Battle Creek (Central Region) Mar 11

Bird Adaptation to Forest Restoration Sites in Costa Rica – Dr. Catherine Lindell

7:00 pm - Binder Park Zoo, Battle Creek

Manistee Audubon Society (Northern Region) Mar 11

Introduction to the Lichens - David Dister

7:00 pm – Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, Manistee

Copper Country Audubon Society (Upper Peninsula) Mar 17

Chasing Beeps: Rail Research in the Lake Erie Marshes - Auriel Van Der Laar

7:00 pm - MTU Forestry Building, Hesterberg Hall, Rm. G002, Houghton

Muskegon County Nature Club (Southwest Region) Mar 19

Marsh Monitoring Program - Carolyn Weng

7:30 pm - Roosevelt Park Community Building, Muskegon

Washtenaw Audubon Society (Southeast Region) Mar 29

Field trip to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge – led by Greg Norwood

Meet at 9:00 am at the Humbug Marsh Unit gate which is located along Jefferson Avenue at the intersection of Vreeland Road at the Trenton/Gibraltar border.

MICHIGAN AUDUBON SPRING BIRDING FESTIVALS

Tawas Point Birding Festival - Friday May 15, Saturday May 16, and Sunday May 17, 2009

<http://www.tawasbirdfest.com>

Cerulean Warbler Birding Festival – Friday June 5 and Saturday June 6, 2009

<http://www.ceruleanwarbler.org/cerulean.html>

WEST MICHIGAN BIRDING FESTIVAL

If you plan on birding on the western side of the state this spring, mark your calendar for this new birding festival presented by Sable Dunes Audubon Society on May 15 – 17, 2009 at the Art Center in Ludington. Come for an unforgettable weekend or only a single day to the charming town of Ludington, on the white sandy shores of Lake Michigan. Whether you are a beginning or an advanced birder, don't miss this special opportunity to get an up-close look at migrating birds, such as the endangered piping plover. Activities include workshops, interactive programs, and field trips guided by expert naturalists and biologists. For more information contact Judy Bach 231-843-4826. The West Michigan Birding Festival, to be held in Ludington this May, is online. Please visit our new website at www.birdingfestival.org and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do likewise. It's not too early to register: a form is provided online.

MICBI ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2009

North Central Michigan College, Petoskey

April 3 – 5, 2009

Special sessions addressing climate change and invasive species. Speakers are from Michigan Audubon, Clemson University, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Michigan State University, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and more! On Sunday, a free, open to the public citizen science fair where a variety of opportunities to participate in conservation will be spotlighted.

www.mibci.org

PLOVER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in the UP!

The Nature Conservancy is 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 Pointe Aux Chenes/Brevort on Lake Michigan. The Conservancy along with a number of partnering organizations received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the 2009 season. Biologists are hired at each site, but cannot cover the beach every minute of every day. 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. Help is needed during June and July. Housing may be provided at some sites.

Also, there will be volunteer workdays to improve the habitat by controlling invasive plant species in all of these locations. Come and sit on the beach, observe many shorebirds and other species or roll up your sleeves and help pull weeds to assist in the Piping Plover recovery efforts!

Please contact Lisa Niemi at lniemi@tnc.org or (906) 225-0399 ext. 4014, if you are interested in participating. Volunteers are an important part of a successful breeding season for the Piping Plovers in the Great Lakes!

SCHEDULE A CERULEAN WARBLER TOUR

May 1 - June 30, 2009

Join Michigan Audubon's Director of Conservation Tom as he leads tours into Cerulean Warbler habitat. Tour fees are \$25 for Michigan Audubon Members and \$35 for non-members. Chapter leaders are encouraged to bring your members down for a field trip! Deep discounts for Michigan Audubon chapter group visits!

Contact Otis Sanctuary resident manager Tom Funke by calling 269-275-0004 or email tfunke@michigianaudubon.org.

BIRDS ON LINE

Michigan Birding Trails - Got birds? Yes, even if Michigan can't make the list by Howard Meyerson, The Grand Rapids Press <http://tinyurl.com/arsxbm>

Great Non-Profit Reviews: Go online and write a review of a Michigan Audubon event or sanctuary. <http://www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/michigan-audubon-society>

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Spring Fling Details: <http://www.wpbo.org/Trips.html#springfling>

Michigan Loon Preservation Association Facebook Group Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52767207747>

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Facebook Group Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=65034741896>

Swans on the Huron River in an article authored by Ann Arbor City Ornithologist, Dea Armstrong. http://www.hrwc.org/pdf/HRR_2009_1spring.pdf

Audubon North Carolina has been studying Osprey migration for a number of years. One of their satellite-tagged Ospreys, nicknamed Meadow, spent much of last fall in Michigan's Upper Peninsula just south of Marquette. Details of Meadow's travels are at <http://www.bioweb.uncc.edu/bierregaard/migration08.htm>

American Woodcock's Spring Display: The Mating Flight of this Forest Shorebird <http://tinyurl.com/dfynpl>

Berrien Birding and Beyond BlogSpot: <http://tinyurl.com/dfydynd>

Berrien County Parks and Recreation Commission/Berrien Birding Club BlogSpot: <http://tinyurl.com/bmjtnq>