



### Hoy Member Assists with Loon Rescue

On March 1, 2015, an ordinary day of lakefront life became a perilous situation for a Red-throated Loon. Drew Goldberg shared the following story via Facebook:

“It has been a strange day of sorts....Cheri Stewart and I went to Coal Dock Park In Port Washington to see the Red-throated Loons that were reported there. Once we got there, we immediately saw a Red-throated Loon in the harbor! As well as numerous Scaup, some Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted & Common Mergansers, a couple of Ruddy Ducks, and an immature Bald Eagle.



Red-throated Loon  
photo by Drew Goldberg

However, I was concerned about the close proximity between the waterfowl and the fishermen there. The loon I saw actually chased down a fish-baited line. (The fisherman were NOT trying to go after the loon.) It was a matter of time before something would happen....

And it did! Just as Cheri and I were planning to leave, I saw the loon flopping its wings on the water. Helplessly, the loon was getting dragged towards the shore: It was snagged!



The fishermen, another birder, and I freed the bird from the net and a couple of hooks. After calling Jennifer [Ambrose] for directions to a rehab center in Milwaukee [Wisconsin Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (WHSWRC)], the bird is doing fine!”

Cheri photographed Drew (left) with the loon at WHSWRC.

A rehabber later reported that the loon had damage not only from fishhooks but an apparently pre-existing injury to its right wing caused by netting or fishing line. Since the wounds need time to heal and missing feathers must grow back before it can be released, the loon is recuperating in a tank specially built for diving birds. As of the latest update, the loon is doing well and has a hearty appetite!

Many thanks to all who helped in the bird’s rescue!



### Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

#### Get Involved!

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II is a comprehensive citizen-science project organized by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory (WGLBBO). The aim of the Atlas is to record the distribution and abundance of breeding birds statewide between 2015–2019 and to document how various birds’ populations have changed since the first atlas (1995–2000). The results will further our understanding of the conservation needs of Wisconsin’s breeding birds.

Volunteers of all abilities are crucial for the success of the project. Patient observations will reveal what birds are nesting in your area. Are they singing, building or sitting on a nest, carrying food, or feeding young? You can submit data from your yard or neighborhood.

If you are an advanced bird watcher, please consider signing up to volunteer as a principal “atlaser” for one of the 15 priority blocks in the Kenosha/Racine county area. (Principal atlasers should plan to spend at least 20 hours in the field during multiple visits in various habitat types for each 3x3 mile block surveyed.)



Barn Swallow on nest  
photo by Kristin Wegner

Those who participate, whether birding in their yard, a local park, or across an entire atlas block, will learn about the data collection protocol, including the entry of data via the WBBA II eBird website portal. There are other ways you can help, too. The WBBA II is accepting donations of any size, but you can also “adopt” a species for one to five years. Photos of birds exhibiting breeding behavior, as well as photos of adult birds and bird habitats, are also needed.

For atlas protocol, birding ethics, forums, registration, photo submissions, donation information, and much, much more, visit: <http://wsobirds.org/atlas>

Get outdoors and watch birds with a purpose!

- Eric Howe

**Hoy Board of Directors**

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	Kristin Wegner	
	Elizabeth Wheeler	262-880-9250

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

**Next Board of Directors Meeting:  
Thursday, April 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**

*Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive  
Mount Pleasant, WI 53406*  
All members are welcome to attend!

**Field Trip Coordinator**

Frank Sharkozy 262-770-2481

If you have suggestions regarding future programs or field trips please contact [hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org)

**Newsletter Editors**

Kristin Wegner  
Eric Howe

**Ideas for the newsletter?** Send your suggestions, recaps of birding seminars/activities, fun facts, and birding tidbits to the attention of Newsletter Editor at: Hoy Audubon, P.O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404 or email to: [hoynewsletter@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:hoynewsletter@hoyaudubon.org)

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

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**Meet a Member:  
Peter Luxenhofer**



I attended UWM (pre-forestry) 1960-61 and was in the US Navy (61-65 active, 65 to 67 active reserve) where my duty was aviation machinist jet. I was an Industrial Maintenance Electrician at Ladish Co. in Cudahy, WI for 40 years and have been a tree farmer in Price County, WI for the past 50 years.

My non-bird interests are shortwave listening, collecting stamps and coins, aerial photography for tree farm planning, deer and bear hunting, vegetable gardening, preparing soups of all types, forest research, experimental plots in collaboration with US Forest Service, white spruce research, and whatever attracts my attention.

