

# The Lake Flyer

Newsletter of Winnebago Audubon

June-July-August 2023

All programs and activities are open to the public.

Vol. 45, No. 1

P.O. Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903 • Published five times a year  
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Check our website for up-to-date information: [www.winnebagoaudubon.org](http://www.winnebagoaudubon.org)

## Nature's Potpourri Summer Field Trip Series

Join Winnebago Audubon for three summer field trips, one per month, in June, July and August led by Anita Carpenter. The focus is to discover whatever nature presents including birds, flowers, trees, insects and more.

### Waukau Creek Nature Preserve

**Saturday, June 17**  
**9:00 am-11:00 am**

This is a somewhat hilly forested trail along Waukau Creek. Please wear proper footwear for possible wet trail conditions and wood ticks.

Directions: 2987 Delhi Road, Omro (just north of Waukau). From Hwy. 41 head southwest on Hwy. 44 for .8 miles. Turn right at the stop light onto Hwy. 91. Stay on 91 for 8.6 miles. Turn right onto Hwy. 116. In .3 miles continue straight onto County Rd K. Then in .3 miles continue straight onto Delhi Rd. Parking lot is on the left in .2 miles.

### Wiouwash Trail

**Saturday, July 8**  
**9:00 am-11:00 am**

We will visit the State Natural Area on the trail south of Oakridge Road.

Directions: From I-41 and Hwy. 76, go north on Hwy. 76 for 5 miles. Turn left on Oakridge Rd. Travel west for 4 miles until you see the sign for the recreation trail. Park in the small lot on your right.

### The Wissink Home/Property

**Saturday, August 12 — 1:30pm-3:30 pm**

This beautiful property features bird feeders, a garden prairie, an extensive grassy meadow and a pond with lots to see.

Directions: 7035 Mountain Road, Pickett. Take Hwy. 44 from Oshkosh to Pickett (9 miles). In Pickett, turn right on to County Rd. M. Go ½ mile north on M. Turn left on to Mountain Rd. The home is one mile down on the left. 🐦

## Chapter Annual Meeting and On the Wing Program

**Sunday, July 9, 2023**

**2:00 pm**

**Abe Rochlin Park Shelter, 1300 N Sawyer St, Oshkosh**  
(Corner of N Sawyer St. and Oshkosh Ave.)

Winnebago Audubon celebrates 41 years of providing our community with opportunities to enjoy and protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the natural environment. We hope you will attend the brief business meeting to vote for our 2023-24 slate of officers and the proposed budget (see page 4 to review).



Once our business is taken care of we can relax and enjoy a special program with live birds! Have you ever had the opportunity to meet an owl up close? Have you been able to look a hawk in the eye? Master Falconer, Jane Kelly from On The Wing will be joining us with her collection of birds. You may know Jane from her appearances on the Animal Planet series Northwoods Law while assisting New Hampshire Fish & Game with admitting and rehabilitating raptors.

Jane Kelly founded On The Wing in order to bridge the gap for wildlife. With the goal to create connections between humans and raptors as well as educate and empower our community to make healthier and more empathetic choices while sharing our environment and planet with wildlife. 🐦

**SEE MORE ACTIVITIES ON PAGE 2**

**3 months  
of activities!**

- ▶ ADD dates to your calendar
- ▶ SAVE newsletter as a reminder



## Volunteer & Learn at Shoreline Restoration Site

1925 Oaks Trail, Oshkosh  
(North end of Miller's Bay, Menominee Park)

Winnebago Audubon will host two clean-up days at the Oshkosh Ecological Restoration / Miller's Bay site to trim cup plants, coreopsis, and any other tall aggressive species, and remove any weeds and trash. We continue the Skylight Research Project and check nest boxes for Eastern Bluebird nests while also ensuring no vandalism or invasive birds are nesting. Please bring loppers, pruners, and work gloves if you have them. Water and snacks will be provided. Stay as long as you like.

### Saturday, July 22 / 9:00 am-Noon *Bluebirds*

We will start the morning with a short presentation about Eastern Bluebirds with Dave Misterek from BRAW (Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin).

