



The **HERON**

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Wild Feast Potluck

Wednesday, September 9, 5 pm

Lakeside Park, Denevue Creek Shelter

Our season kicks off with a potluck. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish made from wild plants, although conventional food is fine, too.

(See inside of newsletter for more information.)



LIVE Birds of Prey

A FUN FAMILY PROGRAM!

Saturday, October 10, 10–11 am

Theisen Middle School Auditorium

Discover how unique eyesight, hearing, and flight adaptations of raptors make them successful hunters. Rebekah Weiss, certified international wildlife rehabilitator from Aves Rescue Center in Neenah, will introduce us to several different raptor species. See live birds including owls, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, or peregrine falcons. There will be an opportunity to photograph the birds as well as hands-on experience with educational artifacts such as feathers and talons. Preview the Aves program at aveswildlife.org.



Fall and Winter Birding in Wisconsin

Wednesday, November 11, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Fall migration not only brings a greater number of birds through our state (due to the addition of new fledglings), but often provides a higher likelihood to encounter rare or vagrant species. Winter tends to be a slower and more peaceful time for birdwatching, but it's also a wonderful time to find exciting birds like Snowy Owls, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings, winter finches and unusual gulls. Find out where you can discover unique birds in the off-season. Join Thomas Schultz, artist/illustrator whose work has been published in books and field guides, including the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of America. Tom is actively involved with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.



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www.fdlaudubon.org

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AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOP



Thomas Schultz

Jaeger Festival

Saturday and Sunday, September 19 & 20, 7 am Superior

This trip is in conjunction with the Wisconsin Ornithology field trip. Jaegers are large gull-like birds who derive their name from the German word Jaeger, which means Hunter. This fits their swift aerial killing style. We will meet at Wisconsin Point Beach (first beach parking area along the Moccasin Mike Road) both days at 7 am. We will set up a little area with a spotting scope to enhance views of the Jaegers, possibly all three (Long-tailed, Pomarine and Parasitic). Many migrants should also be moving through and we will search for unusual gulls. Bring warm clothes, as the weather can be chilly. Also, bring food for the gulls, such as stale bread, which will increase our luck. For more details contact Amy Sheldon amysheldon3870@yahoo.com

Saw-whet Owl Banding

Tues., Oct. 6 and Wed., Oct. 21, 7:15 pm Linwood Springs Research Station Stevens Point

Spend the evening learning about the adorable Saw-whet owl. Those who adopt an owl will be able to hold and be part of the release of a Saw-whet back into the wild. There are limited spaces available, so please sign up early. There is a \$15 fee.

- Program begins at 7:30 pm inside Research Station
- A short talk about the owl's natural history
- Walk out to examine the nets
- Bring owls back to the research station
- Band, measure, and examine the owls
- Photo opportunity and release the owls
- Visit the gift shop

For more details and to register, contact Amy Sheldon amysheldon3870@yahoo.com



Dr. Amy Sheldon

The Big Sit

Sunday, October 11, 6 am–7 pm Lakeside Park, Fond du Lac

Fond du Lac County Audubon will be hosting its first Big Sit. What is a Big Sit? It is a great way to fundraise and to contribute to citizen science. People all over the world will be holding their own Sits. We “sit” in a 17' (diameter) spot for several hours and tally all the bird species we see. Participants solicit pledges prior to the event. Typically people sponsor per bird species. Our location is yet to be determined, but will most likely be at Lakeside Park to afford us a view of water and land habitat. Anyone can participate for any length of time; just drop on by. We will have chairs, snacks, binoculars to share, and good company. To participate and have a pledge sheet emailed to you contact Amy Sheldon: amysheldon3870@yahoo.com

Lizard Mound County Park

Saturday, October 17, 9 am to 1 pm, West Bend

Join Dwight Weiser and Glen Oechsner from Mid America Geographic Foundation and Rock River Archeological Association for a tour of the 26 mounds. Dwight and Glen will share their personal maps of astronomical alignments for these mounds.

Lizard Mound Park offers one of the largest and most diverse groups of effigy mounds in Wisconsin. The mounds are well preserved and clearly marked along a mile of trail. In addition, Lizard Mound Park is listed as one of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail destinations. For those in the Fond du Lac area, meet at Menards parking lot at 9 am to form a car pool. Others should meet at Lizard Mound around 9:45. The park is at 2121 County Highway A in the Town of Farmington, northeast of West Bend. Dress for the weather, wear good walking shoes, bring a sack lunch to eat in the picnic area of the park, and consider stopping at Kelley Country Creamery (W5215 Co. Rd. B, Fond du Lac) for ice cream on the way home. Contact Kathleen Stetter (920-872-2250 or Stetter@Centurytel.net). For more info: www.wisconsintrails.com and type Lizard Mound in the Search area.

