

## **A LOOK BACK AT 2013, PRAS's 47th year!**

by Kenyon Stebbins, PRAS Secretary

The year 2013 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. We hope to see you out there in 2014.

### **2013 Indoor Programs:**

January 8: Alaska's Highways and Byways, by Jake Snider – 45 folks  
February 12: Snakes Alive!, by Jim McGrath – 90 folks  
March 12: The history of timber wolves in Michigan, by Michael Cromley – 53 folks  
April 9: The Kirtland's Warbler – Fight against Extinction, by Bill Rapai – 31 folks  
May 14: Lake Michigan/Huron Low Levels, by Roger Gauthier – 31 folks  
June 11: Outdoor potluck at Spring Lake Park – 32 folks  
September 10: Hiking the U.P.'s Porcupine Mountains, by Rick Barber – 43 folks  
October 8: Forest Succession in Northern Michigan, by Luke Nave – 20 folks  
November 12: "Volunteer water quality monitoring in northern Michigan" by Kevin Cronk – 15 folks  
December 10: Member's Slide Fest & Holiday Treats – 8 folks

A total of **368 people** attended these **10 programs**, for an average of 36.8 folks per program. A big thanks to each presenter for sharing his and her knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and to Jake Snider for organizing them!

### **2013 Outdoor Activities:**

Jan. 14 Snowshoe at the LTC Black Hole Preserve near Alanson (Doug Fuller) – 16 folks  
Feb. 12 Snowshoe at NCMC's Natural Area & tour the new science center (Kathy Germain) – 5 folks  
March 16 Walk at Raven Hill Discovery Center near East Jordan (Evelyn Howell) – 7 folks  
March, April, May Hawk Watching at Mackinaw City (Steve Baker) – approx 49 PRAS members  
April 21 Birding at Fisherman's Island State Park (Darrell Lawson) – 11 folks  
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Bird walks at Spring Lake Park (Sally Stebbins) – 52 folks (9+11+17+15)  
May 7, 14, 21, 28 Bird walks at Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) – 33 folks (9+9+15)  
May 4 Dingman Marsh birding (John Kafer) – 17 folks  
May 11 North American Migratory Bird Count – 11 folks  
May 18 Birding along the Boyne River (Darrell Lawson) – 15 folks  
May 26 Vesper birding at the Waldron Fen (Sally Stebbins) – 25 folks  
June 1 Birding the Bay View Woods (Tracy Datlen) – 10 folks  
June 4 In Search of the American Bittern (Darrell Lawson) – 10 folks  
June 8 Birding at the Headlands near Mackinaw City (John Kafer) – 13 folks  
June 11 Bird Walk at Spring Lake Park (after picnic) – 17 folks  
June 19 Chimney Swifts in downtown Petoskey (John Shreves) -- 30 folks  
June 27 Summer birds at Oden Fish Hatchery (Sally Stebbins) -- 13 folks  
July 20 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift (Sally Stebbins & John Riggs) - 11 folks  
July 22 Paddling Burt Lake's Maple Bay & Bullhead Bay (Jake Snider) – 6 folks  
July 27 Paddling Six Mile Lake near Ellsworth (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster) – rained out  
August 1 Paddling Larks Lake (Sally & Bill Brown) – 5 folks  
August 10 Birds & Blooms at Thorne Swift (Darrell Lawson & John Riggs) - 14 folks  
August 11 Paddling the Crooked River (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster) – 3 folks  
August 20 Paddling the Indian River Spreads (Tucker Harris) – 9 folks  
Sept. 3 Birding Sturgeon Bay & Wilderness State Park (Dick Taylor) – 26 folks  
Sept. 14 Birding Whitefish Point area (Darrell Lawson) – 12 folks  
Sept. 18 Rare UP Ferns (Steve Baker) – 6 folks  
Sept. 28 Birding Whitefish Point area (Darrell Lawson) – 13 folks  
Oct. 11 Owl Banding at Point LaBarbe (Ed Pike) – 8 folks  
Oct 12 Fall Birds at Fisherman's Island State Park I (Darrell Lawson) – 9 folks  
Nov. 9 Fall Birds at Fisherman's Island State Park II (Darrell Lawson) – 4 folks  
Nov. 16 Birding around Little Traverse Bay (Darrell Lawson) – 9 folks  
Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count (Ed Pike) – 17 folks

A total of **487 people** participated in these **37 outings**, for an average of 13.2 folks per outing. A big thanks to each of the 20 field trip leaders, and to Sally Stebbins for coordinating them for her 11th consecutive year!