

# Audubon Log

*Bimonthly Newsletter of the  
Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.*

*January - February 1998*

*Issue No. 156*

## **Door County Land Trust**

*Efforts to save some of  
Door County's natural areas*

*Wednesday, January 14 6:45 p.m.*

*Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary*

Our first program of 1998 will be on the topic of protecting and preserving the natural areas of Door County.

Dan Burke, Executive Director of the Door County Land Trust, will present an illustrated program on what exactly a land trust is, and the very special natural habitat that a land trust can protect in the Door County peninsula.

As more and more people discovered the beauty of Door County, the overuse and overdevelopment, especially in some areas, began to take its toll on the land. Door County's tourism has grown dramatically over the past decade, and along with that the demand for land has also followed suit. Many developers continue to try to secure areas for future growth. It wasn't long ago that even the Door County Chamber of Commerce voiced a need for limiting certain types of development.

Dan will discuss the history of the Door County Land Trust, their goals for the near future, how the organization determines which areas they will try to save, and what areas they have been able to set aside in a land trust so far. Dan will also let us know what interested people can do to help.

The Door County Land Trust has received donations from the NEW Audubon Endowment Fund. Audubon's Board of Directors voted to support the Trust's special efforts and projects.

As always, special treats and refreshments will be served immediately following the program.

## **Ice Age Snails**

*Glacial relics find a unique strong hold on the  
"cliffs" of northeast Wisconsin*

*Wednesday, February 11 6:45 p.m.*

*Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary*

Right here in our own backyard is a little place of wonder. On the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay campus, a raw outcrop of the Niagara Escarpment has been studied, revealing some interesting findings.

Dr. Jeff Nekola, Assistant Professor of Natural and Applied Sciences at UWGB will present a fascinating program on the new discoveries he and his colleagues have made about the Niagara Escarpment. It appears that the "cliffs" offer a unique habitat for plant and animal life. Cedar trees that are thousands of years old can be seen, and tiny unique land snails that can only be found here and no other place in the world.

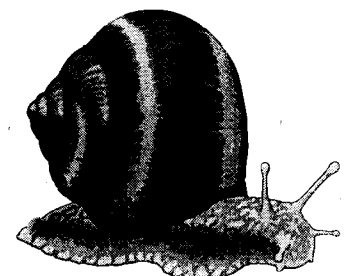
Along with slides, Jeff will include in his program several examples of the land snails. He will have a microscope handy since many of these snails are difficult to see with the naked eye - many are the size of the head of a pin.

What makes the Niagara Escarpment so special and beneficial for these land snails, who appear to have hung around since the ice age? Jeff will offer his insights and research knowledge to help answer that question and many others.

Dr. Nekola received his Ph.D. in Plant Ecology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He said he sort of stumbled onto the snail phenomenon in the fall of 1994.

After the meeting, we will inch our way down to the Estuary Room for refreshments.

*The public is invited to attend...*



## Where To Write

Here's how to contact state legislators from Northeastern Wisconsin. Let them know how you feel about environmental issues.

### Northeastern WI Senators:

Alan Lasee, R-Rockland  
Robert Cowles, R-Allouez  
Roger Breske, D-Eland  
Gary Drzewiecki, R-Pulaski

### Where to write:

State Senator (Name)  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

### Northeastern WI Assembly:

David Hutchison, R-Luxemburg  
Frank Lasee, R-Ledgeview  
Al Ott, R-Forest Junction  
Mark Green, R-Green Bay  
William VanderLoop, D-Kaukauna  
John Ainsworth, R-Shawano  
Lorraine Seratti, R-Spread Eagle  
Carol Kelso, R-Green Bay  
John Gard, R-Peshtigo  
John Ryba, D-Green Bay

### Where to write:

State Rep. (Last Name A-L)  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

State Rep. (Last Name M-Z)  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

### National Issues Write:

Senator Russ Feingold  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Herb Kohl  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Jay Johnson or  
Thomas Petri  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Your voice can only be  
heard if you speak out.**

## Hunters Kill Five Trumpeter Swans This Fall

This fall was a troubling season for the state's trumpeter swan population. While this year's reintroduitory program has been the most successful yet, five of these majestic birds were shot and killed by hunters.

