

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON CLUB

September 5, 2014

www.grandtraverseaudubon.org

BIRD NOTES

Autumn 2014

Hello fellow birders.

We are all looking forward to the rest of this year's programs. The most recent, our morning potluck, was well attended and a "good time was had by all!"

As you look at the program schedule you will see very interesting and varied topics. The board is well on its way working on the schedule for next year.

If you have any ideas concerning specific programs you'd like to have us consider please submit ideas to any board member. We think 2015 will be another excellent year of presentations.

Thanks to all of the GT Audubon Club board members for stepping up to make all aspects of the club be accomplished.

Pay particular attention to our Annual Meeting dinner information that follows. Our Speaker and Program presenter will be Will Rapai, author of "The Kirtland's Warbler: the Story of a Bird's Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It." You don't want to miss this event, which is coming up on October 18th.

Until then, see you at the September regular meeting on the 25^h., at the Nature Center.

From the pen of President Ed Moehle

Your 2014 Grand Traverse Audubon Club Board

President – Ed Moehle – 947-8821

First Vice President and Program Director – Carol Towar – 223-7108

Second Vice President and Environmental – Elise Brooks - 231 269-4343

Secretary – Karen Crane – (231) 421-1001

Treasurer – John Kreag – 264-8969 or Cell phone 360-0943 (jkreag@charter.net)

Newsletter – Shirley Mesch – (231) 946-3624

Members at large – Heather Peyton – 392-5699

Joe Brooks – 231 269-4343

Michigan Audubon Representative (MAS) John Mesch – (231) 946-3624

Past President – Missy Rassel – (231) 946-4715

Web-master Joe Brooks – (231) 269-4343

The nominating committee is looking for those among our membership who would be interested in serving as a board member and/or on one of several committees. Your Board is always on the look-out for your support and fresh ideas. Please contact anyone of the above mentioned board members with your interest. Please do so on or before the September 25th regular meeting. Thank you all for being such a wonderful diverse group.

Who is Walter Hastings?

Walter Hastings and the Memorial Fund
by Elise Brooks

Many new members of our club wonder who Walter Hastings was, and why we have a fund named after him. Some of our long-time members know that when our club was formed in 1957 it was named the Walter Hastings Audubon Club, in honor of this local naturalist, photographer, and lecturer.

In 1918 Walter E. Hastings received an inexpensive camera as a gift from his Boy Scout Troop, which started him down the path of photography. He later was hired by the Michigan Department of Conservation as their official and wildlife photographer, where he worked for 25 years. He was described at the time as Michigan's first conservation filmmaker. He became well known in the field of nature photography, and even made a film on lemmings for Walt Disney.

In the early 1950's, Walter Hastings taught at Leelanau Schools, and was approached by the founder of the National Music Camp, Dr. Joseph E. Maddy, about working for Interlochen. It was there that he started a museum to display his photographs, mineral collection, and other artifacts he had collected over the years. The Walter E. Hastings Museum opened in 1956, and still exists on the grounds of the Interlochen Center for the Arts. It is open during the summer session when students are on campus.

The Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan owns the correspondence, scrapbooks, some photographs, and other papers of Walter E. Hastings covering the years 1921-1962. The bulk of the photographic work of Mr. Hastings, from 1918-1960, is at the Archives of Michigan in Lansing. This collection includes approximately 130 b&w photographs; 2,000 b&w negatives (1/3 of which are on glass plates, and 900 of which are negatives of birds); color slides taken after 1945, some of which are stereo slides; and 83 16mm films.

In 1995 the name of our club was changed to the Grand Traverse Audubon Club, but many members remembered Walter Hastings, and wanted to continue to honor him. The Walter Hastings Memorial Environmental Education Fund was established to meet environmental and educational needs. The fund accepts memorial donations and monetary gifts. (Sorry, donations are not tax deductible.)

To see the list of those honored by memorial contributions, see our website at:

http://grandtraverseaudubon.org/?page_id=56

To see a list of projects the fund has supported recently, there is more information on our website at:

http://grandtraverseaudubon.org/?page_id=123

[Sources for this article include information compiled by former webmaster Kay Beerthuis, ArchiveGrid for information from the Archives of Michigan in Lansing, and the website of the Bentley Historical Library, U of M. Photograph identified by Michael Jorae, and further background information from Bob Carstens.]

Bird-call Performance, from the Walter E. Hastings papers, Box 1, Bentley Historical Library, U of M.
Most likely a photo of Walter Hastings.



Regular Meetings and Scheduled Field Trips.

Our 2014 year continues with great programs and activities for the coming year. We hope you'll join us to enjoy fellowship and to learn more about our local bird life. ALL REGULAR meetings are held at the Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road in Traverse City. (where the railroad track crosses the road 1.5 miles south of S. Airport Rd). A brief business meeting begins at 7:00, followed by an informative and entertaining program at 7:30. There are no meetings in June and July.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER THRU NOVEMBER

September

10-14 Field Trip: Seney National Wildlife Refuge. Birding by canoe, bicycle, and on foot. Meet at Big Cedar Campground in Germfask, 2:00 p.m., Wednesday and/or 8:00 a.m. Thursday-Saturday. Leaders: Leonard and Barbara Graf. Contact at 946-5120

25 – Regular Meeting: Where to bird in Arizona 7:00 p.m. at the Boardman Nature Center. Presenters; Karen Crane, Leonard & Barbara Graf, and John & Shirley Mesch. Contact 231 946-5120, 231 421-1001 or 231 946-3624.

