

Hoy Audubon celebrates 40th year.

THE HOY HONKER

HOY AUDUBON
SOCIETY, INC
RACINE — KENOSHA, WI
July / August 2004



UPCOMING HOY EVENTS

Wayne Rohde on Books for Birders

Thursday, July 8 — 7:00 P.M. — River Bend Nature Center — 3600 Green Bay Rd., Racine

Wayne Rohde has been an enthusiastic birder, especially in southern Wisconsin, for the past 38 years. He currently serves as the Bird Reports Coordinator for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and enjoys introducing others to the joy of birding through birds, birding optics and birding literature. Although he has a fondness for all of Wisconsin's birds, Wayne has a special interest in the songbirds, particularly the flycatchers, thrushes, vireos and wood-warblers. Refreshments will be served.

Bruce Rosenstiel on Birds of the World

Thursday, August 5 — 5:30 P.M. Picnic — 7 P.M. Program
Pringle Nature Center — 9800 160th Ave, Bristol

Join us at 5:30 P.M. for the annual picnic. Bring a dish to pass, and all tableware. We will be doing something different this year, as we have invited the Sierra Club to join us. This has always been a popular event and we hope you can join us for good food and good conversation.

There will be a program at 7:00 P.M. Bruce Rosenstiel first realized how beautiful birds were during a trip to east Africa in 1987. While it did take a few years for the birding bug to take hold, he has since traveled to 30 countries on six continents in pursuit of new species and wildlife spectacles. He began photographing his trips during a trip to southern Africa in 1998. Each trip has yielded some wonderful memories and beautiful images. He will share highlights of one or more of his trips.

Hoy Audubon Society and the Pringle Nature Center — Saturday, July 17

We have great news for all of you! The Hoy Audubon Society has entered into a contract with Kenosha County to operate the Pringle Nature Center. We will be holding a "Grand Opening" on Saturday, July 17 from 12:00 to 4:00 P.M. Events will include hourly nature programs, informational tables, arts and crafts, and hikes.

The Pringle Nature Center's address is 9800 160th Avenue in Bristol, Wisconsin. It is located one mile south of County Highway C on County Highway MB inside Bristol Woods County Park. The park is 198 acres of Oak-Hickory forest, Oak Savannah remnants, wetlands and lawn. There are over four miles of hiking trails within the woods, a picnic pavilion, playground, pond, and of course the Nature Center building.

The Hoy Audubon Society also partnered with the Girl Scouts of Kenosha and Kenosha County to plant 2,500 square feet of prairie within the Pringle Nature Center's lawn area. The Girl Scouts received an EarthPact Grant for \$3,000.00 to purchase native prairie plants from Prairie Future Seed Company. So far, we have planted 732 plants consisting of 56 native species! We will be planting more as soon as they are ready to be transplanted from the nursery. In all, we will be planting close to 1,000 plants, providing habitat for birds, butterflies and a variety of other beneficial insects. This fall the girls will be collecting seeds to sow in a plot adjacent to the area just planted. This will provide an interesting study site, comparing a designed prairie in which plugs were planted and a random prairie started from seed.

The Nature Center is being operated by volunteers, with Dan Werner as its Director and Jim Major as Volunteer Coordinator. There are lots of volunteer opportunities at the nature center. One of the most important volunteer opportunities are for Visitation Attendants, people to help staff the building, so we can have it open to the public with increased hours. The Nature Center is currently open to the public on weekends from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Along with these hours, the center also needs volunteers who are willing to help teach nature programs, ranging from story times with preschoolers to environmental education field trips for elementary and middle-schoolers, or leading early morning bird hikes. Another possibility is to help remove invasive species from the woods; garlic mustard, honeysuckle and buckthorn abound! If you are handy with tools, we are also looking for woodworkers to help build display cabinets. Anyone who is interested in helping out with these endeavors should call Dan or Jim at the Nature Center, (262) 857-8008, or e-mail them at pringlenaturecenter.att.net.

Along with the need for volunteers, the Pringle Nature Center is looking for donations of several items, including but not limited to: office equipment (computers, fax machine, copier, etc.), kitchen supplies (dishes and glasses, pots and pans, etc.), program supplies (too numerous to list), display cabinets, and cross country skis. Give us a call or stop by and we can give you a more comprehensive list. If you have any items you'd like to donate, or if you'd like to contribute money for the purchase of items or for general operations, please let us know by any of the means listed above.

**HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC
P.O. BOX 044626
RACINE, WI 53404**

NON-PROFIT ORG

Field Trip — Saturday, July 10 — Turtle Valley Wildlife Area — Walworth Co.

A relatively new State Wildlife Area with 1800 acres of grassland / wetland. A great place to find numerous Dickcissels. We'll also look for Western Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Savanna Sp., Grasshopper Sp., and perhaps Henslow's Sparrows and Upland Sandpipers. Those wishing to carpool can meet at the Park & Ride at I-94 and Hwy 20 (Racine Co.) by 6:30 A.M. TVWA is north of Delevan on County P about 6 miles, a little over a mile north of Sugar Creek Road, where the highway jogs to the northwest. A small parking lot is on the west side of the road where we'll meet at about 7:30 A.M.

Field Trip — Tuesday, July 13th and August 10th — Summer Evening Walks

Meet at the Wind Point Lighthouse (Racine Co.) at 5:30 P.M. This will be a brief 45-minute discovery walk. Time permitting; the group may investigate another site.

Field Trip — Summer Shorebird Search on August 14. John Raymond on Board.

John Raymond is now on the Hoy board of directors. His previous experience includes involvement with the Chicago Herpetological Society and also past President of the Wisconsin Herpetological Society. John's feeling is that birds are just reptiles gone bad! He will be using his experience as our Field Trip Coordinator.

The August outing is our annual Summer Shorebird Search. As in years past, Wayne Rohde will assist as a guide. We'll look to see the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, the American and the Black-bellied Plovers as well as other long-legged, head bobbing species. The trip will take place Saturday, August 14th. Meet at the Wind Lake sod farm area at 7:00 A.M. (intersection of Burmeister and Britton Roads) or the Bong State Rec. Area Observation Deck (parking lot F) at 8:00 A.M. Or meet to car pool from Hardee's at Hwy 31 and 20 by 6:30 A.M. After spending a few hours at Bong we will end the day on the river riparian area west of Burlington. Please call John Raymond, (262) 633-0285 or email theturtler@hotmail.com with questions.

Wild Alaska! — The Tongass National Forest — Presented by the Alaska Coalition

**Wednesday, June 30 — 7:30 P.M. Slide Presentation
River Bend Nature Center — 3600 Green Bay Rd., Racine**

The Tongass National Forest, established by Teddy Roosevelt in 1907, is America's Rainforest. Parts of this 19.7 million acres ecosystem receive upwards of 180" of rain a year, and its centuries-old Spruce and Hemlock trees are home to wolves, bears, salmon, and Bald Eagles that have disappeared from many other parts of the country. These ancient trees also shelter and protect freshwater streams that are crucial spawning grounds for Wild Salmon.

Unfortunately, old growth areas of the Tongass are being logged at an astounding rate, and taxpayers are footing the bill. Just last year, the government lost \$35 million, and has lost almost \$1 billion since 1982, to allow the timber industry to clear-cut the Tongass National Forest. The presentation will take place as Congress debates whether American taxpayers should continue subsidizing logging operations in the Tongass National Forest.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information call (312) 795-3744

Annual Donations Sent.

Our club's annual donations have been sent again in June. The organizations that we help support are as follows: Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Educational Alliance, Friends of Hawk Ridge, Friends of Hawthorn Hollow, Int. Crane Foundation, K.O.B.O., Operation Migration-USA, Raptor Education Group, RESCYU, River Bend Nature Center, Wildlife Horizons, Wisconsin Wetlands Assoc., WSO Breeding Bird Atlas, Wolf River Protection Fund, and Ferry Bluff Eagle Council. If you have any questions or would like to review the club's donation policies, please call Helen Pugh, Treasurer, at 632-4492. The club reviews requests for donations during the May Board of Directors meeting. All members are invited to all Board meetings. The time and location of the next Board meeting is published in this newsletter.

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Hoy Audubon Society Chapter Membership

\$15 individual / \$20 family

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NOTE: If you are a chapter member, your chapter membership expiration date is printed by your address. If you are not a chapter member, please consider joining to continue receiving the newsletter. Thank you! For questions, contact membership@hoyaudubon.org

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 15 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Dan Werner. All members are welcome to attend.