

# THE HOY HONKER

## HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC

RACINE — KENOSHA, WI

April - May 2009

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**

**7:00 P.M. - Program: *Birding in the Bottomlands of Arkansas in the Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker***  
**River Bend Nature Center**

**3600 N. Green Bay Rd. - Racine**

Our guest speaker, Jeff Bahls, was a member of 2007 Ivory-billed Woodpecker Search Team in Arkansas. Jeff will give a first hand account about his time spent in Arkansas in February 2007 as part of the Cornell University Lab Of Ornithology search for the woodpecker.

Jeff is a life long resident of Dodge County, Wisconsin. He has been an avid waterfowler for the past 35 years and is a member of the WSO, Ducks Unlimited, and is on the board of directors of the Wood Duck Society. Jeff has volunteered for various bird monitoring project including CBC's, Monitoring Wood Duck and Tree Swallow/Bluebird nest boxes, and has helped with baseline bird survey of Plum Island, part of Green Bay NWR. He volunteers for Horicon NWR and Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area. Jeff is a 13 member of Horicon Marsh Bird Club and currently is the HMBC President.

**Saturday, May 2, 2009 : 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

***Beginning Birding Basics Class***  
**Root River Environmental Education**  
**Community Center (REC)**

**1301 6th Street - Racine**

A two hour class will cover the following subjects: How to use and choose binoculars, basic Bird ID, when and where to find birds, birding guides/books. Please contact Helen Pugh for details at 262.637.4359.

**Thursday, May 7, 2009**

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

**7:30 P.M. - Program: *Oak Woodland Management on Kenosha and Racine County Public Hunting Grounds***  
**River Bend Nature Center**

Our guest speaker, Marty Johnson, has been the WDNR Wildlife Biologist for the Racine and Kenosha County areas for the last 11 years. He received his BS in Wildlife Ecology from UW-Madison in 1991. He has always had a strong interest in birds of all species and much of his wildlife experience has involved birds such as Spotted Owls, Trumpeter Swans, Wood Storks, and Grassland songbirds.

Marty Johnson will discuss current woodland management strategies and potential efforts to monitor woodland bird species using these areas.

Election of the Hoy Audubon Society officers and directors will also take place this evening. The nomination committee reports the following candidates. Helen Pugh (President), Keith Kennedy (Vice-President), Jenny Wenzel (Treasurer), Gail Coombs (Secretary).

Directors: Rick Fare, Dana Garrigan, Eric Howe, Christina Mondragon, Muffy Petrick.

We'll also view slides of migrant birds, with an emphasis on warblers.

**Saturday, May 9, 2009**

***International Migratory Bird Day Count***

An annual day in the field to find and count individuals of all bird species at various locations throughout Racine County. Counts across the nation provide a snapshot of migration in May with their numbers and distribution. You can bird your backyard, a local park or join others. Just keep track of the time and mileage you spend and the total of each species you see. Sign up for a count area at prior to or at our May 7th meeting or contact Eric Howe at [eric.howe@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:eric.howe@hoyaudubon.org) (or 262.594.5853). Read more about IMBD online at [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org).

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, April 4, 2009**

***Lake Mills Wildlife Area - Zeloski Marsh (Jefferson Co.)***

We've gotten some terrific reports of waterfowl by the thousands at this wonderful marsh near Lake Mills (Jefferson County). We will meet at 8:00 A.M. to carpool from the Park and Ride at the I-94 and Hwy 100--Ryan Road lot. Bring snacks (we'll have lunch on the road) and waterproof footwear (just in case). As always, dress for the weather. Spotting scopes will be available.

**Wednesday, April 8 and April 15 : 7:00 P.M. - 8:45 P.M.**

***Evening Woodcock Walks***

**Cliffside Park (Racine)**

Listen to the peents and view the aerial dances of the twittering "Timberdoodle" at twilight.

Cliffside Park is located on the lakefront in northeast Racine Co., north 6 Mile Road, off of Michna Road. Meet by 7:00 P.M. at Picnic Area #2 (near the yellow gate). While there is daylight, we'll bird along the main trail north of the yellow gate for spring migrants.

The American Woodcock may begin to call around 7:30 P.M. or 8:00 P.M. (depending on if it is overcast or clear). Some of the trails may likely be wet from recent rainfall, so it is strongly advised to wear waterproof footwear. A warm jacket and gloves are suggested.

If interested in woodcock walks at Chiwaukee Prairie in southeast Kenosha Co., please contact Stan Rosenstiel for arrangements, 694-2206.



