



lakelandaudubon.com

# ***The Chat***

**Lakeland Audubon Society**

**December 2021**

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Saturday, December 18th  
12:00 AM - 11:59 PM (24 Hours)  
Lake Geneva, WI

Looking for something fun to do before Christmas? You may want to consider joining a team covering one of the nine territories in our count circle or doing a feeder watch at your home. The Christmas Bird Count is a day spent by teams in their territories counting all the birds they see and hear during the count. Our count circle is divided into 9 sections. The NE and NW territories are looking for a team to cover them. This year is the 122nd year of the count, so not only are you contributing to citizen science, it's also a fun way to spend a day birding with family or friends. The Audubon Christmas bird count website has so much data to be explored, so please check it out. We will be meeting at the Lions field housing Williams Bay at 5 pm to get together and eat pizza and informally go over results and share our highlights of the day.

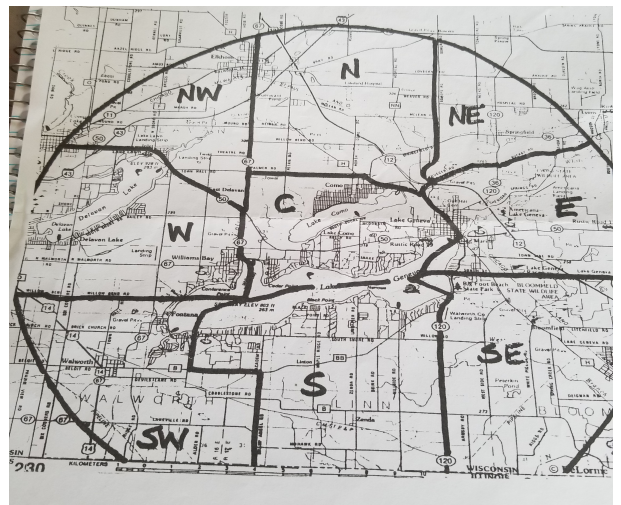
If you are interested in any of the three territories, wish to join a team, or would like to do a feeder watch, please let me know.

Lisa Granbur - Cell: 312-354-0199 or Email: [parula13@sbcglobal.net](mailto:parula13@sbcglobal.net)

Let's have a fun day watching birds and gathering data for the Audubon Christmas bird count. Then we can have Janice teach us how to play Wingspan!



**Lake Como** (Center Location - Lake Geneva CBC)



**Map of Lake Geneva CBC Area** (Photo by Lisa Granbur)



# Holiday gift idea, for game lovers...

Are you looking for a fun gift for a loved one this holiday season? Consider the game "**Wingspan**". Bird lovers love it, and guess what, so do those not enamored with birds. In fact, it was the game of the year in 2019 and has racked up numerous awards since.

## A little about the game:

Each player (ornithologist, researcher, collector, general bird enthusiast) has an aviary and the goal is to attract birds to their aviary. The aviary has 3 different habitats; forest, meadow and wetlands. The game has 170 cards, each with a different species of bird. The cards indicate what the bird eats, where it lives, the type of nest it uses and the quantity of eggs it lays. Each card contains an interesting fact about the bird. Adding birds to your aviary, placing eggs atop a bird and meeting the requirements of bonus cards are rewarded with points. While there are multiple ways to earn points, the true winner is never revealed until the points have been added at the end of play.

Players learn about birds and their habits whether they intend to or not. For example, when the cowbird card is activated, the other players with a certain nest type get a free egg... because cowbirds lay their eggs in other birds' nests! Some cards when activated, like the chickadee, cache food atop their card ... because chickadees store (cache) food for the long winter. Each card reflects the characteristics of the actual birds they portray through their abilities, habitat, nesting place, wingspan... The birds were well researched and the cards are accurate.

Wingspan is made with beautiful artwork and high quality components. It is a game for 1 to 5 players, ages 10 & up. (Yes, they have a solo mode - I haven't tried that yet) The game's popularity prompted the creator to make a European and an Oceanic expansion pack. A digital version is in the making.



