

# THE HOY HONKER

HOY AUDUBON  
SOCIETY, INC  
RACINE — KENOSHA, WI



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wisconsin Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program

**Thursday January 5, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**  
**River Bend Nature Center**

**3600 N. Green Bay Rd. — Racine**

*Yoyi Steele* will discuss the IBA program, its accomplishments, recent activities, and how the public can become involved. Yoyi has been the IBA Coordinator since 2003. She has a Master's in Conservation Biology from UW-Madison. Some of her past endeavors include work on the Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan project for WDNR, fieldwork in western Mexico for her master's research, bird surveys in the Lower Wisconsin River floodplain, work as a nest-searcher for Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California, and fieldwork in east central Arizona for the Mexican Wolf reintroduction project.

### Backyard Bird Feeding

**Thursday, February 2, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**  
**River Bend Nature Center**

*Kathie Longrie* with Wild Birds Unlimited will show us new bird feeding items and suggestions to enhance your yard for birds.

### Raptor Education Group / Avian Rehabilitation

**Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**  
**River Bend Nature Center**

*Marge Gibson* co-founded Raptor Education Group, Inc (REGI) in 1990. Marge has worked with wildlife for over 30 years. She began her work with raptors as a field biologist. She has worked with many high profile field projects including the California Condor Recovery Team and the Bald Eagle Capture and Health Assessment Program in Valdez. Alaska following the Valdez Oil Spill where she was team captain. In addition, Marge teaches wildlife rehabilitation internationally.

In the beginning, REGI was focused on public education programs and supporting field research on avian species. In part due to the remote northern location of the center in Antigo, WI, it soon became apparent that rehabilitation would be a major part of the work done at the center. While specializing in large raptors and swans, all avian species are accepted for rehabilitation at the center. Since its beginning, thousands of raptors and other avian species have been patients at the wildlife center.

### Silent Conversations

#### with Eastern Wood Warblers

**Thursday April 6, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**  
**River Bend Nature Center**

Silent Conversations with Eastern Wood Warblers is an intimate photographic journey into the lives of the thirty-eight species of warblers that migrate through the Americas east of the Great Plains. *Laurie Smaglick Johnson* is an electrical engineer and businesswoman by education and career experience; a scientist by thought process; and a conservationist by heart. Her love of birds, the environment and photography has come together to provide others with intimate glimpses into the lives of the birds we share this earth with. She was born, raised and makes her home still today in Racine County, Wisconsin.

### Wisconsin's Favorite Birding Haunts

**Thursday May 4, 2006**

**Program at 7:00 P.M. - Bird Walk at 5:30 P.M.**  
**River Bend Nature Center**

*Daryl Tessen* has been a birder in Wisconsin virtually his entire life, starting his passion for bird-watching when just a young child. Daryl was born and raised in Appleton, Wisconsin, the town to which he retired after a 33-year career as a high school biology teacher in Illinois. Daryl has been a member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology for over 45 years. He has been an editor of the popular book Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, spent 24 years as regional editor in the Western Great Lakes for "North American Birds" and has recently co-edited Birds of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

### International Migratory Bird Day

**Saturday May 13, 2006**

More details to come in the March / April issue on regional and local activities, including the spring bird count.

### Field Trips

#### Wednesday Mornings at Windpoint - 7:00 A.M.

Enjoy early winter mornings as we look for waterfowl (including specialties such as Long-tailed Ducks and perhaps a Harlequin Duck that has been seen recently), various gull species (~7 possible), winter sparrows and finches, and more. It's always a surprise at what we might find. Meet at the Windpoint Lighthouse (Racine Co.) on Wednesday mornings — 7:00 A.M.

