

LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



The Chat



Newsletter - March 2022

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, March 22

7:00 PM

Lions Field House - 270 Elkhorn Road (Hwy 67), Williams Bay, WI

The event is free and open to the public.

This meeting will feature the following educational talk:

Bluebirds

By John Scholtz

In this talk the speaker will cover all the general aspects of Bluebirds, including history, the different species, nesting cycle, habitat, predators and competitors. Helping bluebirds by providing nest boxes, establishing a trail and its management will also be discussed in detail.

John has served as Walworth County Bluebird coordinator for BRAW (Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin) for the past three years. He has been actively monitoring a bluebird trail of 18 nest boxes in the Elkhorn and Lake Geneva area for over 5 years. He connects with other Bluebirders in Walworth County and reports data to BRAW. John builds many of his own nest boxes for use on his trail, which have successfully fledged over 100 Bluebirds in Walworth County. Check out the BRAW website at <https://www.braw.org/>



NestWatch

Join this citizen science project to help monitor local nesting birds.

What's NestWatch?

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. The database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

Run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this project is open to anyone and is free to participate. The first step is to go online and setup an account with the aforementioned institution. Again, there is no cost, setting up the account is free and will also give you access to some of the other programs that the lab offers, such as ebird. Once that is done you can start learning how to participate in the NestWatch program.

There is a short online training course to become a certified nest monitor. This training course consists of reading through set protocols and then taking a quiz. It's rather easy, and it's highly suggested that all who are interested in the program complete the course. For more information, visit the project's website at: nestwatch.org

Local Youth Participate in this Year's GBBC

Students at St. Francis in Lake Geneva contribute to science!

Fifth graders at the school, along with teacher Jill Lorenzi, recorded more than 150 birds in total, across more than 20 species while participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count. What a great job! For those who are curious, click on the link below to view the results.

[Learning to Soar - GBBC 2022 \(Results\)](#)

Federal Duck and State Wildlife Stamps

The funds that are generated help wildlife conservation.

If you haven't already, consider buying these stamps. They provide much needed funding for our state and federal agencies. The stamps can be purchased at your local Post Office (Federal) and sporting goods stores (Federal and State). They also can be ordered online. See the websites below for more details.

Federal: fsw.gov

State: dnr.wisconsin.gov

Midwest Crane Count

Help monitor the regional population of Cranes.

Annual Midwest Crane Count

Saturday, April 9, 2022

5:30 AM - 7:30 AM

Each year in mid-April, over 1,600 volunteers travel to their local wetlands and favorite birding locations to participate in the Crane Count. This annual survey of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes spans over 120 counties in six states of the upper Midwest, including Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Minnesota.

To participate in the Crane Count you first need to contact the County Coordinator to be assigned a site and receive additional instructions. To view the list of coordinators, download data sheets, and for more information, please visit International Crane Foundation's website at: savingcranes.org

Lake Geneva's New Bluebird Trail

Lakeland Audubon rekindles an old conservation initiative.

If you visit Four Seasons Nature Preserve in Lake Geneva, you might notice some new bird houses or bluebird nest boxes to be exact. The ones that they replaced were pretty run down and beyond repair. We have put up the new boxes in hopes of getting some bluebirds nesting at the site on a regular basis like in years past. Our plan is to monitor the nest box trail throughout the nesting season and then measure the success of the project by the data collected from weekly surveys.

Four Seasons Nature Preserve

1875 County Road H

Lake Geneva, WI



The Story of Kishwauketoe is Published

The book we've all been waiting for has arrived.

Jim Killian's new book - "Kishwauketoe: A Nature Conservancy for the Children of Tomorrow" is now available and can be purchased at the following locations: Pier 290, Pesche's Greenhouse, Green Grocer & Deli, Clear Waters Salon, Barrett Memorial Public Library, Nei-Turner Media Group and the Williams Bay Village Hall. The book can also be ordered online through the Friends of Kishwauketoe website at: friendsofknc.org

The cost is \$48.00 with all proceeds going directly to the KNC to help fund restoration efforts. Jim will have copies for sale at our next meeting.

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(Volunteer Needed)

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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.

Please contact us to let us know you are interested in attending a walk.

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact>

There will be a fun 5 question Bluebird quiz at the end. John will be handing out 5 free nest boxes to attendees who get the answers.



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.