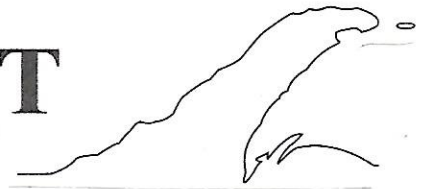


BROCKWAY LOOKOUT

Copper Country Audubon Newsletter Volume 26, Number 1, Feb/Mar 2019



MOTUS Bird Tracking in the Keweenaw

'Motus' is the Latin word for movement. The Motus project is a continent-wide effort to place a network of radio receiving antennas for tracking migrating birds, bats and even large dragonflies. Many readers will have heard of satellite tracking of wildlife. Tiny radio transmitters are placed on wolves, moose and even large birds that send location signals up to satellites enabling researchers to track their movements and migrations. But for very small birds the transmitters need to be even smaller, and smaller means less transmitting power. So, the network of receiving stations are being put in many places to allow researchers to track smaller animals, and more cheaply as well.

The official Motus website will surely explain it better - <https://motus.org/> . While there are hundreds of Motus receiver sites in the lower Great Lakes and east coast there are very few in Michigan so far, and only a few in the Lake Superior watershed. There is a large gap in antennas between Duluth and the Soo, so a couple antennas in the Keweenaw will really add to the knowledge of the movement of birds in North America.

The Motus website says there are several ways to track animal movement, such as band recovery, radio and satellite telemetry, and geolocators. Radio telemetry, which Motus relies on, is one of the oldest forms of technology used for tracking wildlife. Motus is unique because it relies on an array of semi-permanent sensors that simply wait for animals to pass within range and share their data with a central repository. Radio tags weigh significantly less than satellite tags and can be affixed on much smaller animals for a fraction of the cost. The costs and weight are only slightly less than a geocator tag, but the big advantage is that the animal wearing the radio tag doesn't have to be recaptured to access the data. The signals are detected by automated radio telemetry stations that scan for signals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. When results from many stations are combined, the antenna array can track animals across a diversity of landscapes covering thousands of kilometers.

A generous Copper Country Audubon member has donated several thousand dollars to fund the placement of one of these Motus receiving stations in the Keweenaw, and the CCA board has seen fit to fund a second antenna with money from our general fund. Phil Quenzi and Joseph Youngman are the main laborers involved in choosing locations and getting these antennas, receivers and power sources in place and we hope to have them up and 'listening' by mid-summer.

The antennas do not need to be tall as long as there are no trees where they are located. The antenna structure is similar to a TV antenna and does not pose a threat to birds. Ideal locations being considered at present are at the Calumet water treatment ponds on Hwy M-203 about a mile west of Calumet, and at the abandoned radar station on the road in to Gratiot Lake. They will need to have a small solar array for power, but they do not require much electricity to operate.

In the spring of 2020 Copper Country Audubon is funding the purchase of 20 tiny transmitters which will be used by Jared Wolfe, an ornithologist in the School of Forestry at MTU, to place on migrating warblers in two sites in the Keweenaw. Birds will need to be mist-netted in spring and the tiny transmitters attached to their backs.

It is thought that besides the 'normal' northward migration of birds, large numbers of warblers move from east to west through the tip of the Keweenaw each spring. Placing these transmitters and picking up their signals on our new receiver stations should help delineate the extent of that westward movement. Actually, this westward movement of warblers each spring was first noticed during our Manitou Island bird surveys in the early 2000's. Copper Country Audubon alumnus, Zach Gayk followed up on those early findings and has documented the movement of thousands of warblers westward past Bete Grise in both spring and fall. The 2020 warbler study should give us information about just how far west these warblers go, and how many might actually cross the great impediment of Lake Superior.

Copper Country Audubon is fortunate to be able to participate in this international research network. With the Motus system in place, not only warblers but other birds and also other wildlife can be tracked across the Keweenaw. The system can be used by a variety of other researchers. Our generous members and supporters of Copper Country Audubon make joining of this effort possible. Thank you all for your support.

Newsletter Note! Inside back page is the Calendar of Events! Events are open to all. Submit bird news and nature notes for the next newsletter to dlrichte@mtu.edu or call 906-482-3361. THANK YOU for your MEMBERSHIP and EXTRA SUPPORT for our PROJECTS !

