

The Lake Flyer

Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

April-May 2019

All programs and activities are open to the public

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Check our website for up-to-date information: www.winaudubon.org

Calendar of Events

- Apr 13..... Annual Midwest Crane Count
Apr 14..... Annual Meeting - Members Only
Apr 18..... Hondo: Special Beer Release at Fifth Ward Brewing with Hondo, a peregrine (See page 2)
Apr 27..... Sullivan's Woods Work Day (See page 3)
May 4..... Oshkosh Bird Fest (See page 2)
May 18..... Spring Migrants at Waukau Creek (See page 3)
May 18..... May Bird Count (See page 4)
May 30..... Tour our Bluebird Nest Box Trail (See page 3)
Jun 15..... UWO Campus Tour—Birds & Natural Landscaping
Jul 13..... Insects: What will we find at Sheldon Nature Area? Family fun!
Jul 26-29 ... National Audubon Convention (See page 3)
Sep 7 Monarch Tagging
Nov 21 Flying Jewels in the Garden

We have a few more activities in the works, so it looks like a great year to get out in nature with us.

From the Quiz Master:

I'm a 7" flycatcher but flycatcher is not in my name. I have a brownish gray back, darker head and wings, and whitish underparts. I return in late March. When I perch I pump my tail. I like to nest on rafters and under eaves. I say my name in a hoarse tone. Whoooo am I?

(Look closely to find the answer in this newsletter.)



**Crane Count
"Stake Out"**
Annual Midwest Crane Count
Saturday, April 13
5:30-7:30 pm

The International Crane Foundation sponsors the Annual Midwest Crane Count. Over 2,000 volunteer participants from throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota participate in this spring survey, which gathers information once per year on the abundance and distribution of cranes in the upper Midwest. Check out their website at www.savingcranes.org or the Winnebago Audubon Society Facebook page.

Best reasons to be a crane counter:

1. Doing something a little crazy is fun (especially with friends).
2. You can do something good for the environment. once a year without becoming a bird-nut.
3. If you are a student, it counts as volunteer hours. You can put it on your resume.
4. Crane Counting 101 is easy and it is all explained on the data sheet that you use on Saturday morning.
5. You'll learn to speak crane-ese.
6. It's a good excuse to watch a sunrise once per year. Don't be late – the early bird gets to count more cranes.
7. Bring your binoculars, camera, and other gadgets. You'll be surprised what other wildlife you see that early in the morning.
8. If the weather is nasty, you can count from inside the car with the heater on.
9. When finished you have a great excuse to get a hearty breakfast with your squad and then you have your whole Saturday ahead of you.

If interested, contact the Winnebago County Coordinator, Shannon Davis-Foust, at agalinus3@gmail.com to secure your "stake out" site. 🦢

Oshkosh Bird Fest

Birds & Beer Pre-Event

Sponsored by



Thurs., April 18
6:00 pm

Fifth Ward Brewing Company
1009 S. Main St., Oshkosh

Special small-batch beer release of **Hondo Ale** in honor of Hondo, the peregrine falcon, who was the first male falcon to nest at UWO.

Hondo was hit by a vehicle on I-41 a few years ago, went through months of rehab, but was not able to be released back into the wild because he did not make a full recovery of his flying skills. He is now an educational bird with Aves Wildlife Alliance.

Come on down to Fifth Ward Brewing for this family-friendly event.

A free Root Beer for the kids.

Adults will be able to purchase a refreshing Hondo Ale, brewed especially for this occasion.



6:00 pm: Meet & Greet Hondo

6:20 pm: Program by Aves Wildlife Alliance

6:40 pm: Meet & Greet Hondo

Oshkosh Bird Fest

Saturday, May 4

MENOMINEE PARK, 6am– 1pm

Big Sit, 6am-12pm

Bird Banding, 7am-10:30pm

Bird Walks, beginning at 8am

Build a Bird House, 10am-1pm

Children's Activities, 10am-1pm

Live Birds of Prey, 10am-1pm

with a presentation at 10:30

Educational Exhibits, 8am-1pm

Native Plant Sale, 8am-1pm

Concessions, 8am-1pm

Presentations:

9:00am **Duck ID** by WI Wildlife Federation

10:30am **Live Birds of Prey** by Aves

12:00pm **Snowy Owls** by Rob Zimmer (no live bird)

OSHKOSH MASONIC CENTER, 6pm-9pm

during Oshkosh Gallery Walk

Student Bird Art Exhibit & Live Birds

Artists of Oshkosh Bird Fest 2019

www.oshkoshbirdfest.com

Participate in our bird quiz on Facebook in April.