Officials said four of the five were shot maliciously, while one was killed accidentally by a duck hunter who fired at the swan while looking into the sun and didn't realize it was a protected bird. That hunter turned himself into authorities.

Of the five swans shot, one was a 7-year old male who has fathered 11 young. The five deaths this fall are the most ever in the state since the program began 10 years ago.

Sumner Matteson, a state DNR avian ecologist, was greatly angered by the death of the 7-year old. The bird was one of the oldest trumpeter swans in the state and had another four or five years of nesting ahead of it. Potentially, he could have sired as many as 20 more young. Officials are hoping its mate will find another partner. Trumpeters mate for life.

"It's a completely senseless act," Matteson said. "Any loss like this is significant. All the years we put in that one bird are wasted in one second."

A Minnesota deer hunter killed the 7-year old by firing across the St. Croix River into Wisconsin. The bird was discovered dying on the Wisconsin side of the river in Burnett County's Crex Meadows Wildlife

Area. The hunter was never caught.

Trumpeter swans have an average wing span of 7.5 to 8 feet and weigh up to 30 pounds. Bettie Harriman, past president of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, said it's difficult for a hunter to mistake a trumpeter swan for a duck.

"They certainly don't look like a duck because they're so much bigger than any duck," she said. "I suppose it's conceivable you could mistake them for a snow goose, but the size is so different and the neck extends out. I don't think if you were a responsible and careful hunter that you could mistake them for something else," she added.

The DNR began its reintroduction program in 1987 to help replenish the trumpeter swan population. Since that time, DNR biologists have released more than 240 of the birds in northern and western counties.

The reintroduction program is costly due to the fact that trumpeter swan eggs are plucked from nests in Alaska and flown to Wisconsin each year, where they are hatched and then introduced into the wild. All trumpeters in Wisconsin are banded with green or yellow neck collars.

There is a maximum of a \$2,000 fine for an unintentional act, up to \$5,000 for a malicious killing of a bird. Also, hunting privileges are usually revoked for three years.

*Excerpts from a Mon., Nov. 24, 1997 article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.*

## THANK YOU

A SPECIAL

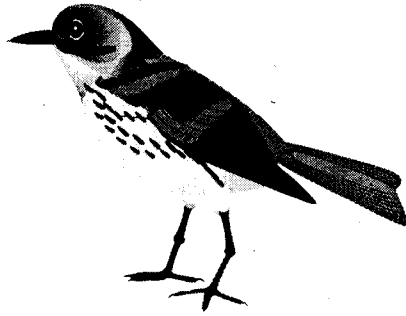
The NEW Audubon Board of Directors extends a heartfelt *Thank You* to Jerry Lemerond for his many years of hard work and dedication to our organization.

Over the years, Jerry gave of his time and energy to help direct and guide NEW Audubon. Most recently, Jerry served as program and field trip coordinator, providing us all with interesting speakers and fun adventures. This was going to be Jerry's last year as a chairperson on the board, but a bicycle accident this past summer put the brakes on a little sooner.

We are happy to report that Jerry has recovered well from his accident and continues to support environmental causes in the community.

*Thanks for all you help Jerry!*

# New WatchList Announced and Available on the Web



The WatchList is a centerpiece of bird conservation at the National Audubon Society. With its positive approach to protecting North American birds, the list fits perfectly with Audubon's mission to conserve birds and their habitats.

Calling attention to birds at risk before they require federal listing, the WatchList stresses preventative action today rather than last-minute rescue attempts in the future. Compiled by scientists from Partners in Flight (of which Audubon is an active partner), the WatchList targets bird species with declining populations, limited ranges, and those facing threats such as habitat loss on their breeding and wintering grounds. While saving species pushed to the edge of extinction is logistically difficult, costly and politically confrontational, the WatchList serves as an early-warning system to wildlife management agencies, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and the public.

