

LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



The Chat



August 2026

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, August 25

7:00 PM

Online

Free and open to the public!

Vultures – Nature's Cleanup Crew

By Stephanie Touzalin



Turkey Vulture, Photo by Janice Bain

Join the Lakeland Audubon Society at its August 2026 chapter meeting. This meeting will feature a guest speaker (Stephanie Touzalin) who will give a talk called: Vultures – Nature's Cleanup Crew. From Stephanie's talk, we will learn about the role that Turkey Vultures play in the ecosystem, their adaptations, and the threats they face.

This meeting will be held online through zoom. People who are interested in attending but would rather come to the Lions Field House in Williams Bay to watch the speaker's presentation on a large screen are welcome to do so (We will be there).

To join the meeting online, simply click or tap the button link below.

Join Meeting

About the Speaker

Stephanie Touzalin is an education specialist at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center. Stephanie has a degree in natural resources and environmental science with a focus on fish-and-wildlife conservation and delivers programs about animals that are native to the DuPage forest preserves.



A Day in the Field



Photos and notes from the trail.

By Kevin Dickey

While hiking on a warm summer day, I came across many prairie and woodland wildflowers in bloom. I usually make it a point to go out and see some of these flowers during this time of year. Plenty of people don't like hiking in the heat, but I find it worth it when our native wildflowers are in bloom. Of course, when out in this kind of weather, I take certain precautions like making sure I have something to drink, wearing sunblock and/or bug spray, and staying mindful of how tired I feel.

Some of the birds I heard and saw, but didn't get pictures of: Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Pine Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Northern Flicker and various other woodpeckers, Northern Cardinal, White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Canada Geese.



From left to right - Top: Common Selfheal, Wild Bergamot, Ohio Spiderwort **Bottom:** Common Milkweed, Rattlesnake Master, Butterfly Milkweed

I Found a Baby Bird! ...Now What?

**START
HERE**

**Is the
bird
injured?**

NO

YES

Contact a
licensed bird
rehabilitator



Does the bird have feathers?

NO

YES

It's a **fledgling**.
Remove
dogs, cats,
and people
from the
area. Give the
bird space.



fledg-ling (n)
a bird that has
intentionally
left the nest
but still needs
parent care.

It's a
nestling.



nest-ling (n)
a bird that is
too young to
leave its nest.



**Can you find
the nest intact?**

YES

Put the baby
in the nest
and observe
for 1 hour.

**Are
parents
returning
and
attentive?**

YES

Leave the
area, the
baby bird is
now safe!

NO

Make a nest
and hang close
to original
nest location.
Put baby in nest
and observe
for 1 hr.

NO

Contact
a licensed
bird
rehabilitator





CITY OF
LAKE GENEVA *Wisconsin* AVIAN COMMITTEE

The City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee and the Geneva Lake Museum invite you to ..



Swift Night Out

A FREE event!

Thursday, September 10, 2026

**Geneva Lake Museum
(255 Mill Street)**



- 5:00 pm** gather and eat - local food trucks with food for purchase
- 6:00 pm** “Eagles and Friends” - indoor program by Schlitz Audubon
- get close and enjoy an educational program with a live eagle and other raptors
- 7:15 pm** head outside and watch as thousands of Chimney Swifts dive down the Museum’s chimney as they migrate for the season. Learn why tall chimneys are so important!

Program

11:00 - 11:10

Welcome

11:10 - 11:40

Keynote 1: Hollender

11:40 - 12:15

Workshop 1:
Building Community

12:20 - 13:20

State Chapter
Presentation
Session 1

14:30 - 15:00

Keynote 2: Scott

15:00 - 16:00

State Chapter
Presentation
Session 2

16:05 - 16:45

Workshop 2:
Ensuring
Sustainability

17:15 - 17:45

Keynote 3 : Patrício

17:45 - 18:00

Closing

TAKING FLIGHT PRESENTS YOUNG BIRDERS UNITED CONFERENCE



Saturday, August 29th 11 AM - 6 PM EST

A free virtual gathering of young birder representatives to celebrate, connect, and collaborate in the establishment of young birder chapters.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Mackenzie Hollender

- Founder of the Sacramento Valley Young Birders Club
- 2026 American Birding Association's Young Birder of the Year
- 2025 ECOS Rising Star Environmentalist of the Year



Isaiah Scott

- Founder of Rookery and Roots Conservancy
- Runs "ikesbirdinghikes," a popular Instagram account with over 104,000 followers
- 2021 Eckelberry Fellow



Lorena Patrício

- National Geographic Young Explorer
- Youth Director for the nonprofit Reserva: The Youth Land Trust
- Organized the first camp for young birders in Brazil

REGISTER BY AUGUST 22ND

<https://forms.gle/uzSd4bTZ47YkW2dK6>



RARE BIRD ALERT

I'm sure many, if not all, of you who are reading this have taken a walk through a wooded area and have seen or heard a woodpecker. But I'd be willing to bet that almost none of you have seen one like the one that is pictured below. A "Leucistic" bird of any species is very unusual in nature for obvious reasons. The biggest being that individuals that have the condition or genetic mutation typically don't live for very long due to a significantly increased rate of predation.

That makes this sighting of an adult leucistic Pileated Woodpecker by David Deis quite special indeed. The bird was photographed at the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy in Williams Bay, Wisconsin on August 5. David is a Wisconsin Master Naturalist and avid birder who volunteers regularly at the KNC.



Above: Pileated Woodpecker (Leucistic). Photo by David Deis

Wisconsin LIGHTS OUT ALERT

Perseid Meteor Shower

Peaks August 12-13; 60 - 100 meteors per hour

Turn off outdoor lights sunset to sunrise



LIGHTS OUT
Wisconsin

A coalition of Wisconsin conservation and dark sky organizations working together to reduce the impacts of light pollution on people, wildlife and the night sky.

Learn more at lightsoutwi.org

Field Trip

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Turtle Valley State Wildlife Area - 5830 County Road O, Elkhorn, WI

Free to attend and open to the public!



Go birding with Lakeland Audubon members at [Turtle Valley SWA](#). This property is located northwest of Elkhorn in western Walworth County. 131 different species of birds have been reported through ebird at this location. We will walk the gravel road that leads to the ponds and watch for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species of wildlife. Meet in the parking lot right off County Road O, prior to 10:00 AM.

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

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact>

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Field Trips

(Volunteer Needed)

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Aleata Evens 773-853-4616

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.