



The Chat

September 2023

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, September 26
7:00 PM

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

Free and open to the public.

Featuring the following educational talk:

Eagle-eyed Citizen Science: Bald Eagle Nest Watch (Part One) A Citizen Science Perspective of the BENW in Southeast Wisconsin (Part Two)

By Beth Martin

In the first part of the talk, the speaker will cover the history of Madison Audubon's Bald Eagle Nest Watch citizen science project and what can be learned about bald eagles by participating. In the second part, she will provide insight regarding the specific area that she and her husband surveyed and what has been learned through their years of watching eagles.

About the Speaker

Beth and her husband have always been interested in birds and are owned by a 21 year old Quaker parrot. In 2016 they began looking for eagles and eagle nests when they read that there were no nests in Walworth County. After a few years of communicating with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), they were given areas to scout for nests. A group of six friends started watching nests that they found in 2018 and reporting back to the WDNR. The following year, Beth started volunteering as a raptor handler for Schlitz Audubon to expand her knowledge on Raptors in general. In 2021, at the request of the WDNR, they took an eagle education class with Madison Audubon's BENW. At the end of the class, they decided to join the BENW as a group. The experience over the years of watching the eagles and seeing them rebound after Avian Flu moved through in 2022 has been very educational for them and led to a wealth of unique situations that they have learned from.



Bald Eagle on a nest with eaglet - By Beth Martin

BIRD SEED SALE

HELP THE BIRDS AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL AUDUBON CHAPTER!

Accepting orders until October 14, 2023.

Our chapter's annual bird seed sale is the primary fundraiser that supports all of our activities. This includes the educational programs that we have at our monthly meetings. This also includes our outreach efforts that go beyond our meetings and strives to inspire and encourage local residents to engage in bird conservation activities.

We ask for your generosity and support at this time. Your patronage will be appreciated. The birds will thank you and so will we. Please see the order form for more details.

To download a copy of the order form, simply click or tap the link below.

[Bird Seed Sale Order Form-2023](#)

LAKELAND AUDUBON BIRD SEED SALE

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 28th
10:00 AM — 2:00 PM

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

2023 ORDER FORM

PLEASE SEND ORDERS BY: Saturday, October 14th

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

# Bags	Item	Size	Price	Total
	LAKELAND AUDUBON MIX	50 lbs.	\$26.00	
	LAKELAND AUDUBON MIX	25 lbs.	\$14.00	
	BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	50 lbs.	\$32.00	
	BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	25 lbs.	\$17.00	
	STRIPED SUNFLOWER	40 lbs.	\$32.00	
	STRIPED SUNFLOWER	20 lbs	\$16.00	
	SUNFLOWER MEATS	25 lbs	\$38.00	
	SUNFLOWER MEATS	10 lbs.	\$16.00	
	NYJER (Thistle)	25 lbs.	\$36.00	
	NYJER (Thistle)	10 lbs.	\$16.00	
	WHITE MILLET	50 lbs.	\$28.00	
	SUET CAKES (High Energy)	12 Pack	\$15.00	
	CRACKED CORN	50 lbs.	\$16.00	
	SAFFLOWER	50 lbs.	\$63.00	
	SHELLED PEANUTS	50 lbs.	\$68.00	
	SHELLED PEANUTS	10 lbs.	\$16.00	
	IN-SHELL PEANUTS	25 lbs.	\$45.00	
	DONATION	ANY	\$	

TOTAL _____

Make checks payable to:

Lakeland Audubon Society
(Orders are due by October 14th)

Mail to: Lakeland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 473
Elkhorn, WI 53121

The Aesthetics of Birding by Ear

By Wayne Rohde

Although we often associate beauty with what we see (such as the sight of a golden sunrise over a foggy lake), and even with what we smell (such as the aroma of a roaring fire in a wood stove), taste (such as the sweetness of maple syrup on buttered pancakes) and feel (such as the sensation of a cool breeze on a hot day), there's no doubt that what we hear can also impact us emotionally. Consider the loud crack of lightning strikes or the soft crunch of fallen leaves, as well as the familiar honking of Canada Geese. And avian music in particular can evoke a wide spectrum of emotional responses:

- the maniacal screaming of Barn Owls can spook and frighten us;
- the somber cooing of Mourning Doves can sadden and distress us;
- the perky calling of Black-capped Chickadees can cheer and elate us;
- the bizarre pumping of American Bitterns can amuse and humor us;
- the incessant squawking of European Starlings can annoy and irritate us;
- the soft buzzing of Savannah Sparrows can calm and soothe us;
- the eerie wails, tremolos, yodels and hoots of Common Loons, like the howling of wolves, can magically transport us to Northern locations; and
- the intricate and haunting melodies of Hermit Thrushes and Winter Wrens can also remind us of far-off, remote places.

As birders realize, the songs of many birds, which function so as to attract mates and warn competitors, are most plentiful and apparent during the breeding/nesting season. Thus, especially from April through July, each ecosystem serves as a different orchestra, featuring its own score:

- wetlands echo with the symphony of grebes, terns, wrens and swallows;
- grasslands erupt with the symphony of sparrows, dickcissels, bobolinks and meadowlarks; and
- woodlands explode with the symphony of warblers, vireos, thrushes and thrashers.