### Sunday, August 13 / 1:00 pm-4:00 pm *Insects & Pollinators*

Naturalist Anita Carpenter will join us to explore the native planting for insects/pollinators and share her expertise on them. 🦋

*Winnebago Audubon extends a sincere thank you for your support which allows us to continue to provide positive experiences in nature for our community.*

Kim Bednarowski  
Shirley Klapperich  
Adel Korkor  
Margaret Meyer  
Laura Ramseier  
Marilyn Stark  
Mike & Kathy Swederske  
Dr. Karen Wedde

## Catch, Tag & Release Migrating Monarchs

Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023 (Rain Date: Sept. 3)  
1:00-3:00 pm

Winnebago Audubon is hosting its popular monarch tagging event on the prairie at Shannon Davis-Foust's home near Omro.

There will be a short orientation about the life cycle and migration of the monarch butterfly plus a demonstration of the tagging process at the beginning of the session. You will then be free to wander the prairie to net monarchs. Remember to respect the prairie and any wildlife you may encounter. We will assist you in identifying the gender of your monarch, record the data, tag them, then watch you release it to proceed on its journey. All ages over 5 are encouraged to participate.

If the weather is questionable call/text Evelyn, to confirm: 920-573-7828. Rain date will be Sun., Sept. 3.

This event is free and open to the public.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:** We have a limited number of nets available so if you have your own, please bring it along. There will be no restroom available. We strongly recommend that you wear long pants, socks and shoes to prevent scratches and cuts when you are in the prairie. We appreciate your cooperation so that we may all have a safe and fun event.

**Directions to 4946 Broderick Rd., Omro:** Take Hwy. 21 west out of Omro. Turn right on to Broderick Rd and in 1.6 miles look for the red house on the right side of the road. Parking can be in the driveway or along the road leaving ample room for entering and exiting easily. Please do not park anyone in! 🦋



**SEE MORE ACTIVITIES ON PAGE 1**

**3 months of activities!**

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## Thimble or Berry?

Summer is a berry-lovers delight. It's the season when black raspberries, red raspberries and blackberries are ripe for picking on Wisconsin's landscape. Just thinking about fresh fruit salads, berry pies and jams makes me excited about the upcoming season.

These three species of berries can be found throughout Wisconsin. They are related to each other as they are members of the rose plant family, *rosaceae*, and genus *rubus*. Characteristics they all have in common include showy white 5-petaled flowers and multi-seeded fruit.

A lesser known family member in the same genus is thimbleberry. It may not be as sweet as the others, but it is juicy and worth picking. However, it may be more challenging to find as its distribution is restricted to the north woods.

How does one locate a thimbleberry patch? Drive along rural forest roads looking for sun-dappled roadsides or sunny forest clearings.

Thimbleberry plants are fairly easy to identify as they grow into erect 2 to 4 foot tall shrubs which are often found in large, spreading colonies. Examine their unique leaves which resemble wrinkled maple leaves. Each leaf has 3 to 5 good-sized pointed lobes. The large light green leaves often measure up to 10 inches across.

Thimbleberry, *Rubus parviflorus*, blooms from late June into early July. Conspicuous white flowers grow in a cluster atop a long stalk. Each showy white blossom measures 2 inches across with 5 white petals surrounding more than 100 stamens. Flowers are insect-pollinated.

The fruit appears in early summer and ripens in mid-summer. The fruit is red but duller in color than that of a red raspberry. Thimbleberry fruit is fuzzy and "flatter", about 1/2-inch thick, as compared to the more spherical red raspberry. As its name implies, a plucked thimbleberry placed on the end of a finger resembles a thimble.

Thimbleberry fruit is soft and delicate. Don't grab and squeeze the berry while picking it for it will squish easily with juice flowing down your hand. Gently remove it and eat it immediately. The juice may be sweet, or a bit tart or even tasteless. It can be made into jam but because of its fragile nature, commercial sale of fresh thimbleberries is not feasible. The only way to eat them is to pick them yourself.

Growing in disturbed areas, black raspberries, *Rubus*

*occidentalis*, grow as a bramble. A bramble is defined as a sprawling, vine-like shrub with arching or upright branches that are generally thorny or prickly. Brambles often form impenetrable thickets as anyone knows who has tried picking raspberries. Black raspberry stems or canes possess sharp, curved thorns. These berries ripen in early or mid-summer, generally before red raspberries and well before blackberries.

