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## Sault Naturalists of Ontario and Michigan. Annual Report for 2010

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### 2010 Executive

President: David Euler..... 705 248 1494  
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Treasurer: Gail Andrew..... 705 942 0768  
Secretary Donna Ryckman-Rooney..... 705 945 9821.  
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Archivists: Gladys and Cliff Wallwork  
Local Citizens Committee Rep: Donna Ryckman-Rooney  
Michigan Audubon rep: Carl Linhart  
Ontario Nature rep.: Tony Walker  
Publicity: Leslie Askwith  
Christmas Bird Count: Ken McIlwrick  
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### Sault Naturalists of Ontario and Michigan

Founded in 1954, the Sault Naturalists is an international club with approximately 120 members. The objectives of the club are:

- to provide members with a common meeting ground for the exchange of ideas and for broadening their knowledge and understanding of natural science
- to promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of our natural heritage
- to support and cooperate with other organizations with similar aims.

The group is affiliated with Ontario Nature, and the Michigan Audubon Society.

Meetings are held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month except for May when it is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. The meetings in December through April are held in Sault, Michigan at the Central Methodist United Church located at the corner of Spruce and Court Street. The May, June, September, October and November meetings are in Sault Ontario at the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre, 1219 Queen St. East. The annual meeting is in February, and alternates each year between the two Saults. Everyone is welcome.

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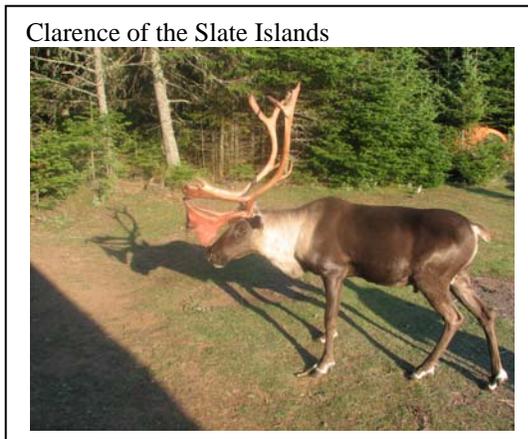
### Table of contents:

Message from the President:  
**Committee Reports:**  
Finance: 4  
Local Citizens Committee 5  
Ontario Nature: 5  
Outings: 4  
Programs: 3  
Christmas Bird Count: 5

**Message from the President:  
Dave Euler: thank you All**

Our Club continues to flourish with an active set of outings, a great schedule of programs and on-going involvement in environmental issues. John Lehman with the help of his Program Committee, (Ron Prickett and Leslie Askwith) brought together a varied and interesting set of speakers who increased our knowledge of the natural world. If you missed any of them you missed a good time.

Outings Chairperson, Val Walker, organized an outing almost every weekend throughout the year. All of these outings were free and fun. For me the highlight of the year was our trip to the Slate Islands, where our good friend “Clarence” visited us from time to time. For a good time, join us on any one of our outings.



While programs and outings are often the most obvious activities of the club, much work has to be done behind the scenes to actually make the club work. Without the attention to detail and commitment to getting things done, none of the programs and outings would be possible.

Don Hall as Vice-president is always ready to step in and help me as President. Without Gail Andrew as Treasurer, our books would not be balanced and we would certainly lose track of

our funds. Harvey Robbins maintains membership records and has been active in Environmental Issues. Donna Ryman-Rooney is on the LCC and has been our secretary for one year. Robert Cohen also has helped keep the records of our meetings. Tony Walker keeps our contacts with Ontario Nature and Carl Linhart is our representative to the Michigan Audubon Society.

John Lehman is our “Wiki Master” and has shown all of us how to manage an information system that lets us keep track of birds in the area and other natural history items of interest.

In addition to all of the above John organizes the Annual Meeting, a time consuming task that involves many organizational skills. Thank you John for all your hard work.

The Christmas Bird Count is organized by Ken McIlwrick and his report is always on time, well organized and easy to understand.

A host of people volunteer as leaders of our outings and we appreciate them all: Ron Prickett, Val Walker, Cynthia Suhay, Harvey Robbins, Don and Vivan Hall, David Bell, George Ford, Cheryl Widdifield, Carl Linhart, John Lehman, Deane Greenwood, Adam Jones, Bob Currell, Dieter and Erika Ropke, Jeanne Mannesto.