But as this past August testifies, there's a deafening silence which greets us with the progression of the dog days of summer, in anticipation of the long and quiet autumn and winter seasons, prior to next spring's return of migrant songbirds. And then, once again, the music of nature's finest musicians will ring in all directions.

All is not lost, however, with the arrival of September. And so, as I prepare for the beauty of rapidly approaching fall days, with long hikes on crisp mornings to distant waterfalls, I remind myself to be alert to and appreciative of some of the songsters whose compositions I can still enjoy:

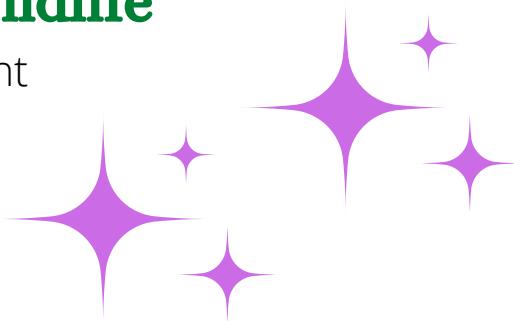
- the woods will undoubtedly be alive with such common and incessant vocalists as woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees – friendly birds which I consider my traveling companions during every season of the calendar year;
- I will most likely also be entertained by a number of high-pitched songsters, including Cedar Waxwings, Brown Creepers, and Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglets – even as I work at distinguishing their similar “see” notes from one another, and remind myself that the “seeet” call notes of flocks of brush-loving White-throated Sparrows are somewhat similar; and
- I even look forward to some of the louder and more vocal birds – such as Northern Flickers, with their “kleeers” and “wick-a, wick-a, wick-a,” notes, as well as Blue Jays, with their “jay, jay, jays” and assorted bell-like cries ... species which I associate with the Northwoods and fall migration.

Beauty, despite the ugliness which also exists in our world, abounds all around us. And birds have a way of manifesting such beauty. That is, for those who take the time to look, smell, taste, feel ... and listen.

Planting for Wildlife

Native Plant Spotlight

By Mariette Nowak



Stars of Autumn

American Asters

Sympyotrichum Sp.



New England Aster

The name aster comes from the Greek word for “star” and native asters are undoubtedly the superstars of the fall landscape. Their beauty is legendary with colors ranging from white and blue to pink and purple. Asters appear to have a single flower, but each flower is actually a composite of many flowers - a center packed with many tiny disk flowers surrounded by colorful petals, called ray flowers. The disk flowers are usually yellow in color at first flowering but gradually, as they age and are pollinated, the disks become purplish or brown having lost much of their pollen.

Many songbirds relish aster seeds. In addition, one hundred species of moth and butterfly caterpillars feed on various parts of asters. These protein-packed caterpillars offer nutritious “burritos” for nestlings, most of whom require insects, not seeds, for their survival. Asters are also an important supply of nectar and pollen for butterflies and bees.

With their late and long blooming period, asters are particularly vital to migrating monarchs, who depend on the rich nectar to fuel their journey south. With their outstanding value for birds, butterflies and bees, every yard should have some native asters. Luckily, they are easy-to-grow perennials and there are species for every site. Some prefer sun, others shade. Some prefer wetlands, while others do best in a dry prairie-like site.

The magnificent New England Aster (*Sympyotrichum novae-angliae*; previously named *Aster novae-angliae*) is one of the most popular and widely cultivated. It has dozens of one-inch flowers with golden disks and petals ranging from violet and lavender to pink and purple. It prefers moist soils and is particularly suited for lakeside plantings, rain gardens and swales, but does well in any garden with consistent moisture.



Smooth Aster



Blue Wood Aster



Panicled Aster



Oldfield Aster



Heath Aster



Swamp Aster

Mariette Nowak is an avid native plant gardener and current President of the Kettle Moraine Wild Ones Chapter. She has a Master's degree in Botany and Zoology. Was also the Director of Wehr Nature Center for many years; former WSO Education Chair; former Editor of Lakeland Audubon's newsletter and author of *Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds*.

Field Trip

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

11:00 AM – Dusk

Forest Beach Migratory Preserve – 4970 Country Club Road, Port Washington, WI

Free to attend!

Join us as we visit Forest Beach Migratory Preserve. This field trip will consist of a fair amount of walking, standing and sitting outdoors. The focus will be on migrating Raptors. We will meet in the parking lot at 11:00 AM. For more information about the property, please see the OWLT website by clicking or tapping the following link: <https://www.owlt.org/forest-beach-migratory-preserve>

Please contact us and let us know if you are interested in attending this field trip.

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact> Call or Text: +1 (262) 729-9702

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Field Trips

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Bird Walks

Saturdays

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Big Foot Beach State Park

N1550 S Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva, WI

Meet in the main parking area to the right of the entrance station a little before 11:00 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.

Sundays

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

White River County Park

6503 Sheridan Springs Road, Lyons, WI

Get out and enjoy one of the best parks Walworth County has to offer. We'll walk the trails and be on the lookout for birds and other critters. We'll also watch for plant blooms and other interesting elements of nature. Meet at the kiosk by the parking lot a little before 11:00 AM.

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

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact>

Call or Text: +1 (262) 729-9702

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.