

A LOOK BACK AT 2012, PRAS's 46th year! by Kenyon Stebbins

The year 2012 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 2013.

2012 Indoor Programs: Our programs were as follows:

January 10: Isle Royale National Park, by Robert DeJonge – 40 folks
February 14: The Story of Kirtland's Warbler Conservation, by Keith Kintigh – 33 folks
March 13: The Flora and Fauna of Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras, by Susan Fawcett – 31 folks
April 10: Michigan's Grassland Ecosystems, by Vern Stephens – 44 folks
May 8: Yellowknife Spring, by Jim & Kathy Bricker -- 40 folks
June 12: Outdoor potluck at Spring Lake Park – 27 folks
September 11: Kestrel nest box program on LTC program, by Jim Bean – 32 folks
October 9: What's the Point? (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory), by Tony Janisch – 31 folks
November 13: "The Swamp Rattler" by Aaron Veselenak – 29 folks
December 11: Member's Slide Fest & Holiday Treats – 27 folks

A total of **334 people** attended these **10 programs**, for an average of 33.4 folks per program. A big thanks to each presenter for sharing his and her knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and to Cindy Mom & Jake Snider for organizing them!

2012 Outdoor Activities:

Jan. 14 Snowshoeing at the Waldron Fen (Margo Hodder) – 10 folks
Feb. 12 Snowshoeing at Raven Hill Discovery Center (Jim & Evelyn Howell) -- 6 folks
March 17 Birding Petoskey's Harbor & the Bear River Pathway (Sally Stebbins) – 14 folks
April 6 Owl Banding at the Headlands (Ed Pike) – 12 folks
April 10 Hawk Watching at Mackinaw City (Steve Baker) – 8 folks
April 21 Hawk Watching at Mackinaw City (Steve Baker) – 7 folks
April 22 Earth Day Birding at Oden Fish Hatchery (Sally Stebbins) – 16 folks
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Bird walks at Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) – 69 folks (9+12+12+18+18)
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Bird walks at Bear River Pathway (Sally Stebbins) – 68 folks (3+14+15+19+17)
May 5 Birds and wildflowers at the NCMC Natural Area (Margo Hodder) – 5 folks
May 12 North American Migratory Bird Count – 14 folks
May 19 Dingman Marsh birding (John Kafer) – 10 folks
May 27 UP birding (Paul Rossi) – canceled due to rain
June 2 Birding along the Boyne River (Audrey Etienne) – canceled due to rain
June 7 Chimney Swifts in downtown Petoskey (John Shreves) -- 12 folks
June 15 Habitats and Inhabitants at Seven Springs Preserve (Mike Supernault) – 3 folks
July 1 Birding Birchwood Farms Forest Trail (Sally Stebbins) – 9 folks
July 8 Paddling Six Mile Lake near Ellsworth (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster) – 9 folks
July 9 Paddling Burt Lake's Maple Bay & Bullhead Bay (Jake Snider) – 9 folks
July 14 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift (Sally Stebbins & John Riggs) - 8 folks
July 20 Paddling the Indian River Spreads (Jill Ryan) – 9 folks
July 28 Summer Birds at the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron & Sally Stebbins) – 12 folks
August 5 Birding the Oden Fish Hatchery (Sally Stebbins) – 10 folks
August 11 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift (Sally Stebbins & John Riggs) - 14 folks
August 25 Paddling Wycamp Lake near Cross Village (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster) – 6 folks
August 27 Early Birding at Spring, Mud, & Round Lakes (Tracy Datlen) – 8 folks
Sept. 5 Birding Sturgeon Bay & Wilderness State Park (Dick & Linda Taylor) – 18 folks
Sept. 22 Ferns, Flowers & Birds in the U.P. (Steve Baker) – 16 folks
Sept. 29 Kestrel Nestbox Workshop at LTC Stutsmanville Bog (Jim Bean) – 21 folks
Oct. 7. Fall Birds & Views at Dean Man's Hill & Jordan Valley Pathway (Sally Stebbins) – rained out
Oct. 13 Fall Birds at the Oden Fish Hatchery (Sally Stebbins) – rained out
Nov. 10 Birding around Little Traverse Bay (Sally Stebbins) – 10 folks
Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count (Ed Pike) – 19 folks

A total of **432 people** participated in these **37 outings**, for an average of 11.7 folks per outing. A big thanks to each field trip leader, and to Sally Stebbins for coordinating them!