

# The Lake Flyer

Newsletter of Winnebago Audubon

Nov-Dec 2022

All programs and activities are open to the public.

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Editor: Janet Wissink • 920-216-1172 • winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com

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



Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Kelli Bahls.

## Fall Birding at Norbert Rich School Forest

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022

10:00-11:30 am

Join us on Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> for a fall bird walk at Norbert Rich School Forest. This 43.5 acre tree farm forest is halfway between Omro and Winneconne. It was willed to the Winneconne Community School District by the late Norbert Rich and is primarily used by the school district for outdoor education activities. The property is also open to the public during daylight hours for hiking, birdwatching, and other wildlife viewing. Expanses of spruce, pine, and swamp hardwoods provide habitat for deer, turkeys, nuthatches, and other winter birds.

We will meet at the front gate, explore the school forest grounds, and hike one of the trails through the spruce and pine plantation. Please park along Ginnow Rd. Sections of the trail may be wet or muddy, so rubber boots or sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Hope to see you there!

Property Address: Norbert Rich School Forest, 5007 Ginnow Rd, Omro, WI 54963

Directions from Oshkosh: from Hwy 41 North, take Hwy 45 North for approximately 5 miles. Use the WI-116/ County Road GG exit and turn left to go into Winneconne. Follow WI-116 South for approximately 7 miles. Turn right onto Oak Hill Rd. Drive for 1 mile and turn left on Ginnow Rd. Proceed to park along Ginnow Rd. 🐦

## Benefits of Restoring the Bohn Family Farmstead

Thursday, November 17, 2022

6:30 pm Social; 7:00 pm Meeting

Evergreen Retirement Community  
1130 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh

Winnebago Audubon and Wild Ones partner to bring you a program about a local restoration project. Jon Gumtow is a Senior Scientist and Project Manager at Stantec, a consulting firm in DePere. He will share the story of how restoring a portion of the Bohn Farms site required partnerships and years of planning and monitoring to restore a mosaic of wetland, prairie, and forest habitats that were historically part of the landscape surrounding Lake Poygan. This presentation will discuss the site history, funding for restoration, restoration techniques, climate adaptation techniques, and partnerships associated with restoring this 80-acre portion of the former Bohn family farmstead.

Please use the main entrance. The Social will be to the right in the Fireside Lounge. The meeting and program will be to the left in the Worship and Performing Arts Center.



Winnebago Audubon has led field trips to the site and continues to monitor birds, frogs and other wildlife on the site. 🐦

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# Oshkosh Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022

On the annual Oshkosh Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), observers record all birds seen or heard within a fifteen mile diameter circle around Oshkosh on one day (24 hour period). In addition to the count day, species seen during the count week (3 days before and 3 days after the count day) but not recorded on the count day are also included in the results. The Oshkosh Audubon Christmas Bird Count has been conducted every year since 1964. The final count is submitted to National Audubon.

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. For the more dedicated birder, surveying one of the 13 county areas in the count circle is also an option.

As a volunteer you will be required to record the number of each species seen or heard; time spent watching; distance travelled and document unusual species and numbers.

If you are interested in participating PLEASE contact Tom Ziebell for more information and to discuss the area you intend to cover to reduce duplication of birds counted: [cziebell@new.rr.com](mailto:cziebell@new.rr.com) or 920-312-1976. 🐦



## New Year's Day Birding Evergreen Retirement Community/ Sawyer Creek Nature Trail

Sunday, January 1, 2023

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Celebrate the new year by getting out to watch birds and starting your yearly bird list. Join us at the Evergreen Retirement Community and the Sawyer Creek Nature Trail in Oshkosh. We will be walking around the Evergreen buildings checking bird feeders and on the nature trail in search of winter birds. Time and weather permitting we may also visit nearby open water for waterfowl and gulls.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Hwy 41 and Hwy 21, go east on Oshkosh Ave. (Hwy 21) to the first stop light. At the stop light turn right on N. Westfield St. and continue a short distance to the Evergreen parking area on your left at 1130 N. Westfield St. We will meet in the front of the parking area near the sidewalk. 🐦

## Meet our Board Member: Tom Ziebell

I've been interested in nature, especially birds, since grade school. I attended UW-Oshkosh for a BS and MS in biology studying Black-crowned Night-Herons and Least Bitterns. I have done breeding bird surveys, nest count surveys, and endangered species monitoring for federal and state agencies. I organized the first Sandhill Crane count in Winnebago County; was a regional coordinator for the WI Breeding Bird Atlas I; contributed to the WI Breeding Bird Atlas II; lead bird walks and big sits at Oshkosh Bird Fest; lead many field trips for Audubon, Oshkosh Bird Club, and the Natural Resources Foundation of WI. I coordinate the Oshkosh Christmas Bird Count and the May and September bird counts for Winnebago County. Birds are a big part of my life.

When attending UW-Oshkosh I became lifelong friends with Jack Kaspar, Bettie Harriman, Anita Carpenter, and Kay Rill. This was also when Kay Rill asked me to join SWANS (Saving Wetlands And Natural Systems) to fight the filling/destruction of area marshes and wild areas. SWANS was the predecessor to Winnebago Audubon, so I became a charter member of Winnebago Audubon. I look forward to being on the board and helping Winnebago Audubon encourage everyone to appreciate and enjoy our natural wonders, especially birds. 🐦



## STEM NIGHT Fun & Learning at area schools

Winnebago Audubon is participating by bringing a live Great Horned Owl, dissecting owl pellets, and using our interactive buzzer board to talk about our backyard birds.