SOME SPECIAL COPPER COUNTRY BIRDS: September 2018 – February 2019

- White-throated Sparrow** -12 Sep to present (this bird has been overwintering, see below), 6 miles southeast of Chassell.
Lynn Murphy and Joseph Youngman
- Harris' Sparrows** – 23 Sep, two birds, seven miles from Ahmeek, Keweenaw County. Nancy Auer
- Black Scoters** – 12 Oct, 38 flybys at Eagle River. Joseph Youngman
- Black-backed Woodpecker** – 15 Oct, Little Traverse Bay. Tim Grimm
- Black Scoters** – 18 Oct, two birds at Copper Harbor. Drew Meyer
- Harris' Sparrow** – 18 Oct, attending feeder at Eagle Harbor Marina Road. Drew Meyer
- Black Scoters** – 21 Oct, 2 at Ojibwa Beach, Baraga. Joseph Youngman
- Cackling Goose** – 21 Oct, Ojibwa Beach, Baraga. Joseph Youngman
- Snowy Owl** – 25 Oct, Seven Mile Point, Keweenaw Co. Nancy Auer
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – 27 Oct, moving along the beach area, 7 miles above Ahmeek. Nancy Auer
- Harris' Sparrow** – 7 Nov, Copper Harbor. Cherri Allen
- Great Black-backed Gull** – 11 Nov, 2nd winter bird, White City breakwall. Drew Meyer
- Carolina Wren** – 12 Nov, coming to a feeder in Houghton. There have only been three records in Keweenaw County (Manitou Island, Pt. Isabelle, and Eagle River). Michael Mullins and David Flaspohler
- Hermit Thrush** – 12 Nov, Agate Harbor (late date). Nancy Leonard
- Spotted Towhee** – 14 Nov & 29 Jan, Atlantic Mine, a western bird, seven records in the UP, two in Kew. Co. this is only the third record in Houghton Co. Ruth Gleckler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** – 14 Nov, Houghton, at feeder with Carolina Wren (late date). David Flaspohler
- Common Grackle** – 25 Nov, north of Alston. Doug Welker
- Common Grackle** – 25 Nov, Copper Harbor. Cherri Allen
- Common Grackle** – 1 Dec, Hancock. David Flaspohler
- Pine Grosbeaks** – 13 Dec, ~50 on Sturgeon River Road. David Flaspohler
- Ring-necked Pheasants** – 13 Dec, two birds along South Entry Road and U.S. 41. (probably escapes). David Flaspohler
- Pine Grosbeaks** – 18 Jan, about 20 birds on Lakeshore Drive west of Roy's in Houghton. Gina Nicholas
- Snowy Owl** – 5 Feb, at Houghton Co. Airport, worker there says it has been around awhile. Ken Moyle
- Bohemian Waxwings** – 17 Feb, about 50 birds on the corner of Franklin and 12th Streets in Houghton. Gil Lewis
- Evening Grosbeaks** – 27 Feb, five birds at feeder, Pequaming, Keweenaw Bay north of L'Anse. Karena Schmidt



JOIN THE COPPER COUNTRY BIRDING EMAIL LIST

If you would like to join the *Copper Country Birding* Email hot-line list, go to groups.google.com and search for: *Copper Country Birding*. Follow the prompts to send a join request to the list owner, and within a day or so, you should be approved and ready to participate. The purpose of this list is for local birders to discuss local birds. We discourage a lot of chatter that is off subject. Also, you must be a member of the list to post to it. Postings from outside the list are discarded. For information about the list contact Ted Soldan, tjsold@gmail.com.

White-throated Sparrow Overwinters Near Chassell

Six miles southeast of Chassell on U.S. Hwy-41, a White-throated Sparrow has been spending the winter underneath our tiny front porch. The porch is surrounded by snow banks so there is a small opening on the back side and an opening underneath the stairs. The snow protects the bird, but it also provides two escape routes. When we go in or out of the house, the bird will flush and fly underneath our White Spruce tree. It has a weak flight so it appears it doesn't have a lot of energy. We've been throwing seed underneath the porch because it doesn't like to come out in the open. So far, it has been hanging on. It's predicted that bitter temperatures will continue for another two weeks so we'll make sure we're stocked with seed. We always have White-throated Sparrows nesting in the summer here and hopefully this is one of them and it won't have far to go to its nesting site. -- Lynn Murphy

