



Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

January 2012

Annual Banquet

Speaker: **Noel Cutright**

Thursday, May 17, 2012 5:30 pm..

“Putting 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. ***See page 3 for registration information.*** Open to the public.

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 February 9, 6:30pm. *“TSI - Tornado Scene Investigation: The Art and Science of Storm Surveys”* by Jeff Last. Thunderstorm weather includes damaging straight-line winds and tornadoes. Last will focus on post-storm surveys by the National Weather Service team of experts and the use of clues left by the storm to identify the cause of wind damage.

Wednesday March 14, 6:30pm. *“My life as a Paleontologist”* Rolf Johnson gives an account of his personal adventures as a dinosaur-hunting paleontologist from fieldwork to museum exhibitions during the 1970s and 1980s when our understanding of dinosaurs and the fossil record changed drastically.

Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 pm. *“Woodland Dunes”*

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.

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, January 19. 7:00pm. *“Woodland Dunes and Owlfest”* by Jim Knickelbine.

Woodland Dunes protects several hundred acres of globally rare and imperiled Great Lakes Ridge and Swale habitat, home to thousands of species of plants and animals. We'll be joining the Bay Area Bird Club for this evening.

Thursday, February 16, 2012. 7:00 pm. *“Oconto Marsh Wildlife and Projects”*. The Oconto Marsh is part of the West Shore Important Bird Area. John Huff, DNR wildlife biologist, will present an overview of the Oconto Marsh, its management and wildlife. Marsha Present will speak about a new group which is working to improve public accessibility and use of the marsh. NEW Audubon has co-sponsored 2 of their events: a frog hike and a fall migration event. They've got plans for the future that will interest anyone looking for another nearby outdoor destination.

Thursday, March 15. 7:00pm. *“Kiwis and more in New Zealand”* by Bob Schmidt. We will join the Bay Area Bird Club for this presentation.

Outdoor Hikes and Activities

Baird Creek Hikes: the 3rd Saturday each month at 1:00pm. January 21, February 18, March 17, April (clean up event), May 12, June 16. 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.

Saturday, May 12. *“Springs Wings”* celebration at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Green Bay. We will have a booth with a banding activity for kids. Contact us to help.

Christmas Bird Count 2011

John Jacobs says this year was by far the highest total numbers (34,295) we have ever had on a CBC though the number of species was average (59). No rare birds were seen on count day, but unusual birds were White Pelican, Wood duck, Tundra Swan, Hooded Merganser, Red-headed WP, Northern Flicker, Pileated WP, Brown Creeper, Peregrine Falcon, Fox Sparrow, Bluebirds, Red-breasted Mergansers, Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Redpoll, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Kingfisher, and Cowbird were all good sightings. Don VanDuyse had 8 Screech Owls-- he started at midnight. The mild weather, open water and available food kept a huge number of waterfowl and gulls here, as well as a good number of Bald Eagles.

Charlotte Lukes reports for Sturgeon Bay, 12/17, where they would welcome younger birders next year as many former observers have quit due to age and health or moved away. They had 12,230 birds in 57 species. The most often reported species were the black-capped chickadee, dark-eyed junco, American goldfinch, red-bellied woodpecker and American crow. Uncommon sightings included: mute swan, merlin, song sparrow, and white-winged crossbill. Species seen during the count week, but not on the count day, included: cackling goose, horned grebe, snowy owl, and northern flicker. Downy Woodpecker sightings set a new low of 25 (previous low: 42 in 2004) and Tundra Swans set a record high of 227 (previous high: 74 in 2004).

In Brussels, 6 feeders and 5 field parties (15 observers) came up with 4,848 birds and 56 species. Most often seen were black-capped chickadee, red-bellied woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch and American goldfinch, and downy woodpecker. Uncommon sightings were ring-necked duck, horned grebe, double-crested cormorant, merlin, eastern screech owl, barred owl, belted kingfisher, winter wren. A record high was set for Greater Scaup, with 75 birds (previous 21 in 2009).

Ed Houston reports for Dyckesville 19 field parties (26 observers) and 30 feeders had 65 species and 8,174 birds. An Iceland Gull was seen during count week and 18 Chipping Sparrows on count day. Starlings, Lesser Scaup, and Goldfinch were the most numerous, and only single individuals seen of N. Harrier and Brown Creeper.

