



A message from our newly elected President

To the Membership: Thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me to serve as your President. I am proud to be a part of Hoy Audubon, and enjoy being active in fulfilling the club's missions.

I want to thank our outgoing President, Rick Fare, for his exemplary three years of service. His tireless efforts are evident in the club's increased membership, quality events, and improved public relations. He personally installed most of the 200 plus Bluebird nest boxes that we currently monitor! Rick will remain on our Board of Directors and will serve as the chairman of our Education committee. Congratulations Rick on the great job you did for Hoy!

Eric Howe, our newsletter editor for the past five years, is giving up this post. We are indebted to him for his dedication in producing a timely and informative newsletter for Hoy Audubon. He will remain on our Board of Directors as well as continue the extremely important job of maintaining our website. Thank you, Eric!

Our new Board of Directors will be meeting on August 12th. If you would like to be more active in the club, I invite you to join us. Please call me anytime with your suggestions as to how we can improve the club.

Helen Pugh

Conservation Updates

Eastern Blue Birds: The second nesting season is well under way for Hoy's Eastern Bluebird (EBB) trail. Last year we fledged 212 EBB. At the end of June, we had fledged 227 EBB and still had 172 eggs and 97 chicks in the nest boxes. We are anticipating over 450 EBB fledged this season!

In the same period, we had also fledged 288 Tree Swallows and still had 137 eggs and 170 chicks in nest boxes. Life is good!! Final numbers will be coming in the fall newsletter.



450 Our 2009 goal for total number of Blue Birds fledged via Hoy Audubon EBB Trails!!!

Purple Martins:

Hoy installed three new Purple Martin housing assemblies this spring along the lakefront.

The new unit at Gateway held a nest of Purple Martins, but was unsuccessful in fledging

them. House sparrows were the culprits there, and we are researching more effective methods for dealing with them. The house at Shoop had some interest, but no nests were built.

The house at North Bay was also unoccupied. We are hopeful that next year will be more productive. On the up side, the two active colony houses at the Racine Water Dept. are doing quite well. Out of 28 nest cavities, 20 are producing young!! Again, final figures will be published in the fall newsletter.

Helen Pugh



Federal Duck Stamp: The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, which is the Duck Stamp's official name, has been a magnificent success story in its 70-year history.

Started in the mid-1930s, to address a major crisis in bird conservation and wetland habitat loss, the stamp has been used as a highly effective funding mechanism for our refuge system, having accrued over \$670 million and having been used to secure more than five million acres of valuable wetland habitat for the system. About \$25 million a year is currently collected through yearly stamp sales. Proceeds from the \$15 stamp go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, used to purchase valuable wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Indeed, about 98 percent of the revenue from the stamp goes to purchase these refuge wetlands.

Hoy Audubon has made it easy for you to participate in this worthy cause. If you would like Hoy to order a Duck stamp for you—just check the appropriate box when you renew your Chapter dues (see dues renewal on the next page). Indicate if you would like just the stamp (\$15) or the stamp with a protective plastic holder (\$17) that can easily be displayed on your binoculars for all of your birding buddies to see! Please include a check to cover your dues plus the cost of the stamp. We will have yours available at the October meeting.

The new Federal Duck Stamp is also available at post offices, national wildlife refuges, some national retail chain stores, and various sporting-goods stores nationwide. However, I sometimes forget to buy one, and thought Hoy could be of help with this. Hoy is doing this as a service for members and not as a profit.

Hoy Board of Directors

President:
Helen Pugh 262-637-7585

Vice-President:
Keith Kennedy 262-639-8398

Treasurer:
Jenny Wenzel 262-752-0887

Secretary:
Gail Combs 262-898-0548

Directors-at-Large:

Bunny Bugnacki 262-835-4109
Rick Fare 262-632-7585
Dana Garrigan 262-6521737
Eric Howe 262-594-5853
Cristina Mondragon 262-634-0229
Muffy Petrick 262-886-1185
John Raymond 262-633-0285

Field Trips
Bob McFall 262-697-5167

Programs
Stan Rosenstiel 262-694-2206

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

August 12, 7:00 PM, 731 S. Main Street, Racine. All members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!

Additional committee members and chairs are still needed. If you can give a few hours of your time to help with some of our programs, please contact Helen Pugh.

Note: If you have suggestions regarding future field trips please contact Bob McFall at: rmcfall@wi.rr.com or 262-697-5167.

