



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



State of the Birds Report

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

One hundred years after the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, the nation's top bird scientists from conservation groups and agencies have come together again to publish the fifth State of the Birds report. William Mueller, Director of the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, will provide valuable information from the nation's top bird scientists.



Cat Impact on Wildlife

Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm

UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC114 University Center/LGI 114

Professor Stan Temple has devoted his career to studying and trying to reduce threats to native wildlife, including predation by free-ranging domestic cats. Domestic cat predation is the largest source of bird and mammal mortality in the United States directly related to human behavior. Situations and solutions will be discussed.



Butterflies of Fond du Lac County

Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-102

Mike Reese, Educator and Botanist, has explored Wisconsin's natural areas with his camera in pursuit of butterflies for over 25 years. Mike has been the moderator for the sighting pages of the North American Butterfly Association since 2001 and has written a regular article for their American Butterflies quarterly magazine for over a decade. Mike makes extensive information about Wisconsin butterflies, tiger beetles, and robber flies available online at his website wisconsinbutterflies.org, as well as via a Wisconsin butterfly app for the iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad. His photos have occurred in over a dozen field guides. In retirement, he is the Director of Volunteers for the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas with the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology.



Kerry Schloff



Mike Reese



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Meet Our President—Dr. Amy Sheldon

Most birders recall a magical moment when they became hooked on birding. My lifelong love of birds began at age eight when I connected the ardent “teacher teacher teacher” call of the ovenbird, to the actual bird, perched on a mossy log, at my grandparents’ home on La Pointe Island in Lake Huron.

My passion for birds took a backseat as I pursued a career in medicine, practicing for the last 22-plus years at St. Agnes hospital, as a general pathologist. I have always felt privileged to be able to help manage the care of patients by arriving at the most accurate diagnosis, which in turn leads to the best treatment and chance of a cure or improved health.

With work and family pressures subsiding (after successfully raising and having fledged three talented boys now ages 29, 25, and 22), I rekindled my love of birding and bird conservation. Our yard, a two-acre prairie restoration, planted by Connie Ranthum, has been a successful venture at habitat restoration. Our yard bird list is up to 97 species. We enjoy sharing our interest in natural landscaping. Our yard was featured on the 2010 Zoopolis Tour and will be on the 2015 Agnesian Garden Walk. We are also being active stewards to a forest property in Vilas County.

I have been a life-long member and contributor to the International Crane Foundation and participate in the Sandhill Crane Count. We also support and take part in a variety of bird-related activities and projects including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Feeder Project, Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, National Wildlife Backyard Habitat, Duluth Hawk Ridge and North Lakeland Discovery Bird Club. We love to attend bird festivals and field trips; our favorites have been Cape May Audubon and Galveston Featherfest. Our vacation destinations nearly always include a bird tour. Each trip has been an extravaganza of colorful bird life as well as a time to meet and share our interest with other birders.

I look forward to serving as the

While participating in the Annual Backyard Bird Count, Dr. Amy Sheldon took this beautiful photo of a Snowy Owl by Waste Management in Fond du Lac.



Fond du Lac County Audubon President and to have an opportunity to give back to a cause I love—the appreciation and preservation of birds.

As apex species in our environment, birds are sensitive indicators of Global biostability. Our stewardship of them is an investment in the future of humankind.

Fond du Lac Bird City International Migratory Bird Day Schedule

Tuesday, April 28 – Program

6:30–8 pm, Fond du Lac Library

Bryan Lenz, Program Director of Bird City Wisconsin, will present a program to help residents make their neighborhoods a better place for people, birds and wildlife.

Friday, May 1 – Nature Walk

6 pm, Camelot Business Park *Meet at 28 Camelot Dr.*

Look for waterfowl, possible woodcocks, song birds and bats at dusk. Walk Leader, Terry Leasa

Saturday, May 2 – Nature Walk

9 am, Greenway Arboretum

Look for migrant song birds, indigo buntings, kingfishers, clay bank swallows, Nashville warblers, ruby crowned kinglets, flickers, phoebes, red-tailed hawks, and more. Park on the west side of Pick ’n Save’s parking lot. Walk Leader, Terry Leasa

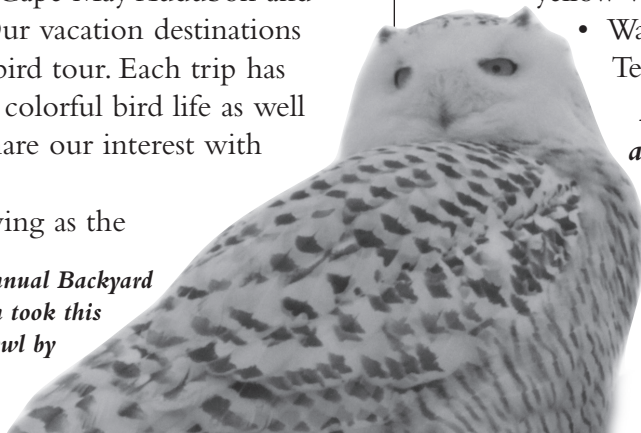
1 pm, Lakeside Park, Information & Walk

- West of Main St. at shelter across from bathrooms.
- Carl Schwartz, State Coordinator of Bird City, will provide information on discovering birds in your own backyard. A Nature Walk in Lakeside Park will follow. Look for spring migrants traveling along the Lake Winnebago shoreline, water fowl including possibly pelicans, cormorants, terns, yellow warblers, and more.

