

Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

MEMBERS SLIDE PROGRAM

Back by popular demand, our annual members' slide show is Wednesday evening, January 26 at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, upstairs room, 6:30 to 9 pm. Please bring your photos, digital images and slides of nature, travel and other subjects to show other members. The Sanctuary's media equipment will be available. Kelly Krupka of Kaukauna will start off by giving a short talk on her trip this summer to eastern Russia. We'll have refreshments downstairs.

AUDUBON AIDS LOCAL BAT EDUCATOR

Bats make high-pitched, ultrasonic sounds inaudible to human ears. Each bat makes sounds unique to that species. A bat detector is a hand-held device that converts ultrasonic sounds into audible sounds. Experts use detectors to interpret what bats are doing and also to identify species.

During this summer's field trips I will first explain bat natural history, including how they communicate through echolocation. Then we'll go outside and experience bats foraging for their insect meals—listening to the different frequencies as the bat hunts, approaches and finally catches its prey.

—Sue Saari

Sue Saari has given bat education programs to area groups and schools for about 20 years. Our board recently gave Sue the funds she needed to buy a bat detector. The detector will enable her to go outside with students and participants and "hear" bat activity. She will lead several bat field trips for our members this summer.

FALCONRY FIELD TRIPS

Falconry is a bird of prey reality show. The lives of raptors revolve on a pressing daily need to catch and eat prey. Falconers, and those fortunate enough to assist on a hunt, see first hand the sharpened abilities of these predator birds.

This ancient practice, called "the sport of kings" and more recently, "extreme birding," is now open to Audubon members. Falconers Lee Schleicher and Randy Stoeger of the Fox Cities will take up their red-tailed and Harris hawks and lead us into the field to pursue game. On Saturday, January 8 we'll meet at the Memorial Park Arboretum Visitor Center in Appleton, and January 22 at the Neville Museum in Green Bay. We will likely go out in February and you may find the details on our website.

Falconry events are free for N.E.W. Audubon members. The fee for non-members is \$5 adults, \$3 ages 10 to 17. Events are limited to 25 people and are not recommended for children under 10 years. If your children are under 10 but you'd like to attend, please call Randy Korb at 920.884.0466. Advanced sign-up is required for January 22. To pre-register email newaudubon@aol.com or call the number above.

To get to the Arboretum Visitor Center from Highway 41, take the Ballard Road/County E exit. Turn south on Ballard Road, go almost one mile to the Memorial Park entrance and turn right on Witzke Road. Go 1.5 miles and the Arboretum entrance is on your left.



Roy Dewitt®
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TURTLE DAYS

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

We will learn about and help save turtles this summer. Of the 55 turtle species in the U.S., 25 are in need of conservation action and 21 species are already protected. Of Wisconsin's 11 turtles, five are either endangered, threatened or of special concern.

After an Audubon program on freshwater turtles at the Southwest Branch of the Brown County Library last summer, I called Doug Hartman, Naturalist at Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, about starting a turtle conservation effort. Beginning in June 2005, Audubon members will bus and carpool to this west shore site to begin a turtle mark and recapture study. Participants will row out to basking logs, remove newly captured turtles from live traps, and then bring them back to

shore. We will then weigh, measure, mark and photograph individual turtles before releasing them back into the ponds. We'll also search the grounds for nesting turtles and protect their eggs once we find them.

Barkhausen Preserve is home to at least two Wisconsin turtles, the painted and snapping. It appears that their populations are healthy, though we haven't done any formal surveys. It isn't uncommon to see 20 painted turtles sharing the same basking log. We see a lot of snappers, too, particularly during egg-laying season when we often catch them in the act.

While it is quite a sight to stand mere feet away from a huge snapping turtle laying her eggs, it's sad to see large numbers of predated nests. Raccoons and skunks often dig up and eat the eggs the same day they are laid. I don't really see a lot of what I would consider young turtles, and an in-depth study of our turtles may indicate an aging population. From these studies we may find out that we need to protect the nests in order to sustain healthy turtle populations.

I look forward to participating in this valuable research with Audubon members. I'm sure it will be as fun as the locally famous "Frog Hunts" that take place here each spring!

—Randy Korb & Doug Hartman

For the 4th year, N.E.W. Audubon and Doug Hartman will again cooperate on "Frog Hunts" (listening to, finding, catching and releasing calling frogs) at Barkhausen in May 2005.



The Wood Turtle is a threatened Wisconsin species.

Photo by Randy Korb®

2005 FIELD TRIPS

Members will have special opportunities to experience nature with wildlife experts in northeast Wisconsin in 2005. We plan our field trips primarily for young families (parents and children), with the belief that young people are much more likely to preserve the environment in the future if they are familiar with it. People of all ages are always welcome.

By participating in the wolf, turtle and salamander surveys, monarch butterfly

tagging, and red-shouldered hawk banding, members actually contribute to the conservation of these species and have fun doing it. Field trips are free for members.

Specific dates and locations for this preliminary listing of 2005 field trips are not yet determined and may change. Please refer to our website, www.newaudubon.org, for field trip descriptions, leaders and other details.

