



Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.
November 2010

Outdoor Hikes and Activities

All hikes start at Christa McAuliffe Park, a portal to the Baird Creek Parkway, located on Sitka St, east side of Green Bay. From there we walk into the Baird Creek Parkway. Hikes are kid friendly.

Saturday November 20, 1:00pm. "Geology of Baird Creek" Walk with Dr John Luczaj through Pleistocene deposits and glacier outwash cut by Baird Creek.

Saturday December 18, 1:00pm. "Winter Wonderland Hike at Baird Creek" What animals are still out in the winter? Can you identify plants from their dead stems? Join Mike Draney as we explore nature at Baird Creek Parkway. Saturday December 18, 1:00 pm.

Saturday January 15, 1:00 pm We may not have a theme named yet, but, as always, there will be a naturalist waiting to lead your hike through the Baird Creek Parkway on the 3rd Saturday.

Saturday February 19, 1:00 pm. Baird Creek hike.

Saturday March 19, 1:00 pm. Baird Creek hike.



Natural History Lectures

Lectures are held at the Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, and co-sponsored with them. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

Wednesday, November 10. 6:30pm. "Bay Beach Night Animals." Bay Beach staff will bring live animals.

Wednesday, January 12, 2011. 6:30pm. "Mushroom Cultivation."

Wednesday, February 9, 2011. 6:30pm. "Heirloom Plants."

Wednesday, March 9, 2011. 6:30pm. "Greater Green Bay Watershed"

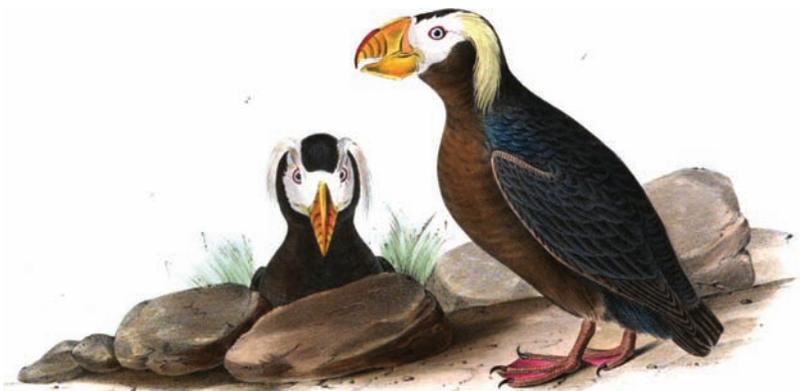
Audubon Monthly Gathering

Open to the public, programs followed by refreshments at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Center Estuary Room, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay.

Wednesday, November 17. 7:00pm. "Backyard Habitat for Birds" by Barbara Brebner, owner/educator of For The Birds, DePere. Often irreverent, Barbara tries to make bird watching and feeding fun and easy! Although she has over 1,000 life birds on her list, she still favors her resident locals and the friendly chickadees. Barbara believes that every day at For the Birds becomes an opportunity for public environmental education and enjoys sharing her love of wild creatures with friends.

Wednesday, December 15. 7:00pm. "Wild Rice in Wisconsin" Juniper Sundance will talk about places where real wild rice still grows, its importance to wildlife, how to care for it and what is involved in harvesting it.

Wednesday, January 19. 7:00pm. "Fossils of Northeastern Wisconsin: How do they form, what are they used for, and what can you find?" by Ron Stieglitz, Professor Emeritus, UW-Green Bay. Dr. Stieglitz will share information from his many years of study of the geology of Northeastern Wisconsin and describe how fossils are valuable tools used by geologists to interpret Earth history. The process of fossil formation is complex and often selective. Some forms are much more likely to be preserved and therefore more commonly found and collected.





Ann feeds a monarch before release while Karina, Nikki & Anthony watch.

Super Monarch Year

Ann Shebesta returned to give a presentation on Monarch migration and to lead tagging at two separate events. Our Door County Monarch tagging took place at Crossroads this year because of an abundance of Monarchs in their gardens. Crossroads had 66 people registered and 21 monarchs tagged. Thanks to Coggin Herringa for her assistance and for making this facility available.

Monarchs seem to prefer red clover blossoms during their fall migration. Red clover is about 40% sugar, along with amino acids, proteins, enzymes and flavonoids. Carl noted that the UW Extension Peninsular Experiment Station's two red clover plots had large numbers of Monarchs on August 27 so one of our taggers went there after the Crossroads program and was able to net a few before dark.

Our Monarch tagging in Brown County took place at Barkhausen. Forty-two people attended. While only 3 tags were used that day, several families took tags home and reported tagging another 20 Monarchs. Monarchs sometimes can be found by the goldenrod, which was the predominant nectar source at this event, but they must have been elsewhere that day.

On September 5, Carl observed 60 Monarchs per minute migrating along the Lake Michigan shore near Glidden Drive. There have been several reports of great numbers of migrating Monarchs, including clusters roosting in trees. This is encouraging, particularly after last winter's storms and mudslides at the Mexican wintering grounds.

Monarch Watch reports that Monarchs were migrating later this year.

