

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

#### **Hoy Meeting Location for February - March 2009**

Our February 5th, 11th, and March 5th programs will be held at the **YMCA in Racine**. Refer to rooms below. Parking is available on Lake Avenue; no fee at meters after 6 P.M. From Lake Avenue, enter through the northern facing doors and go up the steps one flight or take the elevator to the second floor. You may also park at the lot behind the "Y" (lakeside) for \$1.00. (Note: 4 quarters needed for parking lot entrance gate.) From there, you will have a few steps and then the elevator and stairs (walk up two flights) are on your right.

#### **Thursday, February 5, 2009**

##### **Winter Birds and Birding**

**YMCA - 725 Lake Avenue - The Buhler Room (2nd Floor)**

##### **7:00 P.M. - Program by Helen Pugh and Rick Fare**

Topics to include: How Birds Survive in Winter, Backyard Bird Feeding, Care of Frigid Optics, and Common Winter Birds and Where to Find Them.

#### **Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

##### **Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Program**

**YMCA - 725 Lake Avenue - The Chapel Room (2nd Floor)**

##### **6:30 P.M. - Program**

**Article by Kent D. Hall, Ph.D., VP and Chair, Data Collections and Analysis, Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin**

For the past two years, Wisconsin has led the nation for numbers of bluebirds produced in artificial nest boxes from those monitoring boxes on a weekly basis. For these reasons among others, the Bluebird Restoration Association of WI (BRAW) has been given the prestigious "**2008 Joseph Hickey Award for Excellence in Bird Conservation**" from Madison Audubon Society. I will be accepting this award on behalf of the BRAW Board and membership on March 18.

Hoy Audubon has been a vital part of this excellence in bluebird conservation demonstrated and now being recognized by BRAW. In the two years of monitoring, great strides have been made in bluebird production and participation by Hoy Audubon members and friends. But I submit Hoy Audubon has only scratched the surface.

In the 2008 season, Hoy Audubon trails were hit hard by bad weather, as were 2/3 of all trails in Wisconsin. This led to a super production of Tree Swallows at the expense of bluebird production. My goal for Hoy Audubon is to develop a "true bluebird" trail (more bluebirds produced than Tree Swallows). That is an exceptional challenge in SE Wisconsin because there is a high population of Tree Swallows and low population of bluebirds.

But, by selecting ideal habitat for bluebirds, I contend that this is possible. To this end, last fall Hoy Audubon members put nest boxes up on three different golf courses (two new), a horse farm and at UW-Parkside and moved low producing boxes on two memorial parks. This was a heroic effort on the part of Hoy Audubon members and should lead to a significant increase in bluebirds produced for the 2009 season (weather permitting).

My talk for Hoy Audubon bluebirders will cover what has happened historically with Wisconsin bluebirding and where I hope to see it go in the future. We will discuss good monitoring techniques, how to improve the collection of data, cooperation with the monitoring/data coordinator, Helen Pugh, and I will answer any questions that you might have about sound management techniques.

Be there for a lively discussion about the "blues brothers and sisters".

#### **Thursday, March 5, 2009**

##### **Root-Pike WIN and the Rain Garden Initiative**

**YMCA - 725 Lake Avenue - The Buhler Room (2nd Floor)**

##### **7:00 P.M. - Program**

Susan Greenfield, is the executive director of the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, based in Racine, whose mission is to protect, restore and sustain the ecosystem in the Root River and Pike River watersheds through the funding and facilitation of a regional network of locally initiated projects. Since joining Root-Pike WIN, Susan has led the implementation of a new Rain Garden Initiative that funded the installation of 35 rain gardens in Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee in 2008 and brought together 17 southeastern Wisconsin towns, villages, cities and counties for a new public outreach program focused on storm water management and water quality. In 2008 the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club-Wisconsin recognized Root-Pike WIN with a **Good Citizen Award** for its rain garden program.

This year, Root-Pike WIN will be offering four free rain garden workshops in Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee counties, with dates announced soon. Last year, Root-Pike WIN funded 35 rain gardens. They fund 100% of the cost of native plants for the public demonstration gardens, 50% of the cost for homeowner rain gardens, and provide free mulch. For more information on rain gardens, go to [www.rootpikewin.org](http://www.rootpikewin.org) and click on the Rain Garden Initiative logo. The

#### **Thursday, March 5, 2009 (continued)**

deadline for new grant applications for the Rain Garden Initiative is May 8, 2009.

Susan will also talk about the Watershed-based Grant Program, which awards grants of \$500-\$10,000 per grant twice a year to nonprofit organizations for projects that meet their mission. In 2008, Root-Pike WIN awarded a grant to Hoy Audubon and Pringle Nature Center for an ephemeral pond study. Pringle was also awarded a rain garden grant.

#### **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.

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

#### **Saturday, January 24, 2009**

##### **Lakeshore Birding - Winter Waterfowl Beginning at Shoop Park/Wind Point Lighthouse (Racine) - 9:00 A.M.**

Join us at the Shoop Park parking area where Rick Fare will lead the group in viewing waterfowl, gulls, and other winter passerines found along the lakefront and ravine.

