



## Meet a Member!

### Rachael Baker and Sean Murphy



Sean and I met in college, at UW-Parkside, about three years ago. I am 24 years old and graduated last May with a Bachelor's in Biology. I am currently employed with the WDNR in their customer service department. Sean is 26 and he is a Master's student at Parkside in the Molecular Biology program. His thesis involves the population genetics of Blanding's Turtles and its use as a conservation tool.

In my spare time, I enjoy hiking. I also like art, especially painting and drawing. Sean is very handy and enjoys wood- working and building.

Sean and I have been members of Hoy since last winter. We attended our first meeting at the Northside library in Kenosha and have been hooked ever since. Sean and I value the enthusiasm of the group and the willingness of the members to share their knowledge with others. I also value the involvement Hoy has with other environmental groups in the area.

Sean and I started birding together shortly after we met. We enjoy seeing new birds together, and it has become a shared passion of ours. Sean and I don't really have a life list. Whenever we visit a park or go hiking, we pay attention to the birds that are there. I get so excited every time I see a bird that I have not seen before. Even if I have seen a bird many times before, I still get excited!

We enjoy birding at Hawthorn Hollow. During migration, it is an excellent place to view all the warblers passing through. We also like Petrifying Springs and Chiwaukee Prairie. We find something new every time we visit a Wisconsin state park. I still remember the first time we saw a group of Yellow-rumped Warblers at Governor Dodge; it was an amazing experience.

If it has feathers, we are interested in it! Personally, I like warblers and I have always had a soft spot for swallows. Sean is partial to birds of prey and owls. Really though, all birds are amazing and it's so hard to pick and choose. Our favorite field guide is the Sibley Guide to Birds. Sibley's attention to detail is excellent and the guide is very user-friendly, especially for beginners. Since we both have iPhones, we have found the Audubon and iBird Pro apps to be useful. The Cornell website [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) is also an essential resource for us.

We still consider ourselves novice birders! It is easier and more fun to learn about birds by going birding with others. Hoy offers so many opportunities to do this. When birding, I strive to pay attention to the environment as a whole. Just be serene and observe, because birds will never cease to amaze.

## WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT CHIMNEY SWIFTS?

- Chimney Swifts eat nearly one third of their own weight in flying insect pests such as mosquitoes, biting flies and termites every day.
- Chimney Swifts historically used large, hollow trees for nests and roosts. As the ancient forests were cut down, they learned to use chimneys and other structures instead.
- Today, just like Purple Martins, Chimney Swifts rely almost entirely on man-made structures for nest sites.
- Because they cannot perch like songbirds, Chimney Swifts must have deep shafts in which to raise their families and roost at night.
- Chimney Swifts are protected by State Wildlife Codes and Federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916.
- Like all Neotropical Migrants, Chimney Swifts are declining in numbers and need our assistance.
- Like watching a beautiful sunset, the aesthetic value of observing Chimney Swifts' aerial acrobatics and interactions is a simple pleasure that nature has to offer.

As summer draws to a close and the swifts have finished raising their young, these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of a half a dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts!



Hoy Audubon will participate in three "Swift Night Out" bird counts in Downtown Racine, 7:30 pm on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 pm on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> meet at the corner of Water Street and Park Avenue. Kenosha will count on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, meet at 6:45 pm on the NW Corner of 54<sup>th</sup> St. and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. You can also do your own neighborhood count and contribute that information to the National "Swift Night Out" data. Get the information at [www.chimneyswifts.org/page7.html](http://www.chimneyswifts.org/page7.html). (It's easy...and fun!)

-Helen Pugh

## Hoy Board of Directors

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Email addresses of Board members are available at: [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)

### Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Thursday, August 16th, 2012 7:00 PM.

All interested members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!

### Monthly Program Coordinator\*

Looking for a member

### Field Trip Coordinator\*

Mary Ann Toutant 262-554-0563

\* 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 Newsletter Editor at: Hoy Audubon, P.O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404 or email to:

[hoynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hoynewsletter@gmail.com)

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

“Thanks to a friend in Racine, I was able to capture some video of a Cooper's Hawk nest located in their neighbor's yard. The male Cooper's Hawk is an adult, but the female tending the nest is a first-year bird. At the time of filming (22 June), the four young were approximately two weeks old based on the finding of an empty half of an egg shell under the nest tree on 07 June. It was a blast to view!”

-Eric Howe



Cooper's Hawk [www.hoyaudubon.org/birds/COHA](http://www.hoyaudubon.org/birds/COHA) -Eric Howe

## Kenosha Celebrates Birds



What a party! Kenosha celebrated becoming a Bird City Wisconsin on International Migratory Bird Day (May 12).

Nearly 500 people attended “Bird Day” hosted by the Kenosha Public Museum and co-sponsored by Hoy Audubon Society. A bird-watching study, kids’ crafts room, and bird fair ran all day. The mayor proclaimed Bird Day and received Kenosha’s Bird City flag. Speakers (including our own Helen Pugh) presented

bird-related topics, and Schlitz Audubon Nature Center brought their wonderful raptor show.

