



Meet a Member Rick Fare



Rick Fare

-photo by Helen Pugh

Rick Fare is a 67 year old retired letter carrier with the USPS. He enjoys fishing, golfing, dartball, and of course, birding! He has been seriously interested in birds and birding for about 30 years.

Rick has been a member of Hoy for about 10 years. When asked about the benefits of being a Hoy member, he says it's a great chance to meet people who have the same interests, such

as a love of birds and protecting the environment. Rick says bird walks, field trips, and programs are an excellent opportunity for people to learn about birds. Hoy's environmental projects also offer a great hands-on experience.

Rick's Wisconsin life list has recently reached 347!

Colonial Park is Rick's favorite spot during the spring migration for warblers and other song birds. The Lake Michigan lakefront is also a very good area for ducks, gulls, and shorebirds.

Rick finds all types of birds interesting, but he really enjoys shorebirds. They have an interesting life history, great varieties of sizes and shapes, they pose challenges for identification, and can oftentimes be closely approached for viewing.

Rick likes Sibley's field guide to birds, but states there are also very good specialty guides on shorebirds, warblers, gulls and other families.

His advice for the novice birder is to get out as often as you can especially early mornings when birds are all actively singing. It's also great to go on field trips and walks with more experienced birders, but birding alone and not completely relying on others can be most beneficial.

Rick encourages others to get involved in Hoy's activities. The infusion of new, fresh ideas will keep Hoy growing and help Hoy to be an influential club in the environmental community.

Getting Ready for Hummers!

Hummingbird gardeners extraordinaire, Michael and Kathi Rock of Madison, shared their tips for enticing these "flying jewels" to your garden with nearly a hundred members and guests at Hoy's February meeting.

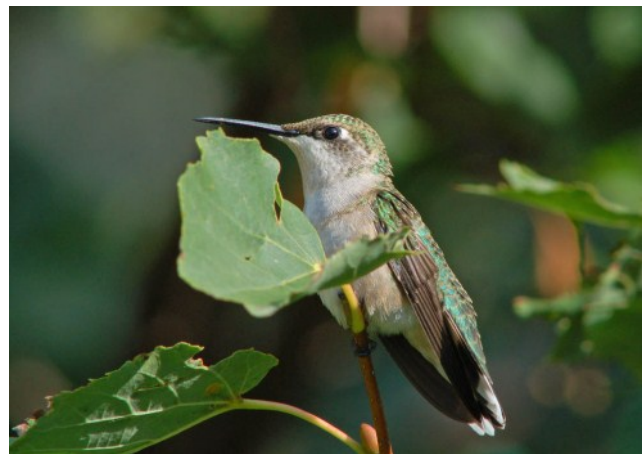
Here's their checklist to help you welcome hummers to your garden this year:

March: Start checking the progress of hummer migration from the Gulf of Mexico north to Canada. The website www.hummingbirds.net charts hummingbird arrival dates as birdwatchers report in. Check the migration map on the site.

April: Put your feeders out by mid-month. April 11 was the first report in Wisconsin last year. Not much is blooming at this time, so early-arriving hummingbirds will appreciate your help.

Spring Planting: Plant a few (or more) hummingbird favorites: tall, orange-red-purple, tubular-flowered plants that provide excellent nectar. Hummers feed every 15 minutes; they need lots of flowers. See pictures and descriptions of dozens of plants tested over the last ten years and recommended by Michael and Kathi at their website <http://mywebspaces.wisc.edu/mjrock/web>. Experiment with container plantings to get the right soil/sun combinations for your location.

All Season: Provide fresh sugar water: 4 parts boiled water, 1 part white sugar (no honey or brown sugar). Pre-packaged mixes with red dye or calcium are expensive and unnecessary. Clean feeders every 4-5 days with a 10% bleach solution. Use an ant moat, not insecticides, if you have that problem.



Female Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

-Jerry DeBoer

September: For inspiration, visit Michael and Kathi's garden in Madison. They will post tour dates for their garden on their website above.

October/November: Keep your feeders in place until Thanksgiving to benefit late migrants coming south from Canada. (Keeping feeders up does not hold back or hurt the birds: they know when to go.)

Be patient, experiment with favored plants suitable for your garden site, and remember, says Michael, "If you build it, they will come."