October

11 – Field trip: fall Colors & Bird Hike. 9:00 a.m. Meet at Boardman River Nature Center, leader Heather Peyton. Question call her at 231 392-5699.

October

18 – Annual Dinner Meeting starting at 6:00 P.M. at Twin Lakes Camp. Speaker: Will Rapai, author of: “The Kirtland’s Warbler: the Story of a Bird’s Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It”. Send dinner reservations by October 10th to: Shirley Mesch. 9793 Edgewood Ave. Traverse City, MI 49685

November

20 – Regular meeting: *Osprey in Michigan: A story of Discovery*. Presenter, Holly Vaughn... Questions call (231) 947-8821.

December

18 – Regular Meeting: - 7:00 p.m. Photo Fest. Bring your photos, videos and other birding

“show and tell” and share them for all to enjoy. For further information call (231) 947-8821.

Christmas Bird Counts

December 14 – Antrim Area Count
John Kreag – Coordinator
(231) 264-8969 or Cell 360-0943

December 20 – Grand Traverse Area Count
Ed Moehle – Coordinator
(231) 947-8821

To Be Announced- - Leelanau County
Matt Winkler – Coordinator
(248)686-6699

If you are interested in helping with any and/or all of these counts, please contact the coordinator. All levels of interest in birds are welcomed!

“ANNUAL DINNER MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2014 GILBERT LODGE - TWIN LAKES PARK – 6800 NORTH LONG LAKE RD.

The gathering begins at 6:00 p.m., at the Grand Traverse County Twin Lakes Park, located just west of Traverse City, at 6800 North Long Lake Road. (Contact Shirley Mesch at 946-3624 or cell (231) 499-1318, if you are in need of directions). Starting at 6:00 p.m., Canteen Catering will be providing fresh fruit with cheeses and crackers. The buffet style dinner, which will begin between 6:30/6:45, with choices of : Chicken Cordon-bleu, Beef roll-ups, Red-skinned Potatoes, Green Beans, Creamy Pasta Primavera (vegetarian), Caesar Salad, with Dinner Rolls and Butter, coffee, hot water for tea selections or fruit punch, topped off with a cheese cake variety.

For a great dinner, program and an evening out, the cost is \$17.00 per person.

After the dinner, there will be a short, not more than 15 minute, business meeting for the election of the slate of 2015 officers. Then we will be welcoming Will Rapai, Author of “The Kirtland’s Warbler: the Story of a Bird’s Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It.” This program is scheduled to start at approximately 8:00 p.m.

So get that calendar out, use the form for reservations in this newsletter or from the club website and mail the reservation(s) in. Reservations should be made no later than October 10, 2014. If you have any questions about reservations, please call me at (231) 946-3624 or my cell at (231) 499-1318.

RESERVATIONS

Our Treasurer, John Kreag will not be available (something about bird watching in Australia) to receive your reservations. Therefore, you will need to mail your reservations and checks to: Shirley Mesch, 9793 Edgewood Ave., Traverse City, MI 49685

PLEASE NOTE: that if it has been your tradition to mail in your next years' dues at the same time as you make your annual dinner reservation, I will make sure that your Treasurer receives all of that information. **However**, if you are not attending the Annual Meeting and Dinner, but wish to just renew your membership, you should mail your membership dues to John Kreag per the address on the membership form)

PLEASE fill in the following reservation form and mail, along with your check of the amount, to me, per the address listed above. Your check should be made payable to: G.T. Audubon Club (GTAC). See you there!!!!

For Your Convenience, you will notice that there are forms for both the Annual Meeting and Dinner Meeting and a Membership (renewal) Form. Dues paid after September 1, 2014 are effective for the 2015 calendar year!

RESERVATION "MUST" BE MADE BY OCTOBER 10, 2014

Fill out the following form and mail along with your check made payable to:
"Grand Traverse Audubon Club"

MAIL to: Shirley Mesch
9793 Edgewood Ave.
Traverse City, MI 49685

Name: _____ Phone No. _____

Cell Phone No. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of Dinners _____ X \$17.00 per person = \$ _____
Dinner Total: \$ _____

Membership Dues \$ _____

Walter Hastings Memorial Environmental and Education Fund \$ _____
(please note that donations to this fund are not tax deductible)

Total \$ _____

If you have not yet updated your membership for 2015, please find below a form and explanations of where to send your information.

**Your 2014 Treasurer is John Kreag. Please mail your dues to him at:
7565 N. West Torch Lake Dr., Kewadin, MI 49648
Checks should be made payable to: Grand Traverse Audubon Club.**

**MEMBERSHIP - 2015
(RENEWAL)**

In order to continue receiving the Bird-alert and Club e-mails, membership's dues must be up to date. All memberships run the Calendar Year

Family - \$20 Individual - \$15 Student - \$8

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please include Area Code

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____.

E-mail address: _____

I would like to receive GT Audubon (club news) and Birdalert (news of area bird sightings) VIA e-mail address.

Newsletter Mailed VIA U.S. Post office. I do not use the Internet.

Donation to Walter Hastings Memorial Environmental & Education Fund: \$ _____
(please note that donations to this fund are not tax deductible)

Enclosed is a check made out to Grand Traverse Audubon Club --- Mail To:

John Kreag - 7564 N. West Torch Lake Dr.
Kewadin, MI 49648

For questions and/or further information concerning membership dues, please e- mail John at jkreag@charter.net.