

Audubon Log

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

March - April 1998

Issue No. 157

A Passion for Phenology

*A look at over 100 phenological events
in the Green Bay Area.*

Wednesday, March 11 6:45 p.m.

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

The easiest way to describe phenology is to explain what one would observe and record. Watching and noting the day the first daffodils begin to bloom, trees as they flower and leaf, or ice leaving the East River are all examples of phenological events.

Gary Fewless, Herbarium Curator at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and a member of N.E.W. Audubon's board of directors, has made tracking these types of events his passion for more than a decade. He will share with us an illustrated presentation on phenology in the Green Bay Area.

Gary has been carefully tracking over 100 events for the past 12 years. Some years he has even observed over 700 phenological activities. Most of these observations are on plants at the UWGB campus, but many other sites in Northeastern Wisconsin are also part of his study.

As a scientist, Gary tries to follow the same tree or plant year after year. This is done in an attempt to correlate the timing of these events with heating degree days or some other measurable weather data.

One of the results that has surprised Gary is how variable phenological events really are, not too much is guaranteed. It's hard to predict dates or show a tight connection between events.

After the meeting, everyone is invited to the Estuary Room for refreshments.

Our World of Wonder

*Creating a natural "world of wonder" for the
young and the young at heart.*

Wednesday, April 8 6:45 p.m.

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

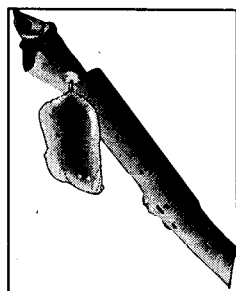
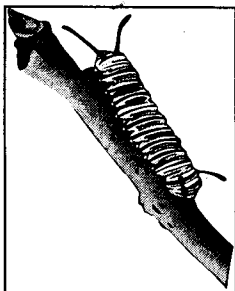
Looking at the world through the eyes of a child can help us find and appreciate the smaller details in our world. As adults, we don't seem to have enough time to stop and examine nature, like when we were five years old. This program will help us find that inquisitive side once again.

Our April speaker is Randy Korb. Randy is owner and CEO of Biophilia, as well as one of N.E.W. Audubon's former presidents. Although most of Randy's programs are directed to school age children, Randy will be giving us a program geared more for adults.

Randy will share some of the reasons, philosophies and experiences for creating his company, Biophilia. He believes that what is good and beautiful in the natural world should be part of every young person's life. Biophilia's mission is to make this connection. When working with students, Randy believes in hands-on experiences and his program topics include frogs, Monarch butterflies, and how to grow plants that attract butterflies.

Our April program will especially be of interest to teachers and parents. Randy will also have on hand some of his products like Monarch Magic.

This is sure to be a wonderful spring program, offering loads of ideas and inspiration on how to enjoy the world around us. Refreshments and discussion will follow.



The public is invited to attend

River-Bay Clean Up Field Trip

Hi there folks - it's a pleasure to greet you again. After a long hiatus following my head's collision with the pavement, my brain has stopped rattling around like a marble in a tin cup.

It's getting time for our River-Bay Clean Up Day again, which will be **Saturday, May 9** this year. As in the past, I call on Audubon members to help, and make this day a field trip. We will meet and get started at 9:00 a.m. on the north end of Bylsby Avenue which dead ends on the bay just west of the Pulliam Power Plant. When we finish there, we'll go a few blocks south to Riverview Park which is on the north end of Broadway and the east end of Prairie Avenue.

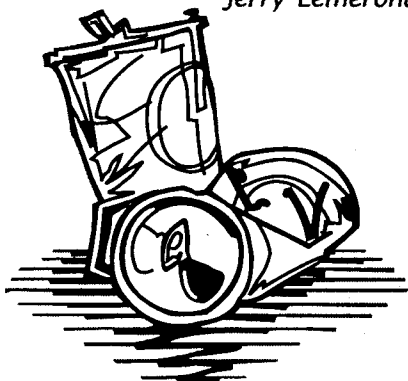
After we sanitize this site, we head for Ken Evers Nature Area on the north end of Military Avenue and work till the River Rally starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Neville Public Museum.

That celebration will be held on the river bank with a program, entertainment and a vast assortment of refreshments to satisfy the most hungry of us.

