

February 2016

President's Report

Hi folks. At our last meeting, our 2015 annual donations to organizations were reviewed and approved. Among others we have given to in the past several were added, like The Northwoods Trout Unlimited Chapter, the Raptor Education Group in Antigo, Fishing Has No Boundaries in Eagle River, and The Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff. These dona-

tions will be distributed to them. We are pleased to foster education and training that helps preserve the natural resources in Northern Wisconsin.

About 25 hardy souls braved the wonderful Wisconsin winter weather for our January Meeting, which was very informative, presented by Bart Kotarba from the Northwoods Wildlife Center. He introduced and reviewed a number of natural plants and other vegetation that are important to help animals and birds survive the cold up here. He also showed and discussed a really cute saw whet owl they have



Above: Bruce Kotarba with saw whet owl from Northwoods Wildlife Center at our January meeting.

in residence, who is blind in one eye.

Please note: our friends at Wild Instincts in Rhinelander are seeking raptor rescue and transport driver volunteers in the Northwoods. The training is short - about an hour...if you're interested in this worthy endeavor, contact them @ [715-362-9453](tel:715-362-9453). Looking forward to see you at our next meeting on February 28th - Organic farming and community supported agriculture.

Marv Anderson, President



SAYNER-ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB, INC.

Paw Prints

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Meetings held YEAR-ROUND 4th Thurs. of the month.
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NEXT MEETING

Thurs., Feb 25
7:00 PM

St. Germain Community Ctr

PROGRAM

CSAs & Organic Farming
With Jenny Tuckey, Evergood Farms

BOARD MEETING

Thurs., Feb 25
6:00 PM

St. Germain Community Ctr

Frank's Fishing Report

Ice conditions in the north are not good at this time. Snow cover has slowed formation on many lakes. You can have 12" in one location and 6" 100 yards away. Be very careful.

Fishing has been slow due to cold water at this time of year. Many tip-ups are not touched all day. Jigging for panfish is hit or miss. Concentration is the name of the game and even then catches are small.

Better days are coming. Last ice should produce better.

Frank Klamik



A big thanks to Club members, the McGill family for continuing to do highway cleanup along County Highway C and the bike trail. Above is a photo of Kelly, Mike and their son with their garbage haul from April of 2015. Your volunteer hours and service to the community are greatly appreciated! (I forgot to include this photo in the newsletter last summer, but wanted to be sure to recognize their work.)

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

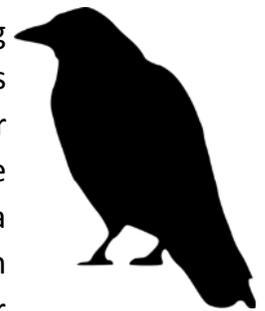
On one of our daily woods walks this week, we heard the call of a raven at regular intervals. The hoarse calls of the Common Raven can be heard more frequently this time of year as their breeding season begins. In February or March, a pair will build a stick nest which measures about four feet across. Watch for nest building activity like ravens flying with a large stick in their talons or activity high up in a conifer tree, which is their preferred nesting site. A pair will often use the same nest for multiple years. Once their nest is built, the female lays three to seven eggs which the pair incubates for about three or four weeks. In northern Wisconsin, young ravens usually fledge by some time in May. Raven pairs will often remain together for several years.

Many people don't distinguish ravens from crows, but the former are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Unfortunately, their similarity to crows lead to many accidental shootings during the crow hunting season. Both birds are black in color, but the raven is about 27" in length. Crows average about 20" in length. In flight the birds differ slightly in appearance. The raven's tail appears wedge-shaped rather than rounded like the crow, and the feathers on the raven's wing tips look like four long, narrow 'fingers' rather than the five broad 'finger' feathers of the crow. Most distinct is the difference in their vocalizations. While crows have the very familiar loud caw-caw and rattle calls, the raven has a deeper, harsh croak, which is repeated several times in succession. Ravens have other calls as well,

like a hollow popping or hooting call which sounds like they are calling from inside of a culvert.

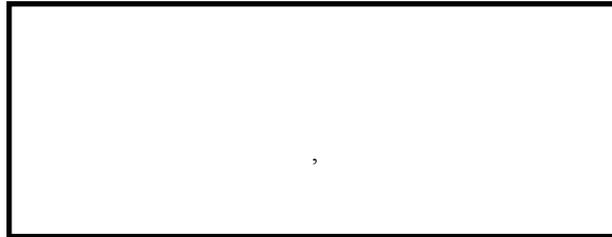
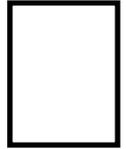
While crows tend to travel in larger groups, ravens are less social, often traveling alone or in pairs. They are known for their aerial acrobatics and can be seen doing flips and rolls while in mid-air. There are even reports of them being able to fly upside down for distances of almost half a mile. Ravens are considered to be the most intelligent birds in the world and have been shown to solve complex puzzles. In the wild, ravens live about 10 years, but in captivity they can live up to 50 years.

Because ravens are among the earliest spring breeders in the Northwoods, their breeding activity will be among the first of my data collected for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II for 2016. If you didn't take part in the survey last year, I encourage you to check out their website and see what it is all about (<http://wsobirds.org/>). Data will continue to be collected on bird breeding activities in the state through 2020, so you still have a chance to help contribute. Observing, recording and entering the data is easy, and it is also interesting to look at their interactive map showing recorded observations of birds and their breeding activity throughout the state.



Anne Small

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CLUB PLEDGE

- ✓ I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the state of Wisconsin—especially of the Sayner-St. Germain area.
- ✓ I promise to obey all rules and regulations governing the harvest of wildlife and plants.
- ✓ I promise to educate future generations so they may become care-takers of our water, air, land and wildlife.

Phone numbers are included so that you may pass along any information, questions and concerns you may have regarding the club.