-Barb Vass

Hoy Board of Directors

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Jenny Wenzel 262-752-0887

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Jim Veltman 262-886-9374

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Ray Palenik 262-595-0153

Barb Vass 262-552-8130

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Tuesday, April 19th, 7:00 PM, 810 Indiana St. Contact a board member for more 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 Coordinators*

Mary Ann Toutant 262-554-0563

Eric Howe 262-594-5853

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

Newsletter Editors

Jennifer Wenzel
Sharon Kennedy
Eric Howe

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: Hoy Audubon, P.O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404 or email to: hoynewsleter@hoyaudubon.org

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

New Meeting Location for May and June

Hoy meetings have traditionally been held at River Bend Nature Center. Because River Bend is currently in a state of change, the Hoy board of directors has reserved another space for our May and June meetings. We will meet at the brand new – and sustainably built – Village of Mount Pleasant complex. The building is located north of Highway 20 at 8811 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406 (telephone 262-664-7800). From Highway 20, take 90th Street north and go 0.4 mile to Campus Drive. Turn right and enter the building closest to the road. Only the main door to the Village Hall will be open after hours. We will meet in the large community room. There is ample parking space close to the building with no stairs to climb. Around the building are woods, ponds, and native grass areas. The walking paths are not yet developed, but we are free to wander the grounds and have bird walks before our meetings

-Helen Pugh

Bird Names

Do you ever wonder how some birds got their names? Some names really fit their description. Yellow Warbler, Black and White Warbler, and Red-Winged Blackbird are names that are descriptive of their plumages. However, some birds have names that make you scratch your head.

One of these names is the Prothonotary Warbler. A fitting name would be Yellow-Orange Warbler, but that would be too simple. So how did it get this unusual name? Prothonotaries were notaries or court reporters in the Byzantine Empire. For the Roman Catholic church they handled papal documents and canon

law. These clergyman wore bright yellow robes similar in color to the warbler. The Prothonotary Warbler was named after them. The office still exists in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and parts of Canada and Australia. Although the people holding this office no longer wear the bright robes, the Prothonotary Warbler will wear the colors forever!

-Rick Fare

For more reading on the origin of bird names, check out Dictionary of Birds of the United States: Scientific and Common Names by Joel Ellis Holloway (2009)



Prothonotary Warbler

-Jenny Wenzel

Nicholson Wildlife Area Project

The Nicholson Wildlife Area is a 127 acre park in Caledonia. Its wetlands are an important support to both migrating and resident birds. NWA is the headwaters of Husher Creek, a tributary of the Root River, and is flooded regularly in the spring and early summer. SEWRPC (SE Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) designated NWA a secondary Environmental Corridor and wrote a management plan in 1985, but it has not been implemented. Until now!



John Leiber, President of the Caledonia Parks Commission, Melissa Warner, Chair of SEGG Sierra (the Sierra Club Southeast Gateway Group-encompassing Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha Counties) and Weed Out! Racine, and Helen Pugh, President of the Hoy Audubon Club, have formulated a plan to begin the minimum wildlife enhancement plan described by SEWRPC so long ago. We want to enhance the habitat, increase public access, and show the public how important wetlands are. Initial steps of the plan include removing invasive plants, establishing brush piles, installing nest boxes, and planning educational signage. In the future we want to consider tree and prairie

plantings, a viewing blind, and raptor perches. In order to do any of this we need a boardwalk to bridge the wettest areas.



The arrows represent the flooded area: yellow= minimum, red = maximum

The First Choice Pre-apprenticeship Program will build the boardwalk sections with materials funded by a Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Grant. The Village of Caledonia will oversee installation, and Sierra, Audubon and other volunteers will start removing invasives on Sunday, April 15, (12:30 -3:30 pm). Meet at the entry on Five Mile Road. Dress for the weather, with long pants and sturdy shoes. The area is wet, and boots are advised. Bring your own drinking water.



Nicholson Wildlife Refuge/Area

The Nicholson Wildlife Refuge is an area that floods annually in spring and may retain water throughout the season given adequate precipitation. This area is at its best in early spring when the waterfowl are heading north. During that time, Greater White-fronted, Cackling, Snow, and Ross's Geese have been found mixed in with the thousands of Canada Geese. The entrance to this area is on 5 Mile Road, midway between Nicholson Road and Cty H. There is a small parking lot in the grove of pines. The open fields surrounding the wetlands may produce Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings in season. Following the hiking trail to the far southwest border puts you in an area for Orchard Orioles during the summer. Other rarities seen here include LeConte's Sparrow, Little Blue Heron, and Eared Grebe.

