

The Lake Flyer

Newsletter of Winnebago Audubon

June-July-August 2022

All programs and activities are open to the public.

Vol. 44, 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

Upcoming Activities

3 Months of Summer Fun

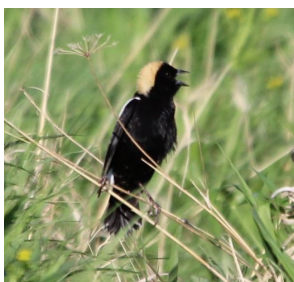
- ▶ ADD dates to your calendar ▶ SAVE newsletter as a reminder
- ▶ UPDATES on Facebook and our website.

Sat., June 4: **Bohn Farms**
Thur., June 23: **Picnic / Annual Meeting**
Sun., July 17: **Let's Explore a Prairie** (p.2)
Sat., Aug. 20: **Evening at Mascoutin Wetland** (p. 2)
Sat., Sept. 3: **Monarch Tagging** (Rain Date: Sept. 4) (p. 3)

Morning at Bohn Farms HRA Saturday, June 4, 2022 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Join us for a morning outing at Bohn Farms Habitat Restoration Area. This state-owned property includes more than 80 acres of prairie, woodland, and ephemeral ponds. This field trip will take us across the western section of the property in search of pollinating insects, grassland birds, and prairie fauna. There are no defined trails on this property. Estimated walking distance is about 1 mile; terrain may be uneven, wet, and muddy depending on weather conditions. Knee boots are strongly recommended.

Directions: From Oshkosh, take Hwy 41 North to Hwy 45 North. Take the Highway 116/County Rd GG exit toward Winneconne. Turn left onto County Rd GG/Hwy 116 South. Follow Hwy 116 through and out of Winneconne until you reach County Road D. Turn right on County Road D. Travel approximately 7 miles and then turn right on County Rd B. We will meet in the parking area off to the right adjacent to Welsch Rd. Please park in the parking area or along Welsch Rd. where it is safe and reasonable to do so. 🐦



Chapter Picnic / Annual Meeting Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Thursday, June 23, 2022

5:30 pm Gathering; 6:30 pm Annual Meeting
Menominee Park Shelter 1

Winnebago Audubon was officially chartered as a chapter of National Audubon in 1982, so we are celebrating our 40 years of providing our community with field trips and programs and so much more.

Everyone is invited to join us. Please bring your own bag lunch and beverage. We'll bring dessert.

There will be a slide show of memories from the past 40 years continuously showing. We also have a large number of items that have been donated to us including original art, limited edition prints, and books. Find your treasure and make a donation.

We will have a brief annual meeting to approve the budget for 2022-2023 and to elect board members. See page 2 for a copy of the proposed budget and slate of officers.

We hope you will join us for this informal gathering. We look forward to meeting old and new members to reminisce about the past 40 years and plan for the next 40! 🐦

Photo, above left : Bobolink by Kelli Bahls.



**Let's
Explore a
Prairie
Sunday
July 17, 2022
1:00 pm**

Join naturalist Anita Carpenter as we discover the plants, birds and insects of a native Wisconsin prairie. This state natural area is north of Oshkosh along the Wiouwash Trail south of Oakridge Rd. Who knows what we might find?

Directions: The most direct route from I-41 and Hwy. 76, north of Oshkosh, is to take Hwy. 76 north for 5 miles. Turn left on Oakridge Rd. Travel west for 4 miles until you see the sign for the recreation trail. You have arrived. Park in the small lot on your right.

Optional route: Take Hwy. 45 north from Oshkosh. Exit at County Road II at Winchester. Turn right on II and continue east to Steeple Hill Rd. which is across from the golf course. Turn right onto Steeple Hill Rd. At the second stop sign turn left onto Oakridge Rd. Go 1.8 miles to the recreation trail. Park on the left side in the small parking lot. You have finally arriv

Word of the Day: aerie
— nest of an eagle built on a crag or other high place.

Evening at Mascoutin Wetland

Saturday, August 20, 2022

6:00 - 8:00 pm

An evening stroll on the Mascoutin Valley State Trail on the western edge of Winnebago County will be an opportunity to seek out birds. The section of trail we plan to visit boasts a wetland restoration area. One particularly large pond on the south side of the trail hosts a large number of bird species throughout the summer season, including ducks, herons, egrets, rails, and swallows.

Directions: We will park on Meadow Brook Road where the Mascoutin Valley State Trail crosses. From Oshkosh, head southwest on State Road 44. Turn right onto State Road 91. Drive west for 13 miles. Turn left onto County Road E. In 1.8 miles turn right onto Meadow Brook Road. In .6 miles you will come to the trail crossing. Please park safely on the shoulder of the road.



Bring binoculars and maybe insect repellent.

Common yellowthroat. Photo by Kelli Bahls.

From the Quiz Master:

I'm a gray 8-1/2 inch bird with a black cap. I'm also in the bird family Mimidae. My call note is "meow". Whoooo am I?

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

2022-2023 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 2022-2023 on June 23, 2022.