I'm a member of the American Tree Farm System, twice tree farmer of the year for Price County and once for NW district of Wisconsin, and runner up for tree farmer of the year for the State of Wisconsin in 1991. I'm also member of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, and a past member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 494-5 Ladish unit and Local 663 IBEW.

I've been a Hoy member for 3-4 years now. What I enjoy about Hoy is getting together and listening to members' reports of sightings, the interesting members and great information and news they have for us, and the various highly informative speakers at our monthly meetings.

I've been interested in birds all my life, beginning with our grade school teacher in Germany in the early 50's. But I don't keep a life list—I have too many irons in the fire to devote time to it. Even though I have identified 30-40, ALL are welcome at my feeders! Two of my favorite birding spots are at my tree farm in Price County and through the patio door to the feeders 75 feet away at the edge of a piece of woodland with hardwoods and a conifer component.

Ravens and crows as well as raptors interest me. I like listening to the ravens while sitting in a deer blind unnoticed by them. The sounds/language they produce to communicate with one another is just fantastic. It never takes too much time before a deer gut pile is discovered by them and the call goes out: come and get it! Crows too are always communicating to one another. The Great Horned and Barred owls are also quite vociferous and interesting to listen to at night while sitting by the campfire. Here in Racine I'm trying to attract a screech owl which is there; I have built a nest box and hung it into a tamarack at the edge of the woodland.

In terms of guides I find useful, I like the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, and various Peterson field guides (Eastern birds, etc.). All these guides are great. However, it helps to be in the company of those in the know when it comes to identification and discussion re: observations. I advise novice birders to look, listen, be patient, stick with those who know the birds, and ask questions.



**Found a Bird in Need?  
Here's Who Can Help**

If you've found an injured bird (or other wild animal), contact one of these rehabbers for assistance. Please CALL FIRST before driving over, as they can offer advice and recommend alternate facilities if they do not handle certain animals. (Different rehabbers are certified for different things.) These groups do fine work, so consider donating money or materials to help them out.

Fellow Mortals  
Lake Geneva, Walworth Co.  
(262) 248-5055  
<http://www.fellowmortals.org/>

Peesh Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Paddock Lake, Kenosha Co.  
(262) 716-8294 (call in advance for instructions)  
<http://www.peesh911.com/>

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center  
at Wisconsin Humane Society  
(414) 431-6204 (for wildlife in Milwaukee County)  
<http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife>

Other Wisconsin Rehabilitators:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/directory.html>

**An Uncommon Encounter...**



On January 31, 2015, John Dixon traveled to Wisconsin Point in Superior, WI, and photographed this lovely Common Eider. Per the WSO's latest published records, this bird was only the 6th Common Eider ever reported in the state.

Good birding!

**Better than a Bird's Eye View**



*Screen capture taken from Cornell's Great Horned Owl cam*

Thanks to the sponsorship of Cornell, local Audubon societies, and individuals, you can watch birds live online. If there isn't much action when you tune in, there are plenty of highlight clips available. Through these cameras, you can observe owls at rest and raptors delivering prey to the nest (though squeamish viewers may want to look away). Some cameras even have sound so you can hear mates communicate and flocks of passerines squabble at feeders.

**Here are some nest cams we've enjoyed:**

Great Horned Owls, Savannah, GA

[cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/46/  
Great\\_Horned\\_Owls/](http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/46/Great_Horned_Owls/)

Barn Owls, undisclosed location, TX

[cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/42/Barn\\_Owls/](http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/42/Barn_Owls/)

