



Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.
November 2011

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.

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 19, 1:00pm. "Geology of Baird Creek" Walk with Dr. John Luczaj

Saturday December 17, 1:00pm. "Winter Wonderland"

Removing Invasives –Fox River Trail

Wednesdays, November 9 and 16, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Meet at the trailhead of the Fox River State Trail at Porlier and Adams Street. Come dressed for the weather and some outdoor work as the battle against buckthorn and other invasives continues along the trail. We need your help. Coordinated by Paul Hartman.

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 9, 6:30pm. "Return of the Peregrine Falcon" by Greg Septon. A richly illustrated presentation of the recovery efforts in Wisconsin since 1987: urban nest site management, nesting chronology, overwintering and much more. We'll look at the re-occupation of historical cliff eyries along the Mississippi River, recovery efforts on the Door Peninsula, and what the future holds.

Wednesday January 11 6:30pm. "Exploring Brown County's Cultural and Natural History using Internet GIS Maps" by Jeff Dumez

Wednesday February 9, 6:30pm. "TSI - Tornado Scene Investigation: The Art and Science of Storm Surveys" by Jeff Last

Wednesday March 14, 6:30pm. "My life as a Dinosaur Hunter" by Rolf Johnson

Thursday, November 17. 7:00pm. "Wind Energy and Wildlife" with Noel Cutright. We'll be joining the Bay Area Bird Club for this evening led by a well-known advocate for birds. How can we find a balanced approach to meeting our energy needs without unduly harming wildlife? Cutright is the founder of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory as well as on the steering committee of the WI Bird Conservation Initiative.

Thursday, December 15. 7:00pm. "Tropical Birding" with Joel Trick. Joel will be sharing photos of his birding trips to Central America-- Costa Rica, Belize, and more. He'll be able to answer your questions about where to go, what you might see, and why tropical birds are important to us in Wisconsin.



PHENOLOGY: The 2012 Wisconsin Nature Calendar now available.

This calendar and almanac was begun over 30 years ago by NEW Audubon members as a fundraiser for wildlife habitat purchase or preservation. A portion of the proceeds continues to go to the Wisconsin Land Fund to protect our natural areas. Celebrated as "the best of Dennis Prusik and his outdoor friends' seasonal notes of fishing, hunting, berry picking, birding, gardening, wildflower and weather lore."

Order directly from Dennis Prusik 1701 Ninth St -- Dept 1A, Green Bay WI 54304. Cost: \$10 each plus \$2 shipping (any quantity to the same address).

Bird illustrations in this issue are from the 1905 Birds and Nature magazine. Get our full color newsletter from our website or ask us to send your subscription by email.

Bringing Nature Home

Doug Tallamy's talk at the Grosbeak's Galore event was enlightening. He says biodiversity is not optional—we need the ecosystem services (oxygen, water purification, soil building, pollination, etc) a diverse natural world provides for us. We are losing the plants and animals that we share this planet with because we have done a poor job of sharing. Extinction doesn't have to happen if we redesign our cities, suburbs, and agriculture land so that other species can share these spaces with us.

To share suburbia with wildlife, we need to 1) create corridors connecting natural areas, 2) reduce the area now in lawn, and 3) begin the transition from imported ornamentals to native plants.

Animal diversity starts with plant diversity. Birds looking at a manicured lawn see a desert. Insects are key—so many other creatures depend on insects for high energy food. Yet over millenia of evolution, 90% of plant-eating insects have adapted to dependence on specific plants. For example, introduced plants used in landscaping support 18 times fewer species of caterpillars (the most popular bird food) than native ornamental plantings.

Homeowners can flip the current landscaping paradigm on its head. Instead of designing where your flowerbeds will go in a sea of lawn, design where you need lawn for walking space and plant the rest of your property with native ornamentals.

As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great.

Flycatchers Switch to Berrypicking in the Fall

By: Vicki Medland-Cofrin Center for Biodiversity.
References at <http://blog.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/2010/>

Each August and September as the elderberries ripen I have great views out my window of the birds that come to feast. There are always the usual bunch, the robins and cardinals of course, and the flocks of Cedar Waxwings that easily navigate the tangle of branches like bands of pirates finding the richest caches of fruit.

But in fall there are Eastern Kingbirds joining the party too. Kingbirds rarely visit, preferring the open edges of the trail near the ponds where they gracefully dive and roll, capturing flying

insects in their pincer-like beaks. It is strange to see them flapping through the dense foliage of the elderberries, where they tip themselves forward off the branches as they clumsily pluck berries one by one.

Scientists have long recognized this feeding switch from insects to fruit in several species of primarily insectivorous birds shortly before and during migration. It was originally thought that the birds switched to fruit as insect populations declined, or that fruit might provide more calories, but nutrition studies showed that while some species did gain weight on fruit others lost weight.

Other research has focused on the advantages of feeding on fruit. Insects require a lot more energy to find and capture and are usually caught on the wing, exposing birds to migrating hawks. Berries offer an easily collected high density food source and the foliage offers cover from hawks and other predators. Studies have also shown that birds do seek out berries that are highest in proteins and lipids. Scientists have started to look at micronutrients including antioxidants in fruit. Migration is extremely stressful and scientists speculate that ingesting more antioxidants might improve these birds ability to survive during migration and in tropical wintering grounds where birds are packed closer together.

