



lakelandaudubon.com

The Chat

Lakeland Audubon Society

November 2020

Online Meeting

Tuesday, November 24th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Aldo Leopold was for the birds!

by Stanley Temple

(Registration is required) Please click on the link below to access the form.

[**Click here to register!**](#)

Although widely recognized for his book, *A Sand County Almanac*, and for his contributions to modern conservation, Aldo Leopold was also a life-long birder. A well-worn pair of birding binoculars was often around his neck whenever he was in the field. Leopold not only enjoyed bird watching, he also wrote some of his most poignant essays about birds and their conservation. He faithfully recorded many of his bird observations, providing important historical records that allow us to understand how birds are responding to such environmental factors as climate change. Stan Temple will review Leopold's love of birds and birding and explain why his writings are so important for bird conservation efforts today.



Stanley (Stan) Temple is the Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and former Chairman of the Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development Program in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison. For 32 years he held the academic position once occupied by Aldo Leopold. He is currently a Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation. He has received major conservation awards from the Society for Conservation Biology, The Wildlife Society and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Among other recognition of his achievements, he is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, Explorers Club, Wildlife Conservation Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. He has been President of the Society for Conservation Biology and Chairman of the Board of The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin.

Join Project FeederWatch!

Citizen science project begins it's 34th season this month.

Are you looking for a way to have your bird feeding hobby help birds on a broader scale than just your backyard? If so, you should consider joining Project FeederWatch this Fall, as your efforts will help scientists working in bird conservation. The project's thirty fourth season begins Saturday, November 14th and runs until Friday, April 9th. Basically, it's a twenty week long bird census done mostly in people's backyards, although the counts can be done anywhere. Participants count the highest number of each species of bird seen that they can confidently identify. Individual counts are done in two day time frames that are at least five days apart. The length of time (total time spent watching feeders) of each individual count can be anywhere from ten minutes to as long as eight hours or more. Participants can do one individual count or as many as twenty individual counts over the course of a season.

The project is run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and is offered to its members at a discounted rate of \$15 a year. The rate for non-members is \$18 a year. Data collected by participants is entered online through the Project FeederWatch website. Participants are required to set up an online account with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which is a rather simple process, as no sensitive information is given. The website is very easy to navigate and entering your data is a snap. They even have an app to use for those who wish to enter data with a smartphone or other mobile device. For more information and to join the project, click on the link below to go to the project's website.

<https://feederwatch.org/>



Photos by Wayne Rohde



Christmas Bird Count

Take part in this holiday time tradition and help bird conservation.

The Lakeland Audubon Society will hold its annual Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 19th. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of community science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada, and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds. The data collected by observers provides vital information on the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America.

To participate, contact Lisa Granbur - Email: parula13@sbcglobal.net Phone: (312) 354-0199.

Two kinds of Jitterbugs

Be sure to notice these harbingers of Winter!

by Kevin Dickey

When it comes to North American birds, there are none (besides the Hummingbirds) that are more active than the diminutive Kinglets. I'm not sure if I've ever seen them sit still and perch for more than ten seconds. Most of the time, I see them moving from one branch to another, almost continuously. Constant movement, small size and cool temps are what define these birds. Speaking of size, these smaller than a Chickadee birds, are between four to four and a quarter inches in length, depending on the species. The birds are primarily insectivorous, meaning they feed mostly on insects. They do however occasionally feed on seeds and berries. People have been known to attract them to their yards with suet feeders.

Kinglets can be identified by various field marks, such as: eye-ring, eye-stripe, wing bars and crown patch. I see both species feeding together during migration early in the Fall. I haven't let myself get too confident in differentiating between the two species, and thus always look for the crown patch. If I don't see a crown patch at first, I'm almost certain it's a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I confirm the ID by seeing a bold, broken white eye-ring along with white wing bars and possibly a glimpse of a scarlet red crown patch (displayed by the males of the species). If I happen to see a yellow and reddish orange crown patch (present on both males and females) on a little bird that won't sit still, I just about know it's a Golden-crowned Kinglet. I'll then look closer and try to notice a black eye-stripe, white eye-brow and white wing bars to confirm the ID.

Of the two species, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is larger (to 4 1/4 inches) and slightly more common. The Ruby-crowned also has a more southerly wintering range than the Golden-crowned (southern U.S.). Its breeding range is to the North, so for us living in the Southeastern Wisconsin area, the bird is only seen during migration. Click on the link below to learn more.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet



The other Kinglet, the Golden-crowned is a bit smaller (to 4 inches) and a little less common than the Ruby-crowned. Its wintering range encompasses our area, so we get to enjoy them for more of the year. Its breeding range is also to the North of us, making the bird a seasonal resident of Southeastern Wisconsin. Click on the link below to learn more.

Golden-crowned Kinglet



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Newsletter

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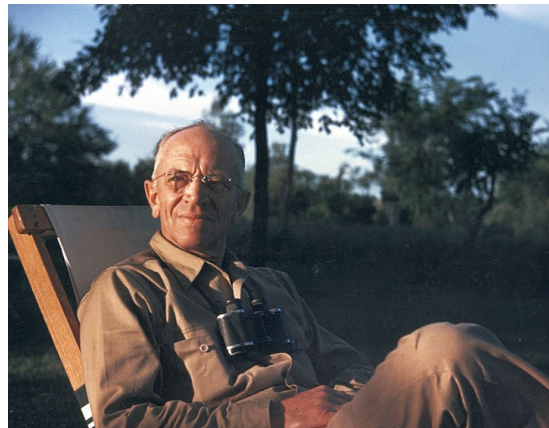
Bird Walks

Every Saturday: Big Foot Beach State Park
9:00-11:00 AM

N1550 S Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva, WI

Meet in the main parking area to the right of the entrance station a little before 9:00 AM. A state park sticker (\$28, \$13 if age 65 or older) or daily pass (\$8, \$3 if age 65 or older) is required to enter Big Foot Beach State Park.

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact/>



Aldo Leopold (photo provided by Stanley Temple)

The Chat is the newsletter of the Lakeland Audubon Chapter of the National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 473, Elkhorn, WI 53121. Subscription is \$15 per year for printed copies sent by US mail.