

The Lake Flyer

Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

Jan-Feb-Mar 2020

All programs and activities are open to the public

Vol. 41, No. 4

P.O. Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903 • Published five times a year
Editor: Janet Wissink • 920-216-1172 • winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com

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

3 months of activities:
▶ ADD dates to your calendar
▶ SAVE newsletter as a reminder

Owls, Up Close

Sun., Jan. 26
(Snowdate:
Sun., Feb. 16)

1:30 pm

Coughlin Center
625 E County Road Y
Oshkosh



Winnebago Audubon is very pleased to host Pat Fisher from The Feather Wildlife Rehab/Education Center in New London. Pat will be bringing, Spark, a Snowy Owl, to visit us. Spark is one of her educational birds because he suffered a wing injury in December of 2018 that could not be repaired to allow him to be released back into the wild. In addition to Spark, Pat hopes to bring a Saw-whet Owl and a Great Horned Owl. As educational ambassadors to the public, these owls serve to remind all of us on the importance of conservation and the ecology of owls and Wisconsin wildlife.

This program is free to Winnebago Audubon members, but there is a FEE FOR NON-MEMBERS of \$3.00 per person.

Please note: If the weather is not good, we will reschedule the program to Sun., Feb. 16. Check our Facebook page, website, or text: 920-216-1172. 🦉

From the Quiz Master:

I'm the largest (16-inch) woodpecker in Wisconsin. I'm black and white with an impressive red crest. I hammer out large rectangular cavities in trees. Whoooo am I?

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

Winter Birding at Jefferson Park & Heckrodt Wetland Reserve Menasha

Saturday, Feb. 8th

9:30 am

Join us on Saturday, February 8th, as we search for overwintering birds at two local area hotspots. We'll start out at Jefferson Park at 9:30 a.m. searching for eagles and waterfowl. Then we will meet at Heckrodt Wetland Reserve to look for woodland and backyard visitors, including nuthatches, finches, and woodpeckers.

Please dress for the weather and bring your binoculars if you have them. This outing is free and open to the public.



Common Goldeneye.

Photo by Kelli Bahls, who will lead our field trip.

Directions to Jefferson Park: From Highway 41, take Highway 10 East/Highway 441. Take the Racine Street exit to the right and follow Racine Street south for approximately 1 mile. Turn left on 3rd Street. Continue on 3rd Street for approximately three blocks, then turn right to continue along 3rd Street. Turn right on Konemac Street. At the four-way stop, continue straight to the parking area. There is also additional parking available east of Konemac Street, with access from 3rd Street.

Directions to Heckrodt Wetland Reserve from Jefferson Park: Follow Konemac Street to the north. Turn right on Highway 114 (Plank Rd). Continue approximately half a mile. The reserve will be on the right side. 🦉

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 14-17

We invite you to participate! For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 14-17, 2020**, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location for as long as you wish!

If you're new to the count, you must create a free online account on eBird to enter your checklists. If you already have an account, just use the same login name and password. If you have already participated in another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login information, too. Visit <https://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>

During the count, you can explore what others are seeing in your area or around the world. Share your bird photos by entering the photo contest, or enjoy images pouring in from across the globe. You can even add photos and sounds to your checklist. [Read more.](#)

Your help is needed every year to make the GBBC successful!

Why Count Birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time.

Scientists use information from the Great Backyard Bird Count, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the [Christmas Bird Count](#), [Project FeederWatch](#), and [eBird](#), to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations. The longer these data are collected, the more meaningful they become in helping scientists investigate far-reaching questions, like, How will the weather and climate change influence bird populations? How will the timing of birds' migrations compare with past years?