- Walk Leaders, Carl Schwartz and Terry Leasa

Bring binoculars if you have them and shoes suitable for outdoor experiences.

The Nature Walks are sponsored by ParkWatch. Audubon will make a limited number of binoculars available for use during the nature walks.



AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

See Us At the Browser Open at the Fond du Lac Public Library

Sunday, March 15, Fond du Lac Library, 11 am–4 pm

Come and enjoy 18 holes of indoor mini-golf! We will be at the Audubon's Nest, Hole #12.

Midwest Annual Crane Count

A Saturday in April, Date to Be Announced

Contact Dave Sehloff at 920-602-1649 or email david.sehloff@gmail.com.

Prairie Chicken Field Trip

Sunday, April 19, Stevens Point area

Depart Fond du Lac (meet by Panda Express), 3 am

Near Stevens Point, the Buena Vista Grasslands have been managed to preserve the Greater Prairie Chicken. This conservation effort has meant that a once nearly extirpated species remains for us to view.

This remarkable bird presents a hilarious courtship display. Males gather on Leks – flattened grass spots, to dance and “boom” using their inflatable yellow neck sacs. Females are typically disinterested in their antics.

Because all of this excitement occurs just after sunrise, we need to be in our blinds early. Conditions can be chilly, so dress warmly and bring breakfast and hot drinks.

Amy is driving; her car and the blind can only accommodate three other people. Sign up now to insure your spot! Contact Amy: amysheldon3870@yahoo.com or 920-904-6076.

Trail's End, Jerry Sander's Property

Saturday, May 9, 9 am to 1 pm, Fairwater

Watch for tanagers, warblers, and other migrants as you walk through woodland along the headwaters of the “singing” Grand River on this private preserve. The rock-bottomed river drops 35 feet forming small waterfalls along the way to see the Fairwater water wheel. Afterwards, visit the Case Steam Engine Museum, also on the Sander's property. Enjoy Jerry's stories about the steam car and numerous Case memorabilia. Wear boots and be prepared for damp or wet ground along the river and a possible river crossing. Bring insect repellent and dress for the weather. See http://www.wlhn.org/fond_du_lac/communities/fairwater/history/wheel/waterwheel.htm for information about the Fairwater water

wheel. No admission for the hike or museum, however, Jerry requests donations be directed to the International Wolf Center (<http://www.wolf.org/>) of which he is a part. Meet at Menard's parking lot at 9 am to form a carpool to 119 West Street, Fairwater.

Terrell's Island Habitat Restoration Area

Saturday, May 23, 7:30 to 11:30 am

Lake Butte des Morts

Explore these nesting islands as you walk along a 3.8-mile breakwall with a member of Lake Butte des Morts Conservation Club. The property, located on the south shore of Lake Butte des Morts near the mouth of the Fox River, consists of cattail marsh and wet meadow. This wetland conservation project was created in 1994 to preserve and restore valuable watershed habitat along the shores of the lake.

Nesting birds include terns, pelicans, cormorants, egrets, and herons. Hear about desirable and undesirable nesting species and the restoration efforts from our guide. Dress for the weather, and wear shoes for walking on crushed gravel. Bring binoculars and camera. For more information on Terrell's Island see <http://www.bdmcc.org/> and <http://www.wisconsinoutdoorfun.com>. Meet at the southwest corner of Menard's parking lot at 7:30 am.

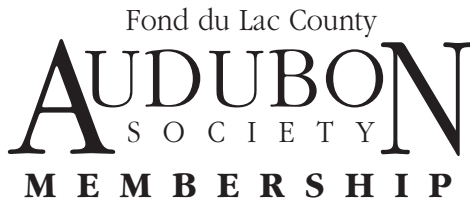




P.O. Box 84
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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to evelyn@mcleancowan.com

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

Help the Birds – Pull Garlic Mustard

Watching spring migration is fun and most of us want to be out birding! But please consider volunteering some time to save our wild areas from the spread of invasive garlic mustard. Our help is needed to preserve vital habitat for wild birds.

No experience is necessary and joining us for a session will teach you to identify the plant. Then when you are out birding and find a patch of garlic mustard, you can help by pulling the plants.

Peebles Trail

Sessions on the Peebles Trail will be from 9–11 am.

Session 1:

Saturday, May 2; Tuesday, May 5; Thursday, May 7

Meet on Prairie Road about ¼ mile south of Winnebago Drive on the Peebles Trail.

Session 2:

Sunday, May 17; Saturday, May 23; Saturday, May 30

Meet on Hwy K about ⅓ mile south of Winnebago Drive on the Peebles Trail.

High Cliff State Park

Saturday, May 16, 1–3 pm

Meet by the General Store (Special event for Geo Cachers – Cache In, Trash Out)

Bring garden gloves. Wear long pants and work shoes. Cancelled in the event of steady rain. For more information, call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com