

# Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

August 2012

## 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.*

**Thursday September 20, 7:00pm. "Bhutan: The Land of the Thunder Dragon"** by Chubzang Tangbi. Tangbi, born and raised in Bhutan, is a dedicated photographer and birder. 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. This country in the Eastern Himalayas is one of the top ten biodiversity hotspots in the world and the centre of 221 Global Endemic Bird Areas. The people practice Tantric Mahayana Buddhism, a philosophy which considers it essential to take care of the land and maintain the pristine environment in order that life thrives.

**Thursday October 18, 7:00pm. "Squirrel-proof Bird Feeders"** by Charlie Frisk who has been experimenting with bird feeder design for quite a while and has found a design that will keep the squirrels out of your bird food. He'll also pass on tips for the best foods for different bird species.

**Thursday, November 15. 7:00pm. "Bird Rehabilitation"** with Beka Weiss. We'll be joining the Bay Area Bird Club for this evening's program. Beka is the founder and staff rehabilitator for Aves Wildlife Alliance in Neenah, and is on the board of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. She specializes in emergency and critical care for adult birds and mammals.

**Thursday January 17, 7:00pm. "Grassland Birds Response to Prairie Restoration: Central WI"** by John Shillinglaw. For the past 25 years John has been planting prairie and developing oak savannah on 225 acres in Waushara County. Much of the work has been done to create habitat for Karner Blue Butterflies, but the response of grassland birds to the restorations has been interesting.

## Outdoor Hikes and Activities

**Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 1:00pm. "Baird Creek Guided Hikes"**. All hikes are led by an expert in the field and are a great way to learn, have a little fun and enjoy the outdoors. 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 August 25, 1:00pm. "Monarch Tagging at Crossroads"** with Ann Shebesta. The Butterfly Lady of Mishicot returns with her lively program for children of all ages. After an indoor introduction on the Monarch life cycle, nets will be handed out to see how many we can catch and tag. Participants may bring their home reared monarchs for tagging if we have enough tags left. Program will be held even if it rains. Crossroads is east of Hwy 42/57 at 2041 Michigan St, Sturgeon Bay, 746-5895.

## SWIFT NIGHT OUT-Green Bay

Please join us in the fun of Green Bay's second Chimney Swift monitoring event. We will be counting swifts, identifying roost sites and sharing our results at an enjoyable social gathering afterwards.

### Experienced birders needed!

We would like to pair inexperienced swift counters with experienced birders. We are asking all counters without a previously designated site to meet at the Neville parking lot to coordinate groups and carpooling. Forms for the survey will be sent to all registrants prior to the evening.

**Date:** Saturday, August 4th, 2012

**Time:** 7:00pm site assignments, 7:30 - 8:45 pm survey, 9 - 10:00 social/data gathering

**Start:** Meet at Neville Public Museum parking lot

**End:** Tiletown Brewery

**Contact:** Nancy Nabak, 655-4185 or Jim Johnson, 434-2846 to sign up to participate

**Sponsored By:** Bird City Green Bay and NE WI Audubon



## 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 August 8, 6:30pm. "Natural History of Beer"** by Matt Welter.

**Wednesday September 12, 6:30pm. "Sustainable Native Gardens in Our Community"** by Bonnie Vastag and Sarah Valentine.

**Wednesday October 10, 6:30pm. "Roots and Leaves"** by Lynn Green and Brad Lange. How trees and other plants prepare for winter.

**Wednesday November 14, 6:30pm. "Alaska"** by Daniel Meinhardt. Photos and talks about his experiences with the Inupiat and what changes are taking place in both their environment and culture.

## Exit the Highway

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary is a featured destination in this contest.

National Audubon has partnered with Toyota for an outreach campaign: "Exit the Highway" [www.exitthehighway.com](http://www.exitthehighway.com). (OK, it's a little counter-intuitive – a car company asking people to get off the highway – that's part of the appeal of this big idea.) This social media campaign asks Americans to spend more time in nature this summer and to visit scenic locations for a chance to win a Toyota Prius v.

David Yarnold suggests, "Take an hour, change your routine, and spend a little time with friends and family outdoors. Audubon and Toyota hope it leaves people wanting to come back for more."

Pledge to drive the scenic route and spend extra time in nature learning about local conservation projects and heroes! You could win a new Toyota Prius v with your pledge and gain extra entries when you share your photos from the road. You can share images of new destinations anywhere in the country, even if those destinations aren't featured in any of the itineraries. Post/share them on our new Facebook page: [Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society](https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternWisconsinAudubonSociety).

## Birdathon Report

Bird City-Green Bay and NE WI Audubon Society held their first annual Big Bay Bird-a-Thon and photography contest this spring, with all proceeds going to the construction of a chimney swift tower and planting of a native butterfly garden. Despite a date conflict with the WSO convention, this first annual Big Bay Birdathon created a lot of enthusiasm and raised a total of \$654!

The winners of the 2012 bird-a-thon were the Green Bay Godwits (Brian Pierce and Adam Sinkula) who viewed 136 species of birds. Second place was awarded to the Angry Birders team of Ron Eichhorn and Joan Berkopec with 123 species. The winning team had the opportunity to see a few rare species including tundra and trumpeter swans, gray-cheeked thrush, and a late Bonaparte's and great black-backed gulls. All teams combined saw 168 species total even with a low number of shorebirds and some misses of expected birds like great horned owl, eastern wood-pewee, and Wilson's phalarope (seen about every day two weeks prior to competition).

The photography portion had six photographers submitting 11 photos. Nancy Nabak of Green Bay won the photo contest with her breathtaking photo of a black-crowned night heron. The winning photos are printed on pages 2 & 4 in this issue (available in color on our website).

After the bird-a-thon, participants gathered at the Wildlife Sanctuary to share stories, enjoy refreshments, and receive prizes. Everyone who participated in the event had a great time. Lots of laughs and memories were had by all.

See you at next year's event!



## Membership Form

Mail to: NE WI Audubon, PO Box 1

Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

- Renew local NE WI Audubon chapter & National Audubon Society: special offer for dual membership--only \$35
- New or renewed NE WI Audubon chapter \$25
- Gift a friend! 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)

### 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, your expiration date is listed as 00/00 or is blank.

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.

OUR WEBSITE: [www.NeWiAudubon.org](http://www.NeWiAudubon.org)

## Birds in the Garden Report

*Charlie Frisk has been a mainstay of the NE WI Audubon board for many, many years. This spring he chose not to run for re-election in order to spend more time doing nature education and to focus on his responsibilities with the Baird Creek*

*Preservation Foundation and Clean Water Action Council. This report is an example of how Charlie*

*shares his love of the outdoors.*



Charlie Frisk, representing NE WI Audubon, and Nancy Nabak from Bird City Green Bay got together with the kids from the Seymour Community Park and Garden on Tuesday, July 3rd for a "Birds in the Garden" program.

Charlie was

instrumental in teaching the upcoming birders how to use binoculars and field guides when trying to identify birds in their neighborhood. Margaret Kubek, Seymour Community Garden coordinator said, "We've really got something to build on here.

Now they have a new way of looking at our garden *and* at what's in the trees and sky."

As luck would have it, a mama robin showed up with lunch for her baby during the program so all got to watch the feeding, but equal to the feeding, the kids were drawn to Charlie and his birding enthusiasm like a magnet.

### NEW Audubon Board

Board meetings are held 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays monthly at 5:30, followed by programs in winter. We meet at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. Contact **newaudubon @ live.com** or a board member for more information.

**Mike Reed** mikere @ greenbaywi.gov *President*

**Marty Gallagher** 499-1776, *Secretary*

**Juniper Sundance** sundj30 @ hotmail.com *Treasurer*

**Kari Hopfensperger** *Media/Publicity*

**Steve Krings** skrings @ new.rr.com

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

**Adam Sinkula** *WI Audubon Council representative*

**Janet Smith** *Program Committee*





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### **Bird City “Bird-friendly” BackYard**

NEW Audubon continued its collaboration with Bird City Green Bay, the Wildlife Sanctuary and other local conservation groups to finish the second phase of our bird-friendly, backyard demonstration area. Directly across East Shore Drive from the entrance to the Wildlife Sanctuary, this area offers a perfect place for people moving between the Sanctuary and Amusement Park to learn which native plants can be used to create a beautiful yard while providing needed food and shelter for birds and other native animals.

Stone Silo Nursery provided the native plants and Justin Kroening developed the plan for the prairie and rain gardens that were added this year. Site preparation and planting was done by the GB Forestry Dept., Wildlife Sanctuary Staff and “Young Neighbors in Action” volunteers from St. Leo’s Church, Grand Island, NE.



### **Chimney Swift Tower**

As part of the Bird City Green Bay coalition of conservation groups, NEW Audubon will take part in the construction of a 15 foot Chimney Swift nesting tower at the Wildlife Sanctuary. As chimney swift populations have declined over the past decades, attention has turned to providing these valuable urban residents with nest structures that replace chimney loss due to new constructions techniques and capping of existing chimneys. A grant from the WPS Foundation is the corner piece funding to allow a Swift tower to be built on the Wildlife Sanctuary property. This tower will not only provide needed nesting habitat for a species in decline but provide a platform for educating the public about Chimney Swifts and the conservation issues affecting them.