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

- President:* Janet Wissink
- Vice President:* Carmen Meuret
- Secretary:* Zaiga Freivalds
- Treasurer:* Mike Brandel
- Board of Directors:* Dana Hartel
Dave Moon
MaryBeth Petesch
Tom Ziebell

Kelli Bahls, Anita Carpenter, and Evelyn Meuret 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 920-233-5914 PRIOR to the June 23 annual meeting.

Gray Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis

2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chapter Memberships..... | 600.00 |
| Donations | 4,000.00 |
| National Dues Share | 771.00 |
| National New Memberships | 150.00 |
| Program Admissions | 79.00 |
| Cash Reserves..... | 660.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME..... | \$ 6,260.00 |

EXPENSE:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Activities | \$ 900.00 |
| Annual Report | 10.00 |
| Donations | 1,250.00 |
| Dues and Memberships | 75.00 |
| Fundraisers-Annual Appeal | 200.00 |
| Newsletter | 750.00 |
| Postage | 300.00 |
| P.O. Box Rental | 225.00 |
| Supplies/Storage Unit | 725.00 |
| Website | 250.00 |
| Project SOAR..... | 1,000.00 |
| UW Oshkosh..... | 500.00 |
| Misc Fees..... | 75.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$ 6,260.00 |



The Phrase Singer

Brown thrashers prefer a life of secrecy. They skulk on the ground in the underbrush searching for food. They conceal their nests in thick, often thorny, hedgerows. Their reddish-brown color blends in well with the earthen background. They also prefer to be alone or in the company of one another. No flocking up for these reclusive birds.

However, all that changes on a warm spring day. Male brown thrashers like to announce their presence from the tallest tree with a joyous song of spring. With an ever-changing repertoire of bubbly phrases, each repeated two or three times, this bird embodies the enthusiasm we all feel for a warm spring day after a prolonged, cold winter.

After spending winter in the warm southern United States, brown thrashers return from mid-April to mid-May. Even during migration, males will perch on a tree top and sing. His melodious song is full of volume and duration that can't be missed. If you listen closely, you'll realize no song is repeated. A song sung now will not be the same sequence of phrases that you heard an hour ago.

Although the song can't be overlooked, finding the vocalist in the emerging tree leaves can be a bit challenging. Brown thrashers are big birds, measuring 12 inches long. They sport a rufous head, back and tail. The white to buffy underparts are heavily streaked with brown. It seems the bird should be easy to locate. However, when backlit on a bright sunny day, the bird "disappears" in the light. Also the striped breast blends in with the numerous small twigs at the branch ends, also contributing to his camouflage.

Brown thrashers, *Toxostoma rufum*, belong to the mockingbird family, Mimidae—or birds that mimic other birds in song. Some species like the northern mockingbird, are better mimics than others. Brown thrashers rarely mimic other birds.

Twelve species of Mimidae are found in the United States, including the northern mockingbird and gray catbird. Also included are 8 species of thrashers. Only brown thrashers are found throughout the eastern United



Photo by Matt Saunders

States. The other 7 thrasher species are found out west and most are in the arid regions of the desert southwest. Unlike the colorful brown thrasher, the 7 western species generally look alike being gray with few markings. They can be challenging to identify. All thrashers generally have long, rounded tails, long legs for running and relatively short wings. All have decurved bills. Both sexes look alike.

Brown thrashers are found throughout Wisconsin, less so in the north woods. They prefer to nest in thickets, brushy fields, hedgerows and woodland edges. One could understand how clearcutting hedgerows or fencerows could have a negative impact on brown thrashers.

Loosely constructed of twigs and leaves, the bulky cup-like nest is placed from 1-10 feet above ground in dense vegetation. The female lays an average of 3 to 4 eggs, each whitish with tiny red dots. Incubation is by both adults for 12 to 13 days. The young first fly when they are 9-13 days old. Two broods may be raised per year.

I'm always thrilled to see a brown thrasher for they are reluctant to show themselves. Often it's just a glimpse as they fly from under one bush to under another. To hear his boisterous song is uplifting to the spirit. I hope everyone experiences the pleasure of his music and exuberance. 🐦

Catch, Tag & Release Migrating Monarchs

Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022

(Rain Date: Sept. 4)

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 have two tagging

stations set up to assist you in identifying the gender of your monarchs, recording the data, tagging them and watching you release them to proceed on their journey. All ages over 5 are encouraged to participate. We all have an inner child who would love to do this.

If the weather is questionable and you want to check if we are still going to meet, call/text: 920-573-7828. Rain date will be on Sunday, September 4, 2022.

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. 🐦



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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.

Judy Anderson
Marsha Arps
Patricia Berger
G. Bleuer
Barb Bowlus
Judith Burr
Janice Evers
Sally Guenther
Debra Hyde
Jane Inda

Monica Kosuboski
Michael Lyster
Daniel Priske
Patrick Reed
Jessica Riley
Karla Seaver
Terry Seifert
Ann Stilp
Mary Tadych
Vanessa Watts

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