Regardless of the physiological reasons migratory birds are switching to fruit, the take-home message is strong. Make sure that migrating birds have access to reliable sources of fruit in the fall. Native berries, are superior in nutrition to non-native species. We need to make sure that we preserve native habitats along migratory routes so that birds have reliable high quality food during stop-overs.

We need to be better land stewards of our own yards, providing native habitat in a backyard is as many songbirds will use these small patches during migration.



Oconto Marsh Migration

October 21, Oconto's Promise invited us to a field event at the marsh with introduction by John Huff, DNR biologist. The weather was clear as Sandhill Cranes were coming in to join the coots and mallards. Nick Walton helped us identify the less visible birds-including a Horned Lark, Swamp Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird. We'll work with this group to bring more marsh events.

Membership Form

Renewing your national Audubon membership through us keeps more of your funds in this local area.

Mail to: NEW Audubon, PO Box 1

Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

- Renew local NEW Audubon chapter & National Audubon Society: special offer for dual membership--only \$35
- New or renewed NEW Audubon chapter \$25
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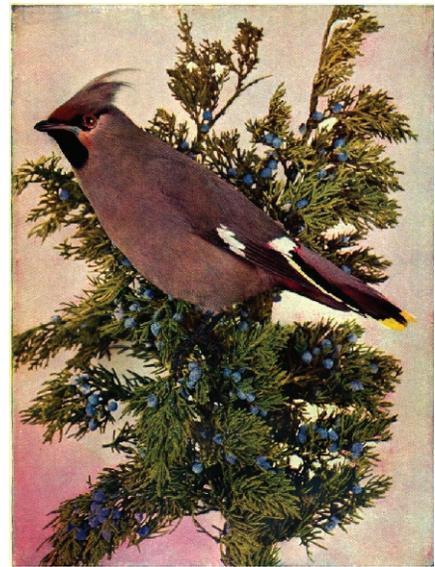
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(\$7.50 of national membership is for the *Audubon Magazine* and is not tax-deductible)

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. Support N.E.W. Audubon

“Birds should be saved for utilitarian reasons; and, moreover, they should be saved because of reasons unconnected with dollars and cents... The extermination of the Passenger Pigeon meant that mankind was just so much poorer... And to lose the chance to see frigate-birds soaring in circles above the storm, or a file of pelicans winging their way homeward across the crimson afterglow of the sunset, or a myriad of terns flashing in the bright light of midday as they hover in a shifting maze above the beach— why, the loss is like the loss of a gallery of the masterpieces of the artists of old time.”
—Theodore Roosevelt, 1916



Check

Your Mailing Label to see if your membership has expired

Your chapter membership number and expiration are printed above your address, followed by your national membership number and expiration. If your 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.

Your direct support annually enables us to offer more programs and services. NEW Audubon Society has 501(c)(3) status; your donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS allows you. Renewing your national Audubon membership through us keeps more of your funds in this local area.

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 now held 3rd Thursdays monthly at 5:30, followed by programs in winter. We meet at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. Contact a board member for more information.

Mike Reed mikere@ci.green-bay.wi.us *President*
Charlie Frisk chkafrisk@yahoo.com *Vice President*
Marty Gallagher 920-499-1776 *Secretary*
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Swift Night Out Results

Our two swift surveys in Green Bay were quite rewarding, and demonstrate sufficient population of swifts to support building towers for additional nesting sites and the need for educational programs to involve children at the schools which have resident swifts.

On Aug. 6, 227 Swifts were counted entering chimneys, and 570 swifts were seen flying about. Swifts were seen entering chimneys from 6:30-8:00pm, although most entered chimneys between 7:50 and 8:00pm because of rain.

31 people checked 18 sites for swifts. Twelve chimneys were used by swifts—school, church, residential, and small commercial chimneys were used; no large industrial chimneys were used. At least 2 of these were active nest sites. This spring was very cold and late so some swifts might have started nesting late.

An additional 4 sites were checked that week, with 50 Swifts seen entering 2 chimneys and 12 swifts were counted entering 2 more chimneys with about 75 swifts flying about.

On September 10, 18 people checked 22 sites, some with 2 or 3 chimneys, for swifts. Most of the swifts seem to have left the Green Bay area by this date—only 115 Swifts were counted entering chimneys, from 7:20-7:42pm. Again, the same types of chimneys were used, with 4 chimneys used by swifts. One chimney had 100 swifts enter.

Additional sites were checked between August 7 and September 9 in the Green Bay area. 6 people checked 30 sites (chimneys) most of these did not have swifts. The sites that had swifts included: Aug. 8, a private home- 5 swifts; Aug. 10, church- 11 swifts; Aug. 11, school-12 swifts; Aug. 16, monastery- 236 swifts; Aug. 18, greenhouse- 47 swifts; Aug. 22 school- 15 swifts.