



Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

November 2016

Calendar / Events

November eBirder of the Month Challenge (via Wisconsin eBird) - This month's eBirder of the Month challenge, sponsored by Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, invites you to look at birds through what might not be your usual lens: a camera. November marks one year since we released the ability to add photos and audio directly to your eBird checklists, archiving your media in the Macaulay Library. In this first year, we have been humbled to see more than 1.5 million photos added to the collection by eBirders, documenting more than 8,250 species of birds from 226 countries. If you haven't uploaded a photo yet—this is your chance! An added bonus is that your photos help make your eBird Profile Page look fantastic. The eBirder of the Month will be drawn from eBirders who submit 15 or more eligible checklists with at least one photo or audio recording in November. Checklists must be for observations during this month, not historical checklists entered during November. Winners will be notified by the 10th of the following month. For more information visit <http://ebird.org/content/wi/news/november-ebirder-of-the-month-challenge/>

Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 5:00pm "Owl Prowl"- Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary - December is a great time of year to go out in search of owls. Join a naturalist as we venture out on the Sanctuary's trails in search of these fascinating creatures. Come dressed for the weather. You're welcome to bring a small flashlight with you. We'll warm up with hot chocolate after the hike. Pre-registration is required. Minimum of 5 by the Friday before. Maximum of 15. Call (920) 391-3671. Fee: \$5.00 per person, Cash preferred. Payable the night of the program.

Saturday, December 17, 2016, 8:00am 2016 Christmas Bird Count This year is the 117th anniversary of the CBC! That's right, 117 years... The longest and largest (most involved) citizen bird research project in the world. That's 117 years nation-wide, and the Green Bay CBC has been going since 1936. There are 2 types of counters that can participate this year: 1. Field counters who drive/walk areas to search for birds; 2. Feeder Watchers--those who watch their feeders and report what they see. Active circles in the area also include Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Oconto, Kewaunee, Door County, and many more! **Link to local CBC dates:** <http://wsobirds.org/christmas-bird-count>. For more information about the National CBC, visit: <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>. The event coordinator in Green Bay, John Jacobs, has a form that he would like participants to use, so please contact John before count day on December 17! John's email: Jacobs_rs@yahoo.com.

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 7:00pm "Northern Goshawks in Wisconsin - their history, ecology, and status" by Tom Erdman, Richter Museum at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, event hosted by the Bay Area Bird Club. Tom has dedicated his entire life towards bird conservation and is considered one of Wisconsin's best bird biologists. Tom has researched Northern Goshawks across the state and has studied colonial waterbirds in lower Green Bay for over 30 years. Please join us and learn more about the rare and elusive Northern Goshawk! **Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Center-Estuary Room (downstairs), 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay.** Free and open to the public.

**Thursday, February 16, 2017,
7:00pm "Atlasing for Beginners for the
Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II
Project"**

by Erin Giese, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, event hosted by the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society. Erin will provide an overview of the [Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Project](#), a 5-year statewide, volunteer, citizen science project (2015-2019) and then teach you the basics of atlasing. Birdwatchers of all experience levels can contribute to this meaningful project as long as you can identify at least one bird species. Atlasing is easy and extremely fun, so please join us and learn how you can contribute! [Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Center-Estuary Room \(downstairs\), 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. Free and open to the public.](#)

**Thursday, March 16, 2017,
7:00pm "Migratory Stopover
Improvements at the #1 Birding Spot
in Wisconsin, the Manitowoc
Harbor"**

by Jim Knickelbine, Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve. Jim has over 40 years of experience in the field of conservation and has worked at Woodland Dunes Nature Center for 23 years, currently serving as the Executive Director. Come join us and learn about improvements that have been made at the Manitowoc Harbor for migratory stopover bird habitat! *At least three hundred bird species* have been documented (via eBird) at the Manitowoc Lakefront, including shorebirds, gulls, terns, and ducks. [Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Center-Estuary Room \(downstairs\), 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. Free and open to the public.](#)

Event Recaps

Piping Plovers return to Green Bay

After a more-than 75-year absence from the area as a breeder, the endangered Piping Plover was documented breeding in Green Bay in the summer of 2016. Piping Plovers have been attracted to the Cat Island Wave Barrier restoration site for the past several years and multiple males held territories on new material in 2015, but 2016 was the first year a female found the site. A pair quickly formed, and in late May,

the first recorded nest in Brown County history was found. The pair was monitored almost daily as they incubated and raised three chicks, which all successfully fledged in early August. Resightings of these chicks have already been reported along their migration route in Two Rivers, Racine, Kentucky, and Florida! The good news for this species reaches beyond this area as 2016 had the highest number of adult pairs and fledged young since the species was listed as endangered. Hopefully the restoration site will become a location where Piping Plovers breed annually! **-Tom Prestby**

Tern nesting within the Green Bay/Fox River Area of Concern:

The 2016 nesting season was a great year for all the tern species in Green Bay. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and many partners had monitored nesting colonies of Black, Caspian, Common and Forster's Terns in the Green Bay/Fox River Area of Concern (AOC). The Wisconsin DNR had placed nesting platforms within the AOC for Black, Common and Forster's Terns. The Common Terns had successfully hatched and fledged 33 chicks, and all chicks were banded by Wisconsin DNR staff. The Forster's Tern colony had used a floating platform placed in Duck Creek Delta. The Forster's Tern colony had fledged a minimum of 6 young, but they could have fledged more, as they are difficult to monitor nesting colonies within cattail marshes. The Black Tern platforms placed out by Wisconsin DNR staff were not used, but there was a colony observed on the shores of Long Tail Point. Caspian Terns were observed nesting on the Cat Island Causeway (one of only two colonies in the entire state), and fledged young were observed foraging along the dredge material of the Cat Island restoration site. Overall the 2016 breeding season was a great year for tern species in Green Bay, and hopefully the trend will continue into the future. **-Josh Martinez**

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II update. Get involved!

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II completed its second field season this year with three more still to come. More than 1,100 people have helped with the project

and several interesting changes have already been revealed since the first atlas twenty years ago. For example, Mississippi Kites were documented nesting in Rock County in 2016 for the first time in state history and breeding was confirmed for other southern species including Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Northern Mockingbird. Merlin, a northern species, has shown a drastic movement into central and southern Wisconsin, including several confirmed breeders in the Green Bay area. Other area highlights are the first ever breeding Piping Plovers in Brown County and the return of breeding Common, Forster's, and Caspian Terns to Brown County.

Although the first two years of the project have been a success, the project needs your help for the final three years! If you are not already involved, helping out is easy: just enter your observations at www.ebird.org/atlaswi. No, you do not need to formally register. Tutorials, frequently asked questions and answers, and much more is available at the atlas website at www.wsobirds.org/atlas. Remember, you can enter data from anywhere, even if you are not in a priority block or if you are in a priority block that somebody has already signed up for. Help is especially needed in areas surrounding Green Bay such as southern Door County, southern Oconto County, Shawano County, and Outagamie County. So, when birding in the breeding season, why not spend some time in a new area and help out with this incredibly important project for bird conservation?

If you are interested in the project but would like more info, check out the links above or contact an area county coordinator. The area county coordinators are: Brown- Erin Giese (giesee@uwgb.edu), Oconto- Nick Walton (ngwalton@gmail.com), Shawano- Mike Reese (mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org), Outagamie- Stuart Malcom (stuart.malcolm26@yahoo.com), Waupaca- Mike Reese (mikereese@wisconsinbutterflies.org), Winnebago- Stuart Malcom (stuart.malcolm26@yahoo.com), Calumet- Andrew Reimer (andrew.reimer21@gmail.com), Manitowoc- Joel Trick (jtrick@centurytel.net), Kewaunee- Adam Sinkula (adam0227@msn.com), Door- Paul Regnier (doorcountypaul@gmail.com).

You can also contact Tom Prestby (prestbyt@uwgb.edu) or Nick Anich (Nicholas.Anich@Wisconsin.gov) for other atlas questions or comments.

Fall 2016 Rarity Roundup

The fall of 2016 was an exciting season for area birders. The excitement started with not just one but two Swallow-tailed Kites that were found over the summer near Egg Harbor (Door County) and were occasionally seen through early fall. Perhaps the biggest highlight of the fall was club member Jim Johnson hosting a young male Rufous Hummingbird that arrived in his tropical yard in September and is still present as of this publication—over 50 days in Jim's yard! Jim has shown incredible hospitality to birders and everyone who has tried for this bird has seen it. A winter-plumaged Eared Grebe was found at Sunset Beach Park in Suamico (Brown County) in early October and was seen inconsistently at the location for almost three weeks. Harlequin Ducks were found at Peninsula State Park (Door County) and the Kewaunee Harbor in the middle of October and the Kewaunee bird was accompanied by a Western Grebe! Loons put in a good showing in Green Bay this fall with multiple Red-throated Loons seen in lower Green Bay and a winter-plumaged Pacific Loon near Point au Sable (Brown County) in late October. Let's hope the winter brings more exciting birds to our area! -Tom Prestby

NE WI Audubon Board

Board meetings are held during fall and winter on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00pm, followed 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 President*

John Jacobs *Jacobs_rs@yahoo.com V-President.*

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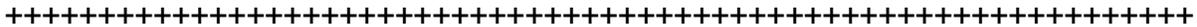
Email: [birders @ NeWiAudubon.org](mailto:birders@NeWiAudubon.org)

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

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Membership Form

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.

New national Audubon memberships made through us return funds to this local area.

Mail to: NE WI Audubon, PO Box 1
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- Dual membership: Local NE WI Audubon chapter & National Audubon Society—\$35
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We are grateful to Carmella Blecha for her recent bequest. You also can support us through your will by making a bequest of any amount.