Gladys and Cliff Wallwork continue to work hard to keep pictures and records of club activities in photographs and written material and we appreciate their dedication to that task.



**Program Committee Report, Submitted by John Lehman, Committee Coordinator**

*The Program Committee scheduled and coordinated the following programs for 2010.*

**January 12, 2010.** Dr. Jason Garvon, Assistant Professor of Biology at Lake Superior State University, gave a program on the current honeybee crisis, *Honeybees at Risk: The Facts About Colony Collapse Disorder*.

**February 9, 2010.** Walter Loope, Research Ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, presented a program on *Dune-mediated Landscape Change along the Southeastern Shore of Lake Superior*.

**March 9, 2010.** Geoffrey Steinhart, Assistant Professor and Co-Director of LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory, gave an illustrated presentation *Fishy Business: Research and Education at the Aquatic Research Lab*.

**April 13, 2010.** Caleb Putnam, who coordinates the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program for Michigan for the National Audubon Society, gave an illustrated presentation on *The Michigan IBA Program: A Site-based Approach to Bird Conservation*.

**May 4, 2010.** Bill Purnis described his travels to Iceland with his wife, Flo, in his illustrated presentation, *The Land of Ice and Fire*.

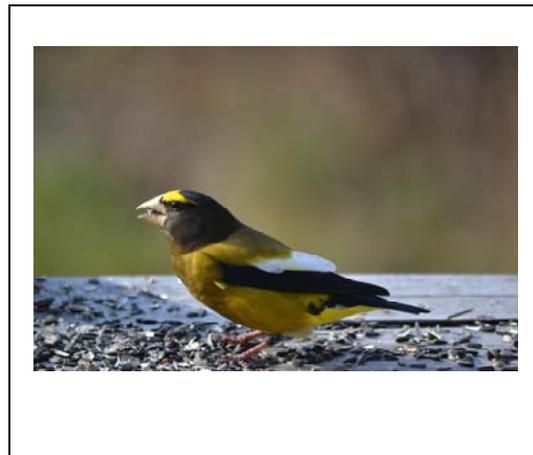
**June 8, 2010.** Harvey Robbins, recently retired from a 33-year career as Professor and Department Head at Sault College, presented an illustrated program on *Copper Canyon and the Mazatlan Region of Mexico*.

**September 14, 2010.** Nature photographer Paul Rossi presented an illustrated program on *Bird Photography*.

**Oct. 12, 2010.** Sue Meades, a field botanist affiliated with Algoma University, spoke on *Corridors for Life - Working to Improve Rights-of Way for Species at Risk*.

**Nov. 9, 2010.** Duke Elsner, Grand Traverse County agricultural agent & educator, gave an illustrated presentation on *Butterflies, Moths, and Species that Interact with Them*.

**December 14, 2010.** Our annual Holiday get-together was based on the theme *The Story Behind the Picture*, for which members were invited to present some of their favorite photos and tell what was special about each photo. Thanks to Leslie Askwith and Ron Prickett for their contributions as committee members.



## **Outings Report: Val Walker Coordinator**

### **2010 FIELD TRIPS REPORT**

The field trips in 2010 were a wide assortment of destinations each with a specific objective; be it bird watching, plant identification or just exploring our natural environment. We could be hiking, skiing or paddling. It could be right in town or to a relatively far flung location. In all cases, field trips offer an opportunity for members to engage, interact, share and be 'wonder filled' by the beauty around us.

Some of the highlights this year were the annual snowshoe trudge up King Mountain; skiing through the Lake George Wetlands; a three-day odyssey to Manitoulin Island for some botany, biking and bonding; the Algoma Headwaters Provincial Park tour, the ever popular Desbarats Bat Cave and the Delirium Wilderness Area hikes; the Kensington Conservancy paddle east of the Sault; yet another three-day excursion, this time to the Slate Islands for paddling and caribou watching; the Monocle Lake hike and the invigorating pub peddle to Tahquamenon Falls.

Some of the memorable field trips with a focus on education were the; Early Birds at Wishart Park; Swans and Waterfowl Watch; Spring (editable) Plants; Shingleton Bog tour; Flowers of Late Summer; Useful Wild Plants; Lake Superior Shore Geology and Fall Mushrooms.