You can help us make Oshkosh Bird Fest a huge success!

Yard Signs: Offer to have one put in your front yard.

Volunteer an hour or two — since you will be there anyway.

Purchase a beautiful Bird City Wisconsin mini-poster . . . \$20



Oshkosh Bird Fest is a city event organized by Volunteers from Oshkosh Bird Club, Oshkosh Sustainability Advisory Board, Oshkosh Zoological Society, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter, and Winnebago Audubon. It is entirely funded by donations. Oshkosh was awarded recognition as a Bird City Wisconsin in 2010, and has been recertified as a "high flyer", because Oshkosh is a bird friendly community and is committed to implementing sound conservation practices and educating its residents to play an increased role in making our community healthy for birds ... and people.

Contact Janet at

oshkoshbirdfest@gmail.com or 920-216-1172

Major Sponsors:



Sullivan's Woods Work Day "Supervisors" Needed

Saturday, April 27

9:00 am—Noon

Hands on Oshkosh provides 30 UWO student volunteers to cut buckthorn and willow at Sullivan's Woods. We need adults to lead small groups of 5 or 6 students to help identify buckthorn and willow. The students will be at work from 9:00 am until noon. The students will be doing all of the hard work of bending and cutting brush with their strong young backs. We adults only need to be guides, supervisors and motivators for our groups. It's a fun day to get out to Sullivan's Woods and get to know some positive and helpful young people.

If you can help, please e-mail Dave Moon at djmoon@northnet.net or call him at 920-235-4429. 🐦

Quiz Answer: Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*



Spring Migrants at Waukau Creek Nature Preserve

Saturday, May 18

7:00 am

Springtime is just around the corner, and so is spring migration. Meet us at Waukau Creek Nature Preserve to search for migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other species transitioning through the area. The trails at the preserve are moderately difficult. Wear footwear suitable for potentially muddy conditions and bring binoculars if you have them. We will also have binoculars available to share.

Waukau Creek Nature Preserve is a 64-acre preserve characterized by steep-walled ravines and broad creek floodplain, providing a unique and beautiful locale for identifying migrant warblers and viewing spring wildflowers. We never know what we might find!

Directions: The nature preserve is located at 2951 Dehli Road, Omro (near Waukau) in Winnebago County. From Highway 41, take State Rd 44 south to State Road 91 west. Turn right (north) onto State Road 116 at Waukau. Turn left onto County Road K and then right onto Delhi Road. The nature preserve will be on the right, with a parking area on the left. 🐦



An Evening with Bluebirds

Thursday, May 30

6:00 pm at Utica Golf Course

Dave Misterek will lead a short tour of a fraction of the 25 bluebird houses that make up this bluebird nest box trail. We will meet at 6:00 pm at Utica Golf Club, 2330 Knott Road, SW of Oshkosh, for a brief introduction by Dave. Then we will walk out onto the beautiful course to visit some of the bird houses to see what is involved in monitoring a bluebird trail and hopefully see some adult bluebirds, eggs or even young.

A few bluebirds have already returned and will soon begin to set up territories, select nest sites and build nests. Egg laying should begin in April.

Remember to dress for the weather and wear walking shoes as the tour will be foot powered. See you then. 🐦

2019 Audubon Convention

July 26-28, 2019

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Join us in Milwaukee for Audubon's biennial convention designed to bring together Audubon's vast network of dedicated chapter, state, center, national, and international leaders from across all four flyways. This can't-miss event will feature an array of inspiring speakers, in-depth workshops and discussions, exciting field trips, and the camaraderie and networking opportunities that only the Audubon Convention can provide. Situated on Lake Michigan, Milwaukee is a beautiful and historic place to gather, learn, and network. The Wisconsin Audubon Council, Milwaukee Audubon Society, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, and the Audubon Great Lakes team are excited to welcome the whole Audubon network to Milwaukee.

