

# The Lake Flyer

## Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

August-September 2018

All programs and activities are open to the public

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Check our website for up-to-date information: [www.winaudubon.org](http://www.winaudubon.org)

### Visit Oshkosh-Larsen Trail Prairies SNA with DNR Conservation Biologist

**Sunday, Aug. 26 - 1:30 pm**

**Meet at Wiouwash Trail parking lot  
on County Road G in Allenville**

Join us for a stroll along the Wiouwash Trail north of Oshkosh with Justin Nooker, WDNR Conservation Biologist, to visit the Wiouwash Trail Prairie also known as the Oshkosh-Larsen Trail Prairies State Natural Area (SNA). This SNA protects some of the last remaining mesic prairie in Wisconsin containing a very diverse, yet small remnant wet-mesic prairie, one of the rarest natural communities in Wisconsin and the world. Experience the start of fall colors on the prairie with fresh blooms of prairie grasses like Indian grass, big bluestem, and little bluestem. We will also enjoy the blooms of prairie dock, western sunflower, goldenrod, asters, and may even catch the first blooms of gentians. DNR has recently completed restoration work on the trail so come prepared to learn a little about the restoration efforts. We will also explore birds, bumblebees, and butterflies of the prairie.

This is an easy walk of about 1.25 miles roundtrip. This field trip is free and open to the public.

Enjoy a cold brew with us at Bare Bones Brewery after our walk.



### Catch, Tag, Release Migrating Monarchs

**Saturday, Sept. 15** (Rain date: Sun., Sept. 16)

**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah**

Families, friends, young and old alike, are invited to participate in the autumn migration of monarch butterflies. There will be a short orientation and a demonstration of the tagging process. Then participants will spread out over the property to net monarchs. We will then assist you in attaching a numbered tag to the wing, record data, and release them as part of a nationwide research project by the University of Kansas called Monarch Watch ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)).

These amazing fliers will migrate 1800 miles to spend the winter in the mountains of central Mexico. Monarchs that we have tagged in the past were found in Mexico!

This free, public event is suitable for children four years and up. **We strongly recommend that children wear long pants, shoes and socks.** We have a limited number of butterfly nets available to use, so please bring your own if you have one.

If the weather is questionable and you would like to check if we are still going to meet, call/text: 920-216-1172.

## Calendar of Events

Visit [www.winaudubon.org](http://www.winaudubon.org) for details.

- Aug 26** Prairie Walk (see page 1)
- Sep 15** Monarch Tagging (see page 1)
- Oct 6** Work Party at Sullivan's Woods (see below)
- Nov 15** Landscaping for Birds

## Work Day at Sullivan's Woods

**Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018 - 9:30 to Noon**

**Location: Sullivan's Woods, 6342 Hay Rd., Pickett**

Hands on Oshkosh is sponsored by Reeve Union Volunteerism at UW Oshkosh. It is run by student volunteers and designed to bring students, faculty and staff together to volunteer in the Oshkosh community.

About 30 UWO students will volunteer to help us fight buckthorn at Sullivan's Woods on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 9:30-Noon. **These young people do the hard work, but we could use some supervising volunteers to help identify buckthorn and guide them on how the job needs to be done.** It is a great opportunity to work with these enthusiastic young people. Please contact Zaiga for more information or to volunteer as a supervisor: 920-233-5914 or [zaigam@charter.net](mailto:zaigam@charter.net).



Above: These volunteers are feeling good about the work done on the Miller's Bay Restoration site in July.

Right: Thank you to the Trash Tribe who picked up garbage along Miller's Bay. Way to go girls!

Below: Attendees at the Oshkosh Zoo Conservation Carnival were fascinated by the monarch caterpillars and chrysalis Janet brought. Plant milkweed for monarchs!



## Friends of Sullivan's Woods

Last spring approximately 590 4<sup>th</sup> graders from the Oshkosh Area School District visited Sullivan's Woods. They explored the various habitats and learned about its' wildlife. The teachers appreciate the Friends that assist by guiding the students on the trails and discussing points of interest along the way. A big thank you to the following people who donated their time and experience: Deb Butch, Shannon Davis Foust, Neil Koeneman, Linda Loker, Mim McCann, Dave Moon, Jaci Mueller, Grace Oliver, Susan Raasch, Karen Scheuermann, Val Williams and Carla Zimmerman.

In the fall these 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be returning as 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They will learn how Sullivan's Woods has changed over the summer and enjoy nature in the fall. New volunteers are always welcome and needed. Teaching experience is not required as you can learn by shadowing a veteran guide. For more information call Zaiga Freivalds at 233-5914.

***A big thank you to Zaiga for coordinating!***

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 \* **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. \*  
 \*  
 \* Betty Olson \*  
 \* In Memory of Russell J. Olson \*  
 \*  
 \* Wendy Rodman \*  
 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



## From the Quiz Master:

I'm a 7-inch sandpiper. In breeding plumage, I have black spots on my white underside. If you see me now, I've lost my spots. When I walk, I bob up and down. Whooo am I?

