

Upcoming Programs

Conservation Issues Facing Wisconsin

Thursday, January 3, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.

River Bend Nature Center - 3600 N. Green Bay Rd. - Racine

What is Conservation Lobby Day?

Last year, over 430 citizens representing nearly 100 groups from across Wisconsin descended on the state Capitol to share their conservation values with their Legislators. In the last two Conservation Lobby Days, citizens have succeeded in winning on two Conservation Priorities: in 2006, the Clean Energy Bill was adopted, and in 2007, the Stewardship Fund was reauthorized.

The participation of local groups and citizens like YOU is incredibly important to the success of Conservation Lobby Day. Every day throughout the state, countless citizens like you work tirelessly to protect the local land, water, and wildlife. Conservation Lobby Day is an opportunity to share your conservation stories and experiences with Legislators and have a huge impact on policies affecting the entire state of Wisconsin.

This year, the 3 Conservation Priorities that are still in play in the 2007-08 Legislature are:

- Keep the Great Lakes Waters in the Great Lakes by passing the Strong Great Lakes Compact for a Strong Wisconsin, which addresses pressures on water supplies and desires for diversions.
- Restore Conservation Integrity by passing the three components of the Hunter, Angler, Trapper Bill of Rights.
- Stop Global Warming by passing the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act to adopt a science-based plan to reduce Wisconsin's share of global warming emissions.

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters is a non profit, non partisan organization dedicated to elect pro-conservation champions to the state legislation and educating the public on environmental and public health issues.

Our guest speaker, Adrienne Roach, is the Southeast Organizer for the WLCV. She graduated with a cumulative degree in Political Science-World Politics from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Adrienne is dedicated to conservation and enjoys hiking, fishing, and spending time on the shores of Lake Michigan. Adrienne joined the WLCV staff in January of 2007, and is excited about keeping our rivers and lakes pure and protecting the rights of hunters and anglers.

This year, Conservation Lobby Day will be held on January 30th. More information at:
http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/Events/08lobby_day.htm

Birding in Ecuador:

The Mindo Birdathon

Thursday, February 7, 2008

River Bend Nature Center - Racine

Program at 7:00 P.M.

Hoy member, Eric Howe, will highlight a group trip to Ecuador last August. The purpose of the trip was not only to see a lot of great bird species but also to raise money for the Mindo Birdathon, a fundraiser for the Mindo Cloudforest Foundation, www.mindocloudforest.org. The MCF is working to acquire critical bird habitat in the Choco Bioregion of Northwest Ecuador, home to over seventy-five endemic bird species (in addition to several hundred other species).



Sword-billed Hummingbird - E. Howe

All programs and fieldtrips are open to anyone interested. Contact John Raymond, 262.633.0285 for information regarding field trips or to suggest future fieldtrips.

**For additional program information, visit:
www.hoyaudubon.org**

Eastern Bluebirds in Wisconsin

Thursday, March 6, 2008

River Bend Nature Center - 7:00 P.M.

Dr. Kent Hall will be our featured speaker. For the past six years Dr. Hall has coordinated the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society's "Bluebird Trail" in central WI. It began in 2002 with only 89 nest boxes and Dr. Hall as the sole monitor and will have 937 nest boxes and 45 monitors in the 2008 season. The Audubon Trail has produced 12,460 song birds in its 6 year history, including 9,513 bluebirds, and ranks 2nd largest in the state.

Dr. Hall has been a member of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) for 4 years. He is now VP and Coordinator of Data Collection and Analysis for BRAW. He heads the BRAW initiative called Operation: TOP STATE (OTS), which has the goal of producing 30,000 bluebirds in WI by 2011. In just its first year, OTS achieved its goal of setting a new national record with 28,244 fledged bluebirds and a total of 40,771 fledged songbirds. Dr. Hall's talk will emphasize his work with OTS across Wisconsin and particularly in Racine and Kenosha Counties with Hoy Audubon members.

Dr. Hall was a faculty member for 30 years in the Biology Department at UW-Stevens Point where he taught courses in environmental physiology and specialized in cold temperature biology. Avian biology was always an interest of his and he has

"birded" in all 50 states (ABA Area Life List of 701) and 15 foreign countries (World Life List of 2,533). Since retirement, Dr. Hall has immersed himself in conservation projects. He has spearheaded four fund drives which raised over \$3,000,000, predominantly for construction of environmental buildings.



E. Howe

Insect and Bird Connections

Thursday, April 3, 2008

River Bend Nature Center - 7:00 P.M.

Kerry Katovich is an assistant professor in biology at the UW - Whitewater. His primary research focuses on a large group of mostly South American scarab beetles. He currently has several students working on several local groups, including a study trying to document and identify Wisconsin's Robber Flies, The Assassin bugs, Lace bugs and Leaf-footed bugs of Wisconsin. At Whitewater he teaches invertebrate biology, evolution, animal physiology, animal diversity and ecology to the biology majors.

Kerry grew up in central Wisconsin and was taken by insects at an early age. His father was a state forester, and it was through him that he learned to appreciate the outside world. One of his earliest memories is going on the annual Sandhill Crane count with his dad and brothers.

Kerry will demonstrate some obvious and not so obvious connections between birds and insects in his talk.