JANUARY

Falconry	Appleton
Falconry	Green Bay

FEBRUARY

Falconry	Green Bay, Appleton
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MARCH

(No events scheduled so far)

APRIL

Salamander surveys	Door, Outagamie, Brown counties
Walleye spawning	Wolf River-Shiocton
Sturgeon spawning	Wolf River-Shiocton, Shawano
Northern pike spawning	West shore of Green Bay
Frog nights	Appleton, Navarino

MAY

Frog nights	Appleton, Green Bay, Shawano, Sturgeon Bay
Songbird banding	UW-Green Bay
Heron rookery	Wolf River
Woodcock nuptial flights	UW-Green Bay Campus
Urban eagles	Fox Cities

JUNE

Red-shouldered hawk banding	Brown County
Turtle days	Green Bay, Oconto
Frog nights	Appleton, Green Bay
Purple martin banding	Appleton
Backyard baby animals	Appleton

JULY

Spiders & Beetles	Green Bay
Dragonflies	Door County
Bats	Appleton, Green Bay
Pelicans/colonial birds	Green Bay-Boat Trip
Turtle days	Green Bay

AUGUST

Wisconsin butterflies	Door County
Monarch butterfly tagging	Appleton
Wolves	To be determined
Bats	Shawano

SEPTEMBER

Monarch butterfly tagging	Appleton, Green Bay, Shawano, Sturgeon Bay
Wolves & Whooping Cranes	Central Wisconsin

OCTOBER

Saw whet owl banding	Stevens Point
Chinook salmon spawning	Kewaunee

NOVEMBER

Urban deer	Appleton, Green Bay
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DECEMBER

Urban owls	Appleton
Falconry	Appleton, Green Bay

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TEACHERS *Environmental Programs for Your Students*

Beginning this spring, environmental educators Cynthia Mueller and Randy Korb are available to conduct nature-based programs at your school, plan and organize conservation projects, and plan and guide field trips to natural areas in Northeastern Wisconsin. All programs address Wisconsin State Standards for learning and are geared to most grade levels. Program topics include Bird Ecology/Conservation, Wisconsin Timber Wolf Ecology and Recovery, Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle, Wisconsin Frogs, Aquatic Ecology, Invasive Species and the Geology and Cultural History of the Niagara Escarpment. For more information visit our website at www.newaudubon.org or email Cynthia Mueller at greeneye@new.rr.com or Randy Korb at rkorb@aol.com.

WOLF FIELD TRIP

Member LuAnn Skarlupka included this note to friends and relatives in her recent Christmas cards:

This fall, my eight-year-old daughter Grace and I went on an NEW Audubon field trip with a guide (Cindy Mueller) who surveys wolf pack locations in Central Wisconsin for the DNR. We had to wear dark clothes, not talk, not sneeze, not wear any scented lotions or deodorant. . . anything the wolves would pick up on as artificial. It was a clear and calm night with a big moon. After two howling attempts at separate stops with no responses, the guide asked Grace to join her in howling at the third, because sometimes a child's howl can sound more like a wolf pup. Grace's and the guide's howls were answered by an Alpha female, Alpha male and a whole group of pups yipping and howling. It was as though the pups thought there was somebody out there to play with. Then the Alpha female quieted the group with a parental bark. It was an amazing experience we won't forget.

*Photos by Monty Sloan®
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See his website at
www.wolfphotography.com*



Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 8

Falconry Memorial Park Arboretum, Appleton.
2:30–4 pm. No pre-registration necessary.

Saturday, January 15

Einstein Project Science Expo Shopko Hall, Green Bay. Sponsored by Foth & Van Dyke. 9 am–4 pm. Tickets: \$4 kids, \$2 adults, children under two free. Main Stage Entertainment! Live animals! Hundreds of Hands on Explorations with Scientist Explanations. Geared for elementary and middle school students. N.E.W. Audubon will have a booth.

Wednesday, January 19

Board Meeting All members welcome. Brown County Central Library, 515 Pine Street, upstairs meeting room, 6:30–8:30 pm.

Saturday, January 22

Explorer Saturday, Birds of Prey Neville Museum, Green Bay. 9:30 am–12:30 pm. See live birds of prey, talk with experts. Many family-oriented activities at information tables.

Falconry Neville Museum, Green Bay. Noon–2 pm. Limited to 25. Email newaudubon@aol.com to pre-register.

Wednesday, January 26

Members Slide Program and Crane Conservation & Education in eastern Russia with Kelly Krupka. Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary. 6:30–9 pm. Refreshments available.

Hunters of the Sky Exhibit closes at Neville Museum.

Wednesday, February 16

Board Meeting All members welcome. Brown County Central Library, 515 Pine Street, upstairs meeting room, 6:30–8:30 pm.

Wednesday, February 23

Mushrooms Slide Lecture Series by Matt Welter, Curator of Education. Neville Museum Theater, Green Bay. 7–8 pm. First in series of four monthly programs. Offered in partnership with Neville Museum and Baird Creek Preservation Foundation.

Wednesday, March 30

Spiders Slide Lecture Series by Matt Welter, Curator of Education. Neville Museum Theater, Green Bay. 7–8 pm. Second in series of four monthly programs.

Wednesday, April 13

Annual Meeting and Banquet Details not yet determined.

NEW Audubon

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

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2004 Annual Report

We'll have our 2004 annual report on our website by late January at www.newaudubon.org.



Membership

We are including the form for NEW MEMBERS in this issue. Please share this newsletter with a family that may be interested in joining. N.E.W. Audubon is attending the Einstein Science Expo on January 15 and we will hand out this newsletter to hundreds of potential new member families. We highly encourage existing members to use the form for renewing members on our website. We are also mailing out renewal letters in January to all members up for renewal.

Contact Us

website – www.newaudubon.org
e-mail – newaudubon@aol.com