The WatchList is always evolving. As citizen scientists learn more about the trends, threats, and distri-

butions of North America's bird populations through survey and research, conservation programs can be designed to help these species. The WatchList will be updated yearly to reflect the most current and best knowledge available on species at risk.

The complete list of 105 species is available on the National Audubon Society's WatchList web site. The informative and user-friendly new web site features over 180 linked pages. A separate page on each WatchList species explains the science behind the Partners in Flight conservation priority score, summarizes the natural history, provides a photograph, maps of breeding/wintering ranges, and an outlines conservation threats. Plus, the new WatchList site features an interactive section and a "WatchList for Kids". The web site address is:

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/watch/>

The web site was up and running on November 17, 1997. It is worth checking out.

## Did You Know?

- Some feeder birds may be abundant one winter, but absent the next.
- Dark-eyed Junco is the most widespread bird at North American feeders.
- Black-capped Chickadee flocks are larger at northern feeders than in the South.
- House Sparrows are declining in many areas, while House Finches continue to increase.
- National Audubon Society and International Paper have joined forces to develop and implement land-management practices for WatchList bird habitats. With the help of researchers from North Carolina State University, the two are documenting bird diversity and habitat characteristics in a variety of forests on a 30,000-acre tract owned by International Paper in South Carolina.
- Ongoing citizen science projects utilized to form the new WatchList include: Project FeederWatch; Christmas Bird Count; Important Bird Area Program; and the North American Breeding Bird Survey.
- You can participate. Watch birds for Project FeederWatch once every two weeks from November through March. Count the kinds and numbers of birds at your feeder. Record the information on Feeder-Watch data forms. Send the forms to Cornell Lab. of Ornithology for analysis. An annual participation fee of \$15 covers project costs and mailings. Early sign-ups are best, the cut off date is February 1998 for the following season. If interested, please call for information: 1-800-843-2473.

## Membership Form

Yes, I want to join Audubon and receive six issues of Audubon magazine and five issues of the local Audubon Log annually.

Enclosed is my introductory \$20 membership fee.

Please renew my current Audubon membership, \$35 renewal fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form to: Ron Eichhorn, Membership Chair  
1524 Cedar Street  
Green Bay, WI 54302

Checks payable to: National Audubon Society

## 1997-98 Chapter Leaders

### OFFICERS

President	John Jacobs	432-2438
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Corres. Secretary	Gary Fewless	435-5563
Treasurer	Joe Spangler	494-6347

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Social & Refreshments	Lavonne Galbraith	498-2248
Past President	Carmella Blecha	434-1807
	Charlie Frisk	468-7304

*Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.*

## 1998 National Convention

The Rocky Mountains are the site of the 1998 Audubon National Convention. "Celebrating Successes" is the theme for this year's conference which is set for July 6 thru 11, 1998 at the popular Estes Park Center, YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado.



The time of year will be perfect for Audubon members and their families to experience the magnificent flora and fauna on "behind-the-scenes" field trips with the best naturalists and an interactive hands-on program.

Programs will feature topics including conservation victories; educational outreach; development of local sanctuaries and centers; building strong media connections; and successful fund-raising ideas. The convention will be both fun and educational.

The Estes Park Center, at the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, has a variety of lodging/meal packages. For those who plan to travel by air, National Audubon's in-house travel agent, Adelman Travel Systems, has negotiated some excellent airfares.

A complete registration brochure should be available soon. Watch this newsletter for more details or request information by e-mail: [convention@audubon.org](mailto:convention@audubon.org)

## Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

1701 Ninth Street  
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*We value your membership! If the date on the mailing label has been highlighted, it means your membership in the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, inc. has lapsed. Please call Dennis Prusik at 499-9689 to reestablish your membership today! It's that easy!*

The *Audubon Logis* published bimonthly by the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society. Please send information you would like included in the Log to: Mary Novotny, 3085 Par Ct., Green Bay, WI 54313

Printed on recycled paper.