## Treetop Royalty

Frosty, northwest winds signal the inevitable — winter is coming. Avian migrants, which are attuned to changing weather conditions and available food, are on the move to warmer destinations. Some travel great distances before stopping while others hopscotch their way south, often pausing in their journey to refuel.

Two of the tiniest travelers to grace Wisconsin's autumn landscape are ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets. Migrating in small flocks, each species prefers its own kinglet kind but flocks may include both species.

Ruby-crowned kinglets move through first with a major push in October. They are destined to overwinter in the southern gulf coast states. To see a ruby-crown in Wisconsin in winter is a rarity. Golden-crowned kinglets follow, migrating through from October into November. These sprites overwinter anywhere from Wisconsin to the gulf coast. If you see a kinglet in Wisconsin in winter, it is most likely a golden-crown. However, don't assume. Always verify each kinglet seen in winter.

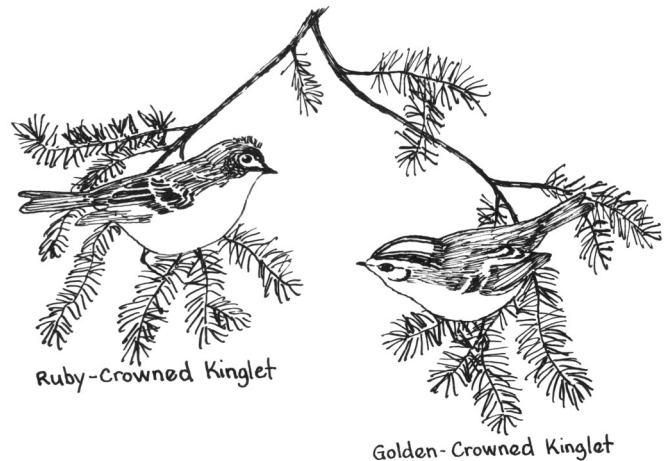
At first glance both kinglets look alike. Both are tiny, plump, four-inch, olive-green bundles of spritely energy. Both have two white wing bars although the wing bars on ruby-crowns are slightly brighter.

The two kinglets may be correctly identified by studying their head patterns or markings. Golden-crowned kinglets, the more colorful of the two, have a bright patch (orange on males, yellow on females) on the top or crown of their heads bordered by narrow black stripes. Also, look for a bright white stripe over each eye. A word of caution, as the birds flit about (often high in trees), the crown patch may not always be seen.

Compare these markings to the drabness of ruby-crowned kinglets which lack both the bold white eye stripe and black crown stripes. Although ruby-crowns have a tiny red crown patch, it is usually concealed and only flashed when the bird is excited. Females lack the crown patch. The only visible mark on the olive-green head of ruby-

crowns is a broken white eye ring around each dark eye.

Both kinglets are birds of the trees, moving quickly and tirelessly over branches searching for food, gleaning spiders, insects and insect eggs. While foraging, both species occasionally and characteristically flutter their wings and briefly hover on the tips of branches. As these small kinglet flocks move through the trees, members may



call to each other. A high, thin lispings "see-see-see" tells you golden-crowns are overhead while a high "zhi-dit" alerts you to ruby-crowns.

Both kinglets begin their fall journey from the evergreen forests of Northern Wisconsin and Canada. There they nested, high up in evergreens, usually in spruce trees. Because of the inaccessibility of their nest sites, little information is known about nesting behavior.

The energetic and cheerful kinglets are always a delight to see. Their brief appearance warms a chilly late autumn day. Soon their hopscotching journey will continue as they seek warmer winter quarters. 🐦

## September Bird Count Wrap-up

On September 17, 25 people volunteered to count birds in Winnebago County for the annual Winnebago County Bird Count. Thank you to Tom Ziebell for organizing and to our observers: Brad Bahls, Kelli Bahls, Rosie Buser\*, Anita Carpenter, Jerry Carpenter\*, Morgan Churchill, Dave Clabault\*, Dolly Clabault\*, Carson Evich, Bettie Harriman\*, Cathy Kaspar\*, James Kinderman\*, Oskar Konda\*, Tom Miller\*, John Nichols, Pat Nichols, MaryBeth Petesch, Jan Rohloff\*, James Rudolph, Joy Schwarz\*, Ka Starks\*, Luke Starks\*, Joshua Vincent, Char Ziebell\*, Tom Ziebell (\*Feeder/yard watchers). For the full report and list of the 113 species seen, [click here](#) to visit our website. 🐦

### 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.*

Tom & Sue Sullivan

Dellora Vogt, Janice Richards, Marlene Holzhausen & Mary Jo Aschenbrenner

*In honor of Janet & Steve Wissink on their 50th Wedding Anniversary*



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PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

**OFFICERS**

**President:** Janet Wissink, 920-216-1172  
winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com  
**Vice President:** Carmen Meuret  
920-573-7832 / cjmeuret@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** Zaiga Freivalds  
920-233-5914 / zaigam@charter.net  
**Treasurer:** Mike Brandel  
920-233-5914 / mbrandel49@gmail.com

**DIRECTORS**

Kelli Bahls  
920-573-2121 / kabahls@outlook.com  
Anita Carpenter, 920-233-6677  
Dana Hartel  
920-410-7659 / raptorssp2016@gmail.com  
Evelyn Meuret  
920-573-7828 / evelynmeuret57@att.net  
Dave Moon  
920-235-4429 / djmoon@northnet.net  
MaryBeth Petesch, mbpetesch@sbcglobal.net  
Tom Ziebell, 920-312-1976/tziebell@new.rr.com

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

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**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

Find us on 

*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.

Nancy Ausloos  
Cathy Corey  
Robert Fleming  
Dan Henderson  
Deborah Salzman

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