



The Chat

September 2024

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, September 24
7:00 PM

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

Free and open to the public!

Join us at our next meeting as we host Carol Elkins of the Geneva Lake Conservancy.

"Landscaping for Birds, Butterflies and Bees"

Learn about how you can manage your home landscape in a way that benefits native birds, pollinators and other wildlife. In this talk, the speaker will cover the how-to(s) regarding the use of native plants to help boost biodiversity in your yard. This will include choosing the right species, how to avoid using chemicals and tips on applying environmentally sound gardening practices. She will also give an in-depth view into the various conservation programs that the Geneva Lake Conservancy runs to help homeowners manage their properties in a more ecologically sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

About the Speaker

Carol currently manages the Conservation@Home, Conservation@Work, and Keep it Blue Programs for the Geneva Lake Conservancy. Beyond her work with Geneva Lake Conservancy, she is an active Wisconsin Master Naturalist and Ambassador for the Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation. Her current and past engagements promote native landscapes and conservation efforts across a variety of organizations in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, including with The Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee, McHenry County Audubon, The Illinois Monarch Project, The Land Conservancy of McHenry County, The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, the City of Crystal Lake's Sustainability Committee, and The McHenry County Conservation Foundation.



Monarch Butterfly on Common Milkweed
Photo by Kevin Dickey

A Day in the Field



Horned Lark



Ring-necked Pheasant



American Kestrel



Eastern Meadowlark

Birds were seen in and around the Walworth County area at either Adam Birding Conservancy, Bong SRA or Elkhorn.

Photos by Janice Bain

Bird Seed Sale

Help the birds and support your local Audubon chapter!

Accepting orders until October 12, 2024.

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, simply click or tap the following link: [Bird Seed Sale \(2024 Order Form\)](#)

CLICK
HERE

LAKELAND AUDUBON BIRD SEED SALE

2024 ORDER FORM

PLEASE SEND ORDERS BY: Saturday, October 12th

Name: _____

Address: _____

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, bluejays, 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. Bluejays, 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 26th
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TOTAL _____

All orders must be picked up from Pesche's Greenhouse on the scheduled

pick-up date or sometime thereafter.

Make checks payable to:

Lakeland Audubon Society

(Orders are due by October 12th)

# Bags	Item	Size	Price	Total
	LAKELAND AUDUBON MIX	50 lbs.	\$26.00	\$14.00
	LAKELAND AUDUBON MIX	25 lbs.	\$32.00	\$17.00
	BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	50 lbs.	\$38.00	\$19.00
	BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	25 lbs.	\$36.00	\$18.00
	STRIPED SUNFLOWER	40 lbs.	\$32.00	\$16.00
	SUNFLOWER MEATS	20 lbs.	\$38.00	\$19.00
	SUNFLOWER MEATS	10 lbs.	\$16.00	\$8.00
	NYJER (Thistle)	25 lbs.	\$36.00	\$18.00
	NYJER (Thistle)	10 lbs.	\$16.00	\$8.00
	WHITE MILLET	50 lbs.	\$28.00	\$14.00
	SUET CAKES (High Energy)	12 Pack	\$15.00	\$7.50
	CRACKED CORN	50 lbs.	\$16.00	\$8.00
	SAFFLOWER	50 lbs.	\$63.00	\$31.50
	SHELLED PEANUTS	50 lbs.	\$68.00	\$34.00
	SHELLED PEANUTS	10 lbs.	\$16.00	\$8.00
	IN-SHELL PEANUTS	25 lbs.	\$45.00	\$22.50
	DONATION	ANY	\$	

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

Bee Pollinators

Article and images by Janice Bain

I have reduced the square footage of an ecologically barren lawn and replaced it with native plantings. These gardens provide nutrients and shelter to critters that lurk, buzz, flap and chirp. Besides the visual reward of flowers and grasses blooming throughout the changing seasons, I get to enjoy a multitude of visiting pollinators. Butterflies, moths, wasps and flies help pollinate, but bees do the lion's share. Since bees deliberately gather pollen to bring back to their offspring (a few wasps do too), they are considered the most important group of pollinators. Let's have some fun and learn a bit about bees.

Bees and wasps have two pairs of wings, a larger outer set and one smaller, inner set. This is a distinguishing characteristic from flies which only have one pair of wings. Bees have **hamuli**, comb-like teeth, used to attach the fore and hind wings together. This creates a large surface and provides extra lift for flying. They have rounded, hairy bodies and even hairy legs. This hairiness is one of the reasons they are such effective pollinators.



Many female bees have a patch of long, stiff hairs, called a **scopa**, on each hind leg or under their abdomen for carrying pollen.



Bees that carry pollen moistened with nectar have a space fringed by long, inward curving hairs on each of their hind legs. This pollen basket is referred to as a **corbicula**.



A distinguishing feature of the hair on bees is that it is branched or feathered and absorbs light. Wasp hair, in contrast, will appear reflective.

Bees visit hundreds of flowers per foraging trip, spreading pollen throughout. On any given foraging trip, bees will visit one particular species of plant, this is known as **flower constancy**. If they visit multiple species of flowers in the

same trip, the pollen that is transferred won't successfully pollinate the plant.

Male and female bees both drink nectar, but only the females collect pollen to take back to the nests. Food for the offspring requires both nectar and pollen.

Some plants make it difficult to collect pollen - here's looking at you tomato, potato, blueberry and cranberry plants. These plants have anthers with pores or valves rather than easy access slits. Some bees meet the challenge and **sonicate or buzz pollinate** such stubborn plants. They release their wings from the flight muscles, grab onto the pollen-harboring anthers and use their wing muscles to vibrate until the pollen is shattered loose. The pollen ends up all over the bee so they groom themselves. They collect the scattered pollen from their body and pack it into the pollen sacks for the trip back to the nest. The most famous sonicator is the bumble bee.



Honey bee



Metallic green sweat bee



A leafcutter bee

Honey bees cannot buzz pollinate. They communicate with each other and flit from one food source to the next seeking the best pollen supply. They are most effective in large numbers and are best for agriculture. Bumble bees, on the other hand, remain in one area, thoroughly seeking out every bit of food available. Bumble bees are considered a more efficient pollinator.

Sweat bees buzz pollinate and are effective pollinators of many wildflowers and crops, including sunflowers, stone fruits, apples and alfalfa. Pollination by bees typically improves the size, shape and overall yield of crops.

Most leafcutter bees cannot buzz pollinate, but do pollinate many native plant species. While leafcutters don't produce honey, honey bees often live alongside them and use the nectar from the flowers they do pollinate to make their honey.

Hopefully, you are finding patches of lawn which can be converted to native gardens. You will find joy observing the critters, insects and blooms that flourish with your help. Now, more than ever, we need to restore native habitats to help the environment and all of its inhabitants. I've been giving back to mother nature and it feels great. I hope you'll join in, happy planning.

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Bird Walks

Saturdays

10:00 AM - Noon
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

10:00 AM - Noon
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.



Photo by Janice Bain