

A LOOK BACK AT 2008, PRAS's 42nd year!

The year 2008 was another busy one for PRAS, and we hope you enjoyed not only our indoor programs, but also our outings. Here's a summary of most of what happened. Hope to see you out there in 2009!

2008 Indoor Programs: Our programs were as follows:

January 8: A fine cup of coffee – a work of art, a chance for change, by Chris Treter – 41 folks
February 12: Birds of Note – linking music and our fine feathered friends, by Mary Whitmore – 32 folks
March 13: The Cerulean Warbler, its IBA, and its impact on tourism, by Thomas Funke – 24 folks
April 8: Live Raptors in Education, by Alison Falldin – 30 folks
May 13: Piping Plover Research and Recovery in the Great Lakes, by Dr. Francie Cuthbert
& Recent Botulism Outbreaks on Lake Michigan, by Kevin Cronk – 43 folks
June 10: Outdoor potluck at Bayfront Park – 29 folks
September 9: Loons of Round Lake, by Jeff Lange -- 52 folks
October 14: "Birding 101" & "Nuts about Squirrels", by Dick Mallery -- 34 folks
November 11: Protecting our Great Lakes, by Jill Ryan – 32 folks
December 9: Members' Slide Fest & Holiday Treats – 17 folks

A total of **334 people** attended these **10 programs**, for an average of 33 folks per program. A big thanks to each presenter for sharing his and her knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and to Connie Vorenkamp & Nancy Nowitzke for organizing them!

2008 Outdoor Activities:

Jan. 26 Snowshoe outing at Jake Snider's Woodlot (Jake Snider) – cancelled due to weather
Feb. 23 Winter Wonders at the Oden Fish Hatchery (Maureen Jacobs) --19 folks
March 29 Maple Sugar Tour at the Parsons Farm near Charlevoix (Sally Stebbins) – 16 folks
April 19 Sandhill Cranes return to the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron) – 13 folks
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Bird walks at Spring Lake Park (Sally Stebbins) – 71 folks
May 6, 13, 20, 27 Bird walks at Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) – 56 folks
May 10 North American Migratory Bird Count – 16 folks
May 17 Dingman Marsh birding (no leader) – 11 folks
May 24 Oden Fish Hatchery (Sally Stebbins) – 16 folks
June 3 Chimney Swifts in downtown Petoskey (Cindy Mom) -- 10 folks
June 8 Young State Park (Evelyn & Jim Howell) – 10 folks
June 14 & 15 Two orchid trips near Cedarville (Steve Baker) -- 15 folks
June 21 Hiking the North Country Trail (Margo Hodder) – 5 folks
June 28 Early Summer birding at the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron) – 12 folks
July 5 Birding Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) -- 10 folks
July 12 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins & Jodi Riggs) – 10 folks
July 17 Paddling Maple Bay (Burt Lake) (Jake Snider) – 11 folks
July 26 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins & Jodi Riggs) – 12 folks
August 1 Paddling Indian River Spreads (Mullett Lake) (Jill Ryan) – 9 folks
August 9 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins & Jodi Riggs) -- rained out
August 14 Birding Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) -- 7 folks
August 23 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (Sally Stebbins & Jodi Riggs) – 12 folks
August 26 Paddling the Black Hole (Cindy Mom) – 11 folks
Sept. 13 Birding Wilderness State Park & Sturgeon Bay (Dick & Linda Taylor) – 16 folks
Sept. 27 Fall Walk at the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron) – 30 folks
Oct. 12 Fall Walk at Dead Man's Hill & Jordan Valley Pathway (Sally Stebbins) – 12 folks
Oct. 19 Birding the Straits area (Steve Baker) – 11 folks
Nov. 22 Late fall birds at NCMC's Natural Area (Sally Stebbins) -- 7 folks
Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count – 17 folks

In 2008 a total of **445 people** participated in these **36 outings**, for an average of 12 folks per outing. A big thanks to each field trip leader, and to Sally Stebbins, for coordinating them!

2008 Treat Providers: Our indoor programs are made extra special, thanks to the delicious treats that seem to almost magically appear on the table each month. Thanks to the following folks for their "magic", and to Evelyn Howell for coordinating this important effort!

January 8 – Nancy Epstein, Jake Snider, & Susan Vrondan
February 12 – Linda Rachwitz, Linn & Glen Williams, & Connie Vorenkamp
March 13 – Jan Miller & Tom Newberry, Nancy Stamm, & Dolores Wehrenberg
April 8 – Jake Snider, & Connie & Steve Vorenkamp, Linn & Glen Williams
May 13 – Gale Brady, Audrey & Clint Etienne, Susie Frisk, & Joan Nowak
Sept. 9 – Joel & Nancy Epstein
Oct. 14 – Susie Frisk, Jim & Evelyn Howell, Martha Lancaster
Nov. 11 – Tom & Margaret Ritchie, Dolores Wehrenberg, & Glen Williams