

## **A LOOK BACK AT 2014, PRAS's 48th year!** by Kenyon Stebbins, PRAS Secretary

The year 2014 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 2015.

**2014 Indoor Programs:** Our programs were as follows:

January 14: All about E-Bird, by Darrell Lawson – 22 folks  
February 11: Michigan Turtles, by Jim McGrath – 60 folks  
March 11: Ospreys in Michigan, by Katie Keen – 38 folks  
April 8: Seney National Wildlife Refuge, by Ronnie Allen – 40 folks  
May 13: A Michigan wildlife sampler, by Michael & Teresa Gill – 41 folks  
June 10: Outdoor potluck at Spring Lake Park – 31 folks

September 9: Sea Lamprey Research at Hammond Bay, by Melissa Pomranke – 22 folks  
October 14: Kirtland's Warbler Alliance, by Abby Ertel -- 20 folks  
November 11: Grand Traverse Birding by Dave Barrons – 25 folks  
December 9: Member's Slide Fest & Holiday Treats – 22 folks

A total of **321 people** attended these **10 programs**, for an average of 32.1 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!

**2014 Outdoor Activities:**

Jan. 11 Ferry Road Raptors near Charlevoix (Darrell Lawson & Suzanne Muma) – 7 folks  
Feb. 1 & 2 Two days around the Soo (Darrell Lawson) – 3 folks  
Feb. 8 Snowshoe at NCMC Natural Area (NCMC Biology students) – 28 folks  
March, April, May Hawk Watching at Mackinaw City (Ed Pike) – untold PRAS members  
April 5 Saginaw Bay in the Spring (Darrell Lawson) – cancelled  
April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28 Sparrow Identification at Lawsons (Darrell Lawson) – 40 folks (rain + 6 + 10 + 18 + 6)  
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Bird Walks at Spring Lake Park (Kenyon Stebbins) -- 70 folks (6 + 14 + 11 + 22 + 27)  
May 3 Birding the NCMC Natural Area (NCMC Biology students) – 9 folks  
May 4 Birding the Oden Fish Hatchery (Cynthia Donahey) -- 9 folks  
May 6, 13, 20, 27 Bird Walks at Pond Hill Farm (John & Joanne Biddick) -- 25 folks (5 + 8 + rain + 12)  
May 10 North American Bird Count (Ed Pike, compiler) – 14 folks  
May 25 Birding the Oden Fish Hatchery (Cynthia Donahey) -- 20 folks  
May 31 Birding the Bay View Woods (Tracy Datlen) – 21 folks  
June 7 Birding LTC's Ransom Nature Preserve (Darrell Lawson) -- 19 folks  
June 10 Spring Lake Park bird walk after picnic – 20 folks  
June 14 & 15 Allegan State Game Area (Darrell Lawson) -- 7 folks  
June 18 Chimney Swifts in downtown Petoskey (John Shreves) -- 30 folks  
June 21 Kirtland's Warbler tour near Grayling (Darrell Lawson) -- 17 folks  
June 25 Birds of the Bay View Woods (Tracy Datlen) – 20 folks  
July 5 Birding Spring Lake Park (Mary Trout) – 11 folks  
July 9, 16, 23 Lunchtime Beginner Birding at Bayfront Park (Cynthia Donahey & Tracy Datlen) – 41 folks (11 + 13 + 17)  
July 12 Birding at the Lavender Farm near Boyne City (Tracy Datlen) -- 13 folks  
July 24 Paddling the Crooked River from Alanson (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster) -- 7 folks  
August 10 Paddling Wycamp Lake near Cross Village (Cynthia Donahey & Art Schoolmaster) – 10 folks  
Sept. 8 Birding Wilderness State Park & Sturgeon Bay (Dick Taylor) – 25 folks  
Sept 18 Fall Walk at the Waldron Fen (Nancy Waldron & Sally Stebbins) – 33 folks  
Oct. 10 Owl Banding at Pt. LaBarbe near St. Ignace (Ed Pike) - 4 folks  
Oct. 11 Wildlife Walk at NCMC Natural Area (NCMC students) - 6 folks  
Oct. 16 Paddle Larks Lake (Sally & Bill Brown) – cancelled due to rain  
Oct. 25 Walk the Hindle-Ross Trails near Cross Village (Debbie Hindle & Ken Ross) – 14 folks  
Nov. 15 Birding around Little Traverse Bay, with Darrell Lawson – 7 folks  
Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count (Ed Pike) – 21 folks

A total of **550 people** participated in these **40 outings**, for an average of 13.9 folks per outing.

A big thanks to each of the 20 field trip leaders, and to Sally Stebbins for coordinating them for her 12th consecutive year! On Dec. 31, 2014 Sally resigned her position, and wishes Tracy Datlen as much satisfaction as she enjoyed.