The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with Birds Canada and many international partners. 🐦

Calendar of Events

- Jan 26.....Meet Spark and Friends**
(See page 1) Note: Snowdate is Feb. 16
- Feb 8.....Winter Birding at Jefferson Park & Heckrodt Nature Reserve, Menasha**
(See page 1)
- Feb 14-17 ..Great Backyard Bird Count**
- Apr 18.....Midwest Crane Count**
- Apr 19.....Annual Meeting, Program & Supper; Members Only Invitation**
- May 2.....Oshkosh Bird Fest**
- May 9.....Spring Bird Walk**
- May ?.....May Bird Count**
- June 7.....Walk the Wiouwash at Medina Jct.**
- Sep 7Monarch Tagging**
- Nov 19Program with Rob Zimmer**

MORE EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

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.*

Roberta Alder	Timothy McKeon
Jennifer Baerwald	Becky Metz
Kelli Bahls	Dave Misterek
Joe & Kim Bednarowski	<i>In Memory of</i>
Charles & Marion Beyer	<i>Katherine & Russ Rill</i>
Leigh Billings-Hale	David Moon
<i>In Memory of</i>	Robert & Carol Niendorf
<i>Sue Anderson-Belter</i>	Peg Olson
Connie Borrmann	Helen Parker
Anita & Gerald Carpenter	David & Sue Peck
Charles & Barbara Bowlus	Doris & Mike Pierzchalski
<i>In Memory of My Mother</i>	Laura Ramseier
Barb Cattani	Timothy Raupp
Louise Coumbe	Brenda & Curt Reese
Peggy Davidson	Rommelfanger Family Fund
Mark & Jana Frank	of the Oshkosh Area
Mark & Linda Gajewski	Community Foundation
David Gay	Carol Rosenberg
<i>In Memory of Carroll Gay</i>	Jerry Schaefer
Boyd & Karen Gibbs	Fr. Augustine Serafini
Bob Gluth	James & Joan Simmons
Pat Hallquist	James Skroski
Bill Hammond	Sue Steinberg
James Harmon	Tom Sullivan
Bettie Harriman	<i>In Memory of Humphrey & Beatrice Sullivan</i>
Joyce Helz	Elaine & Severin Swanson
Debbie Hilscher	Mike & Kathy Swederske
Barry Horne	Karen Syverson
Sharon Janty	Don Tenor & Karen Boehning
David Jones	Doris Thomas
Cathy Kaspar	Tom Underwood
Kristin Kauth	Barb Urbrock
Jean Kellermann	<i>In Honor of</i>
Mary Kettner	<i>Anita & Jerry Carpenter</i>
Kurt Kronberg	William Weber
James & Catherine Lehndorf	Mike Wicinsky
Ken & Ann Lohry	Wendell Williams
Don Lewis	William Zimar & Sue Neitzel



Little Bird in a Hurry

A snowstorm is forecast for tomorrow. Winter weather advisories are posted. Birds can't read or watch television but somehow they sense the impending bad weather. For them, it's time to fuel up. Today a feeding frenzy is happening at my feeders. Competition is fierce for available perches and spaces at the suet.

All the regulars are here: chickadees, downy woodpeckers, house finches, goldfinches and cardinals. Juncos and mourning doves are on the ground. Where did all the starlings come from to monopolize the suet? Even two very irregular visitors, a single hairy woodpecker and one red-bellied woodpecker show up for a quick suet meal.

I'm enjoying the show, watching the interactions between individuals and among species. Just when I wonder, where are the white-breasted nuthatches, a male zips in, grabs a sunflower seed and retreats to the nearest tree. Here he wedges the seed into a crevice and begins hammering on it to extract the kernel. He quickly returns to the feeder to "grab and fly".

White-breasted nuthatches, *Sitta carolinensis*, are easy to identify. The male has a blue-gray back and black cap. Black eyes peer from a white face devoid of eye lines. His white breast grades into rust under his tail. Females sport a duller blue gray appearance and a not-quite-so-black black cap.

White-breasted nuthatches are endlessly entertaining to watch. They're birds of the tree trunks and constantly in motion while searching for natural food. Their feeding behavior is unique. The bird usually starts near the tree top and spirals down and around the trunk head first. It's inspecting nooks and crannies in the bark for dormant insects, spiders, insect eggs and previously stored seeds. At the base of the tree, the stocky 6-inch bird pivots and begins its upward spiral. Its slightly upcurved bill is an adaptation for reaching deep into bark furrows for hidden food.