-Jerry DeBoer



Greater White Fronted Geese -Jenny Wenzel

Of note, during the 2011 spring season, Nicholson was an exceptionally good area to see spring migrants up close. Good numbers of warblers were seen along the trails close to the stream. In springtime, you'll need at least knee-high boots to hike through the flooded trail to get to the main pond.



Magnolia Warbler at Nicholson Spring 2011 -J Wenzel

Bird Day 2012

In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day and Urban Birds, "Bird Day" will be held on Saturday, May 12, 10am-4pm, at the Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 1st Ave., downtown Kenosha. The event will feature demonstrations, presentations, environmental organization and bird-oriented vendor booths, craft activities, bird watching, and the official proclamation of Kenosha's Bird City Wisconsin certification.

Presentations: Schlitz Audubon Center--live raptor (hawks) program; Kenosha Racine Land Trust--preserving land in perpetuity; and Wild Ones--native plants and native landscaping to create bird habitat. Hoy will have presentations on urban birds and bird migration.

Crafts for children of all ages will include making a bird mobile, designing a bird nest, and gathering some nesting materials.

Experienced bird watchers will be stationed at two bird feeding stations and help with binocular instruction, bird identification, and feeding information. Checklists and binoculars will be made available to participants.

The Museum has an existing activity called "Bird Beaks and Feet" which will be in the Museum's environmental exhibit during the fair. A small bird exhibit is proposed to be on display during the spring.

Co-Sponsored by Hoy Audubon Society and the Kenosha Public Museum, "Bird Day" is a free event open to the public.

-Helen Pugh

Welcome!

Welcome to the new members of the National Audubon Society and our local chapter, Hoy Audubon Society (October 1 to December ,2011)

Franksville-Howard Scott
 Kansasville-Eli Hanel, Melody Orban
 Kenosha-Rachel Bradbury
 Mount Pleasant-Joyce Palmer, Raymond Kirsh
 Racine-Edwin Raymond, John Raymond
 Salem-Denis & Kay Wikel
 Sturtevant-Dawn Cuadra

Safeguard your Windows for the Birds!

Up to one billion birds die annually when striking windows simply because they cannot see glass, instead they see reflections of sky and trees. The American Bird Conservancy now offers "BirdTape" as one affordable method to reduce collisions. Applied to the exterior of your windows, BirdTape reflects UV light and makes your windows 'visible' to the birds. To purchase rolls online or for more information, go to www.abcbirdtape.org.

Why should I buy a Duck Stamp?

For \$15 you get a lot when buy a Duck Stamp at your local post office or major sporting goods store. The Duck Stamp (official title: Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp) is the federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl. It is also one of the best and most popular conservation tools in the country, a collector's item, and an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges at which admission is charged.

Duck Stamp sales now raise \$25 million a year for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Out of every dollar, 98 cents goes toward the protection and leasing of waterfowl habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934 when the first stamp was issued, \$750 million have helped protect more than 5 million acres of wetlands.

In addition to benefitting waterfowl, these wetlands help protect other birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and an estimated one-third of the endangered and threatened species in the U.S. Human beneficiaries include hunters, hikers, birders, commercial fishermen, and the artists who compete for the honor of designing the stamp. This year's stamp featuring a pair of white-fronted geese was painted by Chaska, MN, artist James Hautman.



Green Winged Teal-One of the ducks that will be helped by your purchase of a duck stamp! *-Jenny Wenzel*

A national Junior Duck Stamp contest now involves thousands of youth. Any student in the country can compete in one of the four age groups (grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12). To see every Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp that has been issued, go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gallery at www.fws.gov/duckstamps. Then go buy one!

-Barb Vass

Locations for our Meetings: Meeting Locations: Our April meeting will be at the Kenosha Northside Library, 1500 27th Ave., Kenosha. May and June meetings will be at a **new location**. See article on page two. For directions check MapQuest or Google Maps.

Notice of Election of Hoy Audubon Officers and Board Members for 2012-2013.

The **Hoy Audubon Society** will hold its annual meeting for the election of officers and board members for 2012-13 at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 3.