Wisconsin Bats

Despite the short notice, we had a good turnout at the bat workshop we organized at Barkhausen. Rich Novy has been working on the WI Bat Survey, finding and identifying bats by their unique echolocation sounds. Besides a good overview of different bat species, he gave advice for what to do if we find a bat, and talked about bat houses to provide summer habitat. It is likely that White Nose Syndrome, a fungus that is often fatal to hibernating bats, will reach Wisconsin in the next year or two. Four of our 7 bat species are cave hibernators and at risk. We hope to have more programs on bats, to find out how they overwintered and to give more people a chance to learn about the importance of bats in our ecosystem.

The DNR has proposed emergency and permanent rules that would 1) list four cave bat species as threatened species, 2) list the white-nose syndrome fungus as a prohibited invasive species and 3) relate to limiting the spread of the fungus in caves. *Listing will allow for incidental taking of bats when necessary*. There are approximately 120 known bat hibernacula in Wisconsin. Of these, fewer than 20 are routinely used by cavers and approximately 12 are public caves. DNR plans to work with landowners to install bat gates or provide cave closure signs and decontamination equipment. It will also work with cave and mine owners to create fungus control plans.

DNR will hold a public hearing on these proposals in Green Bay at the State Office Building, Room 618, 200 North Jefferson St on November 29 beginning at 11 a.m. Written testimony will also be accepted through 4 p.m. on November 29 to Stacy Rowe, Bureau of Endangered Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or by email to stacy.rowe@wisconsin.gov. For more information see the [Saving Wisconsin Bats](#) page of the DNR website.



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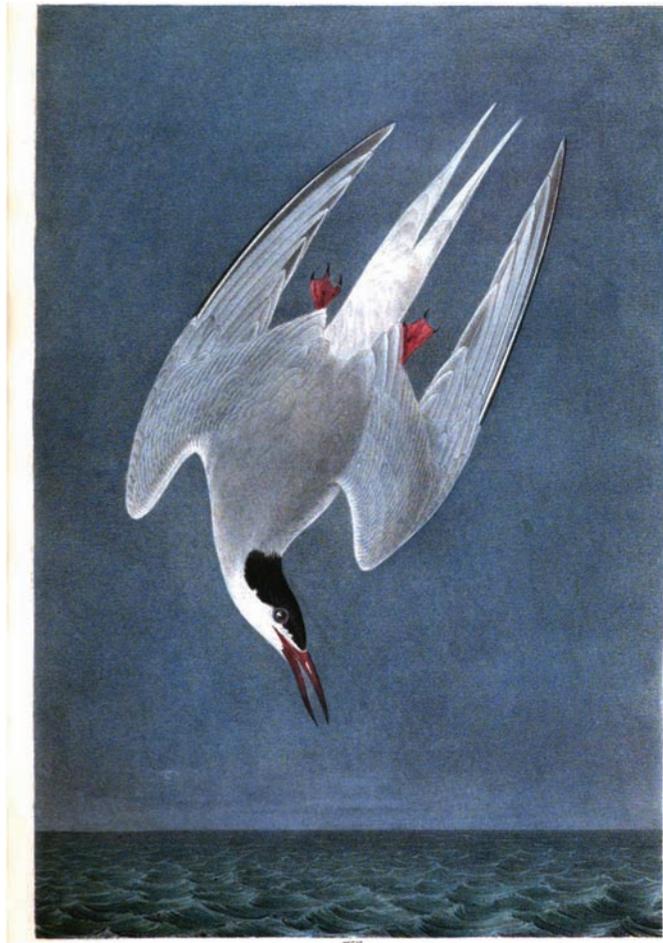
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Visit our website

Check www.newaudubon.org for the latest information on field trips and events. Updates may take a couple of weeks, so for notification of events as soon as they are planned, send your e-mail address to newaudubon@live.com and request to be put on our alerts or field trip mailing list.

Your Time is Valuable

We want to provide more activities this coming year, but we can't do it without your help. Contact any board member or write to our PO Box 1 if you are able to spend a few hours 1) registering field trip participants on site—nice opportunity if you were planning on attending also, 2) staffing an information table at public events, 3) publicizing our events, 4) coordinating the newsletter, or 5) improving the look of our website.

NEW Audubon Board

Board meetings are held 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 5:30, followed by programs in winter. We meet at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay or at the Brown County Library in summer. Contact a board member for more information.

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60-plus Groups Call for Removing Toxic Lead From Ammunition, Fishing Tackle

More than 60 organizations in 27 states are asking the Environmental Protection Agency to ban toxic lead in bullets and shotgun pellets used for hunting and in fishing lures and sinkers. A coalition of conservation, hunting and veterinary groups petitioned EPA in early

August for the ban on lead, a substance that needlessly kills and harms millions of wild birds and other animals every year and endangers public health.

Major efforts to control lead in paint, gasoline and other products have reduced lead in the environment, but lead from hunting and fishing is still a widespread wildlife killer, harming bald eagles, trumpeter swans, endangered California condors and others. Animals are poisoned when they scavenge on carcasses containing lead-bullet fragments or ingest spent lead-shot pellets or lost fishing weights, mistaking them for food or grit. Animals that survive lead poisoning can still suffer for years from its debilitating effects. An estimated 10 to 20 million birds and other animals die each year from lead poisoning in the United States.

The petition referenced nearly 500 peer-reviewed scientific papers on the poisoning risk to wildlife from spent lead ammunition and fishing tackle. There are safe and available alternatives for these outdoor sports.

Getting the lead out for wildlife is in line with traditional American conservation, hunting and fishing values.