2018 HOUGHTON COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

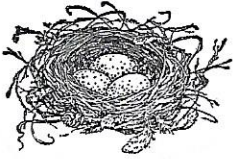
We had 16 folks come out for the effort on Saturday December 15, on a mild day with plenty of sunshine, but a relatively low species count of 33. Species included: Common Loon 1, Long-tailed Duck 31, Great Horned Owls 2, Barred Owl 1, Northern Shrike 1, Boreal Chickadee 1, Golden Crowned Kinglet 1, American Robin 4, Bohemian Waxwings 35, Pine Grosbeak 6, Evening Grosbeak 2, Ruffed Grouse 2, limited finches (Pine Siskin 7, Goldfinches 31). Water birds included 73 Common Goldeneye, 35 Common Mergansers and 1 Canada Goose. Regulars included 8 Bald Eagles, 48 Herring Gulls, 224 Rock Pigeons, 12 Mourning Doves, 13 Downy and 11 Hairy Woodpeckers, 6 Pileated WP, 69 Blue Jays, 53 Crows, 60 Ravens, 248 Chickadees, 27 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 14 White-breasted Nuthatches, 108 Starlings, 12 House Sparrows, 21 Wild Turkeys, and maybe one count-week Carolina Wren.

We welcomed new member Bill Duston, and gave prizes for most birds seen in area B, rarest birds = Common Loon and Boreal Chickadee in area A and a Shrike and Carolina Wren in area C. I stopped at end of remote road (at least I thought it was remote) to examine a map and while sitting there heard a surprising bird calling. I searched and found the bird - a Peacock, in a cage behind a small house. So obviously it doesn't count, but the bird sure startled me out of my short rest stop. Thank you to all who joined in! Happy Birding! -- Nancy Auer

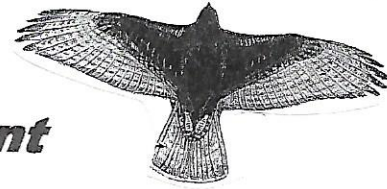
Copper Country Audubon Website Launched!

Thanks to Joseph Youngman and Phil Quenzi for creating our new website! Check it out at:

<https://www.coppercountryaudubon.org/>



Porcupine Mountain Hawk Count



The Brockway Mtn. Hawk Count always has hundreds of raptors last seen flying west. No one has ever seen large numbers of raptors seeming to fly north across Lake Superior from the Keweenaw. These two facts have led several of us to wonder where the thousands of Brockway raptors actually go after they move past the mountain. Our ponderings led us to guess that many of those raptors will mostly follow the western Keweenaw shoreline southwest, then west to Duluth and head north from there. This spring we're taking the first step in finding out if that guess is correct.

Copper Country Audubon will be hiring Ryne Rutherford, who currently lives near Silver City, MI, to spend up to thirty days counting migrant raptors at a spot called East Vista in the Porkies this spring. He won't be doing a full three month count as is standard at Brockway Mtn., but he'll count on the "best" weather days between 15 March and the 4th of May when other duties call him away. The East Vista is a smallish overlook at the very eastern end of the main Porcupine Mtn. escarpment. I've done some raptor counts there in the past and have seen raptors approaching from the east. They seem to divide there, some staying low and following the shoreline westward and some move somewhat west-southwest and move through the hills. By mid-May we'll have some results. ... *Joseph Youngman*

Isle Royale Waterbird Surveys – 2018 and 2019

As part of our continuing work on sussing out waterbird migration pathways across Lake Superior we had spring and fall efforts planned for last year. In the spring we had two observers head out there. I went to Passage Island and we hired Tim Baerwald to count at Blake Point on the main island. We had discovered that Blake Point has a significant spring movement in 2013. These birds were moving between Isle Royale and Passage Island and I wondered if the NE side of Passage Island had a similar movement. I was expecting that it would have a much lesser movement of birds. But I was wrong. Over at Passage's NE tip I had 309 waterbirds pass northward and Tim had only 133 at Blake Point. We were later in the season than we'd hoped to be – 16 to 22 May – which is past the peak waterbird migration. I did have fewer Common Loons pass than Tim had at Blake - 36 compared to 50. Not very exciting for us, or you, the reader.