Many thanks to Nancy Mathews at the Kenosha Public Museum, to all the Hoy volunteers who helped with the day, and especially to Polly Munn and John Krerowicz, who made the Bird City application happen.

-Barb Vass



## HOY MEMBER PROGRAM



**Speaker:** Chubzang Tangbi

**Presentation Title:** Bhutan: "Land of the Thunder Dragon"

**Date, Time, Location:** Thursday, September 6, 7:00 PM, Kenosha Northside Library (1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140)

### Speaker Bio:

Chubzang is a photographer and premier birder and a tour guide with the Langur Eco Travels of Bhutan. His country was closed to outside visitors until 1970. Today, Chubzang is dedicating his life to share the wonders of his homeland with others.



Hoy Members at Colonial Park

-Jennifer Wenzel

**Warbler Walks at Colonial Park**

Warbler walks on Wednesday evenings in May are a Hoy tradition. Birdwatchers from beginner to expert meet in the parking lot at Colonial Park at 5:30 PM and walk the trails. We know that in May, the trees will still be bare (or just starting to leaf out), and there will be a chill in the air. Not so this May! The trees were much farther along than usual, and week after week the temperatures were mild. Despite all the leaves on the trees, we got good looks at many species of warblers: Yellow-rumped (they filled the trees on May 2), Palm, Black-and-white, Nashville, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Northern Parula, Golden-winged (that's one we don't count on seeing!), Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, Wilson's, Chestnut-sided, American Redstart, and Canada (on the last walk on May 23). Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers joined the warblers. We saw, to name only a few, singing male Indigo Buntings, Baltimore Orioles, and along the Root River, a Belted Kingfisher and a Green Heron. A couple of times we watched Great Blue Herons fly over, and on May 9, a Great Egret flew over at sunset. What a way to end a warbler walk!

-Sharon Kennedy



Common Yellowthroat

-Ricky L Jones

**Root-Pike WIN's  
Public Rain Gardens  
Self-Guided Tour**

Individuals interested in installing a rain garden or viewing rain gardens built by others are encouraged to take a self-guided tour of any of our public demonstration rain gardens this summer. The rain gardens were built in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 are listed on our website ([click here](#)) and are open to the public during normal business hours (8:00 am-5:00 pm). Most sites feature an interpretive sign. The demonstration sites are intended to educate people about rain gardens and their role in reducing polluted storm water runoff, and to inspire people to build a rain garden to help protect our watershed.



St. Andrew's Church Rain Garden in the Village of Caledonia

**Upcoming Activities**

**FIELD TRIP:** Wildlife Rehabilitation Program by the Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital Meadowlark Acres Nature and Education Center, Saturday, July 28, 2012, 3:00 P.M., N5146 North Rd., Burlington, WI 53105

**Hoy Member Program Speaker:** Bill Volkert  
Presentation Title: The History and Ecology of Horicon Marsh. Thursday, August 2nd, 7:00 PM, Mount Pleasant Village Hall (8811 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406)

**"Swift Night Out" Bird Counts**  
Downtown Racine: 7:30 pm on August 12th, 6:45 pm on Sept. 7th and 9th, meet at the corner of Water Street and Park Avenue.  
Kenosha, Sept. 7th, meet at 6:45 pm on the NW Corner of 54th St. and 6th Ave.

**FIELD TRIP:** Horicon Marsh Field Trip  
Saturday, August 18, 2012 (Hoy Audubon)  
- overnight stay -  
Sunday, August 19, 2012 (WSO)

**Hoy Member Program Speaker:**  
Chubzang Tangbi  
Presentation Title: Bhutan: "Land of the Thunder Dragon". Thursday, September 6, 7:00 PM, Kenosha Northside Library (1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140)

**HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 044626**  
**RACINE, WI 53404**  
[www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)



*Birding at Horicon NWR in August, 2010.*

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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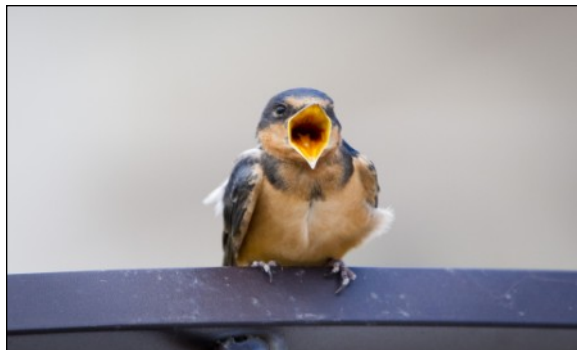
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**Send to: Hoy Audubon Society, P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404**



*Barn Swallow* *-Ricky L Jones*

**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](http://www.hoyaudubon.org) or get on the e-mail newsletter distribution list by sending an e-mail to [jenny.wenzel@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:jenny.wenzel@hoyaudubon.org) and ask to be put on the electronic mailing list. You can now find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety)