

Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

April 2012



BIRDATHON

Join us for the area's first Big Bay Birdathon and Photography Contest

When: Friday, May 11, 2012 at 4:00 pm until Saturday, May 12 at 4:00 pm

Where: Begins at destination of your choice and ends at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary; 1600 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. Award presentation and raffle will follow at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary's Estuary Room in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Food and beverages will also be available.

Why: Proceeds go towards the construction of a Chimney swift tower and planting of a Native butterfly garden in the community

Registration fee: \$10 per person—use registration form on page 3 and request pledge forms & full rules or download at www.NEWlaudubon.org

Prize drawing for Early Bird Registrants (by May 1)

Prizes for: Most species (unguided), Most species (guided), Most money raised, Most species photographed, and Best photo.

Divisions:

- **Unguided/Team**—For those dedicated teams who scour the countryside and waters of WI to acquire most of the common and some of the uncommon species. Visit a variety of habitats while putting on many miles at all times of day. Teams in the unguided division must consist of 2-4 members with one of the members identified as a captain
- **Guided/Novice**—This is an individual event for novices who are interested and for those birdwatchers who want to support our cause but are unable to participate in the unguided division for a variety of reasons. These individuals will obtain their list by partaking in bird walks at various locations in the area, guided by a local expert recognized by the birdathon committee.
- **Photography**—The rise in popularity of this hobby motivated us to award two prizes within its own category: 1) Most species identifiable by photographs (checklists due 4:15 on 5/12, photos by 5/13 midnight). 2) Best photo: This category is to appreciate the artistic nature of birds as well as the creativity and vision of the photographer. Each photographer may submit their best two photos taken during the allotted timeframe.

Sponsored by: Bird City Green Bay & NEW Audubon

Annual Banquet

Clarion Hotel (former Holiday Inn)

200 Main St, Green Bay.

Thursday, May 17

RSVP by May 10

5:30 –Social

6:15 –Dinner

6:45 –Business and Board Elections

7:15 –Program

8:30 –Silent Auction results

Our annual banquet and program is open to all—members & non-members alike. [Registration on page 3.](#)

Silent Auction: Be prepared for delightful gifts—our silent auction returns this year. Items include: hummingbird watercolor by Carolyn Wright, insect pin by Joyce Fritz, calligraphy by Elaine Friedrich, maple syrup, bird DVD, notecards, hiking sticks, antlered staff. Proceeds will be used for bird habitat projects such as Swift Towers. If you would like to donate further items or assist with the auction, contact Marty at 499-1776.

Program: *“Golf Balls to Conserving Birds: The Story of the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve and the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory”* Noel Cutright will describe how an 18-hole golf course is being converted into an oasis for migratory preserve and at the same time taking advantage of the golf course's clubhouse to serve as the home of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, a new organization devoted to advancing knowledge of bird and bat populations and their conservation through coordinated research, monitoring, and education using good science.



Salamander Monitoring Report

Spring came on us suddenly, and only 5 monitors were lined up, but we found salamanders anyway. On March 24 Debbie Boettcher found 7 Blue Spotted at a new site near Seymour, Nick Howell repeated his good luck finding Blue Spotted at HeNisRa Park. Kyle Brown organized a crew of UWGB students for the Fort Howard Wildlife Area though only tadpoles and minnows showed. Carl Scholz set his traps on March 20, which was 4 weeks earlier than in 2011, and had 170 Blue Spotted, 37 Spotted, and 1 egg mass.

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 info call 920-448-4460.

Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 pm. "Urban Birds" by Mike Reed. Our urban environment is important to birds in many ways. Some alien species thrive here, while many native species are able to find homes in our urban wildlife sanctuaries or refuges during migration. You will learn the importance of monitoring and encouraging birds in the overlooked urban environment.

Wednesday June 13, 6:30pm. "Sea Creatures From the Age of Dinosaurs" by Rebecca McKean.

Wednesday July 11, 6:30pm. "Chimney Swifts" by John Jacobs. Like Bats go into their caves at dawn, Chimney Swifts go into their roosts at dusk. Learn about these unique birds that are sometimes mistaken for Swallows. John Jacobs will also review last year's count and discuss what will be done in 2012.

Wednesday September 12, 6:30pm. "Sustainable Native Gardens in Our Community" by Bonnie Vastag and Sarah Valentine. Wild Ones Green Bay has developed many community projects featuring native plants for bird and butterfly gardening. They range in size from containers to large plots, and all are a kinder, gentler way to garden.

Outdoor Hikes and Activities

Baird Creek Hikes: the 3rd Saturday each month at 1:00pm. May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15. All hikes are led by a nature expert and 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.

Saturdays, May 19 & 26, 7:30 pm. Frog Hunts at Barkhausen. Cty J, Suamico. Free to NEW Audubon members. These family programs will have live frogs and toads in an informative presentation, followed by a frog hunt in the swamp to listen for the calls and see what we find. Pre-registration required for this popular event; call Brown County Parks 448-6242

Spring's Wings

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day in Green Bay! Unless otherwise noted, events held at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 E Shore Dr.

Family activities: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Kids--come and get banded, just like migrating birds! Workshops on building a bird feeder or house, bird origami, & more.