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Hawthorn Hollow Nature Center

880 Green Bay Rd. - Kenosha County

5:30 P.M. - Bird / Wildflower Walk

7:30 P.M. - Annual Meeting

Election of the Hoy Audubon Society officers and board members will take place this evening.

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Location TBD

5:30 P.M. - Bird and Wildflower Walk

7:00 P.M. - Program - Kirtland's Warbler in Wisconsin and Elsewhere.

Guest speaker - Chuck Hagner, Editor of *Birders World* magazine. For meeting location, please refer to details in upcoming newsletters.

Field Trips

Lakefront Morning Birding at Wind Point Lighthouse / Shoop Park - Racine - Wednesdays - 7:00 A.M. to 8:15 A.M. (or later)

Join us at the Windpoint Lighthouse to waterfowl, gulls, and other passerines found along the lakefront and ravine. Meet at the lighthouse parking area. **Beginning in April**, we'll plan to meet at Myers Park (11th Street and Pershing Blvd south of the Racine Gateway Campus.)

Check our website for upcoming April evening Woodcock Walks at Cliffside Park and for our 5:30 P.M. Wednesday birding at Colonial Park in late April and May for warblers and other spring migrants.

HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 044626
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www.hoyaudubon.org

Additional Programs of Interest

Fundraiser for Bird Conservation in Ecuador Saturday, May 28, 2008 - Blackhawk County Club, Madison

World renowned ornithologist Dr. Robert Ridgely will speak about how the electrifying discovery of the Jocotoco Antpitta forever changed the face of bird conservation in the tropical Andes of South America, home to the world's richest avifauna. This event is a fundraiser for the Jocotoco Foundation (www.fjocotoco.org). Visit www.hoyaudubon.org for details.



Jocotoco Antpitta
from *Birds of Ecuador*

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Field Trips

Join the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) on **Saturday, January 5th** at 8:00 A.M. at the South Shore Yacht Club in Milwaukee Co. Dress warmly and bring your "energy" foods. From there, they will head north for the morning perhaps as far as Sheboygan.

Additional 2008 field trip dates and meeting locations can be found at www.wsobirds.org. The following are locations for WSO trips for the first half of the year: January 26 at Necedah NWR - Eagles and more; March 15 in LaCrosse - Lansing Loop; March 16 at Sheboygan - Lakefront Birding; March 29 at the Dane & Columbia County Ponds; April 12 at Mead Wildlife Area; May 3 at White River Marsh; May 11 at Honey Creek for the Birdathon and Bandathon; June 7 at N.Kettle Moraine State Forest. You may also visit Hoy's website for details on these trips.

For the WSO field trips, severe weather conditions may cancel the trip. In the event of cancellation, every attempt to notify participants via the WSO Hotline (call 262.784.4032 for recording) and WisBirdNet (recent postings at <http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/WISC.html>)

Needed: Citizen Monitors for Wisconsin's First Salamander Survey

The Wisconsin Audubon Council, Inc. (WAC,) a coalition of the state's 14 independent chapters and 2 National Audubon centers, received a grant from the Citizen-Based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin in August 2007 to coordinate a statewide survey of salamanders. Members of Wisconsin Audubon chapters will serve as citizen monitors.

Each monitor or volunteer family will place live traps in local wetland sites that experts have identified as potential breeding habitats. Volunteers will check the traps daily over a two week period in early April and enter their catch results on a data sheet.



Wisconsin has seven salamander species. The survey focuses on four species that breed in shallow woodland pools: the tiger, spotted and blue-spotted salamanders and the central newt. This survey brings attention to these secretive creatures, gives wildlife managers' much-needed distribution data, and promotes the value of wetlands and woodland pools.

According to Randy Korb, WAC president and project director, willing participants must belong to or join an Audubon chapter to become a salamander citizen monitor. Each chapter will have up to 5 monitors. No prior experience is required and family members (parents and school-aged children) are especially encouraged to join the survey. Monitors will receive web-based or workshop training and receive traps and locations of monitoring sites before the survey begins in late March 2008. Each chapter must also have a coordinator that will communicate with monitors, collect their data, and report back.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer salamander monitor, please contact Rick Fare at 262.632.7585 or rick.fare@hoyaudubon.org

Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Trails Successful in 2007

Four new Bluebird Trails were set up early in 2007 in Racine and Kenosha Counties, thanks to collaborative funding from the National Audubon Society and the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW). The trail locations include Sunset Ridge Memorial Park Cemetery in Kenosha Co. and Ives Grove Golf Course, Johnson Park Golf Course, and West Lawn Cemetery in Racine Co. Our appreciation goes to these landowners. Thanks also go out to Rick Fare, Helen Pugh, John Raymond, and Stan Rosenstiel who helped installed and monitored these trails AND to Dr. Kent Hall from BRAW whose enthusiasm and visits from Steven's Point aided in placement/installation of nest boxes.

In 2008, we'll also have a new Bluebird Trail installed at Petrified Springs Golf Course in Kenosha Co. A thank you to Bob Stocks for the donation of nest boxes.

What were the results in 2007? A total of 130 Eastern Bluebirds had fledged as well as 126 Tree Swallows. Not bad for the first year!

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 projects and organizations 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 Receive newsletter by email only? Yes No e-mail _____

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www.hoyaudubon.org

Next Board Meeting Date TBD
Contact a board member for location and time.
Members welcome