



## CHAPTER CONNECTION

October 2009 • e-newsletter

### UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

#### **Holland Audubon Club (Southwest Region) Oct 13**

In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker – Caleb Putnam, Coordinator/Important Bird Areas Program  
7:00 pm – Hope Church, 77 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Holland

#### **Chappee Rapids Audubon Society (Upper Peninsula) Oct 15**

7:00 pm - Proposed mining in Lake Township - Ron Henrikson and Marla Tunistra

#### **Grosse Pointe Audubon (Southeast Region) Oct 19**

Wild Utah: America's Red Rock Wilderness – film and discussion presented by Clayton Daughenbaugh, Midwest Field Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
7:00 pm - Pointe Unitarian Church at 17150 Maumee, Grosse Pointe

#### **AuSable Valley Audubon (Northern Region) Oct 8, 15 & 22**

Bits of Birding - Presentations will give an introduction to the fabulous world of bird watching and is geared to those beginners who enjoy bird watching, but want to know and learn more. There will be a one-time \$5 fee to cover the cost of materials.

6 pm - 7:30 pm – Robert J. Parks Public Library, Oscoda

#### **Capital Area Audubon Society (Central Region) Nov 5**

Darwin in the Galapagos- Dr. Fred Dryer  
7 pm- Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing

### MICHIGAN AUDUBON SANCTUARIES THIS FALL

#### **CraneFest**

The Fifteenth Anniversary of CraneFest will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 10 & 11 at the Kiwanis Youth Area, which is adjacent to Michigan Audubon's Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary. The event runs from Noon until 7:00 p.m. both days.

Make sure you come early to the event to enjoy the programs and activities. Enjoy naturalist lead nature walks that will tell you about the flora and fauna that call the area home. Get your Christmas shopping done early at the Michigan Audubon bookstore or one of the many wildlife artists displaying their works. Learn about the Cranes of the World; there are 15 species in the Crane family, only two of which call North America home. There are many fun and interesting things to do at the 2009 CraneFest!

#### **Crane Photography 101 Workshop to be Part of CraneFest**

Join nature photographer Wayne Pope for a one-day photography workshop focusing on Sandhill Cranes and other large birds. This one-day workshop combines a morning lecture held at the Convis Township Hall and an afternoon field trip to Big Marsh Lake/Baker Sanctuary, where you can hone your skills. This workshop is geared for the more experienced photographer.

The workshop will be held on Friday, October 9 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The cost to participate is \$85 per person, \$75 for Michigan Audubon members. A box lunch will be provided. Registration is limited to 20 participants. Call Wendy at 517-886-9144 or download details and the registration form on the [CraneFest page](#) of our website.

## CHAPTER UPDATES REQUESTED

Chapters should update their contact information by sending names, addresses, email, and phone numbers of chapter officers to the Michigan Audubon office at [birds@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:birds@michiganaudubon.org) or call 517-886-9144.

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR FALL SANDHILL CRANE SURVEY

Volunteers are being sought to assist with the 2009 Michigan Fall Sandhill Crane Survey. It is part of a coordinated survey conducted throughout eastern North America. The primary survey date is Friday, October 30, but counts taken through Monday, November 2 are acceptable. Held each year since 1979, it estimates the size and trend of the Eastern Greater Sandhill Crane Population. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel oversee the survey throughout the region and I have volunteered to coordinate the Michigan count.

Counters tallied 44,000 sandhills in the eastern population last year, including 17,747 in 16 Michigan counties. The Bernard Baker Sanctuary in Calhoun County harbored 7,292 cranes, the most at one location.

This is an excellent opportunity to add to our knowledge of cranes. Compared to most species, cranes are relatively easy to count because of their size and vocalization. Anyone interested in helping with the count, can contact Ron Hoffman at [ronandjoanhoffman@yahoo.com](mailto:ronandjoanhoffman@yahoo.com), or 517-769-6891 for more information and report forms.

## IN MEMORY OF DR. LAURENCE BINFORD BY SKYE HAAS

Tribute must be made to Dr. Laurence Binford, who passed away last week at his home in Agate Harbor in the Keweenaw. Laurie, as he was known to many, was as fastidious as an academic scholar as he was talented as a birder. Laurie's meticulous attention to detail, careful observation skills, and thorough publications were renowned in many circles. Many have credited him as being their most excellent mentor and Laurie was certainly dedicated to teaching young birders and honing their skills. Some of North America's finest birders today were once Laurie's students.

Some of Laurie's work included the founding of Western Field Ornithologists and the California Bird Records Committee; Curator of Birds & Mammals at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; discovery of the Pt. Diablo hawk migration, one of the largest on the west coast; describing the nest of Marbled Murrelet, the last species in North America to have its nest discovered; complete accounts on both the birds of Oaxaca, Mexico and the Keweenaw Peninsula, the infamous California "Skylark story" (Google it, you'll enjoy it!), and one of the last people to see an Eskimo Curlew in Galveston, Texas back in the early 1960's.

We are all glad that Laurie got to spend one more summer in his beloved Keweenaw, where he had summered since he was young. He was active in the field to the end, and had just found a Lark Sparrow just two weeks earlier. Above all, he had a wry sense of humor, and it was certainly both my privilege and pleasure to spend time in the field with him in the last five years, bird-watching here in "the mouth of the wolf".

Thank you Laurie.

## BIRDS ON LINE



### **Wisconsin Kirtland's Warbler 2009 Nesting Season Summary**

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/GreenBay/kiwa/2009Summary.html>

### **Osprey nest at Stony Creek Metropark in Shelby Township**

<http://www.freep.com/article/20090928/NEWS02/90928027>

### **Michigan Audubon's Voorhees Sanctuary hosts Mar Lee School seventh graders**

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20090915/NEWS01/909150316/The+path+less+traveled>

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This will be my last edition of the Chapter Connection. Due to family circumstances, I have resigned my position with Michigan Audubon effective October 16. It has been a great pleasure knowing and serving you and your chapters. Thank you all for your continued support and pursuit of conservation, education, and research efforts on behalf of our mission of connecting birds and people for the benefit of both. -- Caroline