You do not have to be an Audubon member to attend the conference. Also, the scholarship application will re-open soon! Check the website.

Our chapter president, Janet Wissink, was honored to be awarded a scholarship to attend. She will also be part of the Poster Session representing Project SOAR.

Learn more at Audubon's website: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/2019-convention> 🐦

May Bird Count is May 18 Bird Club Looking for Counters

On this annual bird count observers record all birds seen or heard in Winnebago County on one day (24 hour period) in May. The May bird count has been conducted every year since 1966. The final results are submitted to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Anyone can participate in the bird count. The amount of time that you wish to commit is up to you. You can watch your feeders/yard for an hour or all day. You can walk, bike, or boat a certain area. For the more dedicated birder, surveying one of the 30 county areas is also an option.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- Record the number of each species seen or heard (including Starlings, House Sparrows, etc.)
- Record time spent watching
- Record distance traveled
- Record names of all observers
- Document unusual species and numbers

If you do plan on participating PLEASE contact Tom Ziebell with Oshkosh Bird Club and inform him of the location that you intend to cover to reduce duplication of birds counted.

For more information on the counts or if interested in surveying an area in the county, contact Tom Ziebell at cziebell@new.rr.com or 920-312-1976.

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

Anonymous	Bernice Labus
Anonymous	Paul McHugh
Anonymous	<i>In Memory of Phil Resto</i>
Anonymous	Dave Moon
Roberta Alder	Maureen Muldoon
M. Louise Aylward	Laura Ramseier
Leigh Billings-Hale	Emmy Reichenberger
Patty Birschbach	<i>In Memory of</i>
Betsy Borchardt	<i>Grandpa Ralph Reichenberger</i>
Keith Cram	Terry Rill Kennedy
Scott & Christine Cross	Dexter Schaub
Daniel & Laura Fiser	James Skroski
Constance Friedel	Vallerie & Allen Stabenow
Bob Gluth	Karen Syverson
Bill Hammond	John Talin
Gene Jeske	<i>In Memory of Maria Talin</i>
<i>In Memory of Robert Deputy</i>	Charles Gore & Betty Thornton
David Jones	Alice Toepel
Jean Kellerman	Mary Troudt
Larry Kind	

2019-2020 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 2019-2020 on April 14, 2019.

The board presents the following **slate of officers** for 2019-2020:

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

Emily Berger, Daniel Fiser, and Dave Moon 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 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 233-5914 PRIOR to the April 14 annual meeting.

Invitations to the annual meeting have been mailed to Winnebago Audubon Society members.

2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME:

Chapter Memberships	700.00
Donations	4,100.00
National Dues Share	771.00
National New Memberships	300.00
Program Admissions	139.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,010.00

EXPENSE:

Activities	\$ 2,000.00
Annual Report	10.00
Donations	1,250.00
Dues and Memberships	75.00
Fundraisers-Annual Appeal.....	225.00
Liability Insurance.....	260.00
Newsletter	800.00
Postage	400.00
P.O. Box Rental.....	140.00
Supplies/Storage	650.00
Website	200.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 6,010.00



Purple Plumes in the Breeze

Pussy toes, Ram's-head orchid, arrowhead, Bishop's cap, turtlehead and kitten's-tails are some of the creative common names given to Wisconsin's plants. Their names convey images of what the plant may look like. Another plant that has always intrigued me deserves to be included in this list. Prairie smoke is an apt description for this sun-loving plant. Let's visit a prairie for a closer look.

A member of the rose family, avens, prairie smoke is a perennial that prefers full sun and sandy, loamy soils, the kind found in prairies and dry woods in the southern two-thirds of the state. It is an early bloomer, flowering from April into May. Its basal leaves hug the ground so the plant may be overlooked until later in its flowering stage when the wispy plumes of "prairie smoke" stand tall and wave in gentle breezes.

