

The HERON

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society



UPCOMING PROGRAMS



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Saturday, November 8, 2008

10–11 am, Theisen Middle School Auditorium

A FAMILY PROGRAM

Eagles and Friends

Speaker: Ryanne Lee, Raptor Educator, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

Come and see LIVE bald eagles, owls, hawks, and falcons!
Learn about the benefits of these beautiful birds in our society.
This is a program that will delight school-age children
and adults of all ages.

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Wednesday, December 10, 2008

7 pm, UW-Fond du Lac, Henken Lounge

Wind Turbines

Speaker: Noel J. Cutright, Emeritus Scientist, We Energies

Learn more about the impact of wind turbines
on birds and the environment.

Thank you!

The door prizes for the September meeting were donated by Margie Winter and Kathleen and Dave Stetter. The door prizes for the October meeting were donated by Diana Beck and Mary Ellen McMeen. Thank you to Bev and Ken Fisher for bringing refreshments for the October meeting.

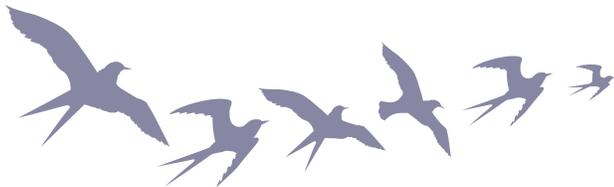
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Directions to the Henken Lounge at UW-Fond du Lac: Park in the back of the Art Building or in the main parking lot. Proceed through the Commons area and the tunnel OR go up the outside ramp leading to the Art Building, where you enter the second floor. The Henken Lounge is down the hall. Audubon programs are open to the public with no admission charge. Adults, families, and young people with an interest in environmental issues are encouraged to attend.

Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly

A new book has just been published by Voyageur Press. In *Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly*, wildlife biologist Carrol Henderson, a twenty-year veteran of bird-watching around the globe, offers his insights into spotting and identifying birds in flight. With more than 170 close-up color photographs of airborne birds, as well as diagrams illustrating the principles of flight and detailed information based on firsthand research, this book is as informative as it is wonderful to look at.

Carrol L. Henderson is a nature photographer, writer, and wildlife biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. His bird photography has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Audubon*, *Birder's World*, and the *World Book Encyclopedia Yearbook of Science*. He and his wife, Ethelle, have been leading international birdwatching trips since 1987, traveling throughout Central and South America, New Zealand, Kenya, and Tanzania. He is an enthusiastic nature photographer who has photographed over a thousand species of birds.

Find out more at www.voyageurpress.com.



Natural Landscaping Workshop

Join us on Saturday, January 10 from 2-4:30 pm at UW-Fond du Lac. If you are curious about how to naturalize your backyard, then come to this workshop! The basics of creating a naturalized backyard will be introduced by Ted Eischeid. During the workshop session you will develop a plan for your yard based on your objectives. You will then sketch a plan proposal using a scaled map of your property along with a time line. Come prepared with the dimensions of your property and any buildings on the site. You will leave with a plan, knowledge, and resources to make your yard the natural paradise you have always desired. Limit: 20 participants. To reserve a spot contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250 or email stetter@centurytel.net).

East Greenway Buckthorn Removal

Volunteers are needed to help beautify one of nature's gems in the city. We will be removing invasive buckthorn and doing other trailwork. Late fall is the best time to remove the larger plants because the sap is returning down to the roots. The small tree is cut and an herbicide is then applied to the stump. Volunteers are encouraged to come to the East Greenway Project. Light trail work is also available for people who can't do heavier work.

Meet at 9 am on the west side of the parking lot at the Pick N Save store on South Pioneer Road. We will be working until 11 am. Bring gloves, and if possible a lopper, saw or chain saw. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes.

Volunteer Schedule

November 1 (Saturday)

November 8 (Saturday)

November 15 (Saturday)

House Passes No Child Left Inside Act

Environmental education received a major boost on September 19, when the House approved the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008 by a vote of 293-109. The legislation would authorize major new funding for states to provide high-quality, environmental instruction. Funds would support outdoor learning activities both at school and in non-formal environmental education centers, teacher training, and the creation of state environmental literacy plans.

Remember to Vote

Each election has repercussions for the environment and each vote is important. The current issue of *Audubon* magazine features the views of John McCain and Barack Obama on important environmental issues. Read the interview with presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama in *Audubon* magazine. Whatever your choice, this year's elections feature nail-biting Senate races, exciting House seat battles, state ballot initiatives that impact local and national environmental issues, and a new president to lead our nation. All of it will decide how the environment fares for the next four years. Please vote!



Alternative Gift Fair

Audubon will participate in the Alternative Gift Fair at the Pilgrim UCC Church on Sunday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In the church narthex there will be fair trade items for sale, and groups such as Audubon, with displays. People can make a donation in someone's name to a charity or non-profit group instead of giving a traditional Christmas gift. In the case of Audubon, a gift membership or a donation could be given. Come and support the effort. Volunteers are needed to sit at the display table and answer questions and hand out brochures. Contact Diana Beck: 922-7931.