The Hoy Audubon nominating committee has developed the following slate of officers and board members for 2012-13:

President:	Jenny Wenzel
Vice President:	Open Position Any member welcome!
Secretary:	Karen Gavahan
Treasurer:	Jim Veltman

Board of Directors:

Rick Fare	Helen Pugh
Eric Howe	MaryAnn Toutant
John Krowicz	Rachael Baker
Colleen Vernon	Ricky and Becky Jones

Note that nominations (including self-nomination) of people interested in serving on the board may be made from the floor during the meeting

Upcoming Activities

April 4 through April 11-Loon and Waterfowl Watch at Lake Andrea-Prairie Springs Park (Kenosha Co.) Contact Stan Rosenstiel at 262-694-2206 for times and directions.

April 5th-Monthly Meeting-**Urban Bird Conservation**-7pm Kenosha Northside Library-Citizen Science and the Milwaukee BIOME Project, by Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science at the Urban Ecology Center.

April 11th and 18th (Wednesday)-**Evening Woodcock Walks at Cliffside Park (northeast Racine Co.)**
Meet at 7:00 P.M. (or 5:30 P.M.)

Listen to the peents and see the aerial dances of the twittering "Timberdoodle" at twilight. **Cliffside Park** is located on the lakefront in northeast Racine County, north of 6 Mile Road and east off of Michna Road.

Meet by 5:30 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 and may go as far north as the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan to view waterfowl.

Or, meet by 7:00 P.M. at Picnic Area #2 (near the yellow gate). We'll walk the trail to the north and await the display of the American Woodcock. The American Woodcock may

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

Bird Watching for Beginners

April 14th, Saturday, Kenosha Public Museum, 10:00am-11:30am

April 28th, Saturday, Hawthorn Hollow, 9:00am-10:00am, Bird walk to follow class

Both classes will cover identification, behavior, and yearly life cycle of birds. Selection and use of binoculars, recommended learning resources, and how and where to find birds in Kenosha and Racine Counties will be discussed. Sponsored by Hoy Audubon Society, Inc., the classes will be presented by Rick Fare.

April 15th-12:30-3:30pm Join Weed Out Racine members and other Hoy members at the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge as we work to remove invasive species. Bring your work gloves and a pair of pruning shears if you have them. See article on page 3 for more info.

Evening Woodcock Walks at Chiwaukee Prairie (southeast Kenosha Co.)

Wednesday, April 18 and Wednesday, May 2. RSVP with Stan Rosenstiel in advance to sign up (262.694.2206)

May 1st, 8th, and 15th-Tuesdays -meet at Hawthorne Hollow at 8am for a warbler walk. Location is 880 Green Bay Rd. in Kenosha.

May 3rd-Monthly Meeting-7pm -**New Location-Village of Mount Pleasant**-8811 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant. Speaker TBA. Bird hike at 5:30pm prior to meeting-same location.

May 12th-Bird Day Celebration-10am-4pm, at the Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 1st Ave., downtown Kenosha-see article on page 4 for more info.

April 25th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd-Wednesday Warbler Walks at Colonial Park.-Meet in the Colonial Park parking lot at the end of High Street in Racine at 5:30pm where we'll search the park for warblers and other spring migrants.

June 7th, Thursday-7pm Monthly Meeting-**Birds and Climate Change** Dr. Doug Stotz, Senior Conservation Ecologist, Chicago Field Museum.-**New location** Village of Mount Pleasant-8811 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant.

July 12th-Hoy Annual Summer Picnic at Petrified Springs. Meet at **5:30 PM** at Picnic area #3. Bring a dish to pass, a plate, and eating utensils! Check the website for further details as the date gets closer!

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

Note: There will not be a June/July issue of the Hoy Honker this year.

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 2012/2013. 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?

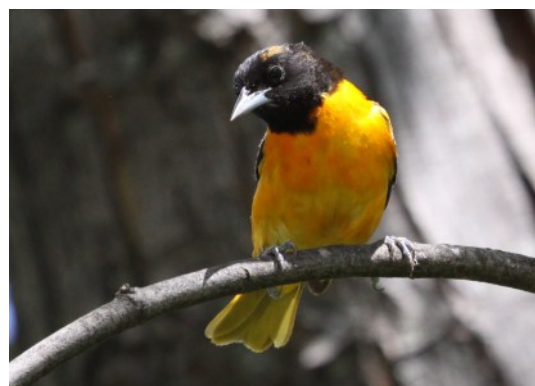
Yes, my email is: _____

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



Baltimore Oriole

-Jenny Wenzel

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.