In preparation, bring gloves, save and bring many smaller plastic grocery bags which we will fill and put in the large garbage bags which will be supplied.

I hope to see you before then and will go into greater detail at the Audubon meetings.

Jerry Lemerond



Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities

This spring N.E.W. Audubon and the Bay Area Bird Club have teamed up to offer a variety of field trip opportunities.

The following three field trips, offered by the Bay Area Bird Club and cosponsored by N.E.W. Audubon, will be lead by Jan Hansen of the Bay Area Bird Club:

• **Sunday, March 1**

A trip to Lake Michigan's shore, as far south as Port Washington, for waterfowl and early migrants. Bring a lunch.

• **Sunday, March 8**

A trip south of De Pere for Gray Partridge, Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and early migrants.

• **Friday-Sunday, April 24-26**

An extended trip. Whitefish Point Bird Banding Station in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, for Spring Hawk, owl, waterfowl migration and unusual northern birds. Hotel reservations are needed.

These three birding trips will begin at Wild Birds Unlimited, 131 S. Military Ave., Green Bay. Bring food and water along with appropriate clothing for all trips. Call Jan Hansen at 592-9398 for departure times and details of trip.

N.E.W. Audubon field trips cosponsored by the Bay Area Bird Club will be lead by Paul Hartman, Brown County/UW Extension

Horticulture Agent. Paul will lead two Sunday afternoon field trips into the Baird Creek Parkway area.

Paul will explore one of Green Bay's unique and controversial natural areas. The hikes will last about one and a half hours and the terrain will be hilly. Wear appropriate clothing and boots as there will be wet and muddy areas.

The dates are **Sunday, April 19** and **Sunday, April 26**. Both trips will begin at Christa McAuliffe Park at 1:00 p.m.

No registration is necessary, just meet at Christa McAuliffe Park at 1:00 p.m.

Paul is also willing to lead hikes on other Sunday afternoons, if people request. Call Paul at 391-4615 if you would like to hike on another Sunday.



Weatherfriend Calendar Correction

Your 1998 Weatherfriend Phenology Calendar has an error in the times given for the daily moon positions.

We mistakenly subtracted six hours to allow for the difference between Greenwich Mean time and our Central time. For example, February 3rd gives a moonrise time of 4:56 a.m., it should read 10:56 a.m. and the moon-overhead is given as 11:53 a.m., it should read 5:53 p.m., and so on.

If you note in your Weatherfriend to add 6 hours to the daily moon times, your calendar can still be a valuable tool to enjoy in 1998. We are truly sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused. We depend on you calendar purchases so we can continue our 19 year volunteer phenology study project.

Thank you for your kind understand in this matter.

Dennis Prusik

Summer Camps & Scholarships

Members... are any of your children interested in attending a summer camp with a definite conservation agenda and curricula? Would they if they could get some financial assistance? Any middle school through high school student living in Brown County may apply for a partial scholarship to one of three summer camps. One of the scholarship sources is the Brown County Conservation Fund through the Brown County Park Department. Here are some of the requirements:

1. Students: Grades 6 - 12
2. Amount of aid: \$195 or no more than 75% of cost
3. Camps:
 - "Glacier Hollow," Nelsonville, WI, WI Wildlife Federation
 - "Central WI Environmental Station," Amhurst Junction, WI, Wisconsin DNR
 - "Trees for Tomorrow," Eagle River, WI, Tree Haven
4. Sessions: Any session that deals with nature, sporting uses of nature, environmental or ecological themes.
5. Time: 1 to 2 week sessions, June - August
6. Applications: This money is prepaid to the camps, therefore it is on a first come basis. You must apply with the camp and they in turn will bill Brown County once your

child has been accepted into an appropriate session.

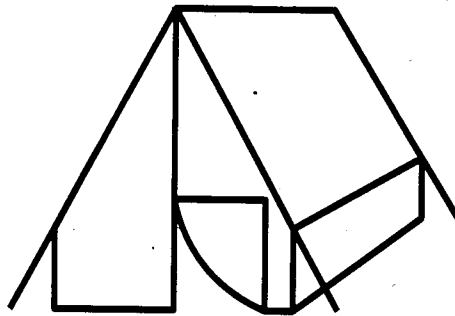
The Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited is one more source of scholarships for summer camps. The requirements are:

1. Students: Grades 6 - 12
2. Amount of aid: \$150
3. Camps: SAME AS ABOVE
4. Sessions: SAME AS ABOVE - conversation, ecology orientated
5. Time: SAME AS ABOVE
6. Applications: Requests for attendance contact:

Kenn Kiesner
4657 Creek Valley Lane
Oneida, WI 54155
920-865-4019

A 150 word theme on "why this camp would be a valuable experience" is required. First come basis. Contact should be made as soon as possible in March/April, as they are used up quickly.

