

THE HOY HONKER



HOY AUDUBON
SOCIETY, INC
RACINE — KENOSHA, WI
January / February 2005

UPCOMING HOY EVENTS

Gulls of Winter — Presented by Jim Landing
Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.
River Bend Nature Center
3600 N. Green Bay Rd. — Racine

Learn about the unusual gulls that can be seen in our area in winter. These would include Black-backed, Thayer's, Glaucous and Iceland gulls. Mr. Landing initiated the 1st Annual "Lake Michigan Gull Frolic" at the North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor, was one of founders and early representative to the Bird Conservation Network (BCN) and initiated such projects as "The Lincoln Park Birding Trail," Urban Birding Islands," and the "Police and Fire Fighters Bravery Memorial" at Lake Calumet.

Hot Spots of Wisconsin — Presented by Mark Korducki
Thursday February 3, 2005 at 7 PM
River Bend Nature Center

We will learn where some of the birds can be more readily found. Different birds like different habitats. Mark Korducki has been a birder most of his life, and leads tours to Texas and other places that have a diverse species mix. He is a member of WSO and other organizations.

Quad 30 Bird Survey
Presented by Noel Cutright
Thursday March 3, 2005 at 7 PM
At River Bend Nature Center
More info at <http://www.quad30campaign.org>

Neotropical Migrants
Presented by Bill Volkert
Thursday April 7, 2005 at 7 PM
At River Bend Nature Center

Operation Migration
Presented by Joan Garland
Thursday May 5, 2005 at 7 PM
At Hawthorn Hollow Nature Center
880 Green Bay Rd., Kenosha

To be announced
Thursday June 2, 2005 at 7 PM
At Pringle Nature Center
9800 160th Ave., Kenosha

Friday, January 14 through Sunday, January 16: Winter Owl Expedition. Duluth area Sax-Zim Marsh. We hope to see Hawk, Barred, Great Grey, and Snowy Owls. Other birds we may encounter include Pine Grosbeak, Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadees, WW Crossbills.

Saturday, January 15: Sauk Prairie Eagle Days. Bald Eagles will be viewed on the Wisconsin River. Contact Donna Peterson 262.637-3141

Saturday, February 19: Gull Frolic. Winthrop Harbor, IL. An all day event at the Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club sponsored by numerous local and regional Birding groups.

Saturday, March 5: Lakefront Bird Tour. Enjoy day of intense birding of Southeast Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Shore from Kenosha to Two Rivers. There's more than just gulls out there.

Sunday, April 17. Crex Meadows, WI (Burnett Co.) Early morning observation of the sharp tailed grouse mating ritual, and they play rough! Small fee for blind usage.

Wednesdays Warbler Walks during May. Meet at 5:30 for evening bird walks in Colonial Park.

Friday, May 6 through Sunday, May 8. Wyalusing State Park weekend camp-out. Celebrate Mother's Day by identifying over 100 species of birds!

Saturday, June 11. Prairie and wetland birds at Turtle Valley Wildlife Area near the town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI. Bobolink, Grasshopper and Henslows sparrows, Sedge wren, upland sandpiper are among the birds we hope to encounter.

Please contact John Raymond, 262.633-0285 or theturtler@hotmail.com for information regarding the above trips, unless noted otherwise.

Hoy Audubon Members Ed Prins and Margaret Wernecke Pass Away

Margaret passed away on October 10. She had been active with the group in the past. It has been suggested memorials to be given to Hoy (for youth projects) among others.

Ed Prins past away November 11, 2004 at his Racine home at the age of 85. Ed was well known in Wisconsin for his birding skills (numerous state bird records), bird and nature photography, and also as a teacher that has opened the world of birding and nature to countless people.

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



Just last year Hoy Audubon provided a tribute to Ed; it was marvelous to read letters submitted by friends around the state and country of how knowing him has touched their lives. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology paid tribute to Ed in 1994 with the 1994 Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award. He was also the president of this state organization in 1977. I remember the very first birding trips he invited me on. My first experience with Horicon Marsh ... I still remember him describing the call of what turned out to be my first ever Sedge Wren. Or the trip we took to the Wind Lake Sod Farms to see Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Golden Plovers and an unexpected Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Each time he brought along his camera and large telephoto lens in the event an opportune moment arose. His informational slide shows on birds were a special treat at the conclusion of our Hoy meetings, always ending with a superb sunset shot.

(submitted by Eric Howe)

February 18-21, 2005 — Great Backyard Bird Count

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Now that winter has gripped much of the continent, what are our birds doing? Bird populations are dynamic, they are constantly in flux. We want to take a snapshot of North American bird populations and YOU can help us. Everyone's contribution is important. It doesn't matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge. Your data can help us answer many questions:

How will this winter's snow and cold temperatures influence bird populations? Where are the WINTER finches and other irruptive species? will late winter movements of many SONGBIRD and waterfowl species be as far north as they were last year?

Over 42,000 checklists helped create wonderful maps of winter bird distribution in 2004. Audubon thanks all Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) participants for helping us keep track of the birds that were found in communities all over the US. Submit your results this year at: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

Chiwaukee Prairie Group Receives Award

At a recent ceremony held at DePaul University, the Chicago Wilderness gave Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund (CPPF) its very prestigious award, THE EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION AWARD FOR PROJECTS for 2004. CPPF has been honored for its outstanding efforts since 1965 in creating a healthier and more sustainable environment for all the people, plants, and animals that call the northeast corner of the Chicago Wilderness region home. The award is a recognition of the acquisition and restoration work that has been underway at Chiwaukee Prairie for nearly 40 years. More information can be found at www.chiwaukee.org.

***** ATTENTION — Hoy Audubon Society Membership Renewals *****

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Hoy Audubon Society is now offering "Chapter Supporter" memberships. This is due to a decrease in the amount of funds shared with us by the National Audubon Society. When we had offered this membership category, we have honored those of you who had paid previously to National Audubon and have included you in the mailing list until the renewal deadline at that time you had joined or renewed with National. PLEASE NOTE the expiration date by your mailing address. If it is past due, please send in your Chapter Contribution to continue to receive the newsletter for information on current programs and fieldtrips AND to help support LOCAL projects in our area. Thanks!

Dues are \$15 per year/ \$20 per year for families.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Send dues to P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email only? Yes No e-mail: _____

Contact Information:

President, Eric Howe, 262/594-5853, info@hoyaudubon.org

Vice-President, Joan Rohan, 634-5245

Treasurer, Helen Pugh, 637-4359, helenp@pughmarina.com

Secretary, Muffy Petrick, 619-0844

Newsletter, Stan Rosenstiel, 694-2206, mrstanmr@yahoo.com

Membership, Muffy Petrick, 619-0844, birdermuf@aol.com

Director, Michael Goodman, mgood@execpc.com

Director, John Raymond, theturtler@hotmail.com

Director, Dan Werner, pringlenaturecenter@att.net

Website for Hoy Audubon Society - www.hoyaudubon.org

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Weekly Field Trip

Wednesday mornings

Meet at 7 AM at Wind Point Light House and search for the common, uncommon and rare birds.

Next Board Meeting

February 8 at 7 PM at Werner Residence. All members are welcome to attend.