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



## The Other Caterpillar

From June into August, monarch butterfly caterpillars are familiar sights as they crawl about and feed on milkweed leaves. They're easy to identify. From the tiniest 1 mm newly-hatched caterpillars to the two-inch mature individuals, the smooth-skinned monarch caterpillars are boldly patterned with transverse bands of black, yellow and white. They are also adorned with two pairs of fleshy filaments—one pair arising on each end.

But monarch caterpillars aren't the only caterpillars solely dependent on milkweed for food. In late summer, it's time for the "other caterpillar" to make its appearance. Covered with tufts of black, white and orange hairs, this hairy caterpillar is also easy to identify. It's a milkweed tussock moth caterpillar, *Euchaetes egle*, a permanent Wisconsin resident. Both species require milkweed to survive but similarities in life cycles end there.

Monarch butterflies, *Danaus plexippus*, are transient Wisconsin residents. Individuals arrive from the south from late May into early June to repopulate the state. Returning females lay eggs singly on many milkweeds. Eggs hatch, caterpillars dine, molt and grow. When an individual attains its maximum 2 inch size, it's time to form a chrysalis and pupate or change into a butterfly. About 12 to 15 days later, an adult butterfly breaks free from its captivity to mate and reproduce. From egg to adult butterfly takes about a month with 2 or 3 generations produced per summer. Individuals of the final generation undertake an incredible migration, leaving Wisconsin and flying to overwintering sites in Mexico.

Milkweed tussock moths approach life quite differently. A female tussock moth lays a cluster of eggs which is covered with a buff-colored woolly mass on the underside of a milkweed leaf. When the newly-hatched caterpillars appear, they feed together. To avoid the toxic effects of milkweed's milky sap or latex, young caterpillars feed between the top and bottom layers of the leaf. A skeletonized leaf is evidence of their presence. They feed inside the leaf until they reach their third instar (after 2 molts). Then they escape their leafy confinement and continue feeding on the outside of the leaf. To dine safely, they sever leaf veins which reduce the flow of latex to their



Above: Tussock moth caterpillar. Below: Monarch caterpillar. Notice the more jagged edge on the leaf from the toothmarks of the tussock moth.



new feeding area. As the caterpillars continue to grow, individuals wander off in search of their own destiny.

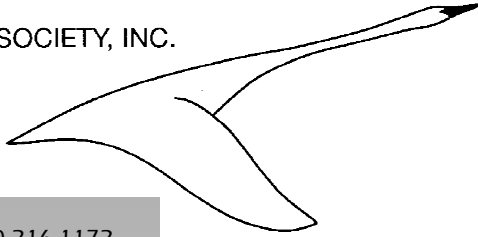
Tussock moth caterpillars feed later in summer. With stronger mouth parts, they can dine on older, tougher leaves. Monarchs prefer young, tender leaves. If a leaf has been chewed upon, you can determine who the diner was by examining the "tooth" marks. Monarchs leave a scalloped edge to the eaten area whereas tussock moths leave a more jagged edge.

Hairless at hatching, as each tussock moth caterpillar grows and molts, the hairs appear and subsequently become longer with each molt. Just like their monarch counterparts, tussock moth caterpillars ingest cardiac glycosides from the milkweed which render them distasteful to predators. The bold colors on both species serve to warn predators that they are not good to eat.

Instead of traveling to Mexico, a tussock moth caterpillar spends winter on the ground wrapped in a gray cocoon "felted" with hairs from its body. Here it changes into an adult moth that emerges and flies from June into July. Not likely to be seen, the 1-1/2 inch, plain-looking moth has grayish-white wings and a yellow abdomen with a row of black spots down its length. One generation is produced per year.

Although you are more likely to attract monarchs rather than the "other caterpillar", plant milkweed in your gardens. If you find a milkweed "volunteer", let it grow. Not only are monarchs and milkweed tussock moths absolutely dependent on milkweed for survival, many other interesting insects are also solely dependent on milkweeds. I'm always delighted to find the elusive "other caterpillar". I hope you will discover one as well.

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If you are receiving a complimentary newsletter, COMP will appear with an expiration date. Please consider joining our chapter 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 SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Chapter Only Membership:** Your \$20.00 stays in our chapter and you receive the Winnebago Audubon chapter newsletter and all chapter benefits. Make \$20.00 check payable to **Winnebago Audubon**.

**OR**

**National Audubon Membership:** Your \$20.00 includes chapter membership and all chapter benefits, PLUS *Audubon* magazine and all national benefits. Make \$20.00 check payable to **National Audubon Society**.

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Chapter Code: **C8ZZ120Z**

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

**Word of the Day: Instar**

The insect between successive molts, the first instar being between hatching and the first molt.

Quiz Answer: Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*

**Welcome to Winnebago Audubon**

A special thank you to all those who are renewing again this year as well. 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.

Jana Braun  
Mark Burns  
James Cahill  
Janis Edwards  
Larry Lang  
James Skroski

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