#### **Saturday, January 31, 2009**

##### **Winter Birds of the Grasslands - Bong State Rec. Area 2:00 P.M. to Dusk**

Rick Fare will lead this outing in hopes of locating Short-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harrier, Northern Shrike, etc. and perhaps some Snow Buntings, Longspurs, Horned Larks along the way. Meet at the Visitors Center at 2:00 P.M. Carpooling from Racine: Meet at the Hwy 20/I-94 Park and Ride by 1:00 P.M. Carpooling from Kenosha: Meet at the Star Restaurant at 142/I-94 by 1:30 P.M. Please note, a vehicle admission sticker is required on all motor vehicles stopping in state parks and recreation areas. WI Residents - Annual Rate \$25/Daily Rate: \$7 ; WI Resident 65+- Annual Rate: \$10, Daily Rate: \$3

#### **Saturday, February 21, 2009**

##### **2009 Gull Frolic**

##### **Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club at the North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor, IL**

Learn the subtleties of gull identifications from Larid experts at this annual event sponsored by the Illinois Ornithological Society. Our Hoy birding group will meet for carpooling by 9:00 A.M. at the Downtown Racine Boat Launch, next to Festival Hall. We will plan on attending the 4:00 P.M. program (The Herring Gull Complex: Demystifying the Sub-species) after the 'Frolic', and return to Racine by about 5:30-6:00 P.M. There is a \$10 registration fee that includes breakfast and lunch. If going directly to the 'Frolic', you may register beginning at 8:00 A.M. To reach the Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club, take Sheridan Road south of the WI/IL state border and turn left (east) on 7th Street and follow the North Point Marina signs to the yacht club.

#### **Sunday, March 1, 2009**

##### **Milwaukee Art Museum Field Trip Catesby, Audubon, and the Discovery of a New World: Prints of the Flora and Fauna of America**

The Hoy group will have a guided tour. After the tour, there will be an opportunity for birding along the Milwaukee lakefront. To carpool from Racine, meet at the Hwy 20/I-94 Park and Ride by 12:00 P.M. This exhibition will be at the Museum through March 22nd. More information at: <http://www.mam.org/exhibitions/details/catesby.php>

#### **Saturday, April 4, 2009**

##### **Lake Mills Wildlife Area - Zeloski Marsh (Jefferson Co.) and other Area Hotspots**

Inland waterfowl trip and more. Further details in the next issue or ...

**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

## **February 13-16, 2009 - The 12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count - Count for Fun, Count for the Future**

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards - whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data that you collect as a "citizen scientist" helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

### **Passing of a Friend**

Janet LeSuer passed away on December 19th. Janet was a member of Hoy since the 1970's. She served on the Board numerous times, and most recently as a Director At Large. She was hostess for many Christmas Bird Count dinners and parties, and provided wonderful snacks for meetings. She participated in bird counts, field trips and other organizational activities. She will be greatly missed by many in the community and especially among our Hoy group.

### **The Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail**

A public television documentary titled, "On the Trail: an *In Wisconsin* Special" produced by WHA-TV is scheduled for statewide broadcast March 12 at 7:00 P.M. Film crews visited many of the sites along the five trail segments over the past three years filming the attractions and talking to local businesses, governments and citizens who have been involved in developing the trail. After the broadcast, segments of the special will be available for viewing on the Wisconsin Public Television web site at [www.wpt.org](http://www.wpt.org) under the link to *In Wisconsin*. More information on the Great WI Birding and Nature Trail can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/birds/trail.htm>

### **Results of the Racine Christmas Bird Count - December 14, 2008**

Seven field parties and several feeder watchers contributed to the results of the Racine CBC. Despite a breezy day, the rain did hold off for the count day. A total of 48 species were tallied for the day and an additional seven species were observed during the count week (CW), but not on the count day. To view current or historical data, visit [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc). Search for Racine or use the Racine CBC code WIRC. Species observed: Snow Goose CW, Canada Goose 828, Mute Swan 1, Am Black Duck 25, Mallard 601, Redhead 11, Ring-necked Duck CW, Greater Scaup 283, Lesser Scaup 1, Bufflehead 150, Common Goldeneye 326, Hooded Merganser 9, Common Merganser 76, Red-breasted Merganser 206, Ruddy Duck 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Great Blue Heron CW, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 16, American Kestrel 6, Peregrine Falcon 1, American Coot 6, Killdeer CW, Ring-billed Gull 95, Herring Gull 587, Glaucous Gull 2, Rock Pigeon 237, Mourning Dove 144, E. Screech-Owl CW, Great Horned Owl CW, Red-bellied Woodpecker 9, Downy Woodpecker 25, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Blue Jay 9, American Crow 84, Black-Capped Chickadee 83, Tufted Titmouse 2, Red-B Nuthatch 3, White-B Nuthatch 13, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, Eastern Bluebird 9, American Robin 61, European Starling 881, Cedar Waxwing 82, Am Tree Sparrow 23, Song Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 140, Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) CW, Northern Cardinal 53, House Finch 89, Pine Siskin 7, American Goldfinch 149, House Sparrow 174. Total Count Day Individuals 5524

### **Additional Trips of Interest - Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Field Trips**

Join the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) for field trips throughout the year. Sunday, March 15th Sheboygan - Lakefront Birding (Begins at 8:00 am at the Sheboygan Marina.); Saturday, March 28 Dane & Columbia County Ponds (begins at 8AM at Goose Pond, south of Arlington) 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:**

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#### **A Note of Thanks to Jenny Wenzel for the donation of a Purple Martin Condo.**

February 26th 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. See directions on page one. All members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!!

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