



# Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

August 2013

## Outdoor Hikes and Activities

**Wildlife Sanctuary Hikes:** Fall migration will be starting soon, so we are co-sponsoring bird hikes at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring your binoculars and meet at the parking lot by the Director's house.

Saturday **Aug. 24, 6:30 am.** Fall Migration Hike  
Wednesday **Aug 28, 6:30 am.** Fall Migration Hike  
Saturday **Aug. 31, 6:30 am.** Fall Migration Hike  
Wednesday **Sept. 4, 6:30 am.** Fall Migration Hike  
Saturday **Sept. 7, 6:30 am.** Fall Migration Hike

**Baird Creek Hikes:** 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 **Sept. 21, 1 pm.**



2013 Big Bay Photography Contest 1<sup>st</sup> place:  
"Superman" Sandhill Crane by Scott Denny

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Swift Night Out—August 10

On Saturday, August 10th at 7:00 p.m. volunteers will meet at the Neville Museum parking lot for their assignment of a specific chimney or chimneys to monitor at dusk. They will then head out and count the number of swifts that roost in the chimney. After the last counts are done, the group will meet up at Titledown Brewery for the final tabulation and a

social gathering. The results gathered will be recorded and sent to a statewide database as well as a national tracking database.

No experience is necessary, newcomers welcomed. If you'd like to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Swift Night Out, please contact Nancy Nabak at 920-655-4185 or [nnabak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nnabak@sbcglobal.net). "Our volunteers in Green Bay have counted over 500 Swifts going down chimneys in a single night," stated Nancy Nabak, co-chair with Jim Johnson of the local Swift Night Out program. "With that many birds going in at once, it looks like a cyclone." Volunteers have monitored nearly 90 sites in the last 2 years.

## Not in Green Bay? Count on your own

Since swifts congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in late summer/fall, it's relatively easy to count them.

**Here's how to count:** Look for likely chimneys (uncapped, tall, and brick so the swifts can cling to the interior)—especially on large buildings such as schools, churches, or factories. Watch to see where swifts are feeding and congregating. Pick one - or more - nights from early August in northern Wisconsin through mid to late September in southern Wisconsin. Observe the roost starting about 30 minutes before sunset until 10 minutes after the last swift enters the chimney (often when it's so dark it's hard to see anymore). Count or estimate the number of swifts that enter. Count in groups of 5 or 10 when they enter most quickly.

**Two ways to send data.** 1) Preferred: enter your data electronically on eBird at: [ebird.org/wi](http://ebird.org/wi). Map your site to an exact address or point. Include in the Chimney Swift comments section: general weather conditions, time when the first and last swifts entered the roost, what type of building it was (residence, school, church, business, etc), and any other interesting details. 2) send that information to Bill Mueller, [wpmueller1947@gmail.com](mailto:wpmueller1947@gmail.com), or 1242 S. 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53214. Include your name, address, email, date, and exact time at the roost.



2013 Big Bay Photography Contest 2<sup>nd</sup> place:  
*leucistic Red-Winged Blackbird* by Nancy Nabak

## 2013 Big Bay Birdathon & Photography Contest Summary

We accomplished our goal of raising a lot of money for bird conservation projects in the local community! A special thanks to our participants who raised over \$750 in pledges to go along with funds donated by local businesses and organizations in Northeast Wisconsin.

Cosponsored by Bird City Green Bay, NE WI Audubon, and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, this was our second annual Big Bay Birdathon and Photography Contest.

The Photo contest ran for eight days this year (May 4-11) and had 16 photographers submitting 27 outstanding photos. The most photographed species was the Sandhill Crane, with a photo of a flying crane entitled "Superman" by Scott Denny winning first place. Second place went to Nancy Nabak's photo of a leucistic Red-winged Blackbird while third went to Darci Kasal for her photo of a Yellow Warbler.

The Big Bay Birdathon competition ran from 4pm Friday May 10 to 4pm Saturday May 11 with totals tallied, prizes awarded and refreshments doled out afterwards. A special thank you goes to Mike Reed and his family for hosting the "after party" at his residence following the competition.

This year we had seven teams participating and tallying 145 species found (down from 157 species in 2012) despite the unseasonably cool, rainy weather and late spring. However, there were 17 species recorded that were Birdathon firsts, including locally rare accounts of Carolina Wren, Red-necked Grebe, and White-faced Ibis.

There was a tie atop the leaderboard between the "Angry Birders" team of Joan Berkopoc and Ron Eichhorn and "Going for a Re-Peent" team

of Brian Pierce and Adam Sinkula with each team tallying 117 species. Third place went "Big Bird" team of Mike Gottfredsen and Jim Johnson with 112 species. Closely behind them was "Vireo 2" team of Bob and Carol Mead with 109.

## 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 Aug. 14, 6:30-8:00pm.** "**Wildlife of Burkina Faso**" Join Richard and Emily Wilson as they show some exotic wildlife from Burkina Faso in West Africa including storks, rollers, oxpeckers and other native birds. Enjoy learning about hippos, lions and baboons and get a taste of the culture as well!

