

Audubon Log

February 2008

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

Berry Lake Grant Progress

In April, lake studies got underway on Berry Lake, funded by the DNR grant obtained by Brian Ewart. Sediment core samples taken in July will be analyzed for changes in nutrients, heavy metals, and plant growth over the past century or more. The grant was written to include in-kind matching volunteer work on an historic account of the Berry Lake area and a watershed analysis and delineation. The use of a video camera would be invaluable for this analysis. If you would like to assist with this, please contact Brian at newaudubon@yahoo.com or 920-321-4000.

As part of the lake survey, Eurasian Water Milfoil was discovered in small patches. Brian Ewart obtained a DNR Rapid Response Aquatic Invasive Species Grant under sponsorship of the Town of Underhill. NEW Audubon set up the Berry Lake Fund for tax deductible contributions to be used as part of the 50% match requirement of that grant. In addition, Brian has coordinated volunteer efforts in the control of the milfoil.

Four Monarch Tagging Programs

Monarch tagging field trips were held in Door County, Green Bay, and Appleton areas this year. The program committee made an evaluation of this popular program. Randy Korb has given these programs for a number of years to rave reviews. The families who attended loved the programs just like always. At the same time Cheryl Root was trained to lead Monarch tagging field trips. She is a teacher by profession and does an excellent job.

Christmas Bird Count

John Jacobs again coordinated the Christmas Bird Count for our chapter. There were 46 people watching from their windows or at outdoor birding spots. Sixty six species were seen, including the white-crowned sparrow, wood duck, and white

pelican. John would welcome a new volunteer coordinator for next year's count.

Bluebird Trails



Thanks to the initiative of then-President Randy Korb, NEW Audubon received a grant to establish new bluebird trails in the Fox Valley region and to train monitors. With this, we foster a partnership between the Fox Valley Academy (an environmental charter school) and BRAW (Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin). The grant is from the Environmental Stewardship Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc.

Since bluebirds select their nesting sites by the end of March, Kent Hall, BRAW coordinator, will be working intensively to locate and set up trails in the next 2 months—not an easy task with snow cover! Bluebirds tolerate humans in their nesting area, but they are particular about their environment. They need at least 3 acres of mostly open habitat: short grasses with occasional trees. They like a perch site near their nest, but this could be fence posts, electric wire, or tall tree. Too many shrubs encourage House Sparrows to take over the nests instead of bluebirds. The best sites include cemeteries, office parks, golf courses, and parks.

We hope to arrange a presentation by Kent Hall for our members when his busy season slows down. Even if you don't live in the grant area, you may want to consider setting up your own trail for next year. For more information, contact Juniper at sundj30@hotmail.com or 920-826-2612.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2008

Sunday, February 10. 1 pm. Grab your camera & join Photographer Tom Knuth for a **Winter Photography Hike**. (tentative). Hikes begin at 1 p.m. at Christa Mc Auliffe Park in Green Bay. For the latest information: www.bairdcreek.org or call 432-4739 **Remember to dress for the weather!**

Wednesday, February 13. 7 pm. "**The Economy of Bird Watching**" program by Jon Motquin at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

February 15-18. Great Backyard Bird Count.

Participate in this 11th annual citizen science project hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Count the birds you see during at least a 15 minute period. Report your results at www.birdcount.org and see maps and lists from all participants. More detailed instructions are available on that website.

Sunday, March 9. 1 pm. Learn about issues that are plaguing Baird Creek, and find out what you can do on our **Erosion & Invasive Species Hike**. Hikes begin at 1 p.m. at Christa Mc Auliffe Park in Green Bay. For the latest information: www.bairdcreek.org or call 432-4739 **Remember to dress for the weather!**

Wednesday, March 12. 7 pm. "**Panama: Bridge of Life**" program by Vicki Medland at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

Wednesday, April 9. 7 pm. "**Grasshoppers of Wisconsin**" program by Kathryn Kirk at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

Sunday, April 13. 1pm. Come with Charlie Frisk as he casts his net to view some of the **Fish of Baird Creek**. Hikes begin at 1 p.m. at Christa Mc Auliffe Park in Green Bay. For the latest information: www.bairdcreek.org or call 432-4739

May 11th Witness the beauty of the **Spring Wildflower Hike** with Dr. Matt Dornbush. Hikes begin at 1 p.m. at Christa Mc Auliffe Park in Green Bay. For the latest information: www.bairdcreek.org or call 432-4739

Wednesday, May 14. 7 pm. "**Sturgeon**" program by Robert F. Elliot of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

Wednesday, June 11. 7 pm. "**Baird Creek: The Hidden Jewel of Green Bay**" program, at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

Wednesday, July 9. 7 pm. "**Native Bees of Wisconsin**" program by Amy Wolf, at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.