Red raspberries, *Rubus idaeus*, also form dense



*Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus) fruit and leaf.*

bramble thickets. These canes are prickly but without thorns. The delicious berries ripen in mid-summer.

Blackberries, *Rubus allegheniensis*, are the latest berries to ripen. They also form bramble thickets. Their arching or upright canes are smooth with large, sharp nearly straight thorns. Blackberry fruit is longer than wide.

Berry picking season runs through summer with challenges to avoid those pesky thorns or prickles. Thimbleberry may not be quite as tasty as the other three but picking thimbleberries is easier and safer because there are no thorns or prickles to snag clothing or scratch unprotected legs or arms.

I can't resist any of these berries if I discover them. They are so-o-o-o good to eat and a gift from nature. However, I must remember to leave some for the critters.

Happy searching and eating! 🐾



### Share your passion and expertise with us!

Nominations are now being accepted for officers and directors for 2023 elections to be held on July 9. Give Janet a call at 920-216-1172 or send an e-mail to [winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about how you can take an active role in our chapter.



## 2023-2024 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND PROPOSED BUDGET

The Winnebago Audubon Society will hold its annual meeting for the election of officers and board members and to approve the proposed budget for 2023-2024 on July 9, 2023.

The board presents the following **slate of officers** for 2023-2024:

<i>President:</i>	Janet Wissink
<i>Vice President:</i>	Carmen Meuret
<i>Secretary:</i>	Zaiga Freivalds
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mike Brandel
<i>Board of Directors:</i>	Kelli Bahls
	Anita Carpenter
	Evelyn Meuret

Dana Hartel, Dave Moon, MaryBeth Petesch, and Tom Ziebell have another year to serve of their two year terms as Directors.

If you would like to nominate someone, or know of someone who might be interested in serving on the board, please contact Janet at [winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com) or 920-216-1172. We would very much like to have more members take an active role in our chapter.

The following budget has been approved by the WAS Board. Please take this opportunity to review it. If you have questions, contact Mike at 920-233-5914 PRIOR to the July 9 annual meeting.

### 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

#### INCOME:

Chapter Memberships .....	600.00
Donations.....	4,500.00
National Dues Share .....	771.00
National New Memberships.....	150.00
Program Admissions .....	79.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$ 6,100.00</b>

#### EXPENSE:

Activities.....	\$ 425.00
Annual Report.....	25.00
Donations.....	1,500.00
Dues and Memberships .....	75.00
Fundraisers-Annual Appeal .....	200.00
Newsletter .....	750.00
Postage.....	300.00
P.O. Box Rental.....	250.00
Supplies/Storage Unit.....	775.00
Website.....	250.00
Project SOAR .....	1,000.00
UW Oshkosh.....	300.00
Misc Fees .....	50.00
Meeting Room Rental.....	200.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE.....</b>	<b>\$ 6,100.00</b>

## Spring Activities Photo Gallery





## Meet Our Board Member: Evelyn Meuret

As the mother of an active, curious, nature lover, I found myself frequently taking my daughter, Carmen, to events held by the Winnebago Audubon Society in 2007-2008; about 4th grade for Carmen. After becoming a familiar face, Janet approached me and asked if I'd like to become more involved in Winnebago Audubon. I happily joined the Board of Directors in 2008.

Over the years I have and continue to coordinate some of our community events, including the Annual Midwest Crane Count held every April. To my joy and surprise, we had many new counters participate in this event this year. I also coordinate my favorite event of the year— Monarch tagging. Over the years, our totals of Monarchs tagged have dwindled; however, I am hopeful these beloved butterflies will return with abundance someday. Every year we have some die-hard Monarch taggers and newcomers who show up regardless if the butterflies do – you all make this event so fun.

It continues to prove a pleasurable and wonderful experience maintaining my involvement with the Winnebago Audubon Society. I've learned a great deal over the years thanks to the many nature enthusiasts I meet through this group. This organization offers much to our community for all ages and we welcome any recommendations for events our members would like to participate in. 🐦



### Thank You Winnebago County Crane Count Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who counted in Winnebago County in the early morning hours of April 15.

