



The Hoy Honker

Hoy Audubon Society, Inc.

Racine-Kenosha, WI

October 2001

www.hoyaudubon.org

Next Hoy Audubon Society Meeting: November 1st, 7 P.M. at Gateway College Superior Room

Dr. Anne Statham of U.W. Parkside will present slides and a talk about her restoration work in the Florida Everglades. Afterwards, Ed Prins will give a bird identification slide show highlighting winter migrants of various finches, owls, gulls, and more.

Fieldtrip October 28th – Peterkin Pond Lakeland Audubon Society's October Field Trip will be to Peterkin Pond, southeast of Lake Geneva. Hoy has been invited to carpool from Wild Birds Unlimited, Lake Geneva, 812 Geneva St. (the first block north of Main and west of Broad St.) Arrive at 3 P.M. for directions to Peterkin. This is a private location that is run by the DNR and we have permission to enter, but too many cars are not welcome. Call Eric Howe or the Birding/Events Hotline for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 4TH MEETING

Joanne Dean, Wildlife Rehabilitator for Racine

County gave a presentation at the October 4th meeting. Joanne thanked Hoy for the donations she has received over the years. This year's donation will be used to build a flyway to rehabilitate eagles in her basement. Ms Dean works without using pharmaceuticals; rather, she uses holistic medications and natural foods to help her charges recuperate. Rehabilitated birds return to the wild very well, but very young birds require different steps than do older birds. This type of professional assistance is available by calling her at the Racine Zoo, North Shore Animal Hospital, or Fellow Mortals in Lake Geneva at 262-248-5055.

Ms. Dean related the story of a peregrine falcon that had been shot by BB's. The Department of Natural Resources investigated the incident by questioning neighbors in the area where "Maggie" was found, but could not locate the perpetrator.

MERCURY POLLUTION

Eric Howe read an article on mercury pollution reduction that was given to him at the Wisconsin Audubon Council meeting the previous week. Sample letters and forms to send our representatives in congress were made available to the membership.

WILDLIFE AND BIRD EXPO

The Wild Bird and Backyard Habitat Expo is scheduled Nov. 2-4 at the Washington Co. Fair Park. Log on to www.backyard-birds.com or call 1-800-324-3337.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas Bird Count for eastern Racine County has been set for December 16th. Those interested should call Eric to participate.

ED PRINS

After a short break, Ed Prins presented a slide show featuring the birds of fall. Marvelous pictures of raptors, short eared owls, warblers, waterfowl, thrushes, sparrows, roughed grouse and nuthatches were seen. Fall tips: Put small pieces of suet on feeder for yellow rumps. To feed birds from your hand; put out a stick and cover with a glove. Add seed to the glove and let them get used to that. Then...

WHOOPING CRANE UPDATE

Eric also reported on September 29th's trip to Necedah NWR. Nine young Whooping Cranes were then being trained to fly behind an ultra light to ready them for a migratory flight. Our group was witness to a training flight of five of the birds. As of press time, they have left Necedah on their 30-45 day trip.

Visit www.operationmigration.org

or
www.bringbackthecranes.org/where/index.htm to track the whooping Cranes online: here's what was online today (21st October)

Success! - Oct. 21, 2001

Weather: Overcast and wet
Flight length/duration: 21.4 mi & 41 min.
Current Location: Sauk Co. WI

Notes: Finally the winds shifted in our favor - allowing the flight team to cover some ground. Departing at 7:27am the birds followed the trikes, climbing to 400ft. Deke was able to lead them across the interstate, which they were wary of yesterday by turning sharply. Before they realized it, they were across. Joe reports that a ridge in the terrain southwest of the interstate assisted them in gaining altitude and when they reached 780ft the air was very smooth. GPS reading indicated a ground speed of 56mph!

Cumulative distance thus far:
Trip-50.7 miles. Birds have flown-80.7 miles (takes into account the two flight attempts to reach stop #2).



Upcoming meetings

Thursday, Dec. 6th, Holiday Potluck at River Bend Nature Center. Come at 5:30 P.M. for setup and snacks, followed by a potluck dinner at 6 P.M. Stan Rosenstiel will share his recent three-week trip to Bolivia with slides and photos. His group saw 13 elusive mammal species, numerous plants and nearly 400 species of birds.

Every meeting includes slides by Ed Prins on bird identification and seasonal migrants.



Book recommendation:

Living on the Wind : Across the Wind With Migratory Birds

by Scott Weidensaul

Did you know that neither temperature nor hunger sparks bird migration? That many species migrate at night? That some birds migrate more than 5,000 miles in a single, uninterrupted flight? "We are such stodgy, rooted creatures," observes the author of this fascinating book. "To think of crossing thousands of miles under our own power is as incomprehensible as jumping the moon. Yet even the tiniest of birds perform such miracles." For anyone curious about the lives of migratory birds (and, incidentally, those of bird-obsessed humans), this book is a great nest of information. The author has traveled all over the world banding and observing birds and talking to the experts--amateur birders and ornithologists who have made many of the important discoveries about bird biology. From Alaska to Lake Erie to the limestone forests of Jamaica, Weidensaul reaches not only for the scientific particulars but for the universal stories and humanizing, descriptive turns of phrase that keep this book from bogging down in statistics and jargon. By book's end the reader is unable to resist the heart of this compelling story, a plea for the conservation of habitat to keep these miraculous creatures on--or at least circling--the earth.

Thanks to Helen Pugh for this month's recommendation.

Reminder: birding every Thursday at Wind Point Lighthouse....

Thursday mornings, 7A.M. birding walk at Windpoint Lighthouse and Shoop Park. Meet at the parking area at Windpoint Lighthouse. Dress warm. Highlights these past weeks were a Peregrine Falcon, a blue morph Snow Goose, and the start of returning winter migrant sparrows and waterfowl.

SOME WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Here's what happened on the October 13th Kenosha Lakefront Fieldtrip

We took a morning trip along the Kenosha Lakefront (Alford Park and the Kenosha Harbor). At Alford Park (south of Carthage College), numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers were making their way to the south, easily 75 over the course of a half hour. Had nice views of a singing White-throated Sparrow in a low tree nearby, as well as a Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and White-crowned Sparrow.

We made a short stop north from the Pike River bridge. Pishing not only brought in the yellow-rumps, but roused a Marsh Wren to sing from the cattails. While getting back to the cars, a Peregrine Falcon made an appearance. It was headed south right down Sheridan Road, then veered north along the beach before finally heading west over the road. We made our way to the Kenosha Harbor and parked at the east end. Yet another Peregrine came in and landed on the north side (downwind side) of the red lighthouse. A visit to the new Kenosha Library followed.

The Vital Information:

President-Eric Howe (633-0086) oak@wi.net

Vice President-Joan Rohan (634-5245)

Treasurer-Helen Pugh (637-4359) mmpugh3@execpc.com

Secretary-Janet LeSuer (681-3223) whoowhoowhoo@milwpc.com

Membership-Muffy Petrick (619-0844) birdermuf@aol.com

Newsletter-Mary Ritchie (633-5148) jypsee@clsurf.com

Deadline for Newsletter is the 20th of every month

Website for Hoy Audubon Society is www.hoyaudubon.org

Birding and Events Hotline (633-0420) available 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Next board meeting is Nov. 14th at the LeSuer home - 6:30 P.M.

HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 044626

RACINE, WI 53404



FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RACINE, WI
PERMIT NO. 202

Return Service Requested