#### Saturday, January 14, 2006 - Bald Eagle Viewing

Each winter in Prairie du Sac and Sauk City, Bald Eagles gather because the strong current below the Prairie du Sac dam keeps the river from freezing, allowing eagles access to their favorite food, fish. The area's bluffs and valleys provide needed shelter from severe weather and roosting for the night. Eagle watching is best during the morning, when the birds are most active fishing and are frequently seen perching in trees along the river. Spotting scopes are available for your use at the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council's Overlook in Prairie du Sac. Enjoy the special activities and educational exhibits at the River Arts Center. Hot food and beverages will be available for sale at the Sauk Prairie High School and VFW Park. For more information about locations, schedules, sponsors, and more visit [www.ferrybluffeaglecouncil.org](http://www.ferrybluffeaglecouncil.org)

#### Saturday, February 11, 2006, (9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.) Gull Frolic

(Winthrop Harbor). In the past, speakers, lectures and videos on gull identification have been part of the program. Unusual gulls and waterfowl are often observed from inside and outside of the clubhouse. Coffee and sweet rolls in the morning and pizza for lunch with soft drinks will be available. This event is sponsored by Illinois Ornithological Society with help from other area birding organizations. A \$5 donation will be requested to offset rental, speaker, and food costs. Directions: Take Sheridan Rd south to Winthrop Harbor, then east to the North Point Marina. Follow signs to the Yacht Club. Contact John (below) for carpooling information.

Please contact John Raymond, 262.633.0285 or [fieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org) for information regarding the above Hoy sponsored field trips or to suggest fieldtrips.

#### Upcoming Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Field Trips:

##### Saturday, January 7 - Milwaukee - Winter Birding

Meet: 8:00 - 8:30 A.M. at South Shore Yacht Club (Milwaukee). Dress warmly and bring your "energy" foods.

##### Saturday, January 28 - Prairie du Sac - Eagles

Meet: 9:00 - 9:30 A.M. at the eagle observation area in Prairie du Sac. (business district area on Hwy. 78 south of the Hwy. 60 bridge). We will drive to the local birding spots looking for other winter birds. Bring a bag lunch to eat in the car.

##### Sunday, March 12 - Milwaukee - Lakefront Birding

Meet: 8:00 - 8:30 A.M. at South Shore Yacht Club (Milwaukee). Travels will take us north from here to various birding locations. Depending on the current birding information they often times end their trip at the Sheboygan Harbor. Bring a bag lunch.

**HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**  
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[www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)

### **Racine Christmas Bird Count Results**

Thanks to the seven field parties and several feeder watchers that participated on the December 17th Racine CBC. Fifty-three species and 6186 individuals were recorded. A few highlights are in bold below from the reports received so far:  
Canada Goose 2621, Mute Swan 9, **Wood Duck 6**, Am Black Duck 23, Mallard 845, Greater Scaup 207, Lesser Scaup 4, **White-winged Scoter 1**, **Long-tailed Duck 3**, Bufflehead 148, Common Goldeneye 510, Hooded Merganser 10, Common Merganser 22, Red-breasted Merganser 66, Ruddy Duck 6, Northern Harrier 3, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 4, Red-tailed Hawk 6, Rough-legged Hawk 1, American Kestrel 2, American Coot 9, Ring-billed Gull 40, Herring Gull 492, Lesser Black-backed Gull (Count Week), Rock Pigeon 50, Mourning Dove 165, E. Screech-Owl 8, Great Horned Owl 3, **Snowy Owl 2** (Racine Harbor), Red-bellied Woodpecker 5, Downy Woodpecker 23, Blue Jay 27, American Crow 68, Horned Lark 24, Black-Capped Chickadee 71, Red-B Nuthatch 2, White-B Nuthatch 14, **Carolina Wren 1**, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, American Robin 16, European Starling 115, Cedar Waxwing 33, Am Tree Sparrow 91, Fox Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 3, White-throated Sparrow 1, **White-crowned Sparrow 7**, **Lapland Longspur 42**, Northern Cardinal 29, House Finch 65, American Goldfinch 58, English Sparrow 121

### **United Environmental Council Forum - Saturday, January 14th (9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.)** **River Bend Nature Center**

Goals: 1) Share mission and objectives of the various groups that comprise the UEC. 2) Find ways to partner together on related or similar issues to make our work effective. 3) Learn ways to strengthen and enhance the work we are already doing.  
Organized by: Allison Werner (Root Pike WIN), Aaron Hertzberg (Sustainable Racine), Emily Miota (WI League of Conservation Voters)  
If you know that you can attend, please RSVP to [emily@conservationvoters.org](mailto:emily@conservationvoters.org).

