

A LOOK BACK AT 2011, PRAS's 45th year! by Kenyon Stebbins

The year 2011 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 2012.

2011 Indoor Programs: Our programs were as follows:

January 11: Poetry in Motion: Birds as inspiration, by Wil Cwikiel—26 folks
February 8: Birding in Southern Norway, by Cindy Mom—42 folks
March 8: Colonial Nesting Birds of the Aleutian Islands, by Patrick Ryan—33 folks
April 12: Solo canoe paddle around Lakes Michigan and Huron, by Stephen Brede—38 folks
May 11: Predators and our strained relations with them, by Glen Matthews—35 folks
June 14: Outdoor potluck at Spring Lake Park—38 folks (24 stayed for a bird walk)
September 13: Bear River Watershed Restoration, by Jackie Pilette—30 folks
October 11: What Insects are in the Firewood Confiscated at the Mackinac Bridge? by Robert Haack—20 folks
November 8: Migratory Birds of the Eastern U.P. By Paul Rossi—50 folks
December 13: Members' Slide Fest & Holiday Treats—31 folks

A total of **343 people** attended these **10 programs**, for an average of 34.3 folks per program. A big thanks to each presenter for sharing his and her knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and to Cindy Mom for organizing them!

2011 Outdoor Activities:

Jan. 22 Snowshoeing the North Country Trail (Margo Hodder)—10 folks
Feb. 12 Snowshoeing at Jake Snider's woodlot near Brutus (Jake Snider)—6 folks
April 2 Paddling the Bear River (Cindy Mom)—9 folks
April 22 Earth Day Birding at Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron)—rained out
April 30 Rescheduled Birding at Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron)—14 folks
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Bird walks at Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick)—72 folks (7+12+15+18+20)
May 5, 12, 19, 26 Bird walks at Spring Lake Park (Sally Stebbins)—66 folks (13+18+22+13)
May 7 Dingman Marsh birding (John Kafer)—17 folks
May 14 North American Migratory Bird Count—10 folks
May 21 Bird the Dunmaglas Golf Course (Joel & Nancy Epstein)—16 folks
May 29 Birding the Oden Fish Hatchery (Sally Stebbins)—22 folks
June 7 Chimney Swifts in downtown Petoskey (Cindy Mom)—18 folks
June 10 Orchid trip near Straits Area (Steve Baker)—14 folks
June 18 Birding along the Boyne River (Audrey Etienne)—8 folks
June 25 Nesting Birds at the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron)—17 folks
July 12 Paddling Burt Lake's Maple Bay & Bullhead Bay (Jake Snider)—7 folks
July 16 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift (Sally Stebbins & John Riggs)—14 folks
July 23 Paddling the Crooked River (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster)—13 folks
July 28 Birding the Bear River Pathway in downtown Petoskey (Sally Stebbins)—12 folks
August 6 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift (Sally Stebbins & John Riggs)—19 folks
August 13 Breakfast & Birding the Bay View Woods (Sally Stebbins)—9 folks (rained out)
August 19 Biking & Birding near Wolverine (Margo Hodder)—6 folks
August 28 Paddling French Farm Lake (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster)—11 folks
Sept. 11 Birding Sturgeon Bay & Wilderness State Park (Dick & Linda Taylor)—17 folks
Sept. 25 Fall Walk at the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron)—33 folks
Oct. 9 "Big Sit!" at Thorne Swift (Sally Stebbins)—6 folks
Oct. 21 Birding the Straits area (Steve Baker)—15 folks
Nov. 20 Birding around Little Traverse Bay (Sally Stebbins)—9 folks
Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count (Ed Pike)—21 folks

A total of **491 people** participated in these **35 outings**, for an average of 14 folks per outing. A big thanks to each field trip leader, and to Sally Stebbins, for coordinating them!

2011 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 Nancy Epstein for coordinating this important effort! And thanks also to Jake Snider for handling the raffles at the meetings!

January 12: Nancy & Joel Epstein, Tom & Margaret Ritchie
February 9: Ron Krause
March 9: Jake Snider & Dolores Wehrenberg
April 13: Sally Stebbins, Glen & Linn Williams, Clare Sullivan & Perry Nelson
May 13: Ron Krause, Roberta Vander Breggen & Dolores Wehrenberg
Sept. 14: Nancy Epstein, Evelyn Howell
Oct. 11: Randy & Susan Clara, Jo Mertz, & Sally Stebbins
Nov. 8: Jake Snider, MaryLou Tanton, & Roberta VanderBreggen