Bird Hikes: 6:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

Live Bird of Prey Programs: 11:00 & 12:30

Food available for purchase from 11:00 - 2:00

Audubon Monthly Gathering

Thursday September 20, 7:00pm. "Bhutan: The Land of the Thunder Dragon" by Chubzang Tangbi, born and raised in Bhutan, who is a dedicated photographer, birder, and goodwill ambassador for his native land. He will present a breathtaking slide-show program describing the wonders of the "Cloud Kingdom" of Bhutan, its philosophy of gross national happiness, history, culture and traditions, wildlife and birding, and government. This country in the Eastern Himalayas is



one of the top ten biodiversity hotspots in the world and the center of 221 Global Endemic Bird Areas. Their culture considers it essential to take care of the land and maintain the pristine environment in order that life thrives. *Open to the public, programs followed by refreshments at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Center Estuary Room, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay.*

Lake Michigan Shoreline Volunteer Training Sessions

AMBLE is looking to expand their avian mortality study for 2012. Register at one of the training sessions which will inform you of the disease ecology of avian botulism (what causes it, which birds are affected, management recommendations), monitoring protocols, bird identification, and GPS use. AMBLE monitoring is a response to resurgence of avian botulism type E outbreaks.

- **Washington Island: Thursday, May 10, 1-4:30 p.m.** at Washington Island Recreation Center, 1877 Lakeview Rd
- **Ellison Bay: Friday, May 11, 1-4:30 p.m.** at Newport State Park Visitor Center, 475 Cty Hwy NP
- **Sturgeon Bay: Saturday, May 12, 1-4:30 p.m.** at Crossroads at Big Creek, Collins Learning Center, 2041 Michigan St
- **Peshtigo: Friday, June 1 from 1-4:30 p.m.** at WI DNR Service Center, 101 N. Ogden Rd. Suite A
- **Green Bay: Saturday, June 2, 1-4:30 p.m.** at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary 1660 East Shore Drive

CONTACT JENNY AT (608) 270-2473 OR AMBLE@USGS.GOV to register. More training sessions will be offered as needed. Please contact Jenny if you can't attend any of the above options but want to volunteer. For more information: <https://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/amble/>

Big Bay Birdathon Registration Form

Division (circle all that apply):

Unguided Guided Photography

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

email address: _____

Team Information for Unguided Only:

Team Name: _____

Captain's name: _____

Address: _____

2nd member's name: _____

Address: _____

3rd member's name: _____

Address: _____

4th member's name: _____

Address: _____

Registration fee: \$10/person

No. of people: ____ Total (due before contests): ____

Make checks payable to:

NEW Audubon; P.O. Box 1, Green Bay, WI 54305

NEW Audubon 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

Tell a friend! Special offer for new members only. New national & local membership \$35

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

(\$7.50 of national membership is for the Audubon Magazine and is not tax-deductible)



Banquet and Annual Program Registration

Circle Dinner choice: C=Amaretto Chicken, T=Tilapia, or V=Vegetarian

Name: _____ C T V

Name: _____ C T V

Name: _____ C T V

Dinners are \$16 each

Total enclosed _____

Phone _____

Address (email optional) _____

Mail to: NEW Audubon, PO Box 1,
Green Bay, WI 54305

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 dues lately, 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 area.



NEW Audubon Board

Board meetings are now held 3rd Thursdays monthly at 5:30, followed, in winter, by programs. 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 chkfrisk@yahoo.com *Vice President*

Marty Gallagher 920-499-1776 *Secretary*

Juniper Sundance sundj30@hotmail.com *Treasurer*

Carl Scholz scholz@charter.net *Finance & Program*

Janet Smith *Program Committee*

Barbara Boehler babsnpaul@att.net *Membership*

Website: www.NEWAudubon.org

Email: newaudubon @ live.com

Facebook group: N.E.W. Audubon

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Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

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Status of the World's Seabirds

The status of the world's seabirds has deteriorated rapidly over recent decades and several species and many populations are now perilously close to extinction. These are the findings of a major new review published this week in the scientific

journal *Bird Conservation International*—based on BirdLife International's data and assessment for the IUCN Red List. Of the 346 seabird species, 97 (28%) are globally threatened and a further 10% are close to being so. The albatross family is especially imperiled with 17 of the 22 species currently threatened with extinction. "Seabirds are a diverse group of worldwide distribution and as top predators they also provide a valuable indicator of wider marine health", said Professor John Croxall, Chair of BirdLife's Global Seabird Programme.



Human activities lie behind these declines. At sea, commercial fisheries have degraded fish stocks and caused the deaths of innumerable seabirds through accidental bycatch, whilst on land the introduction of invasive species has extirpated many breeding colonies.

There may still be time to reverse these declines and the review is clear on the actions that need to be

taken. The sites where seabirds congregate—both onshore breeding colonies and offshore feeding grounds must be protected by a global network of Marine Protected Areas. Invasive species, especially introduced rodents, must be removed from major seabird colonies. Several successful restoration projects have already taken place. There is also a need for more research to fill existing knowledge gaps and address emerging threats such as aquaculture, energy generation operations and climate change.—posted by Tris Allinson, birdlife.org

Photos in this issue by Adam Sinkula, for Birdathon publicity