



Meet a Member!

Who has been actively involved in Hoy Audubon for nearly 15 years and plays an integral part in helping with the club's many activities? If you've guessed Stan Rosenstiel, you're absolutely correct! He also coordinates all of the blue-bird trail data and monitors Purple Martin houses in Kenosha. You might consider Stan a pioneer as he created his own blue-bird trail, one of the originals in Kenosha County. In addition to bird watching, Stan is an avid biker, cross-country skier, and a volunteer at the Kenosha Literacy Council.



Stan recommends attending meetings as they're a great place to connect with other birders and find out what birds are being seen during any given season. He estimates he's accrued over 800 birds on his Life List to date. When asked about a good place to view birds, he suggests, "Any place you can just sit and wait for the birds to come to you is a great spot." For Stan, two of his favorites are the Kenosha Dunes and Hawthorn Hollow because "they are close to home."

Sibley's recently edged out *National Geographic* as his favorite field guide. As is true of most birders, he continues to search for a few elusive birds which he hopes to eventually add to his Life List: the Yellow-breasted Chat, the Vesper Sparrow and the King Rail. Perhaps he'll luck out during one of those biking excursions.

His advice to novice birders is to start by checking out a bird's bill which aids in narrowing down a species. He also recommends becoming proficient with a good pair of birding binoculars. Thanks, Stan, and *Happy Biking!*

-Linda Fare Hirsch

Hawks find help at Fellow Mortals

What do you do when you find two red-tail hawk babies whose nest was blown apart in heavy winds? If you live in southeastern Wisconsin, the best thing to do is call Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital in Lake Geneva.

Last May, after a severe storm with high winds, Hoy Audubon member Joe Vass stopped to check on the hawk nest he had been watching in his neighborhood. Even though they had fallen nearly 50 feet, the two baby red-tails he found on the ground were weak but still alive. Joe popped them in a bucket, called Fellow Mortals, and drove them to the wildlife hospital.

The three-week-old chicks were dehydrated, but in spite of their fall had no broken bones. Fellow Mortals nursed them back to health, then transferred them to a raptor rehab facility with a flight cage where the youngsters will learn to hunt. Two young red-tails are on their way to returning to the wild.

Established 25 years ago, Fellow Mortals is "one of the largest wildlife rehabilitation facilities in Wisconsin", according to its website www.fellowmortals.org. The facility is licensed by the Wisconsin DNR to care for native mammals from Wisconsin and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to care for migratory birds from Wisconsin and Illinois.

The website gives a great deal of information about what to do (and not do) if a person finds "abandoned" baby birds or mammals; however, it recommends getting any injured animal or bird to a licensed rehabilitator as quickly as possible. Caring for some 2,000 birds and mammals a year, Fellow Mortals has the experience and the facilities to provide expert care.



Three-week-old red-tail hawks headed for Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital. The sibling in the back is too weak to stand. Photo by Joe Vass

Call first, however, (262-248-5055) as animals are admitted by appointment only. No fee is required at drop-off, but a contribution toward the bird or animal's care helps ensure that Fellow Mortals will continue to be here when it's needed.

-Barb Vass

**This year, Hoy fledged 556
Bluebirds in Racine and
Kenosha Counties!!!!**

Hoy Board of Directors

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Barb Vass 262-552-8130

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Tuesday, November 1st, 7:00 PM. Location TBA-contact a board member for details. All interested members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!

Monthly Program Coordinator*

Dana Garrigan 262-652-1737

Field Trip Coordinator*

Open Position

Interim coordinator

Eric Howe 262-594-5853

* If you have suggestions regarding future programs or field trips please contact the coordinators directly.