I had planned a fall trip to the SW tip of Isle Royale to check waterbird migration there, but a burst of blustery weather prevented access to Windigo during the chosen period and nothing came of that. So, for 2019 we plan to retry that first ever fall study at the SW tip of Isle Royale and we'll set up a simultaneous waterbird count at Blake Point at the NE tip. I'll be volunteering at Washington Island at the SW and we'll hire Ryne Rutherford to count at Blake. The dates will be 26 September through 4 October. ... *Joseph Youngman*

Second Year of Point Abbaye Migration Study at KLT Preserve



Ellie Roark is going to be continuing the migration study begun at Point Abbaye last spring and described in the fall 2018 newsletter. Funded by Copper Country Audubon, Joseph Youngman, Drew Meyer and Dana Neufeld helped with that study. This spring will only be covering migratory passerines and will be using a protocol to try and determine if counts taken from audio recorders can be as effective in getting good counts as the normal, labor-intensive point counts and transects. The study is conducted on a Keweenaw Land Trust preserve known as Point of View.

Her study is titled, *Monitoring Bird Diversity in Migration Stopover Habitat: assessing extended duration audio recording*. From the abstract of her proposal, she will evaluate the use of Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) for detecting bird migrants using stopover habitat in the Great Lakes region of the United States. Because birds move and behave differently during migration than during the breeding season, refinement of migration-specific monitoring techniques is crucial to developing our understanding of avian species. The results of this study will provide insight into how ARUs can be used to supplement in-person observations to monitor birds during spring migration. A significant amount of the funding for this year's survey is from CCA and is being conducted in collaboration with KLT.

Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch 2019 ...by Debbie Mues



We are entering our 10th year of a formal spring raptor count on Brockway Mountain!! Although many informal counts had been conducted over the years, 2010 was the first year of a three-month long formal count with a paid professional counter. Under Hawk Migration of North America (HMANA) protocol the count begins March 15 and ends June 15th, is a 7-day a week, 9:00-5:00 (sometimes longer) count. Copper Country Audubon along with Laughing Whitefish Audubon (Marquette), began the Keweenaw Raptor Survey (KRS) in 2010. After three years, Copper Country Audubon along with Copper Harbor Birding continued it as the Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch (BMHW). Then in 2016 the Keweenaw Bird Research Group (KBRG) based in Copper Harbor took over the count. Copper Country Audubon remains a primary supporter.

Many people have been integral to this 10 year study, including everyone who has donated to BMHW over the years! First of all, the counters, who endure three seasons of often inclement weather, and need a variety of vehicles to get to the site. They have been amazing, professional, and dedicated individuals. We began with Max Henschell (2010), then Arthur Green, (2011, 2012), Calvin Brennan (2013, 2014) Tim Baerwald, (2015-2017), and finally Bob Baez, 2018. Bob is returning for this spring's 2019 count, and we are happy to have him rejoin us. Some of the people who have been instrumental in creating and/or maintaining the count include Joe Youngman, serving on the board of CCA, and for some time on KBRG, and a primary substitute counter, Zach Gayk of CCA and substitute counter, Skye Haas of Laughing Whitefish Audubon, Louie Dombroski on the Board of KBRG and a substitute counters, Bill Deephouse, treasurer of CCA, Dana Richter, president of CCCA, Karen Karl, president of KBRG, Hannah Rooks, treasurer of KBRG, and myself, secretary of KBRG and also a substitute counter. Ken and Vicki Stiegers of the Pines Motel in Copper Harbor have provided housing for the counter. Grant Township has lent ATV transport to the Count site until the road to Brockway is open, and until this year, Bill Degowski of Copper Harbor Birding was in charge of the upkeep, care, transport, and storage of the count shack - very necessary!!

On a sad note, Bill Degowski, who with his wife Bonnie operated the Tamarack Inn, passed away last Fall. Bill was very involved with BMHW, loaning the counter his snowmobile when the snowmobile broke down, hosting breakfast meetings and fundraising dinners at the Tamarack Inn, and offering a warm house, meal and friendship to the counters after a long day of work. He often was on the mountain watching with the counter. We will miss Bill! We are going to dedicate our new count shack to Bill Degowski.