Watch how the nuthatch climbs trees. It does not use its tail for support and does not place both feet parallel like woodpeckers do as they hitch their way up a tree. Nuthatches place one foot higher from which to hang and the other foot lower for support. Consequently, the bird swings back and forth like a pendulum as it quickly moves up a tree—first one foot higher up, then switching to the other foot higher up. Long claws enable the nuthatch to cling to the bark.



Photo by Kelli Bahls.

Back to the feeders. It's not surprising that a pair of white-breasted nuthatches arrive at the feeder together. The pair may mate for life. However, in winter, the pair bond may weaken but the two individuals remain within calling distance of each other. Listen for a subdued "ank, ank,ank" as they talk to each other.

White-breasted nuthatches are essentially non-migratory and a pair may remain within its territory year round. Territorial defense may also weaken in winter which may explain why several nuthatches visit feeders. When spring approaches, the resident pair reclaims and defends its territory. Listen for a loud, rapid, irritated-sounding repetitive "ank,ank,ank" which reveals that two males are not happy with each other.

The white-breasted nuthatch is one species that vocalizes year round. If you're out for a walk, you may hear this "ank" call in the same area, maybe not daily, but often enough to suggest you're in a territory. If you plot the location of these calls on a map, you'll realize that these birds are common nesters in Oshkosh, even if you don't see them.

These acrobatic little birds are always in a hurry whether spiraling down and around a tree trunk or zipping into your feeders for a snack. Since they spend most of their time upside down while gleaning tree trunks, I wonder what an upside-down perspective of the world would be. Maybe there is a reason why only 4 out of the 800 North American bird species, all nuthatches, view it that way.

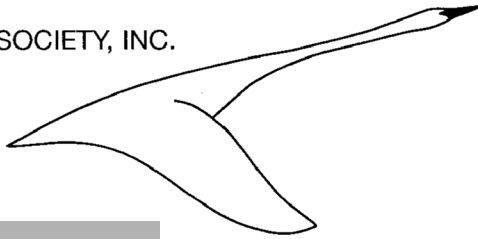
As we proceed into the winter months, please remember to fill your feeders. Perhaps you'll experience and enjoy a pre-storm party and the antics of this little bird in a hurry. 🐦



Share your passion and expertise with us!

Nominations are now being accepted for officers and directors for 2020 elections to be held on April 19. Give Janet a call at 920-216-1172 or send an e-mail to winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com if you would like to know more about how you can take an active role in our chapter.

WINNEBAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 184
OSHKOSH, WI 54903



NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
OSHKOSH WI
PERMIT NO 90

OFFICERS

President: Janet Wissink, 920-216-1172
winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com
Vice President: Bettie Harriman
920-233-1973 / bettievh40@gmail.com
Secretary: Zaiga Freivalds
920-233-5914 / zaigam@charter.net
Treasurer: Mike Brandel
mbrandel49@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Kelli Bahls
920-537-2121 / kabahls@outlook.com
Emily Berger, bergeree1989@gmail.com
Anita Carpenter, 920-233-6677
Daniel Fiser
920-216-1876 / dsfiser@hotmail.com
Evelyn Meuret
920-573-7828 / evelynmeuret57@att.net
Dave Moon
920-235-4429 / djmoon@northnet.net

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. Make check payable to **Winnebago Audubon.**
- \$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 **National Audubon.** Or call 1-844-428-3826.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail _____

Chapter Code: **Z12**

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

Word of the Day: Pileated

A word derived from Latin, *pileat*, meaning capped.
Refers to a large crest.

*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.

Antonia Anand	Larry & Ellen Ellenbecker
G. Bluer	Ross Goldberg
Sean Cook	John Gronlund
Linda Denell	Joanne Peterson
Dan Dutcher	Cindy Schumacher
Lois Eierman	Judy Uchtyil

*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*