Newsletter Editors

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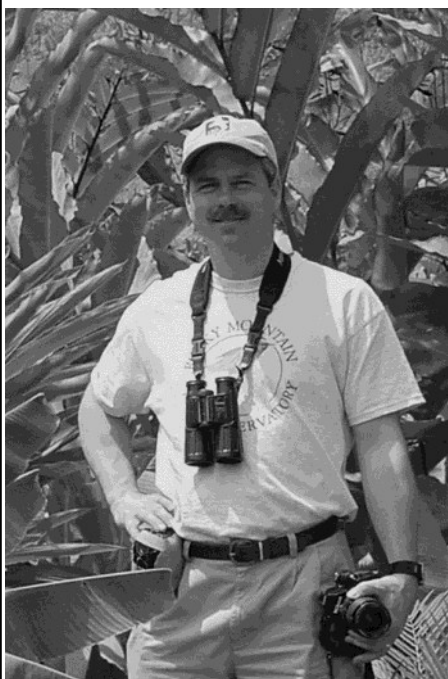
Ideas for the newsletter? We welcome your suggestions, recaps of birding seminars/activities, fun facts and birding tidbits for use in future newsletters. Please mail to the attention of Linda Hirsch at: Hoy Audubon, P.O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404 or email to: hoynewsletter@hoyaudubon.org
The Hoy Honker is the newsletter of the Hoy Audubon Society, Inc. PO Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404.

Artist offers inside look at field guides

No one who heard Tom Schultz describe his 32-year career as a wildlife artist-illustrator will ever take field guides for granted again! Tom presented “The Art of Field Guide Illustration” to Hoy Audubon members September 1 at River Bend Nature Center in Racine.

A field guide is “a bridge of information between the scientific community and the lay person,” and we are lucky to live in an age when field guides abound, Tom noted, as he outlined both his own career and the painstaking process of developing illustrations.

Schultz, who grew up in Fond du Lac, is largely self-taught, learning to draw and paint birds while getting his degree in wildlife ecology at the university in Madison. His career break came in 1981 when the Birds in Art show in Wausau accepted his painting of a white-breasted nuthatch. There he met fellow artists Owen Gromme, Robert Bateman, and Roger Tory Peterson and was recruited by the National Geographic Society to work on its first edition of the Field Guide to the Birds of North America.



For the next two years Schultz made many trips to Washington D.C. to study the Smithsonian Institution’s bird collection. He produced 17 plates of Gulls, Terns, and Jaegers for the first guide and in subsequent years worked on several of the revised editions. In 1991 Tom and another artist spent six weeks in India doing research for the Birds of South Asia. He has also worked for the

Smithsonian Institution, the Warblers field guide of Houghton Mifflin’s Peterson series, and various other publications.

The first step in preparing drawings is studying specimens for size, color, and variations. If a bird skin has been properly prepared and stored out of the light, Tom noted, the colors will be true a hundred years later. In addition, he gathers photographs, including those he took himself during ten years as a licensed birdbander. Photos are especially helpful in presenting the bird’s shape and general posture. Organization of the drawings on the page to present information clearly (for instance, spring warblers on the left, fall warblers on the right) is also a primary consideration. Completed drawings are sent to the field guide authors and other artists for comments. Then the painting – Tom works in transparent watercolor – can finally begin.

Schultz, who lives near Green Lake, Wisconsin, also does original paintings, enjoying the challenge of presenting birds in their habitat. He is an active birder himself, currently serving as president and field trip coordinator of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. He also organizes Jaegerfest, a lakeshore gathering at Superior, Wisconsin, to watch the fall migration come across the lake. Hoy members who have birded with Tom report it was a wonderful experience because “he knows everything!”.

-Barb Vass

Locations for our Fall Meetings: Note that the October and November meetings will be at the Northside branch of the Kenosha Public Library at 1500 27th Ave., Kenosha. For directions check MapQuest or Google Maps.

The Big Sit! was a Big Success!

The Big Sit!, held on Sept. 10 at the Wind Point Lighthouse beach, was Hoy's first but certainly not its last. As it turns out, birding within a 17-foot circle makes for a very sociable birdwatching experience. With good company, summer-like weather, and a beautiful location, the day passed quickly.