Kenn Kiesner



Christmas Bird Count Results

The 1997 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) with 60 species identified was the fourth highest count ever conducted ('89 & '94 with 62 species and '92 with 63 were higher).

Uncommon birds noted include: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Peregrine Falcon, Snowy Owl, Glaucous Gull, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, Redhead, Great Blue Heron, American Coot, Ruffed Grouse and Pileated Woodpecker. The Snowy Owls, Glaucous Gulls and Peregrine Falcons were all seen at the mouth of the Fox River.

Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Screech Owl, and Double-crested Cormorant are relatively regular CBC birds now. We had a fairly good finch count, but no Pine Grosbeaks,

Evening Grosbeaks or Bohemian Waxwings were spotted. Oconto and Door Counties have seen good numbers of these birds this winter. Birds not seen on the count, but that are probably here: Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Gray Partridge, Merlin and Saw-whet Owl.

The weather was very mild, low wind and no snow cover. The mild weather was probably the biggest factor favoring the high count.

Overall it was another excellent count thanks to the help of our 26 field observers and 22 feeder counters. The 1998 CBC will be held Saturday, December 19.

John Jacobs

Baird Creek Parkway - The Final Push

The final push for the preservation of the Baird Creek Heights area is now underway. This 34 acre tract of old growth forest is located east of I-43, next to Christa McAuliffe Park. The city purchased the tract of land the first week of February. Payment for the property will come from the City of Green Bay, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation.

The Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation has pledged to raise \$200,000 toward the total cost of approximately \$1,000,000. Their fund raising goal is to have this money raised by May 1, 1998. If you have been looking for a good cause to donate to, this is the one. In the words of Paul Hartman, noted horticulturist and N.E.W. Audubon member, this is the most important conservation battle in Green Bay since the cleanup of air and water pollution by local industry back in the seventies. This is an opportunity for area residents to make a statement that it is important to save some of the "last best places" for today's citizens and especially for the children of tomorrow. The Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation is looking for donations from \$5 to \$5,000. Donations can be made to the Baird Creek Parkway Committee of N.E.W. Audubon and sent to:

N.E.W. Audubon Society
1701 Ninth Street
Green Bay, WI 54304

If you would like to view this stretch of land, Paul Hartman will be guiding tours for our club in April. Please see the article on the previous page, "Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities" for dates and times.

Charlie Frisk



Mark Your Calendars!

The N.E.W. Audubon Annual Banquet has been set for Wednesday, May 13. Social will begin at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. This year's speaker will be Bill Volkert from the DNR in Horicon and a member of several international wildlife advisory committees.

Bill is an excellent speaker and gives a very interesting program on Lake Baikal. Bill has visited Lake Baikal in Siberia five times to study and make management recommendations. Lake Baikal is similar to the Great Lakes in that it also contains 20% of the world's surface fresh water and is suffering from pollution. Twenty-three species of animals are endemic to this lake.

Watch the next issue of the Log for more details and a banquet registration form.



1997-98 Chapter Leaders

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Vice-President	T.B.D.	
Recording Secretary	Marty Gallagher	448-4375 (w)
Corres. Secretary	Gary Fewless	435-5563
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	Dorothy Summers	465-6729
Membership	Ron Eichhorn	430-9747
Education	Kenn Kiesner	865-4019
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Baird Creek Parkway	Charlie Frisk	468-1956
Newsletter	Mary Novotny	498-9663
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Historian	Dorothy Delsart	435-8494
Programs & Field Trips	T.B.D.	
Social & Refreshments	Lavonne Galbraith	498-2248
Past President	Carmella Blecha	434-1807
	Charlie Frisk	468-1956

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

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

1701 Ninth Street
Green Bay, WI 54304

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Green Bay, WI

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 Log* is 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

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