### **The Great Backyard Bird Count - February 17 - 20, 2006**

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology encourage everyone to COUNT BIRDS WITH A BUDDY! Bird enthusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds with a friend, a child, a scout troop, a class, or a co-worker—opening new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent. Every pair of eyes is needed and everybirdy counts, whether in a backyard, on a high-rise balcony, in a park, or on any of the 730 million acres of public lands.

In 2005, participants sent in more than 52,000 checklists, with a record-breaking 613 species and more than 6 million birds counted. These millions of sightings generate what would be impossible otherwise – continent-wide information about where the birds are and how their numbers compare with those of previous years. Anyone with Internet access can see the results in maps and charts as the sightings pour in.

For nearly a decade, the GBBC has kept tabs on the ever-changing patterns of birds in winter. How far north will American Robins be reported this year? Will Sandhill Cranes migrate early or late? Introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves have been turning up in new states—where will they be this year? Native Red-bellied Woodpeckers have been spreading to the northeast—will this trend continue? Scientists also want more information on declining species, such as Rusty Blackbirds and Painted Buntings. While these species are suffering from the continued destruction of their preferred habitats, other factors, such as mercury accumulation in Rusty Blackbirds, and removal of Painted Buntings for the illegal cage bird industry, may make a bad situation worse.

"This project has become a major source of scientific information about North American bird populations," said Dr. John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. "It is a classic example of the vital role citizens and the Internet now play in understanding our planet." Everyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to seasoned experts at no cost. During the count, bird watchers can tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time. People are encouraged to report birds from public lands and local parks, as well as from their own backyards. Participants enter their numbers online at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) and can explore sightings maps, lists, and charts as the count progresses.

### **Has Your Membership EXPIRED? - Hoy Audubon Society Membership**

Hoy Audubon Society offers "Chapter Supporter" memberships. **PLEASE NOTE the expiration date by your mailing address.** If it is past due or does not appear, please send in your Chapter Contribution to continue to receive our bi-monthly newsletter for information on current programs and fieldtrips AND to help support LOCAL projects in our area. Thanks! To continue your national membership and the Audubon Magazine subscription with National Audubon Society (NAS), please refer to information you receive from NAS. NAS only members will receive the Hoy Audubon Society newsletter twice a year.

Chapter Supporter Dues are \$15 per year (single)/ \$20 per year (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, Michael Goodman, (414) 764-9610,**

**[goodman@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:goodman@hoyaudubon.org)**

**Vice-President, Joan Rohan, 634-5245**

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**Secretary, Muffy Petrick, 886-1185**

**Membership, Muffy Petrick, 886-1185, [membership@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:membership@hoyaudubon.org)**

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**Director, Dan Werner, (262) 857-8008, [pnc@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:pnc@hoyaudubon.org)**

**Website for Hoy Audubon Society - [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)**

**P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404**

**Next Board Meeting - Thurs. Jan 26 - 7:00pm at home of Muffy Petrick**

#### **Project: Give a second life to used feeder**

**Hoy is seeking:** Usable, used feeders they may need a small amount of rehab. Persons who would like to receive used feeders. A person to rehab used feeders and redistribute them.

#### **Hoy's Library Open to Members**

Hoy Club's growing library of books, videos, CD's, etc. is set up for your use at the River Bend Nature Center. Any member may access any of Hoy's library material at the River Bend Nature Center by simply signing out for it. Should you wish to make a donation to the library, please give the item(s) to a board member. River Bend is open 9am-4:30pm Mon-Fri and 12:30pm-4:30pm Sat & Sun.