Prairie smoke, *Geum Triflorum*, sprouts from a short, stout underground rhizome, producing many basal leaves and a few flowering stems. Each fernlike basal leaf is a compound leaf with 7 to 15 irregularly-lobed leaflets arranged along its 6 to 9 inch midrib. The leaflets increase in size toward the tip with the largest leaflet topping the leaf.

A flowering stem may range from 6 to 16 inches tall. About half to two-thirds of the way up the stem, it branches into 3 flowering stalks, each about 4 inches long. Topping each flowerstalk is one pink to purplish nodding flower measuring about one inch long. Prairie smoke's species name, *triflorum*, refers to the 3-part branching stem and 3 flowers.

Each flower has 5 whitish to purplish oblong petals subtended by 5 shorter, reddish triangular sepals. Between the sepals are narrow, linear bractlets which are longer than the sepals and almost as long as the petals. Put these three features together and a really unique-looking compact flower is created.

Prairie smoke is pollinated by insects, especially bees, utilizing an unique strategy called buzz pollination or sonication. To state a complex process as simply as possible, male anthers produce pollen that can either be released passively through narrow slits or must be actively released if the anthers have pores. Prairie smoke has anthers with pores. To extract the pollen through pores requires that bees clasp the anthers with forelegs or mouthparts, then vibrate their flight muscles at a high rate to shake out the pollen. The benefit to bees for their effort is that they can obtain large amounts of pollen with one visit. Upon visiting another flower, they transfer some of the collected pollen to pollinate the blossom. Not all bees are capable of buzz pollination. Bumble, mining and sweat bees are a few of the bees that sonicate. Honey bees do not. (Interestingly, blueberries, cranberries and tomatoes require buzz pollination.)

After a blossom is pollinated and matures, prairie smoke obtains its "prairie smoke" character with multiple threadlike fibers creating a plumelike appearance. Imagine a small prairie fire with smoke drifting off. This plume is probably prairie smoke's most recognizable feature but what are we actually observing? We are looking at the plant's fruiting stage.

We must return to basic botany. The female part of a plant (the pistil) has three parts: stigma (receptive to pollen), style (slender stalks that connects stigma to ovary) and ovary. The plume's threadlike fibers are styles that elongated after pollination and at maturity are 1 to 2 inches long. Attached to the base of each style (fiber) is a small, brown oval seed. If you were to count the number of styles in each plume, you will know the number of seeds produced. These seeds are then scattered by the wind.

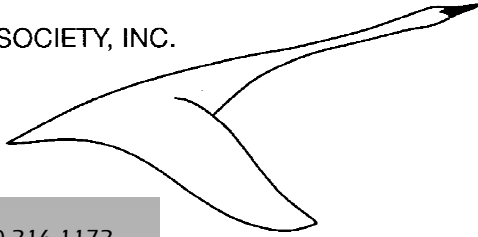


If you have the opportunity, look at prairie smoke through a hand lens. The leaves, stems and plumes (except the tips) are all covered with many fine hairs. This plant is said to be pubescent, that is, bearing fine hairs. With casual observation, the hairs are not discernable.

Prairie smoke looks so unassuming as it grows among the other prairie plants. Yet it faces many challenges to produce seeds. It creates its own challenge by producing anthers with pores that have to be unlocked by specific bees with special adaptive behaviors to get the pollen. And who would have guessed that the beautiful wispy plumes are styles? I had asked myself one simple question—what actually are the plumes? What I discovered was one interesting and remarkably complex plant.

I never cease to be amazed by the secrets, complexity and special adaptations required for survival in the natural world. Each plant or organism has its own story to tell. Prairie smoke just revealed its secrets. 🐾

WINNEBAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
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OSHKOSH, WI 54903



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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.

Winnebago Audubon Society Mission Statement: Advance the mission of the National Audubon Society to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity through grassroots efforts of community outreach and advocacy.

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.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail _____

Chapter Code: **C9ZZ12OZ**

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

Word of the Day: pubescence

A covering of soft down or fine short hairs, as on certain plants and insects.

*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.

Susan Fischer
Randy Grimes
David Roland
Wendy Suzuki
Mike & Kathy Swederske

*If you are a new member of National or the Chapter and haven't seen your name here in the last couple of issues, please contact **Membership Chair** at winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com or 920-216-1172*