Two new things this year -- we have a new counter shack, built by Tom Gemignani, and we also intend to extend the count period to June 30th. The count will begin as usual on March 15th, but could extend to the end of June. Raptor enthusiasts have observed over the years that there are some good migration numbers occurring after June 15th. We would like to document that.

We'll see you on the Mountain! Hopefully by Mother's Day the road will be open. Bring your binoculars and a lunch and stay awhile! You can follow the count numbers on hawkcount.org, or Dunkadoo, our new digital app we are using to count the raptors, and follow the posts on the website of Keweenaw Bird Research Group and Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch - <http://www.thekbrg.org/bmhw/> Happy Birding!

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN WILD TURKEYS AND CHICKADEES



Living at the edge of the earth like we do in the Keweenaw, we get to observe some extreme interactions among wildlife. Probably with help from humans, wild turkeys moved in to the area over the past ten years or so. A wild turkey is over 600 times bigger than a chickadee. That in itself is amazing -- that both can get through the coldest winter nights. This attests to the wonder of feathers. Sometimes when it is snowing, snow will pile up on the backs of the turkeys -- not even enough heat escapes from their bodies to melt the snow.

Wild turkeys and chickadees have developed a relationship that takes place right in front of my windows where I feed the birds. It is not really symbiotic because they both don't benefit, nor is it parasitic because neither is harmed. It is some sort of mutualism, if one gets scientific about it, but more simply, the wild turkeys feed on the chickadees trickle-down. Several times a day when up to 20 turkeys arrive, the ones who have learned will run to under the tube-feeder hanging from the house eaves. Chickadees feed by pulling out a seed and dropping it, pulling out a seed and dropping it, and so on. This might occur five times before a chickadee flies off to peck away at the seed to consume its contents. After awhile there are considerable seeds on the snow under the tube-feeder for the turkeys to eat. That is the trickle-down.

To a chickadee a sunflower seed is a significant morsel of food. But to a wild turkey it is not much more than a crumb. Curiously, while watching turkeys closely, they appear to pick up almost any dark speck on the snow. If it is only a half shell of a sunflower seed, out it comes from the side of their beak. With the deep snow they can now walk right up to the window platform feeder that is meant for small birds, and eat every last seed. Chickadees are afraid of turkeys, like they are of bluejays and red squirrels. Sometimes a brave wild turkey will jump on the platform feeder and be right up against the window -- now that is a scary sight, being 600 times bigger than a chickadee! ... *Dana Richter*

TURKEY ALERT! A CCA member feeding deer pellets, corn and oats in a woods clearing near McLain State Park reports up to three bald eagles perching in surrounding trees waiting for a family of wild turkeys to emerge in the opening so they can attack the young turkeys. Turkey feathers have been found where a likely kill occurred. There were nine turkeys in the fall and now there are only four.

A Brief History of the Web Cam at the Finlandia Jutila Center, And Things We Learned About Great Horned Owls ...by Phil Quenzi & Lynn Murphy



As most of you already know we installed a Peregrine Falcon nest box on the Finlandia Jutila Center, which is the old hospital in west Hancock, back in the spring of 2015 to provide the falcons with an alternate nest site when MDOT was doing some extensive maintenance work on the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. The falcons totally ignored the box, but last year a pair of Great Horned Owls raised two young there. The owls were first seen last March in the north tower lift bridge nest box, but then disappeared about the time the falcons returned in mid-March. In late March, 2018, Joe Youngman discovered the owls had moved to the Jutila nest box where they raised two young despite the late start.

Since it was pretty hard to view the owls in the Jutila nest box last year we asked Karin Van Dyke at Finlandia if they would be interested in partnering with us to install a web cam on the nest box in case the owls returned the following season. She readily agreed and Finlandia purchased the camera and we made the camera mounting arm. Finlandia installed a new outdoor electrical outlet on the roof of the building for the camera to plug into. The camera and arm were installed on November 1st last year and the REMC staff who handle Finlandia internet installed a new internet access point a couple floors below the camera to receive the video signal and get it online.

