

LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



The Chat



Newsletter - September 2022

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, September 27

7:00 PM

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

The event is free and open to the public.

Migrating Monarchs

By Beth Goeppinger

Discover how tagging monarch butterflies unlocked the mystery of their migration and gave us insight into their life cycles and survival. Beth Goeppinger, a retired naturalist who worked at Richard Bong State Recreation Area for many years, will be giving this talk.

Beth grew up in Minnesota and began her fascination with nature at an early age. She attended UW-Stevens Point and graduated with a degree in forestry recreation and environmental education. After working in the field a few years, she received a Master's in Science from Northern Illinois University in Outdoor Teacher Education. She worked for several years in Illinois as assistant director of an environmental education facility. She has recently retired from the Wisconsin DNR, where she was employed as a naturalist at Richard Bong State Recreation Area for over 20 years. Her natural specialties are birds, bugs and botany, but she is still fascinated by it all, spending as much time outdoors as possible!



Monach Butterfly on Common Milkweed.

Chapter Outing

Saturday, September 17

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Noon)

Kishwauketo Nature Conservancy - 251 Elkhorn Road (Hwy 67), Williams Bay, WI

Monach Butterfly Tagging

Join us for a short presentation, then we'll hike in search of migrating Monach butterflies to catch and tag! Most appropriate for ages 8 and up, dress to be in the field. Bring an insect/butterfly net if you have one. Beth Goeppinger, a retired naturalist who worked at Richard Bong State Recreation Area for many years, will be leading the hike and doing the tagging.

Meet at the KNC pavilion shortly before 10:30 AM. Parking is available at the Lions Field House, which is across the street (Hwy 67) from the conservancy.



Photo provided by Beth Goeppinger.

Bird Walk

Sunday, September 18, 2022 **(rescheduled because of weather)**

Old World Wisconsin - W372 S9727 Hwy 67, Eagle, WI

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Join us at the Old World Wisconsin historic site for a mourning with the birds. We will take a guided tour of the property's natural areas and look for birds, many of which, have begun their annual (Fall Migration) along with other signs of the changing seasons. Dan Freas, who is the site's Director, will be leading the walk. Meet at the main entrance gate prior to 9:00 AM.

All Audubon members and supporters are invited to this special event. Admission is free for the bird walk only. For those wishing to tour the grounds afterwards, admission will be required.

<https://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org/>

Contact us if you are interested or have any questions.

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

Call or Text: 1 (262) 729-9702

In Search of Vireos

By Wayne Rohde

Unlike wood warblers, which number approximately three dozen species in Wisconsin, and unlike sparrows, which tally about a dozen and a half, the Badger State is home to only seven species of vireos. And although they can be tricky to find and identify, the fact that only a handful plus can be located here means that it's possible to "master" this group of songbirds.

I still recall the day in May of 2007 when I not only saw and heard all seven Wisconsin vireos, but also photographed each of them: a feat I've not repeated since then. What an introduction it was to my first year of photographing birds with a DSLR! I was reminded of vireos in mid-August of this year, when I came across a nearby Warbling Vireo while hiking the boardwalk at Williams Bay's Kishwauketo (see the image, below).



Vireos are generally a tad larger than warblers, and also a bit more sluggish in their behavior. They sport larger and thicker bills than warblers, but are rather drab in appearance – all with unstreaked breasts. Among the vireos, four have fairly pronounced wing bars (Bell's, Blue-headed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated), while three lack wing bars (Philadelphia, Red-eyed and Warbling). Three of them have "spectacles" (Blue-headed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated), and one has distinctive eye lines and eyebrows (Red-eyed). Interestingly, both the Red-eyed Vireo and the White-eyed Vireo feature eyes which match the colors of their names, whereas the remaining vireos have relatively dark eyes.

The vocalizations of Blue-headed, Philadelphia and Red-eyed Vireos are quite similar to one another, though the Blue-headed (aka Solitary) sings a sweeter and well-enunciated song. The remaining vireos (Bell's, Warbling, White-eyed and Yellow-throated) are each distinctive: Bell's Vireos slur their notes, as if their mouths were filled with marbles; Warbling Vireos engage in a long-winded and rambling warble unique to the vireos; White-eyed Vireos broadcast an explosive, to borrow the memorable words of Kenn Kaufman, "Pick up a real chick!" (with a decided emphasis on their first and last notes, along with a drawn-out "real"); and Yellow-throated Vireos utter a simple burry, raspy, "Three eight!"

As for the three vireos without wing bars, the Philadelphia looks like a Warbling Vireo, but sings like a Red-eyed Vireo. And speaking of the latter, our most common vireo (the Red-eye), which is abundant throughout the state during the summer in deciduous forests, is an incessant vocalist. It not only seems to begin each new phrase almost as quickly as it ends the previous one, but also manages to sing from sun up until sun down, and can often be spotted near the tops of trees as it verbalizes its monotonous, "Where am I? Way up here. In the tree. Look at me. Way up here. In the tree..." song.