Board Report/Leadership Changes

Just over six months ago the board began its work to maintain the excellent programs that the members have enjoyed over the years. At the same time new directions and management controls have been established. A conflict of interest policy has been passed by the board. The treasurer has set up procedures for paying independent contractors and for tracking grant funding.

Thank you to Cheryl Root for her contributions of ideas and enthusiasm during the time that she served on the board. In the fall Cheryl decided to withdraw as a board member, but will continue to help on projects and field trips that can be interwoven with her busy life and teaching responsibilities.

Randy Korb has moved to St Croix Falls. The distance is too far for him to serve out his term on the Board, especially as president, and so he resigned in January. Randy gives wonderful programs and is a knowledgeable environmentalist. We look forward to his participation in reconstructing some records that have been incomplete and/or missing for several years.

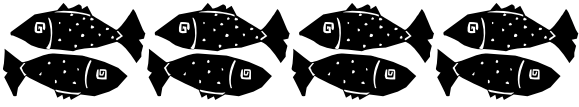
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Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility (October 5, 2007 NEW Audubon Field Trip)

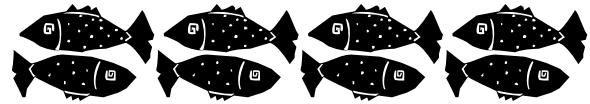
This "state of the art" facility is designed to strip spawn from anadromous fish—(anadromous refers to fish that travel from salt to fresh water to spawn or, in this case, from Lake Michigan up the Keweenaw River). Eggs from chinook and coho salmon as well as steelhead and brown trout are collected here.

The DNR has an annual open house at this facility in Keweenaw, which is named after Buzz Besadny, former DNR secretary. The building and grounds, with an underwater window for viewing fish, are open daily year-round. In addition to the educational permanent exhibits, the open house has "live" demonstrations. During the open house salmon were dissected with an informative explanation by fish biologist, Paul Peeters. Chinook (king) salmon were brought into the building and the stripping was viewed from the lobby. Fish, other than chinooks, were returned to the river via a special chute.

Kathy Dax, DNR aquatic plant specialist, gave an expert description of salmon running the Keweenaw River and jumping the man-made falls on their way into the fish traps. She also explained why anadromous fish return to a specific location, such as this place on the Keweenaw River: The fish fry are placed in a holding facility that is fed with the water to which they should return to spawn. After being "held" for a period of time they smolt (turn silver). At this time they have been imprinted with the taste and smell of this specific body of water and will "home" in on it and return.

Oh, yes, there were birds to view too! About 450 turkey vultures were on display. Because of low water in the river, many salmon perished in the shallows. What a feast for the vultures! They roost in trees along the river near the facility.

About two thousand people attend the open house each year. What a wonderful opportunity throughout the year for family field trips!



Membership Form

- Renew local NEW Audubon chapter & National Audubon Society: joint membership \$50
- New or renewed local NEW Audubon chapter \$25

Tell a friend!

- Special offer for new members. New national & local membership \$35
(\$15 of national membership is for *Audubon* magazine and is not tax deductible)

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____

Please give your e-mail address to receive our local chapter newsletter and notices of field trips electronically. Your e-mail address will not be shared with others or used for other purposes.

Support Your Chapter

While your membership in the National Audubon Society gives you nominal membership in a local chapter, your direct support annually enables us to offer more programs and services. Your chapter membership number and expiration are printed on this newsletter's label. If your chapter membership is about to expire, please consider renewing now. If you haven't paid local dues in the last 2 years, your expiration date is listed as 00/00 or is blank.

Check Your Mailing Label!

Check Our Website

We don't have details on our upcoming field trips and other activities at the time this newsletter is printed, but we will post them on our website. Check www.newaudubon.org for latest information. Updates may take a couple of weeks. For notification of events as soon as they are planned, send us your e-mail address and request to be put on our field trip mailing list. E-mail member.newaudubon@gmail.com



Many Hands Make Light Work

To insure long term success every organization needs to develop a pool of talent to fill its future needs for project leaders, committee members and board members. By joining our talent pool, you can develop the necessary experience in the organization, the skills to make programs work and act as a personal proving ground for prospective leaders. Involvement is very rewarding when you work on projects that use your talents and advance projects that you find useful and important.

Everyone has useful talents and although most people are very busy there is usually a little extra time. Please consider becoming involved, taking a closer look at how NEW Audubon functions and spreading the workload. Call a board member or write member.newaudubon@gmail.com

Terri Howe Moves On

We give a big thanks to Terri for coordinating the annual banquet reservations for so many years. Now that she has moved to Madison for a new position, we are looking for a volunteer to step up and help us with our May banquet planning. Please contact Juniper at 920-826-2612 or sundj30@hotmail.com

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