Travel to Costa Rica for Operation Ruby Throat

Contribute as a citizen scientist while enjoying a tropical setting from February 3-11, 2009 on this trip sponsored by Madison Audubon Society.

The trip leader is internationally renowned educator-naturalist Bill Hilton, Jr. Learn about the fascinating hummingbird while you assist Bill with his cutting-edge research project *Operation Ruby Throat: The Hummingbird Project*. Help capture, band and release hummingbirds and other birds; explore tropical forests, volcanic mountain regions, and more.

The full itinerary and reservation is posted at www.holbrooktravel.com/MadisonAudubonCostaRica2009 For more information contact Debbie Sturdivant at Debbie@holbrooktravel.com or call 866-748-6146.

Wild Feast Potluck

Our fall-kick off Wild Feast Potluck on September 10 was a big success! About 25 people attended and brought a great variety of interesting and delicious food items. Some of the dishes included savory burdock patties, venison stew, garlic mustard pesto, jerusalem artichoke, wild berry muffins, rice with burdock root, and many others. The participants enjoyed trying something new and had fun learning and creating their dishes. Keep your eyes and ears open for possibilities during the year for next September's potluck. Items in season can be made ahead of time and then frozen. Remember to make copies of the recipe to share with others.

Audubon Spring Photo Contest

Attendees at the September meeting voted on entry categories for the 2008-2009 Fond du Lac County Audubon photography contest. The four categories for photos are: Audubon Activities, Birds, Wildflowers/Natural Landscapes, and Wildlife/Other.

Audubon members may enter up to four 8x10 inch photos in any combination of these four categories. A caption and date of photo should be attached to each. Photos should have been taken during 2007 to 2009. Judging will again take place by members at the annual banquet in May.

Support Audubon Programs

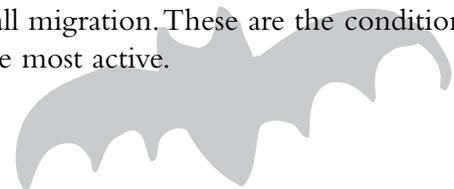
Please attend Audubon's monthly programs, workshops, or field trips. The Board is working hard to try to offer educational and fun activities to Audubon members and the general public. Those of us who are supportive of conservation issues need to support the efforts. Please make the most of these opportunities. Let the Board know if you have suggestions for future activities or speakers.

Bats and Wind Turbines

If you have been out to visit one of our nearby wind turbines, you will have heard the "whoosh" of the blades. That sound indicates a sudden change in air pressure. Wind turbines produce a 5 to 10 kilopascal drop (a unit of pressure). Four kilopascals will kill a rat and bats are much smaller. Birds with rigid, tubular lungs are less vulnerable to the drop in pressure. Bats have balloon-like lung structures not unlike humans.

In most locations, bat fatalities are a more significant problem than bird deaths. Researchers typically pick up 10 bats for every bird. Ninety percent of the bat deaths involve internal hemorrhaging consistent with damage called barotrauma, which is caused by rapidly expanding air in the lungs. Even if the bat avoids being struck by the blade at the last minute, the rapid pressure drop effectively blows up the lungs.

Right now, the most promising solution is to shut the turbines down during slow wind speeds at night during the fall migration. These are the conditions when bats are most active.



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THE HERON

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M E M B E R S H I P

Special Introductory 1 Year Membership: \$20
Special Introductory 2 Year Membership: \$35
Special Introductory 1 Year Senior Membership: \$15

Yes! I want to become a member of the National Audubon Society, and the Fond du Lac County Chapter. My annual membership dues entitle me to six issues of Audubon magazine, and all chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to:
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

I am not a member of National Audubon, but I am interested in receiving the chapter newsletter, *The Heron*, to stay informed of chapter activities. I have enclosed \$4.00 payable to:
FOND DU LAC COUNTY AUDUBON.

(Fee covers printing and mailing for a year of issues.)

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Mail this form with payment to:
Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services
W4148 Kiekhaefer Parkway, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Bird Seed Sale Success!

A BIG THANK YOU to our treasurer, Ken Fisher, for his work as Bird Seed Sale chairperson! Our sale on October 18 was a great success due to Ken's hard work and diligence. We sold 250 bags of bird seed! Thank you to Hoerth Storage who let us hold our sale at their business again this year. Thank you also to the volunteers who worked filling orders and helping customers.

If you need more bird seed, contact Ken at 921-0366 or kjfish@sbcglobal.net. Below is seed that is still available:

- Three 40 lb. bags Regular Mix
- Two 40 lb. bags No-waste Mix
- Four 40 lb. bags Supreme Mix
- Two 50 lb. bags Thistle Seed
- Two 8 lb. bags Safflower Seed



A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.

~Chinese Proverb