



# *The* HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### *Horicon Marsh Management*

*Wednesday, December 9, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-104*

Migratory birds need a variety of habitats for feeding, courtship, and nesting.

Many other species of wildlife also benefit from prescribed fire, water level management and invasive species control at Horicon Marsh.

Join Erin Railsback from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to learn more.



### *Flying for the DNR*

*Wednesday, January 13, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-104*

Join Beverly Paulan to hear about her adventures combining love of nature with flying.

Expect some humor and stunning aerial photography.

Beverly comments, "...how I get to see really cool stuff and manage not to crash."



### *Bring Back the Pollinators*

*Wednesday, February 10, 7 pm*

*MPTC, Room O-104*

Whether a gardener, farmer, beekeeper, or just interested, come learn what you can do for pollinators.

Plan to build and take home a simple bee nest to start building pollinator habitat in your community.

Carrie Caselton Lowe, an ecologist and organic farmer, will be presenting information from the Xerces Society.



*Visit Us On the Web*

*[www.flldaudubon.org](http://www.flldaudubon.org)*

*Like Us On Facebook*

## WINTER ACTIVITIES

### *Santa's Workshop for the Birds*

**Saturday, December 12, 1–3 pm**

Come enjoy an afternoon of cookies, cocoa, and creativity. You will be constructing either a bird house or a feeder. You may choose to decorate with a Christmas theme. This would make a terrific Christmas gift! The project construction will be simple as it will mainly require assembly. Consider sharing this experience with a child. We will provide information on proper nest box maintenance and bird feeding. Fee: Five dollars. To register, contact Amy Sheldon: amysheldon3870@yahoo.com

### *Christmas Bird Count*

**Saturday, December 19, Sunrise (or earlier if you are willing to listen for owls) until Sunset**

Since the Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of thousands of volunteers in the U.S., Canada, and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle compiler within an established circle, but anyone can participate.

The count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler. Volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day.

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join our Audubon group, which will include some experienced birdwatchers. Contact Dave Sehloff: David.Sehloff@gmail.com.

### *Snowshoe Saturday at Kiekhæfer Park*

**Saturday, February 6, 1 pm**

Enjoy a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at the beautiful and unique Kiekhæfer Park.

Don't have snowshoes? A limited number of participants will be able to reserve snowshoes at no charge, courtesy of Attitude Sports. For trail conditions or to reserve snowshoes call 266-9696 or email [info@fdlaudubon.org](mailto:info@fdlaudubon.org). From Fond du Lac, take Highway 151 north for three miles to Kiekhæfer Parkway. Turn right on Kiekhæfer Parkway, go to the parking lot on the north side of the road, 4235 Kiekhæfer Parkway.



Snowshoeing at Kiekhæfer Park

### *Landscape Pesticide Registry Signup*

If you were not aware of the registry, this is an opportunity for you to be informed when your neighbors have pesticides applied to their property by a professional yard service. Because there can be wind drift, you can keep your windows closed or not hang out laundry during the scheduled time. You will receive a call a day or two before the application, alerting you to the time and types of pesticides that will be used on your neighbors' properties.

The signup for 2016 is available until February 1, 2016. Anyone currently in the registry will receive an email reminder. Visit the website: [datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/landreg/index.jsp](http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/landreg/index.jsp)

### *Backyard Bird Count, February 12–15*

The time has come to help again with the Great Backyard Bird Count. Google Great Backyard Bird Count or go to [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org). The more data coming from all of us helps the researchers. You only need to do a minimum of 15 minutes on one of the days and then enter your observations. Or you can make multiple observations on all of the days. All of this can be done from inside the warmth of your home. Any beginners will find help with bird identification on the website. Mark your calendar now and help in the research.



Elizabeth A. W. Ahlborn

## **Community Shopping Night to Benefit Audubon and Just Fare Market**

On Thursday, December 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Fond du Lac County Audubon is partnering with Just Fare Market to promote Fair Trade and provide some funding for our local education and conservation projects. Just Fare Market will donate 15% of total sales during those hours to our local Audubon. This is an opportunity for you to find some unique, affordable, and quality holiday gifts or to stock up on some gourmet items for your pantry while supporting Fond du Lac County Audubon.

Fair Trade is a direct and cooperative business approach that supports farmers and craftspeople in developing countries by paying a living wage and providing safe working conditions. One of the main principles of Fair Trade is that environmentally sustainable practices are used in producing products. That's especially important to those of us who are interested in preserving the world's birds and conservation of natural resources. For example, Fair Trade coffee is grown in the shade. According to one study, shaded coffee farms provide habitat for 184 different bird species, whereas only 8 to 12 species were found on the sunny monoculture farms. Help birds by buying shade-grown coffee at Just Fare.