American Woodcock - E. Howe

**Saturday, April 25 : 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

***Earth Day***

**Myers Park (Racine)**

We will be planting native shrubs and flowers with the Rotary West group. Meet at Myers Park (foot of 11th Street at the lakefront in Racine) at 9:00 A.M. Bring gloves and tools (i.e. shovel, trowel, rake, etc.).

**Evening Warbler Walks at Colonial Park**

**Wednesday Evenings : April 22 - May 27 - 5:30 P.M.**

Our annual evening hikes at Colonial Park are a great opportunity to experience the progression of spring migrants. From the early Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers to the later arriving species like Canada Warblers, they'll be plenty of eyes to help point out all the activity.

**Morning Bird Walks at River Bend Nature Center**

**Thursday Mornings : April 23rd, 30th,**

**May 7th, 14th - 7:30 A.M.**

Meet in front of the nature center at 7:30 A.M.

**Saturday, May 16, 2009 - 7:30 A.M.**

***Bird Walk at the Caledonia Conservancy's Trout Ponds***

Meet at the parking area west of the intersections of Highway 31 and 4 Mile Road.

**Visit [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org) for updated information.**

*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.*

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

**Highlights of the Hoy Audubon Field Trip to Bong Recreation Area for Winter Birding! by Jenny Wenzel**

On January 31, 2009, Hoy Audubon hosted a field trip to Bong Recreation Area for the purpose of enjoying winter birds. The day turned out to be rather cold and windy, which kept many birds in hiding, but the event was a great success! Fourteen people gathered and enjoyed seeing a nice variety of birds, including 2 Northern Shrike, which turned out to be a life bird for many of us (thanks to Rick Fare for spotting them!). The Short-Eared owls that we had hoped to find had already left the area, but we spotted a nice variety of other birds, including an unusually tame Northern Bobwhite and a variety of birds at the Bong feeders. We were able to spot the difference between House and Purple finches, as well as sighting Downy woodpeckers, Goldfinches, Juncos, etc. and 2 American Tree Sparrows! The Rough-Legged Hawks didn't make an appearance, but we were happy to see a Red-tailed hawk perched in the trees! All in all, it was a great event and a wonderful opportunity to see birds and share our experience with others!



**Thursday, June 4, 2009 - 7:00 P.M. - Wisconsin Bats - River Bend Nature Center**

David Redell, a Bat Ecologist from the WI Department of Natural Resources, will discuss some basic natural history of Wisconsin bats, demonstrate acoustic bat monitoring equipment, outline the statewide bat plan, answer questions, and let interested individuals know how they can become actively involved.

**Additional Trips of Interest - Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Field Trips and Annual Convention**

Join the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) for field trips throughout the year. **April 11** (Saturday) Mead Wildlife Area (Meet by 7:30 am at the George W. Mead State Wildlife Area headquarters building, Portage Co.); **May 2** (Saturday) White River Marsh (Green Lake Co) - 5AM; **May 16-17** Honey Creek Birdathon and Bandathon - WSO's Honey Creek property (Sauk Co.); **May 21-24 WSO Convention**, The Lodge at Crooked Lake, Siren (Burnett Co.) **For a full listing of 2009 field trip dates and locations, visit [www.wsobirds.org](http://www.wsobirds.org).**

**New Annual Renewal Date for Hoy Audubon Society Chapter Membership\*\*\***

Annual renewals for Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" memberships are due on July 1 of each calendar year. This simplifies the renewal process for everyone and insures that all members continue to receive our bi-monthly newsletter for information on current programs and field trips. To renew your Chapter Supporter membership for 2008/2009, please send in a check for \$12 (payable to Hoy Audubon Society). Your local chapter membership also helps to support local Hoy Audubon projects in our area such as our Bluebird and Purple Martin restoration projects, beginning birding classes, and bird walks. Please note: if you have submitted Chapter Supporter dues (\$12) for 2008 (between January and December), you are considered to be in full membership for 2008/2009.

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 \$12 per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Send dues to Hoy Audubon Society, P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404

Receive chapter newsletter by email only? Yes, my e-mail is \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Contact Information:**

President, Rick Fare, 262.632.7585, rick.fare@hoyaudubon.org  
Vice-President, Helen Pugh, 262.637.4359, helen.pugh@hoyaudubon.org  
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Director, Fred Faraca, 262.764.9610  
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Director, Muffy Petrick, 262.886.1185, muffy.petrick@hoyaudubon.org  
Director, John Raymond, 262.633.0285, hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org

Director Emeritus, Joan Rohan, 262.634.5245  
Programs, Stan Rosenstiel, 262.694.2206, stan.rosenstiel@hoyaudubon.org

**April 23rd at 7:00 P.M. - The next board meeting will be held at the YMCA, 725 Lake Avenue, Racine in the Chapel Room on the second floor. All members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!!**

**[www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)**