**Wednesday Sept 11, 6:30-8:00pm.** "**Watch for the Bat Signal**" presented by Tracey Koenig. Bats are an important part of our ecosystem, helping to manage millions of pest insects every summer, but our bats are in danger from a fungus that is quickly advancing on Wisconsin! Bat Detectives is a Citizen Science program that is helping to identify local bats and their population numbers. Come learn about the kinds of bats we have in our area and what we are doing to help our local flying friendlies. We'll check out the bats outside the museum with the bat detector too!

**Wednesday Oct 9, 6:30-8:00pm.** "**Wild Mushroom Display**" by Matt Welter. Bring your wild mushrooms from 5-6:15 for a display on the stage and to have them identified. Be sure to be able to tell where they came from. During the program, Matt Welter will look up online and talk to you about his personal experiences with the mushroom you brought.

**Wednesday Nov 13, 6:30-8:00pm.** "**Opossums: The Misunderstood Marsupial**" by Lori Bankson. Opossums are some of the most fascinating critters in Northeast Wisconsin! Learn how North America's only Marsupials handle harsh Wisconsin winters and help their human neighbors out, even when they may not be well liked. See photos, videos, and visit with the Wildlife Sanctuary's Animal Ambassador Opossum!

## Visit Our Website

Check [www.NeWiAudubon.org/](http://www.NeWiAudubon.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 us your e-mail address and request to be put on our field trip mailing list.

## Your Time is Valuable

We want to provide a number of activities this coming year, but we can't do it without your help. Contact [newaudubon@live.com](mailto:newaudubon@live.com) or drop us a note if you are able to spend a few hours 1) staffing an information table at public events, 2) planning field trips, 3) publicizing our events, 4) coordinating the newsletter, 5) improving the look of our website, or 6) your particular skill.

### **NE WI Audubon Board**

Board meetings are held 3<sup>rd</sup> 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@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:mikere@greenbaywi.gov) *President*  
Marty Gallagher 920-499-1776 *Secretary*  
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Email: [Newaudubon@live.com](mailto:Newaudubon@live.com)

Facebook group: [NortheastWisconsinAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/NortheastWisconsinAudubon)

**Publishers Statement:** The Audubon Log is published intermittently by the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society Inc, PO Box 1, Green Bay, WI 54305. There is no subscription fee; issues are sent to members as a membership benefit.



## Membership Form

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

Mail to: NE WI Audubon, PO Box 1  
Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

- Local NE WI Audubon chapter & National Audubon Society—dual membership \$35
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- Tell a friend! New national & local membership \$35

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**NEW Audubon Society has 501(c)(3) status; your donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS allows you. (\$7.50 of national membership is for the Audubon Magazine and is not tax-deductible)**

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 your expiration date is listed as 00/00 or is blank we have no record of payment.

## Few Monarchs This Year

If you've been wondering why you haven't seen monarchs this year, you're not alone.

Monarch/milkweed habitat has declined significantly with the rapid adoption of glyphosate-tolerant corn and soybeans and, since 2006, the rapid expansion of corn and soy acreage to accommodate the production of biofuels.

Researchers early this year noticed that instead of wintering in Mexico's sanctuaries on 17 acres of forest, the Monarchs were found on only three acres. They estimate the Mexico winter population was 60 million, down from 350 million the year before. They attributed the mortality to last year's drought and heat in southern states. Then this year for the Monarchs' journey north there was an unusually cold spring in Texas and milkweed plants weren't far enough along to allow laying of eggs for the monarchs that migrate to the upper Midwest.

<<2013 Big Bay Photography Contest 3<sup>rd</sup> place:  
Yellow Warbler by Darci Kasal

Northeastern WI Audubon Society, Inc.  
PO Box 1  
Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

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## 2013 State of the Birds

This fourth report by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative of the US Dep't. of Interior ([www.stateofthebirds.org/](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/)) focuses for the first time on birds on private lands rather than public. Although only 2% of private lands are formally protected for conservation purposes through direct ownership or easement, the more than 24 million acres managed by land trusts and other conservation organizations form a network of private protected lands nearly as large as the entire National Park Service system in the contiguous 48 states. In addition to conserved lands, the report states that working lands are important in providing habitat.

Many of these private protected lands are conserved by land trusts. In our region, we have the NEW Land Trust and the Door County Land Trust. In addition, the Wisconsin Land Fund, begun by NE WI Audubon members, funnels grants to various land trusts for land purchases and to the Northeastern WI Invasive Species Endowment Fund. Please support their work and take the opportunity to visit some of their special places.

NE WI Land Trust, 14 Tri-Park Way Bldg. 1,  
Appleton, WI 54914 [www.newlt.org/](http://www.newlt.org/)

Door County Land Trust, PO Box 65, Sturgeon  
Bay, WI 54235 [www.doorcountylandtrust.org/](http://www.doorcountylandtrust.org/)

WI Land Fund, 1701 Ninth St, Green Bay 54304

Each State of the Birds report has relied on bird monitoring data collected by volunteers throughout the U.S., so continue to contribute your observations to [www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org)

National Audubon Society President and CEO David Yarnold remarks that "American landowners play a critical role in the future of America's native birds. From California's rice fields to Vermont's forests, landowners are finding ways to protect birds and earn income at the same time, but the support for many of those practical solutions is disappearing because a dysfunctional Congress can't pass the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is America's bridge between agriculture and conservation – and conservation doesn't have a political party. Those critical parts of the Farm Bill allow landowners to participate in programs that promote conservation measures on private lands."