We finished all this just about the time the early winter cold and snow started around the middle of the month. Almost immediately in late November the Great Horned owls started to show up in and around the box every few days. On January 23rd of this year the female laid the first of two eggs in the nest box. Finlandia also purchased a rolling history plan for the camera which allows viewing camera video up to 5 days ago. They also “shared” the camera with Lynn Murphy, Joe Youngman and myself so we could monitor the past video and adjust camera zoom as required. The rolling history feature proved to be really useful as it allows us to scan the video from the previous night each morning to see what transpired at the box during the night. This provides a wonderful opportunity to closely monitor these nocturnal birds in a completely non-invasive manner that people rarely ever see. I wish the camera rolling video history could be shared with everyone, but bandwidth and other limitations prohibit that.

A couple of things that became apparent, especially after the eggs were laid, was how dedicated the male was to providing food for the nesting female. The Cornell site states the range for Great Horned Owls varies from as little as one-tenth square mile to over one square mile. Drawing a one square mile circle on Google Earth centered on the Jutila center shows the range would take in a good portion of Hancock, but would be well short of extending to the lift bridge or the Hancock beach. It would also include a fair amount of waterfront on both the Houghton and Hancock sides of the canal and some of the Houghton subdivision behind Shopko. It is surprising to me that the male can consistently return to the nest box most nights with a rabbit, squirrel, mouse, vole or weasel from a hunting territory that size.

Although Great Horned Owls have a very diverse diet it appears that the Jutila bird diet is mostly ground dwelling animals rather than birds, although it is sometimes hard to tell just what the prey was. When the male returns with food he does not simply drop it off, but rather brings it into the box and waits until the female takes it from him. When she was sitting on the eggs she would leave for 5-10 minutes to eat the food and return. The male sometimes would remain on the box perch and sometimes fly off while she was gone, but we never saw the male sit on the eggs.

Now that the first chick has hatched on February 27th and the second shortly after, she keeps some food in the box to tear into small pieces for the young. They seem to be very neat “housekeepers” unlike the Peregrine falcons. The male often stops by right around dusk and both birds “talk” to each other in low hoots and other chirping sounds I never knew they made. Maybe they are discussing where the male should hunt that night. It seems that whenever they are together they are “talking” to each other. The Cornell site also states they are monogamous and will often stay in the same territory year-round which seems consistent with what we are seeing.

The range of the Great Horned owl covers most of north and Central America and they are extremely well-adapted to cold weather. The Jutila owls seem to be totally unaffected by subzero temperatures, heavy snow and cold winds. The female even left the 5 day old chicks unattended for 20 minutes in 8°F temperature with no apparent ill effects.

Why they nest in the winter is not well understood. Possibly it is because when the juveniles are developing their hunting skills prey is most abundant. Also, there is less competition from other raptors at that time and less chance other raptors would prey on the young. You can watch the “action” by clicking on the Jutila web cam on the home page of the new Copper Country Audubon web site at coppercountryaudubon.org. The bridge web cams are also there and Peregrine Falcons are expected to show up around mid-March.

Preventing Bird Strikes at MTU's Worst Offending Windows

Several years ago Copper Country Audubon and the School of Forestry at MTU conducted surveys around several buildings at Michigan Tech to determine which windows on which buildings were the worst for killing birds. The study was overseen by ornithologist Amber Roth and her student Drew Meyer, and several student assistants. For several months during the summer over 150 dead birds were found averaging about 2 per day, with a maximum of 7 per day. About 75% of these deaths were from windows around the Dow Building. Moreover, about 75% of Dow window strikes occurred on the west side of the building. This study was done during non-migratory seasons and didn't include birds taken by predators, or birds that fell in inaccessible areas, or birds that were injured and died elsewhere. It also didn't survey all of the buildings on campus. It is estimated that the real number of bird strike deaths on the MTU campus could be as many as 500 to 1000 per year.

Bird's Eye View® window films are produced by Artscape, a developer of decorative window films to prevent birds from striking windows. The geometric plastic films are 6 in. by 6 in. and feature elegant designs reminiscent of frosted glass patterns. They cost about \$2.50 each. They are easy to install and clean, and are non-adhesive, so they are easy to remove as well. The films work by absorbing light in the UV wavelengths and re-emit it at the peak sensitivity to birds' vision. At this wavelength, humans see a faint white-blue, but birds see a bright blue glow spreading out in all directions across the window surface. The films are not one-hundred percent effective at preventing bird strikes, but having them on my large picture windows appears to reduce window strikes by up to eighty percent.