41 out of 45 designated sites counted

52 counters

21 new counters

It has been several years since we gathered after the count for breakfast to share stories about the morning's count, but this was the year to restart the tradition. About 25 counters met at Delta Restaurant and agreed that we should do this again next year.

We have two stories to share. The first is about one couple who has been doing the count together for over 40 years. They started before they were married. Phil and Carole Schwartz traditionally go out in their kayaks on the Rat River. Thank you and congratulations on your long-

standing tradition.

The second story comes from one of the first time counters, Sean Kennedy. Here is what he emailed to Evelyn:

*Sadly, I missed out on joining you all at the Delta restaurant for the post-count debrief. Because of the EPIC experience my partner and I had over at Site 33 this Saturday, I felt like you ought to hear about it (since you're the one who coordinated that we go there!). As the sun rose, we saw quite a few sandhills pass over us, most coming in pairs. It almost looked like many of them were landing near the same area, just south of our site and just out of our sight. At one point we heard a loud call that was different than all the others we were listening for. I didn't want to believe that we would be so lucky, but that call sounded a lot like the whooping crane calls that we'd reviewed. Roughly half an hour went by without hearing anything from the bird in question, and I still had my doubts... that was until I saw one of those white beauts fly into the field from the other direction. To say that we felt lucky to have seen one of the few whooping cranes (our first year counting, too) passing through our state is an understatement. I hope that you all shared some of our luck this weekend.*

*I definitely look forward to joining you guys again for next year's count!*

Thanks for sharing Sean! This experience will be hard to beat next year! You just never know when you will see something this special.

Looking forward to next year's count. Thank you again for taking time out of your busy lives to volunteer and do something good for cranes. 🐦

*Whooping Crane photo courtesy of Tom Johnson, Macauley Library.*



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Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.  
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**OFFICERS**

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**GO GREEN** by opting to receive your newsletter via e-mail. E-mail request to winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com

**Important Note: TEMPORARILY AWAY?** Please notify us if you will be temporarily away. The post office will not forward your newsletter. If you want to receive your newsletter while at your temporary address, please notify us at winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com.

**RENEWALS:** Your mailing label includes your membership expiration date above your name. If you are a "Chapter Only" member the word CHAPTER will appear with the expiration date. Please renew your Chapter membership by filling out the application form below. Thank you for helping us save on the cost of renewal reminders.

If you are a member of National Audubon which automatically makes you a member of our local Chapter, NATL will appear with the expiration date. You will receive renewal notices from National or you may renew by using the form below.

If you are receiving a complimentary newsletter, COMP will appear with an expiration date. Please consider joining our Chapter or National (Dual) by using the application below.

**Our Mission:**

Winnebago Audubon encourages people to enjoy and protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the natural environment.

**AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please choose one:

**\$20.00 — Local Winnebago Audubon Chapter Membership.** You receive the Winnebago Audubon Chapter newsletter.

**\$35.00 — Dual Membership (Local Winnebago Audubon Chapter AND National Audubon Membership)**  
You receive Winnebago Audubon Chapter newsletter and National Audubon magazine.

Make check payable to Winnebago Audubon or online at winnebagoaudubon.org.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Code: **Z12**

Mail this form with payment to:  
Audubon Membership  
PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

*Welcome to Winnebago Audubon*

You are invited to participate in activities of your local Winnebago Audubon chapter. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to enjoy what nature has to offer. A special thank you to all those who are renewing again this year as well.

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Sandy Bromlie  | Nancy Ogombe   |
| Robert Brotske | Jeanna Owens   |
| Dick Buss      | Mary Petzold   |
| Daniel Coburn  | Jeff Pieterick |
| Leland Goodman | Patty Ray      |
| Clarence Grant | Gerald Rogahn  |
| Chris Koechell | Andy Seiser    |
| Becky Kriha    | Ginnie Sherer  |
| Mike MacKenzie | Dara Sitter    |
| Jane Martin    | Gwenn Salonen  |
| Donna Mischler | Diane Zolkoske |

Membership questions?  
Please contact **Membership Chair** at  
winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com or 920-216-1172