

TIME TO RENEW!

Membership dues at Benzie Audubon run from annual meeting to annual meeting. That means it's time to renew your membership! For everyone's convenience we have enclosed a self-addressed return envelope that also serves as a renewal form. Just complete the form, enclose your check, stamp the envelope and drop it in the mail.

--Char Ester, Membership Chair

2009 SCHEDULE

When you renew your membership you will be supporting programs like the two already scheduled for 2009, receive our newsletter and e-mail notices of programs and field trips.

2009 Programs Scheduled so far

January Meeting - Bats

March Meeting- Purple Martins



Fork-tailed Bush Katydid

When you are out and about remember there are other insects besides dragonflies to discover.

Field Trip Planning Meeting

Saturday Nov. 1st - 10 AM at Carl Freeman's (352-4739).

Anyone interested in helping to plan field trips is welcome to come and put in your 2 ¢ worth about field trips for next year.

Mini-Grants

Benzie Audubon offers Mini grants to anyone in Benzie Co. with a natural history related project that needs funding. Go to <http://www.benzieaudubon.org/mini-grants.html>

to get an application form.

Our Mini-grants are supported by donations. Benzie Audubon recently received a donation in the name of Virginia Weadock. We are very grateful for this generous donation. The people of Benzie County will benefit through activities supported by donations like this.

Examples of Mini-Grants funded this year are Wings of Wonder Raptor Program, Platte River Elementary School; Wren House building (see article p. 2); Crystal Lake Elementary 2nd grade field trip to a bog; Bird Seed for the feeders at the Maples (in progress).



Frigatebird

Be sure to call the Editor (that's Carl at 352-4739) first if you see one of these.

Benzie Audubon Web Site

www.benzieaudubon.org

Our web site is being kept up to date and enhanced by John Ester. Schedule of activities, membership information, etc. Especially look at the pictures page which is updated as new photos become available. Contact John if you have a photo to share.

MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER IN THE WORLD ?

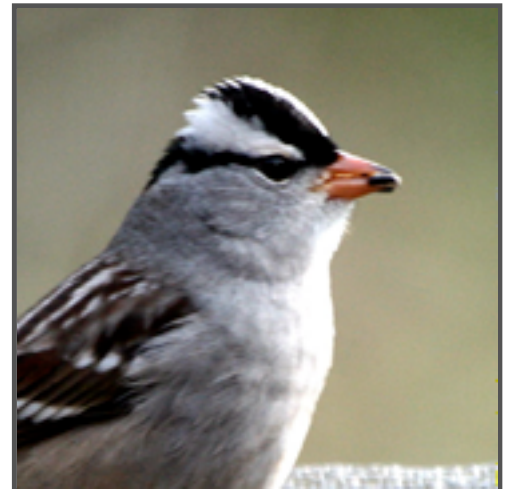
No, it is not your computer password. It is the safe line for parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere to stabilize the Earth's climate. Go to

www.350.org

and become informed about the **most important issue of our time.** Right now you might think that is the current financial crisis but if global climate change continues on the present path it will make any problems we have now seem trivial.

Recent Sightings

It has been a good fall for sparrows, especially White-crowns. Brian Allen spotted an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull on the beach in Manistee. There was one there last year for a while and sometimes gulls have been known to return to the same place for years. A true vagrant was a Frigatebird reported over Lake Leelanau. This is a bird of tropical seas and was probably forced off course by a hurricane. Oct. is a good time for waterfowl in Lake MI with Cm. Loons, Horned Grebes, Red-necked Grebes, and White-winged Scoters being seen off Pt. Betsie.



White-crowned Sparrow - Adult Complete with sunflower seed in its bill (not a field mark!)