The old favourites this year included an outing to Whitefish Point in April and the 4-day camp out at Point Pelee National Point in May for the spring bird migration.

This year we again partnered with our sister club, the Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter of the North Country Trail Association for two joint hikes. One was along the Naomikong shoreline of Lake Superior; another was in the

Castle Rock area over old beach ridges and through impressive pine forests.

All this is possible as a result of the time and commitment of those that offer to lead field trips and those that attend. Thank you all for your support. And happy trails!

Submitted by Val Walker  
Field Trip Coordinator

### **Research Award**

Graduating Lake Superior State University senior, Nick Steimel, from Suttons Bay, Michigan, was named the 2010 winner of the \$100.00 Sault Naturalists Research Merit Award. The presentation was made at an awards ceremony on April 17, 2010, in Crawford Hall on the LSSU campus in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

### **Christmas Bird Count**

**Ken McIlwrick , Christmas Bird Count  
Coordinator**

The Christmas Bird Count was another success on December 18 this year. Eighty one people participated and counted a total of 7,253 individual birds and 62 species on Count Day, and 64 species during Count Week. A more complete account of the day is available from Ken McIlwrick.

### **10 Most Common Species**

Black-capped Chickadee	1364
American Goldfinch	607
Rock Pigeon	580
American Crow	261
Common Raven	251
Pine Grosbeak	213
Bohemian Waxwing	194
Mourning Dove	193
Blue Jay	151
Common Goldeneye	151

**Financial Statement For 2010  
Prepared By Gail Andrew, Treasurer**

**Operating Expenses** (Account at CIBC in  
Canadian Dollars)

Balance Jan 1/10 \$3842.40  
Balance Dec.31/10 \$2588.54

**Total Receipts:** \$1788.00

Memberships: \$1683.00

Donations: \$105.00

**Total Disbursements:** \$3041.86

Newsletter: \$61.88

Postage: \$98.41

Insurance: \$1162.20

Bank Charges: \$20.84

US Exchange: \$122.47

Capital Projects: \$196.26

Ont. Nature/Nat. Can: \$375.00

Misc: \$1004.80

Receipts over (under)Disbursements: (\$1253.86)

GIC#1 \$2232.94 Maturing June 15/11

GIC#2 \$4078.30 Maturing Nov. 22/11

**Operating Expenses** (Account at Huntington  
National Bank in US Dollars)

Balance Jan 1/10 \$363.25

Balance Dec.31/10 \$450.50

**Total Receipts:** \$570.00

Memberships: \$570.00

**Total Disbursements:** \$482.66

Donations: \$300.00

Misc: \$182.66

Receipts over (under)Disbursements: \$87.34

**The Club gratefully acknowledges the following  
donations:** George Ford: \$55.00

June Koropecski: \$50.00. Conservation Authority:  
\$100.00

**Prepared Jan 14/2011 By Gail Andrew-Treasurer**

**Ontario Nature Report: Tony Walker  
Club Representative**

During the year 2010 many projects and challenges were taking place here in the Sault and Outlying area. One was the repair and maintenance of boardwalks and platforms, in particular the boardwalk at the Loony Park in Echo Bay. Ably assisted by fellow member Robert Cohen, several improvements and upgrades were put in place, a highlight on this project was the close up view of a Blue Gray Gnatcatcher.

Ontario Nature has opened up with a Biodiversity Charter 20/20. This is hoped to get several thousand signatures together to push the Provincial Government into meaningful action within the Province of Ontario, your support is essential on this Charter, please help and if you require further information please contact Tony Walker. our input on matters concerning Ontario Nature and the naturalist club's concerns should be brought to my attention. This way I can represent you best. – Tony Walker.