I received this game as a gift last Christmas and thought, great, now who will play a "bird game" with me? Since my kids gave it to me, they were obligated, my husband joined in. I read the directions and watched a YouTube video that demonstrated how to play (I highly recommend the video). We muddled through the first game, all first time players, and ended with a smile. To my surprise, they wanted to play again and yet again. The game never plays out the same twice. You can strategize, but the quantity of food and eggs may derail your efforts.

Since that first game, I've taught multiple people, old and young; they always want to play again. You can't play this game without appreciating the research and thoughtful creativity that went into its creation. There is something addictive about it. You are making decisions from the very first turn with complete control of your own aviary. With any luck, an expansion pack will be nestled under my Christmas tree. If anyone gets this game and would like me to teach you how to play, I would be happy to oblige.

Happy shopping!

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# What is Audubon Adventures?

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education curriculum product created by the National Audubon Society for grades 3 - 5. Developed by professional environmental educators, Audubon Adventures presents standards-based science content about birds, wildlife, and their habitats.

Audubon Adventures introduces young people, their families, and their teachers to the fundamental principles by which the natural world functions. Our print publications and website offer an exciting, science-based exploration of those principles at work anchored in nonfiction reading and outdoor and classroom activities that help kids to care for our planet by helping birds and other wildlife.

Audubon Adventures is used in classrooms, home schools, after-school programs, camp programs, ESL classes, and more.

Our content-rich website [www.audubonadventures.org](http://www.audubonadventures.org) provides interactive games, puzzles, and quizzes and topic-related resources for both teachers and students. Since its inception in 1984, over 7 million youngsters have participated in the program. Easy to use; makes learning fun

Audubon Adventures can be easily integrated into the existing curriculum areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, and creative arts. The only requirement for implementing Audubon Adventures in your classroom, home, or community is an interest in exploring, learning about, and enjoying the natural world around you.

## Audubon Adventures Vision Statement

Audubon envisions a future with a community of enlightened and informed citizens aware of the environmental consequences of their daily activities. It is a community with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make informed choices among alternative courses of action that result in minimizing negative effects on our shared environment. When we achieve the goals we set for Audubon Adventures, young people have the foundation necessary for recognizing our individual and collective responsibility for the health of our environment. And out of that recognition comes understanding that personal actions can have meaningful, positive, and far-reaching effects.

## Want to be a sponsor?

Would you like to have Audubon Adventures offered to a local school? If so, you can sponsor the donation of the product to the school of your choice. Our chapter offers two sponsorship levels: (A) Full-100% or (B) Half-50% of the cost. Those who are interested in being a school sponsor should contact our chapter's Education Chairperson.

**Janice Bain** - Email: [jannyannybain@gmail.com](mailto:jannyannybain@gmail.com) Phone: (262) 215-1407

# We Need Board Members!

Currently, we have multiple positions open on our chapter board that we would like to see filled. If you are a member of our chapter and would like to be more involved, then we ask that you please consider serving as a volunteer board member. We can be very flexible regarding a person's skill, interests and available time. So don't be hesitant, we'd love to have you. Below is a list of the openings on our board.

**Treasurer**  
**Bird Seed Sale**  
**Publicity**  
**Field Trips**  
**Conservation**  
**Newsletter**

If you are interested, please contact us through our website: <https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact/>

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## LAS Board

### ***President***

Kevin Dickey (262) 889-4262

### ***Vice President***

Susan Seefeld (262) 537-4921

### ***Treasurer***

(Volunteer Needed)

### ***Secretary***

Dale Jefchak (262) 723-3025

### ***Christmas Bird Count***

Lisa Granbur (262) 275-5808

### ***Newsletter***

(Volunteer Needed)

### ***Education***

Janice Bain (262) 215-1407

### ***Bird Seed Sale***

(Volunteer Needed)

### ***Conservation***

(Volunteer Needed)

### ***Hospitality***

Kathy Wisniewski (262) 949-4174

### ***Field Trips***

(Volunteer Needed)

### ***Publicity***

(Volunteer Needed)

## Bird Walks

### **Wednesdays: Big Foot Beach State Park**

10:00 AM - Noon

N1550 S Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva, WI

Meet in the main parking area to the right of the entrance station a little before 10:00 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/>



**Northern Cardinal** (Photo By Kevin Dickey)

**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.