Audubon members who are interested in natural foods will not be disappointed to find colorful heirloom rice varieties grown on ancient terraces in the Philippines on sale at Just Fare Market. Other gourmet items include Divine dark chocolate and quick and easy soup mixes.

Just Fare Market stocks some amazing items made from upcycled materials. There are elegant journals made from elephant dung paper, key chains made from string, table cloths made from recycled saris, and purses made from the pull tops of cans. It's just plain fun to pick up and examine these unique items, and to marvel at the creative people who turned garbage into useful items.

Have a great evening with Audubon members as you browse through fashionable scarves, select an interesting piece of jewelry, or find an unusual gift to fill a stocking. Bring friends to learn about both Audubon and Just Fare Market, and to support our local Audubon projects. Just Fare Market is located at N7645 N. Peebles Lane in Peebles, on WH just off the 151 bypass. For more info, see: [justfare.org](http://justfare.org).

## **Conservation Lobby Day 2016**

Fond du Lac County Audubon is a member of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV), a coalition of organizations that sponsors an annual lobby day. The purpose of this event is to provide voters with an opportunity to talk directly with their state legislators. Each year, the League sets priorities based on coalition meetings and talking with hundreds of citizens at multiple Conservation Listening Sessions around the state. When selected, these priorities will be posted on the WLCV web site: [conservationvoters.org](http://conservationvoters.org).

Conservation Lobby Day will be held at the Monona Terrace in Madison and is held some time during the winter; the date for the 2016 Lobby Day has not yet been selected. Please watch for the event on Audubon's Facebook or web pages or listen for announcements at winter meetings. Conservation-minded citizens need to talk frankly with legislators about the ramifications of budget cuts and bills that threaten the environment. The effectiveness of Conservation Lobby Day grows with each additional citizen lobbyist that attends. You can help make certain that every single legislator talks directly to a conservation-minded constituent on Lobby Day. Participants talk to legislators as a small group, and training is provided during the morning sessions. There is no cost for participating, and lunch is included. You are encouraged to make a donation.

In 2015, we had excellent participation by Fond du Lac County Audubon members. Unfortunately, none were from the city of Fond du Lac; we especially need members from the city of Fond du Lac.

A full description of Lobby Day will be available at the WLCV web page and Audubon's Facebook and web pages will direct you: [conservationvoters.org](http://conservationvoters.org)

If you plan to attend, please register on the WLCV web page and email or call Dave Stetter, Conservation chair ([dlstetter@gmail.com](mailto:dlstetter@gmail.com) or 920-872-2250).

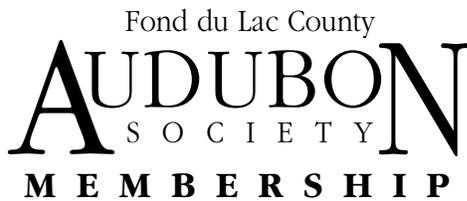




P.O. Box 84  
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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter  
via e-mail to [evelyn@mcleancowan.com](mailto:evelyn@mcleancowan.com)

## THE HERON



- Yes!** I want to become a member or renew my membership to the National Audubon Society, and the Fond du Lac County Chapter. The annual membership dues of \$40 entitle me to six issues of the Audubon magazine, and all local chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- I am only interested in being a member and supporting the programs of the Fond du Lac County Audubon. The annual local membership dues of \$20 entitle me to receive the chapter newsletter and all chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- I am a new member.
- Save trees. Please send the newsletter to me via email.

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Name

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Mail this form with payment to:  
Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services  
N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

### ***Report on Buckthorn Removal***

The weather worked in our favor and we were able to hold all of the scheduled sessions for buckthorn removal. The result was 95 volunteer hours spent at the Peebles Trail and Hobbs Woods. There were two additional sessions for a few MPTC students who logged 32 hours of work on the Peebles Trail. Thank you!

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### ***Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds by Lyanda Lynn Haupt***

Lyanda Haupt, former director and creator of educational programs for the Seattle Audubon Society, “Ts” up to deliver vivid bird memories.

The book is comprised of short chapters with accompanying sketches of her encounters with “ordinary” birds. Some experiences, like her efforts to deter “woodpeckers gone bad,” from destroying concerned citizens homes, are humorous.

Other tales, such as her heroism in hand rearing 37 chimney swift chicks, are heartwarming.

Compassion abounds in her writing, especially in the story of the one-eyed Dunlin. Many novel observations, such as the exact length of the winter wren’s song, are educational. You will finish the book with a deeper appreciation of what it truly means to be a bird watcher.