A graduate student in geology at MTU has taken it on herself to attach Bird's Eye View® window films to the worst offending windows on the Dow Building at MTU. There are about 40 windows to start out with. She has received permission from the necessary departments, recruited volunteers, and Copper Country Audubon will supply the window films. There are windows on other buildings at MTU that are particularly dangerous to birds also, and it is planned to do these windows, too. These efforts will help make Michigan Tech a bird-friendly campus. – D. Richter



From the Archives of Art Weaver, Founder of Copper Country Audubon

April 17, 1976. This was the day of the spectacular hawk watch on Brockway. My records show 317 Sharpshins, 147 Roughlegs, 50 Redtails, 22 Harriers, 7 Turkey Vultures, 5 Bald Eagles, 1 Peregrine for sure, 5 Ospreys, a few Broadwings, Kestrels and many "unidentified". And that was for less than a full day. Frank Isaacs, an MS student in ornithology, was doing his thesis on the hawk migration, and was very good at identification. He estimated that we saw over 800 hawks in the few hours we were there, but even he could not put names to all of them. We got all excited by what was first thought to be a Dark-phase Swainson's, but after we saw 20 of them, we knew something was wrong! A Swainson's of any kind in this region would be unusual, and a dark-phase much more so. A day or so later, someone with more reference books convinced the rest of us that they were "Super-dark-phase Roughlegs". I think this was one of the times we had to slog about three miles on the surface of the old snow, falling through every few steps, to reach the top of Brockway, as the road was open only for a short distance. (Ed. note: this is copied from Art's notes verbatim. DR)

May 23, 1976. First "Warbler Walk". Six of us met at 6:30 am in the Forestry Building lot and started off by hiking on the Tech XC ski trail. Later a few of us went by car to the Sands at the mouth of the Pilgrim River, to Chassell, the Sturgeon River Road and the Sloughs, where we saw a Black-backed Woodpecker, and tallied 69 species for the day.

During the first years, the Audubon group contained a good many people who were willing to help, most of them being undergraduate and graduate students, a few non-Tech people like Ray and Marj Krumm and Dave and Becky Bach, and I was about the only older person. We kept trying to increase the proportion of non-Tech members as we did not want to be known as "just another Tech club". We had monthly meetings during the school year, for which we tried to have wildlife films or a speaker, also the Christmas Count, some years an April "duck walk", and the "Warbler Walk".

April 16, 1977. The (in-) famous hawk count: we had planned to have groups scattered all along the migration route from Phoenix to the tip of the peninsula so that we could compare numbers and perhaps, if an unusual species went past, its time of record at the different stations would tell us something about its rate of travel. We had a lovely warm Sunday with light winds from the north, and almost no birds! And of course we couldn't wait for better wind conditions since we all had to be at school during the week. It was a good idea and our one attempt at really meaningful research, and it did not need a million-dollar grant from someone. If the weather had cooperated, we might have acquired valuable data.

THANKS to Marge Bertucci of Hancock for life membership in Copper Country Audubon!

THANKS to Renate Giannini who annually donates donations from her Eagle Harbor yoga class to Copper Country Audubon!



THANKS to Kurt Leuthold and the Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation for a very generous donation to Copper Country Audubon for continuation of our projects that benefit birds, bird habitat, and to advance the knowledge and appreciation of birds in the Keweenaw.

THANKS to Portage Health Foundation for a generous donation to Copper Country Audubon – birdwatching is a very healthy activity!

THANKS to everyone for your membership for Copper Country Audubon and especially for your extra donations that enable us to do our projects. Also, one of the most important things we can do for birds in the Copper Country is to engage and involve young people in their care and appreciation. Your support makes this possible!



****** !!! PUT THESE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR !!! ******

April and May -- Watch Hawks on Brockway Mountain! Choose a nice day with southerly winds and you may see hundreds of hawks per hour at eye level! Watch the Copper Country birder email list for updates or call Laurel and Hannah Rooks at the Laughing Loon to find out if it is a good day, 906-289-4813.