The Hoy Honker is the newsletter of the Hoy Audubon Society, Inc. PO Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404

Email addresses of Board members are available at: www.hoyaudubon.org

August 6th annual Picnic—don't miss it! For details, see the activities flyer (attached) or visit www.hoyaudubon.org

Upcoming Field Trip to Horicon Marsh: On Saturday August 22, Hoy Audubon will take the Birding Adventure at the Horicon Marsh Boat Tours located at Highway 33 and the river bridge. This is a 2 hour pontoon boat tour of the marsh. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$10.50 for ages 12-15. **Meet at 8:00 AM** at the park and ride lot on Highway 20. The schedule: 10:00 AM, video of the marsh; **10:30 AM Boat ride;** 12:45 lunch at Mother's Restaurant. There are several birding spots near Horicon that we can hit in the afternoon. There have been Black-necked Stilts along with other shore birds at the Dike Road. Rails have been heard there as well. Pelicans and swans too. The boat tour will be outstanding! See website for more details and directions. *Bob McFall*

STOP BIRD COLLISIONS—Stop bird collisions with ‘Window Clings’. Get 15 FREE WindowAlert static window clings for your home or office from the Wisconsin Humane Society’s (WHS) Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Up to one billion birds die every year in North America due to window collisions, but we can help prevent their deaths by applying simple clings to our windows! According to Scott Diehl of the WHS, this initiative is made possible by the generosity of the Rusinow Family Foundation. Fall migration begins in mid-August and continues into November, so get your clings now to save birds heading south for winter. Send an e-mail to Scott at: sdiehl@wihumane.org to request your FREE window clings. Please provide your full mailing address. For more information, visit their web site (<http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/default.aspx>.)

Renew your Hoy Audubon Chapter Membership dues for 2009/2010

Annual renewals for Hoy Audubon Society “Chapter Supporter” memberships are due on July 1 of each calendar year. To renew your Chapter Supporter membership for 2009/2010, please send a check payable to Hoy Audubon Society and mark the appropriate box (s) below:

- Chapter Supporter Dues: \$12
- Federal Duck Stamp: \$15
- Federal Duck Stamp with plastic sleeve: \$17

Total amount enclosed: _____

Receive chapter newsletter by email only?

Yes, my email is: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Hoy Audubon Society

Birding Activities for Racine and Kenosha



Photo by Keith Kennedy

August:

- 6th, Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annual Picnic/Potluck.** Meet at Johnson Park picnic area (just east of golf course club house). Bring a cup, a plate, flatware and a dish to pass. Hoy will supply drinks. Adjacent to the area are several Bluebird nest boxes and a hiking trail.
- 9th & 10th, Sunday & Monday, 6:30 PM: "Swift Night Out".** Meet at the corner of 4th and Wisconsin, downtown Racine. We will locate Chimney Swift roosts, and count the Swifts as they enter the roost.
- 15th, Saturday, 9 AM—3PM: "Safari Saturday" at Racine Zoo.** Scope and binocular displays, talks, bird walks, etc. See website for schedule.
- 22nd, Saturday 10 AM: Horicon Field Trip.** Hoy Audubon will take the Birding Adventure at the Horicon Marsh Boat Tours located at Highway 33 and the river bridge. This is a 2 hour pontoon boat tour of the marsh that starts at 10 AM. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$10.50 for ages 12-15. To car pool, **meet at 8:00 AM** at the park and ride lot on Highway 20. See website for more details and directions.
- 26th, Wednesday, 5:30 PM: Warbler and Shorebird walk with Rick Fare.** Meet at Shoop golf course parking lot.
- 29th, Saturday, 9 AM: Shore Birding at the Sod Farms:** Meet at the corner of Burmeister and Britton Road for a shorebird search.

September:

2nd & 9th, Wednesday, 5:30 PM: Warbler and Shorebird walk with Rick Fare. Meet at Shoop golf course parking lot.

3rd, Thursday, 7 PM: Shorebird Program—Shorebird basics and identification, Rick Fare and Keith Kennedy. River Bend Nature Center (this is part of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting).

13th & 14th, Sunday & Monday, 6:00 PM: "Swift Night Out". Meet at the corner of 4th and Wisconsin, downtown Racine. We will locate Chimney Swift roosts, and count the Swifts as they enter the roost.

26th, Saturday, 8 AM: Field trip to Schlitz Audubon and hawk watch at Concordia University in Mequon. Meet at Hwy 20 Park and Ride at 8 AM to carpool or be at Schlitz by 9 AM.

Further details at www.hoyaudubon.org or call Helen at 637-4359.

HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
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