If you, like me, enjoy searching for vireos, be aware of the fact that our seven species occupy differing ranges: Red-eyed, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos can be found state-wide, and are fairly common to abundant; Blue-headed Vireos nest in northern Wisconsin, while the less common Philadelphia Vireo simply migrates through the state and breeds farther north; finally, the much less common to downright rare Bell's and White-eyed Vireos are southern specialties which occasionally make their way to the southernmost tier of Wisconsin counties.

September is a good month to look and listen for migrating vireos. But by mid-October, all of them will have completed their fall journey through cheese country. So I'd advise getting out and trying your hand at encountering and IDing them now ... or else wait until next May, when they will join the chorus of scores of other avian musicians.

Youth Program at the Lake Geneva YMCA

Lakeland Audubon collaborates with local summer camp.

By Kevin Dickey

This past July members of our chapter were invited to do an educational program about birds to participants of the Lake Geneva Family YMCA summer youth camp. Beth Goeppinger, Janice Bain and I were the volunteer presenters. There were about fifty kids in attendance. They were very enthusiastic and had many questions about birds, that we were happy to answer. Activities of the program included: Introductions, Q&A Session, Bird Walks and Interactive Learning.

Noticing all the enthusiasm and inquisitiveness in our local youth reinforced my optimism for the future of bird conservation. Take a look below and see what I mean. Photos provided by Janice Bain.



Bird Seed Sale

Annual chapter fundraiser begins.

If you feed the birds and are looking for a way to help support our organization, then please consider patronizing our seed sale. Proceeds from the sale fund all chapter activities. Orders are due by October 15th and the pickup date is Saturday, October 29th. Please see the order form on the next page for more details.

LAKELAND AUDUBON BIRD SEED SALE

2022 ORDER FORM

PLEASE SEND ORDERS BY: Saturday, October 15th

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

LAKELAND AUDUBON MIX

This is our specially mixed blend of 1/3 each sunflower, cracked corn, and millet. Birds love the variety, and it contains none of the fillers that are found in commercially packaged wild mixes.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS-BLACK OIL OR STRIPED

The favorite of most seed-eating birds. Cardinals, blue jays, grosbeaks, chickadees, nuthatches, finches, and many other species enjoy its flavor and nutrition.

SUNFLOWER MEATS

All of the benefits, none of the mess of shells in your feeding area.

SAFFLOWER

Great for Cardinals, Grosbeaks and other hard seed eaters.

NYJER

These small, black seeds really bring finches, Redpolls, and Pine Siskins flocking. Excellent source of fat and protein.

CRACKED CORN

Universally liked by birds, corn is a source of high energy.

WHITE MILLET

Favorite food of juncos, mourning doves, and varieties of sparrows. A nutritious seed for spreading on the ground.

IN SHELL and SHELLED PEANUTS

A high-protein, oil-rich food for birds and other wildlife. Blue Jays, Woodpeckers and Nuthatches absolutely love them.

SUET CAKES

These high-quality suet treats come individually packaged in a 12 pack case. A high-fat food source that is sought after by many species of birds.

PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Pesche's Greenhouse
W4080 Highway 50
Lake Geneva, WI

Saturday, October 29th
10:00 AM — 2:00 PM

TOTAL _____

Make checks payable to:

Mail to: Lakeland Audubon Society

P.O. Box 473
Elkhorn, WI 53121

All orders must be picked up from Pesche's Greenhouse on the scheduled pick-up date or sometime thereafter.

New Bluebird Trails

Lakeland Audubon establishes two additional nest box trails.

If you walk the Duck Lake Nature Trail or visit Price Park Conservancy, you'll notice some new nest boxes. Our chapter has recently started an initiative to help sustain local bluebird numbers in the Walworth County area. These projects were made possible from the generous support of our donors.

If you are interested in starting a nest box trail or would like to help volunteer with monitoring one that we have started, then please contact us.



Four Seasons Nature Preserve - Lake Geneva



Duck Lake Nature Trail - Town of Geneva



Price Park Conservancy - Town of Lafayette

Chapter Field Trip

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Aldo Leopold Center - E13701 Levee Road, Baraboo, WI

\$10.00 per person

Join fellow chapter members as we travel to the headquarters of the Aldo Leopold Foundation. This field trip will include a guided tour of the center and the grounds (including the shack). We will meet at the Lions Field House in Williams Bay at 8:00 AM and depart shortly thereafter. If you are interested in going, please contact us. The fall colors should be gorgeous, so don't miss out!

LAKELAND AUDUBON Board of Directors

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Kathy Wisniewski 262-949-4174

Field Trips

(Volunteer Needed)

Publicity

(Volunteer Needed)

Bird Walks

Thursdays: Big Foot Beach State Park

9:00 AM - 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.

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

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact>

Call or Text: (262) 729-9702



Black-crowned Night-Heron, Horicon Marsh NWR

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.