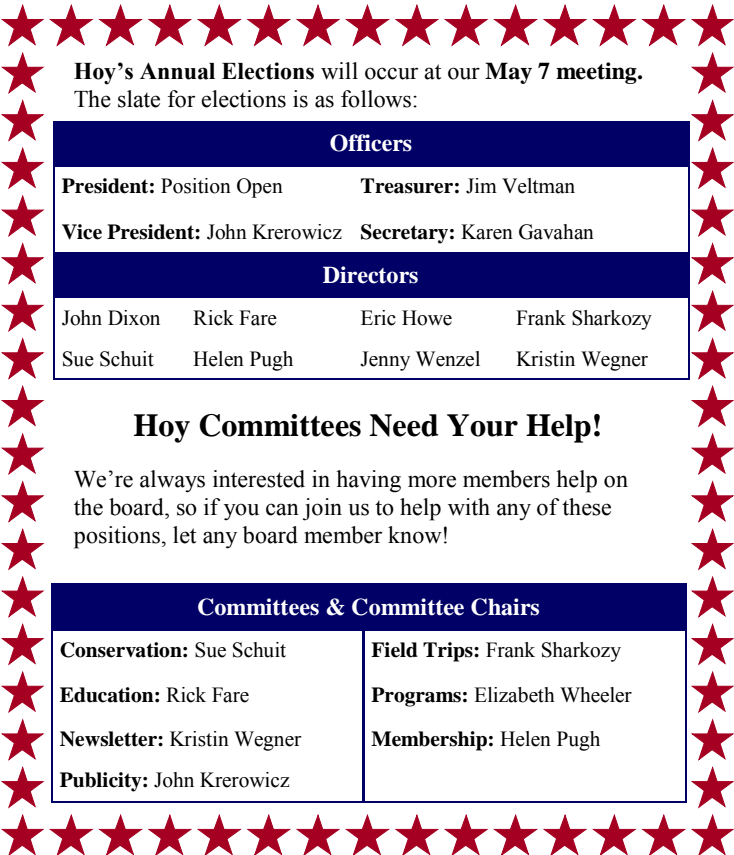
Laysan Albatrosses, Kilauea, HI

[cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/41/Laysan\\_Albatross/](http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/41/Laysan_Albatross/)



And don't forget our local Peregrine stars atop the Racine Courthouse! The male "Beaster" has already been seen perching on the ledge and working on the scrape.

[falconcam.goracine.org](http://falconcam.goracine.org)



Hoy's Annual Elections will occur at our May 7 meeting. The slate for elections is as follows:

Officers			
<b>President:</b> Position Open		<b>Treasurer:</b> Jim Veltman	
<b>Vice President:</b> John Krerowicz		<b>Secretary:</b> Karen Gavahan	
Directors			
John Dixon	Rick Fare	Eric Howe	Frank Sharkozy
Sue Schuit	Helen Pugh	Jenny Wenzel	Kristin Wegner

**Hoy Committees Need Your Help!**

We're always interested in having more members help on the board, so if you can join us to help with any of these positions, let any board member know!

Committees & Committee Chairs	
<b>Conservation:</b> Sue Schuit	<b>Field Trips:</b> Frank Sharkozy
<b>Education:</b> Rick Fare	<b>Programs:</b> Elizabeth Wheeler
<b>Newsletter:</b> Kristin Wegner	<b>Membership:</b> Helen Pugh
<b>Publicity:</b> John Krerowicz	

**Become a Bluebird Monitor!**

Do you enjoy watching bird behavior?

Would you like to participate in a project to help bird populations grow?

Why not become a Bluebird monitor?

Opportunities exist to either have your own trail or assist others on theirs. It's a lot of fun and very rewarding.



If you are interested in becoming a Bluebird monitor, please contact one of our Bluebird coordinators:

Stan Rosenstiel: 262-694-2206

Rick Fare: 262-902-9020 or [rick.fare@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:rick.fare@hoyaudubon.org)

**Program: Attracting Bluebirds:** Rick will be presenting on April 11, 2015, at 10:00a.m. at Hawthorn Hollow (880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI). Registration is required, so visit: [www.hawthornhollow.org/classes/bird-lover-series/](http://www.hawthornhollow.org/classes/bird-lover-series/)

**Racine's Premier Birding Hotspot: Wind Point**

Head east on 3 Mile Road or 4 Mile Road towards Lake Michigan and follow the road until it becomes Lighthouse Drive. In a short distance is Shoop Park Golf Course which is a public course. This area north to the lighthouse is known as Wind Point and represents the premier birding site in the county. Rarities seen here include Pacific and Red-throated Loons, Western Grebe, all three scoters, Harlequin Duck, Red Phalarope, Purple Sandpiper, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Little, Black-headed, Sabine's, and Black-tailed Gulls, Northern Mockingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Summer and Western Tanagers, Bohemian Waxwing, White-winged Dove, and Nelson's Sparrow.

Though the point can be "dead" at any time of the year, it can also produce something of the outstanding at any time of the year. Excellent numbers of sparrows can often be found in migration, and from time to time the other passerine numbers may be surprising as well. Wind Point is one of those spots that hold lingering migrants and many of the local record departure dates are from Wind Point. The shoreline from the golf course parking lot to the lighthouse can be walked. Just be aware that golfers hit quite a few balls onto the beach area. If you can do it without disrupting the golfers, the perimeter of the golf course can be walked. Pay particular attention to the ravine area on the south side of the golf course, and the northwest corner of the course which for whatever reason has proven to be one of the most interesting areas of the walk.