Tuesday April 9. Presentation: Upper Peninsula Wildlife Rehabilitation - Keweenaw Group, by Beth Maatta. The presentation will cover what we do as far as rehabbing wild birds of Michigan. We will touch on some of our cases from the past year and go over what the future holds. We had some activity this winter and even used the aviary! We are expanding our facilities to be able to provide care and rehabilitation to raptors when the Chocolate Raptor Center of Marquette retires within the next couple years. This includes facilities upgrades, supplies, donors and attending additional training on caring for birds of prey. **7:00 PM, MTU Forestry Building, Hesterberg Hall, Rm. G002.**

Saturday April 13. Crane Count. Report all the Sandhill Cranes heard or seen in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties from 6:30 to 8:30 AM. For an area to count contact coordinators Phil and Barb Quenzi, pjquenzi@gmail.com, 482-7476. See web site at www.cranecount.org. The crane count data sheet is: <https://www.savingcranes.org/crane-count-data-sheet/> Last year's data from the entire Midwest is also available at <http://www.savingcranes.org>.

Saturday April 13. Bird and nature walk at the Stampsands Trail to the mouth of the Pilgrim River. Help clean out and repair bird houses along the Peepsock Trail that goes to the mouth of the Pilgrim River. Waterfowl will also be seen. Meet at the Nara Nature Center on Highway 41 at 10:00 AM. If bad weather we will do it the next Saturday. Contact Dana Richter if you are coming drichte@mtu.edu or 906-482-3361.

Friday April 19. Lake Linden Recreation Trails Bird House Cleaning. Help clean out and repair bird houses where we have over 30 bird houses around Torch Lake. This is easy and fun, and you can learn a lot about nesting birds, too. Check out the water treatment ponds. Meet at the Lake Linden RV Park at 1:00 PM. Contact Dana Richter to let him know you are coming drichte@mtu.edu or 906-482-3361. If bad weather call for alternate date.

Saturday May 18. Point Abbaye Warblers with Ornithologist Ellie Roark. Ellie will host interested birdwatchers at her KLT research site on Point Abbaye to explore the area, see some birds and talk to folks about the research project. Meet at 10:00 am at KLT's Point of View property. Some hiking on potentially wet and muddy roads so waterproof boots recommended. Bring a lunch or snacks. Event will conclude around 1:00 pm. Check the KLT website <http://www.keweenawlandtrust.org/> for directions to Point of View cabin and possible car pool details closer to event date, or email KLT's Pat Toczydlowski: pat.t11@att.net.

Saturday May 25. Common warblers and spring birds along the Nara Nature Trails. Meet at the Nara Nature Center on Highway 41 at 9:00 AM. Rundown of Copper County Audubon projects and annual members update. If raining we will do it on Sunday, call or email to be sure: Dana Richter drichte@mtu.edu or 906-482-3361.



COPPER COUNTRY AUDUBON BOARD

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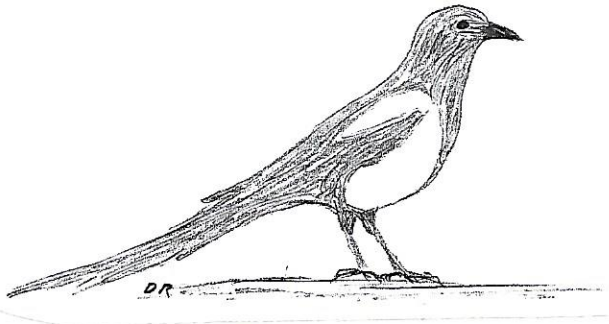
***BABY BIRDS?
LEAVE THEM BE!***

***Injured Birds?
UP Wildlife Rehabilitation-Keweenaw
Beth Maatta (906) 370-3825
Michelle Anderson (216) 577-2989
Or Contact Michigan DNR
Baraga 906-353-6651***

***GENTLY REMIND
YOUR FRIENDS
TO KEEP THEIR
CATS INDOORS!***

Copper Country Audubon Membership: \$25 Regular, \$10 Student, \$300 Life. CC Audubon is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization. *Is your Renewal Due?* After your name on the mailing label is the date your membership is due; your last donation was sent one year prior to this date. We're sorry for any mistakes; please let us know! Life members and courtesy mailings have no date. Your support for Copper Country Audubon is for the birds! *Thanks!*

Copper Country Audubon
P.O. Box 124
Houghton, MI 49931



Everyone's a Birdwatcher in the Keweenaw!