Rick Fare and Helen Pugh put together a display table of information about birds and our club. The displays were near the birdwatching group and prompted many visitors' questions and much good-natured discussion. Several long-time members came to enjoy the activity and tell stories of the club's history.

The birders within the circle were energized by a constant procession of birds in the morning. Rick brought a whiteboard on which he kept a running list of the birds that were seen or heard. A close flyover by a Peregrine Falcon had everyone on their feet. Shortly thereafter a Cooper's Hawk flew over and landed in a nearby willow tree. (Someone quipped that he'd come to read the menu!) The juvenile with yellow eyes allowed lengthy scope views. Numerous flybys of flocks of Sanderlings, Double-crested Cormorants, and Mallards were punctuated by Caspian Terns, a lone Hooded Merganser, an American Golden Plover, and several Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. The afternoon was a bit slower, but it gave us time to eat lunch! As time was running out, a Great Black-backed Gull flew past, for a total of 43 species for the day.

-Helen Pugh

Wind Lake Sod Farms field trip-



Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Photo by Rita Flores Wiskowski

Hoyers who went to the Wind Lake sod farms on September 3rd were treated to close-up views of 12 Buff-breasted Sandpipers! Other highlights were American Golden Plovers, a Black-bellied Plover, Dickcissels and a Bobolink. A few members even spotted a Merlin whizzing past! After that we headed down to Wind Point where a Red Knot was found eating on the algae mats. A great time was had by all!

Horicon Marsh Field Trip-



Marsh Wren at Horicon Photo by Jenny Wenzel

On August 20th, Hoy members headed to Horicon Marsh to look for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other migrants. We had a great time and spotted a lot of great birds including Black-necked Stilts, Pelicans, Great Egrets, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Least, Pectoral, and Baird's Sandpipers!



Upcoming Activities

Monday, October 3rd-7pm. Program-Attracting Backyard Birds in Winter-Learn about adaptations birds have to survive winter, tips on attracting birds to your yard in winter, and identifying winter birds. Kenosha Public Library, Southwest Location 7979-38th Avenue

Thursday, October 6th-7pm-Meeting- Northside Kenosha Library-1500 27th Ave., Kenosha- Waterfowl of Wisconsin-Rick Fare will discuss feeding adaptations, breeding behavior, migration, management, and identification of geese, ducks, swans, and other water birds.

Saturday, October 8th-Grosbeaks Galore-A birds and habitat workshop in Ozaukee County. Find more info on our website.

Saturdays, October 22nd, 29th, November 5th, 12th-9am Meet at the Shoop Golf Course where we'll check the lakefront for migrating waterfowl and walk the wooded trail to look for other fall migrants.

Thursday, November 3rd-7 pm Meeting at the Northside Kenosha Library-Mammals of Southeast Wisconsin-Learn to identify mammals using skulls and skins, tracks and other signs. Discover how interesting your mammal neighbors can be. Speaker-Beth Goepfinger, Naturalist, WDNR, Bong State Recreation Area

Thursday, December 1st-Hoy's Annual Potluck Christmas Party at Riverbend Nature Center-Save the date!

Saturday, December 17th-Save the date for the Racine Christmas Bird Count!

More info on activities can be found at www.hoyaudubon.org.

HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 044626

RACINE, WI 53404

www.hoyaudubon.org



Birding at Hoy's first Big Sit-On the Beach at Wind Point-September 2011.

Please take the time to renew your Hoy Audubon Chapter Membership for 2011/2012. Annual renewals for Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" memberships are due on July 1 of each calendar year. Please send a check payable to Hoy Audubon Society.

Chapter Supporter Dues: \$12 Total amount enclosed: _____

Receive chapter newsletter by email only?

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Send to: Hoy Audubon Society, P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404



Checking a bluebird box for eggs!

Remember...you can see the Hoy Honker "In Living Color." There are two ways to see our newsletter in color: view it on the Hoy website at www.hoyaudubon.org or get on the e-mail newsletter distribution list by sending an e-mail to jenny.wenzel@hoyaudubon.org and ask to be put on the electronic mailing list.