Audubon president, David Yarnold, writes gratefully about the work of CBC volunteers. By highlighting species facing precipitous declines, the CBC jump-starts targeted conservation. In one example, the count's confirmation that populations of American Black Ducks were plummeting triggered limits on hunting. CBC data confirms what observers had long suspected: many bird species are moving their winter ranges farther north—58 percent of the species seen during the count were showing up significantly farther

north than 40 years ago, right in line with charted temperature increases. This finding adds new urgency to "adaptive management" conservation planning. That's using population trend data and sophisticated mapping technology to predict what habitats and species are at greatest risk from climate disruption's inevitable impacts and protect remaining habitat or create alternative habitat.

The lesson of the Christmas Bird Count: individual action matters. The greatest gift we can give birds, each other, and our children and grandchildren is a healthy, sustainable future.

Nature Notes

The Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory is developing a database of observations. Come to our annual banquet presentation to see how you can share your records. If you haven't been keeping a nature journal, you may be interested in this recommendation from the Birding Community E-bulletin January 2012:

“Recording observations in the field has always been an indispensable scientific skill. In *FIELD NOTES ON SCIENCE & NATURE* edited by Michael R. Canfield (2011, Harvard University Press), for the first time, readers are treated to a marvelously varied collection of note-taking techniques, accompanied by reproductions of actual pages from the field notebooks of a cadre of distinguished naturalists and scientists. Among the many naturalists and scientists whose field notebooks are featured in this informative and unique book are George Schaller, Bernd Heinrich, Kenn Kaufman, Karen Kramer, Jenny Keller, and Jonathan Kingdon. Taken together, this collection of outstanding essays provides a marvelous template for anyone who has ever attempted to maintain a field notebook, or who has ever questioned the wisdom of doing so.”

Source <http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/>



Northern Flicker-by Snowmanradio

*February
is
National
Bird
Feeding
Month*

Membership Form

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Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

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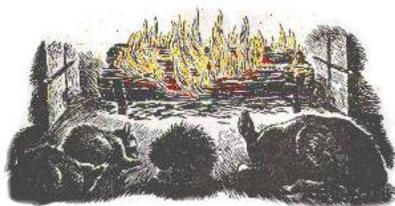
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Your direct support annually enables us to offer more programs and services. NEW Audubon Society has 501(c)(3) status; your donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS allows you. Renewing your national Audubon membership through us keeps more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

Visit our website

Check www.newaudubon.org for full color newsletter and 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.

A link to Roy Lukes summary of 54 years of CBC has been posted on our facebook page.



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

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 and non-members alike

Silent Auction

Be prepared for delightful gifts. Our silent auction returns this year. So far we have a hummingbird watercolor by Carolyn Wright, an insect pin by Joyce Fritz, calligraphy by Elaine Friedrich, and an antlered staff. Proceeds will be used for bird habitat projects such as Swift Towers. If you would like to donate items or assist with the auction, contact Marty at 499-1776.

Salamanders

Interested in monitoring salamanders in vernal ponds during their March/April breeding season? Contact Juniper 826-2612 to participate in this year's WI Salamander Survey.

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*
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How are Wisconsin bats doing?

We'll have to wait for the results of this winter's hibernation, but last May the WI DNR reported their statewide survey of known bat wintering sites showed no sign of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a fungus that kills bats by invading their skin and depleting their energy reserves during winter hibernation. WNS has been confirmed within 190 miles of Wisconsin, well within the dispersal range of Wisconsin's most common bat species, the little brown bat.

"It is likely only a matter of time before it does appear, possibly as soon as next winter" said David Redell, a bat ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources.

Bats congregate in large numbers during winter weather in Wisconsin hibernacula (caves and mines). As many as 300,000 bats winter in the state with up to 143,000 in a single hibernaculum in east central Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin has one of the highest concentrations of hibernating bats in the Midwest," said Redell. "Bats from our neighbor states IL, IN, MN, IA and MI spend winters here so anything that happens to our hibernacula has far reaching impacts." Wisconsin currently is home to four species of cave bats (the little brown bat, the northern long-eared bat, the eastern pipistrelle and the big brown bat) which have suffered drastic declines in states with WNS. Private landowners have helped to protect sites on their property, commercial cave operators educate their visitors, and recreational cavers are taking special steps to decontaminate their gear. If you visit more than one cave, your shoes will be sprayed with a disinfectant, and further disinfectant treatment may be required if you touch cave surfaces.

Source: <http://dnr.wi.gov/>