-Jerry DeBoer, *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts*



**April Showers . . .**

Spring weather can be unpredictable, so don't put those hats and gloves away just yet! Waterproof gear never hurts either. Potentially hazardous conditions like freezing rain or heavy storms may cause a field trip to be cancelled. We post cancellations on Hoy's website and the Hoy Facebook page/group whenever it is possible to do so ahead of time. **If you are unsure whether a field trip will take place, please use good judgment when deciding whether to attend.**



## Hoy's Upcoming Activities

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Meeting, Program: From Warblers to Sparrows, the Life History, Beauty, and "Jizz" of Those "LBJs"**

*Kenosha Northside Public Library,  
1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140*

Wayne Rohde will present tips for identification (the "Jizz"), a little biology, plus the general beauty of warblers and sparrows and the environment in which we find them.

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m. (or 6:00 p.m.)

**Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk: Pike River**

*Pike River Pathway, Mount Pleasant, Racine County*

Meet at the Wendi Court parking lot. At 6:00 p.m. we'll look for early spring migrants. At 7:30 p.m. we'll walk a portion of the pathway and await the display of the American Woodcock.

Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. (or 6:00 p.m.)

**Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk: Cliffside**

*Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County*

Meet at 6:00 p.m. to look for early spring migrants. At 7:30 p.m. we'll walk the trail to the north and await the display of the American Woodcock. Waterproof footwear advised.

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m. (or 6:00 p.m.)

**Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk: Pike River**

*Pike River Pathway, Mount Pleasant, Racine County*

Meet at the Wendi Court parking lot. At 6:00 p.m. we'll look for early spring migrants. At 7:30 p.m. we'll walk a portion of the pathway and await the display of the American Woodcock.

Friday, April 24, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

*River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI*

Rick Fare will lead the bird walk. Birdwatchers of all experience levels are welcome. Bring your binoculars and your bird book.

Wednesday, April 29, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walks at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

Our Wednesday evening hikes are a great way to experience the progression of spring migrants as well as those birds that summer here. We will walk in light rain but not if there's a downpour.

Thursday, April 30, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walks at Hawthorn Hollow**

*Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI*

Rick Fare will lead the bird walk. Birdwatchers of all experience levels are welcome. Bring your binoculars and your bird book.

Friday, May 1, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

*River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI*

(See April 24 description for details.)

Wednesday, May 6, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

(See April 29 description for details.)

Thursday, May 7, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow**

*Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI*

(See April 30 description for details.)

## Activities, continued

Thursday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Meeting, Program: Oregon Adventures + Annual Board Elections**

*Kenosha Northside Public Library,  
1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140*

Professor Joy Wolf, Ph.D., from the University of Wisconsin Parkside Geography Department will discuss her recent sabbatical in the beautiful state of Oregon, where she studied the science and art of birds and birding. She'll share other Oregon experiences too! We'll also hold the annual Hoy Board elections.

Friday, May 8, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

*River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI*

(See April 24 description for details.)

Wednesday, May 13, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

(See April 29 description for details.)

Thursday, May 14, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow**

*Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI*

(See April 30 description for details.)

Friday May, 15, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

*River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI*

(See April 24 description for details.)

Wednesday, May 20, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

(See April 29 description for details.)

Thursday, May 21, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow**

*Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI*

(See April 30 description for details.)

Friday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

*River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI*

(See April 24 description for details.)

Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

(See April 29 description for details.)

Thursday, June 4, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Meeting, Program: TBA**

*Location: Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive, Mt Pleasant, WI*

Watch Hoy's website for details!

Thursday, June 11, and Tuesday, June 16, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

**Field Trip: Picnic with the Peregrines!**

*Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Ave, Racine, WI*

Bring lunch and enjoy watching the young Peregrine Falcons beg food from their parents and practice flying.



**HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**P.O. BOX 044626**

**RACINE, WI 53404**

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



*Common Goldeneye, photo by Kristin Wegner*

**Please take the time to renew your [Hoy Audubon Chapter Membership for 2015/2016](#).**

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 per individual

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Yes, my email is: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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



*Great Black-backed Gull, photo by Kristin Wegner*

**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 email newsletter distribution list by sending an email to [hoynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hoynewsletter@gmail.com) and asking 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)