

Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

October 2017

Updates

2017 Green Bay Piping Plover Nesting!

This past summer was another historical success for breeding Piping Plovers in the area. A year after they nested at the Cat Island Wave Barrier for the first time in Brown County history and successfully raised young for the first time on Green Bay in 75 years, there were FOUR nests this year! Piping Plovers were first found in late April and nesting was first observed in early May. All nests hatched chicks, and eight chicks were banded out of twelve that hatched. Six or seven young fledged to the point that they could independently fly and migrate, up from three fledged chicks last year. The season also came with some fun stories and tidbits.

First, the male and female that nested in 2016 both returned and successfully nested, but with different partners. Although it may seem weird, it is best for genetic diversity and happens as commonly in plovers as a pair sticking together.

Next, this site “stole” the female that bred at Illinois Beach State Bark in 2016, prompting some jokes that even plovers like Wisconsin more than Illinois! Also, one chick that disappeared when its parents disappeared resurfaced... but with a different family! The parents and its new siblings seemingly took it in as an adopted member of the family.



Piping Plover chick (Cat Island, Green Bay, WI)

© Tom Prestby



Finally, we just received word that one of this year's chicks has been photographed wintering near Jacksonville, Florida. The Cat Island Wave Barrier is a constantly-changing location so it's hard to predict how many plovers will breed next year and beyond, but we're hopeful that 2018 will be another successful year. Stay tuned!

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

The third year of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Project is already in the books! Atlasers continue to do a great job in our area, although a lot more help is needed in the final two years. Outagamie and Door Counties lead the local counties in number of species for which breeding has been confirmed, each with 164. Next are Oconto with 158 species and Brown with 152 species, and then Shawano with 146 species and Kewaunee with 128 species.

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Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II ...continued

Keep in mind that habitat diversity, size of the county, and effort all play into how many species were confirmed as breeding for each county. Some area highlights so far are: confirmed breeding for Piping Plover, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, and Wilson's Phalarope in Brown County; Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, and Redhead in Shawano County; Prothonotary Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow in Outagamie County; Northern Saw-whet Owl, Caspian Tern, and Evening Grosbeak in Door County; and probable breeding Yellow Rail in Oconto and Kewaunee Counties.

These are just a few of the highlights. There are many more to be made by simply getting out and atlasing!

Effort has varied by block but in general, Brown, Outagamie, and Kewaunee Counties are doing well, but Shawano, Oconto, and Door Counties need help badly. Atlasing anywhere (even your yard or favorite park) is helpful, but atlasing in one of these areas of need is much more helpful. If you are already atlasing, thank you for your help in contributing to Wisconsin's most important bird conservation project - it is sincerely appreciated! If not, it's not too late to join, so please do!



American Robin nest © Erin Giese

All the information needed to start is on wsobirds.org/atlas and any Atlas sightings can be entered on ebird.org/atlaswi. If you have any questions about the WBBA II, please contact Training and Support Coordinator Tom Prestby at jjprestby@msn.com or the Brown and Shawano County Coordinators Erin Giese at giesee@uwgb.edu.

Upcoming Events

2017 Christmas Bird Count

Join us this winter by participating in the 118th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)! Birdwatchers around the country count birds within 15-mile wide diameter circles on a single day to help scientists estimate winter bird populations. Birdwatchers of all ages and experience levels can help! For as little or as long as you like, you can count birds at your backyard bird feeder or by driving or walking larger areas within the circle. There are many circles located in northeastern Wisconsin that you can participate in, though each circle's CBC count date may

vary. To find a CBC circle nearest you, check out this online map (www.audubon.org/join-christmas-bird-count) and contact the respective CBC Circle Coordinator in advance for details. The count date for the Green Bay CBC Circle is Saturday, December 16th; before the count, please contact Coordinator John Jacobs (jacobs_rs@yahoo.com) for further instructions. The New Franken/ Dyckesville CBC Circle will take place on Sunday, December 17th; please contact Coordinator Erin Giese (giesee@uwgb.edu) for instructions beforehand.

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Snowy Owl © Scott Giese

*"Adopt the pace of nature:
her secret is patience."
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)*

2017 Christmas Bird Count ...continued

The most commonly reported birds in northeastern Wisconsin CBC circles include American Crow, American Goldfinch, American Tree Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, Dark-eyed Junco, Downy Woodpecker, House Finch,

Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wild Turkey, and others. Before heading out to count birds, review some tricky bird identifications such as House/Purple Finch and Downy/Hairy

Woodpecker since they look very similar.



Black-capped Chickadee
© Scott Giese

2018 Great Backyard Bird Count

For only 15 minutes or more, join birdwatchers around the world by counting your backyard birds during the 21st annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) on February 16-19, 2018. The rules are very simple. You can count birds anywhere and at any time during the four-day count

at least 15 minutes counting them. Your GBBC birdwatching observations provide critical information to scientists on bird distributions and abundance. Birdwatchers of all ages and experience levels are welcome to participate, and you can count birds for as long as you like. After you participate in the

count, you must also submit your observations online. To learn more about the GBBC, check out this website: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>. If you have questions or need help, please contact our NEWI Audubon Society Chapter at birders@NeWiAudubon.org.

Upcoming Speakers

Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 pm. Mark Patel, co-owner of Luna Coffee in De Pere, will present on coffee cultivation and its complicated relationship with migratory and indigenous bird populations. Coffee farming can have both positive and negative impacts on bird health and survival. A brief history of coffee around the world will serve as an introduction into this talk on coffee and birds. Personal anecdotes culled from specific coffee farms that supply Luna Coffee with beans will be mixed with more general topics of responsible and sustainable farming and ways of ensuring healthy bird populations in the future.

Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. DNA identification of the Phantoms of the Forest by Adam Brandt (Assistant Professor of Biology at St. Norbert College) and John Jacobs (Retired Curator of Science, Neville Public Museum of Brown County). Come join us and learn about the incredible work that Adam and John are doing with the state threatened Red-shouldered Hawk! They will explain the process of how they identify individuals without capturing them and in many cases without ever seeing them, collect samples, and then analyze them in the lab. These lab samples help Adam and John to determine raptor gender, lineage, life longevity, site and mate choices, and many other fascinating aspects.

Both talks are sponsored by the Bay Area Bird Club and will take place at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Center-Estuary Room (downstairs), 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. These events are free and open to the public! We hope to see you there!

Northeastern WI Audubon Society, Inc.
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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: NEWI Audubon, P.O. Box 1
Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

- Dual membership: Local NEWI Audubon Chapter & National Audubon Society - \$35**
- NEWI Audubon Chapter - \$25**

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NEWI 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)

NEWI Audubon Board of Directors

Board meetings are held during fall and winter on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm followed by the Lecture Series program. We meet at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. Contact our President, Erin Giese, or our chapter for more info!

Erin Giese, President + Website Coordinator,
giesee@uwgb.edu

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Tom Prestby, Social Media/Outreach Coordinator

Janet Smith, Membership Coordinator

We would like to welcome our three new board members from UW-Green Bay! Green Bay Restoration Project Coordinator Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, graduate student Tara Hohman, and undergraduate student Emily Weber. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Website: www.NeWiAudubon.org

Email: birders@NeWiAudubon.org

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