Birds in Art

Sunday, November 1, 10 am

Leigh Yawkey Art Museum, Wausau

“Long venerated for embodying freedom, grace, and beauty in flight, birds continually provide creative inspiration to exceed limits of earthbound human existence...When talented artists from throughout the world strive to be among those chosen for the internationally renowned Birds in Art exhibition, the resulting depictions are breathtaking. The 40th annual exhibition celebrates avian marvels through fresh interpretations in original paintings, sculptures, and graphics.”

We will leave Fond du Lac at 10 am, carpooling from the McDonalds parking lot on W. Johnson St. We will make a few stops to bird on the way home. To participate email Amy Sheldon amysheldon3870@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE

Santa's Workshop for the Birds

Saturday, December 12, 1–3 pm

Come enjoy an afternoon of cookies, cocoa, and creativity, while constructing a bird house or a feeder. Learn about proper nest box maintenance and bird feeding. Bring a child!



Dr. Amy Sheldon

Wild Feast Potluck September 9

Our annual Wild Feast Potluck will be held on Wednesday September 9 starting at 5 pm.

Meet at the Denevue Creek shelter in Lakeside Park (east end of Harbor View Drive). We plan to be eating at 5:30 pm. Bring your own plate, cup, bowl, utensils, and beverage. Beer and wine is allowed.

Your contribution of food or drink to the potluck should include some wild ingredients or fresh produce from your garden. This is an opportunity to experiment and try something new. There are many edible weeds in your own yard. However, avoid areas treated with pesticides. Please bring a list of the ingredients or the recipe, so that people can avoid things that they might be allergic to.

Entrées from the past have included creamed dandelion greens, savory burdock patties, plantain casserole, daylily bud salad, garlic mustard pesto, venison stew, hickory nut cookies and elderberry pie.

A short presentation will be given on eating insects by Diana Beck. She will bring a couple of entrées that include insects, giving you a chance to taste some insect food if you are willing and adventurous.

For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com

Fun at Prairie Fest

On July 27 at Prairie Fest, we provided literature and had a mock banding of children. Each child was gently removed from the net and weighed. Measurements of arm span (wingspan), and height (length) were all recorded on our data sheet. The children carefully sorted through photos of different grassland birds.

We had a drawing for a hummingbird feeder. Our recipe of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup white granulated sugar to one cup water, warmed until sugar dissolves, is the safest for hummers. Keep your feeder up through September for migrating hummingbirds.

Community Shopping Night to Benefit Audubon and Just Fare Market

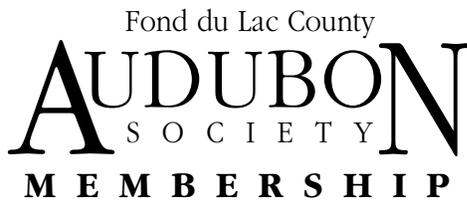
On Thursday, December 3, Fond du Lac Audubon will host a shopping night at Just Fare Market in Peebles from 6–8 pm. Just Fare Market will donate 15% of total sales to Audubon during those hours. This is a great way to contribute to both Audubon and the social justice movement encompassed by Just Fare Market. See details on our website.



P.O. Box 84
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0084

Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to 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.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

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

Fall Buckthorn Removal Schedule

The best time to tackle the invasive European buckthorn is in the late autumn. It is one of the last plants to drop its leaves, so it is easy to locate them. If any large buckthorns need to be poisoned, the sap is going down and the poison will reach the roots.

Please join us in the effort to clear the Peebles Trail, which has a lot of buckthorn. Also, we will have two sessions at Hobbs Woods. Wear long pants, good work shoes or boots and bring a pair of garden gloves. Equipment will be supplied. No experience is necessary. All sessions will begin at 9 am and end at 11 am. Cancelled in the event of steady rain.

Peebles Trail

Tuesday, October 6	Thursday, October 8
Saturday, October 10	Thursday, October 22
Saturday, October 24	Monday, October 26

Directions: Meet by the Peebles Trail on Prairie Road (about ¼ mile south of Winnebago Drive).

Hobbs Woods

Saturday, November 7 Saturday, November 14

Directions: Meet in the Hobbs Woods parking lot (about five miles south of Fond du Lac on South Hickory Road).

For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com