**Local Citizens Committee ( LCC )- Donna  
Ryckman-Rooney, rep.**

The Algoma Forest Local Citizen Committee of Sault Ste. Marie (LCC) formed in 1990. Since that time a Sault Naturalist member had participated to represent naturalist viewpoints regarding forest uses and benefits. This year the team for Algoma has finalized the Forest Management Plan for the years 2010 to 2020. LCC members have voiced concerns that social and economic benefits be discussed in more detail. Tourism and recreational values as well as fibre and other non-timber resources of the forest must be enhanced. Also an adjustment to the shelterwood system of forest extraction was proposed. The LCC unanimously approved a forest planning objective to address climate change. Our committee felt it was necessary to get the MNR and industry thinking about climate

change in a formal way. The committee has a good working relationship with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Clergue Forest Management Planning office however the planning process is complex and arduous. The Forest Management Planning Manual states that the local citizen committee be “integral” to the planning process as well as “monitor” the plan itself. This should continue to be the central focus of the LCC as it develops through time. I am pleased to sit on the committee on behalf of the naturalists. -**Donna Ryckman-Rooney**

### Support for the Science Fair

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rotary Club of Sault Ste Marie Regional Science Fair was held on April 22-24<sup>th</sup> at the George Leach Centre, hosted by Algoma University. The Fair is open to students from grades 7-12 in nine science categories. Since 2001 the Sault Naturalist has supported the fair by donating \$100 for the Gary Rahn Memorial Award for “Best Natural History Exhibit”.

This year Gary’s sister Margaret Cooper presented \$50 to Kristin Armstrong, Hannah Egerland and Candace Halfpenny (Anna McCrea Public School) for their exhibit on “New Found Fuels and \$50 to Storm Perry (Bawating Intermediate and Elementary School) for his exhibit on “Mummifying a Fish”. Gary Rahn was a long-time supporter and much respected member of the Sault Naturalist who passed away March 1998.

Our congratulations to Kirsten, Hannah, Candace and Storm.

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### What is a Wiki?

If you have internet access, then you have a comprehensive window into all the activities of the club as well as much more information about the natural world. John Lehman is our Wiki Master and he says---

A **wiki** is an interactive web site that is much easier to set up and use than a traditional web site. For example, Wikipedia is an interactive encyclopedia to which any user of the World Wide Web can make contributions. So a wiki provides a way to serve a community of people with common interests through the internet.

The SooNats web site is used not only to provide information to the membership but also to receive information from members and disseminate it to the rest of the membership. Birders can communicate with other birders, mushroom hunters with other mycophiles, and botanizers with other plant enthusiasts. Ultimately the web site will become a repository for the collective knowledge of the club; a place where anyone can share their success stories, advice, and useful information.

For example, you can make suggestions for future [Programs](#) and [Outings](#), or go to the [Suggestion Box](#) to suggest additions to and improvements of this web site. You can also report [Bird Sightings](#) and [Other Sightings](#) of interest. You can file or add to a report a club [Project](#), and you can make almost any kind of contribution to [Your Page](#). If you're not comfortable with the idea of editing the wiki yourself, just e-mail your text or photos to [jwillehman@gmail.com](mailto:jwillehman@gmail.com) in an attachment, or your contribution to John Lehman, 4555 S. Nicolet Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, and indicate where on the wiki you want it to be posted.

Anyone with access to a computer and internet connection can access this web site by entering its URL, <http://soonats.pbworks.com>, on a web browser. (If you forget the URL, just enter "soonats" on Google.) You can then view any part of the web site as described under “Navigating the Wiki.”

The SooNats wiki is a work in progress, so additional material and pages are added periodically. For more information about this web site contact the wiki administrator, John Lehman, at 906-635-5095 or [jwillehman@gmail.com](mailto:jwillehman@gmail.com).

## Chuck Bosley 1935-2010



**Chuck as we knew him best studying a mushroom, taking a picture, getting ready to discuss the fine points of identification, and living in the outdoors where he was happy.**

He laughed often and much;  
He won the respect of intelligent people;  
He appreciated beauty;  
He found the best in others;  
He left the world a bit better by his life

Goodbye Chuck, we will miss your gracious presence on the trail. - Sault Naturalists of Ontario and Michigan.

## Sault Naturalists Club Wins Conservation Award



The Sault Naturalists Club was awarded the 2010 Conservation Award presented by the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority. The plaque reads "In recognition of outstanding commitment and contributions to the environment in the Sault Ste. Marie watershed."

Dave Euler accepted the award on behalf of the Club from Dean Greenwood, a member of the Authority.

Dave said at the time "I am pleased to accept this award on behalf of the Club. I know that people in the club have worked hard on a number of environmental projects and this award is appreciated and Club members will be happy with this recognition."

