

The Lake Flyer

Newsletter of Winnebago Audubon

Sept-Oct 2022

All programs and activities are open to the public.

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

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 assist you in identifying the gender of your monarch, record the data, tag them, then watch you release it to proceed on its journey. All ages over 5 are encouraged to participate.

If the weather is questionable call/text Evelyn, to confirm: 920-573-7828. Rain date will be Sun., Sept. 4.

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.

Directions to 4946 Broderick Rd., Omro: Take Hwy. 21 west out of Omro. Turn right on to Broderick Rd and in 1.6 miles look for the red house on the right side of the road. Parking can be in the driveway or along the road leaving ample room for entering and exiting easily. Please do not park anyone in! 🐦

Upcoming Activities

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

- Sat., Sept. 3: **Monarch Tagging**
- Sat., Sept. 10: **Fall Cleanup & Monarchs at Miller's Bay Native Plant Site**
- Sat., Sept. 17: **September Bird Count** (See page 2)
- Sat., Oct. 8: **Big Day Birding at Sheldon Nature Area** (See page 2)
- Sat., Oct. 29: **Waterfowl Walk at Menominee Park** (See page 3)
- Sun., Nov. 13: **Explore Norbert Rich School Forest** (Tentative Date)
- Thurs., Nov. 17: **Benefits of Restoring the Bohn Family Farmstead**
- Sat., Dec. 17: **Christmas Bird Count**

Miller's Bay Restoration Site Fall Cleanup. . . & Monarchs!

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022
1:00-3:00 pm



More volunteers. More fun. Less work. On this day, the emphasis will be on FUN! We'll talk about monarch butterflies, habitat needs and the citizen science project of tagging the migrating monarchs. Girl Scouts Natalie Larsen and Callie Rudoll of Troop 6441 will be there, too, with a display they created as part of their Silver Award project. Learn about their project and hopefully net some monarchs to tag.

We will also continue to remove woody growth; weed and trim plants in viewing areas and on paths to the Memorial Trees; and pickup litter at this native plant restoration. If you are not familiar with this restoration or the organization, this is another opportunity to learn more about it. Bring gloves, loppers and pruners if you have them. Please join us at the north end of Miller's Bay near Ames Point, 1925 Oaks Trail, Oshkosh. 🐦

More activities on page 2 & 3

September Bird Count

Saturday, September 17, 2022

This is another great excuse (if you need one) to go birding and challenge yourself to identify birds not only visually but by their songs. Plus, you are contributing to ongoing bird research around the world. You can do this by yourself or with family and friends. Make a day of it or plan a little time around your busy schedule.

On this annual bird count, observers record all birds seen or heard in Winnebago County on one day (24 hour period) in September. The September bird count has been conducted every year since 1995.

Anyone can participate. The amount of time 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

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



Yellow-rumped Warbler. Credit: Matt Saunders.

Big Day Birding at Sheldon Nature Area

Saturday, October 8, 2022

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us on eBird's October Big Day to count birds and report our observations to eBird. Come be a part of the global birding team counting on Big Day. Everyone is welcome, beginning birders to experienced birders.

Directions: From I-41 in Oshkosh take Hwy 21 west to the second stop light (Oakwood Road). Turn right (north) on Oakwood Road and continue to the stop sign at Omro Road. Turn left (west) on Omro Road. Continue past the school and after the fourth house on the right, turn right (north) into the drive to Sheldon Nature Area. We will meet in the parking area. 🐦

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.*

Scott & Christine Cross
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A Buttonbush Secret

The first place I saw a buttonbush shrub was along the Anhinga Trail in Florida's Everglades National Park where its roots were firmly anchored in shallow standing water. I was attracted to this plant by its showy, fragrant, pin-cushion-like, spherical white flowers and by the many butterflies sipping its nectar.

You needn't visit Florida to observe buttonbush. It may be found in the appropriate habitat of shallow standing water along streams, rivers, lakes and in swamps throughout the eastern United States. It reaches its northern limit of distribution in extreme southern Wisconsin.

However, buttonbush has been cultivated. Closer to home, a few plants have been planted along the Fox River on the UW Oshkosh campus.

Without its white flowers, buttonbush could look like any other shrub. On its multiple stems, buttonbush sports simple, shiny, dark green, pointed leaves up to 7 inches long. Single leaves sprout opposite each other on the branches. Sometimes they may be in whorls of 3 to 4 leaves.

Blooming in July, buttonbush flower heads are the plant's most interesting feature. Flower heads arise from branch ends on stalked, 2 to 4-inch long peduncles. (A peduncle is defined as a primary flower stalk supporting either one or a cluster of flowers.) Buttonbush produces both: a single flower or a flower cluster at branch ends.

A closer look at the unique flower head reveals it is composed of 100 to 200 tiny, white, funnel-form flowers compacted into a globose (spherical head) which is a bit smaller than a golf ball. It looks like a pin-cushion with the elongated styles (part of the female pistil) sticking out resembling pins. The tiny individual flowers are insect-pollinated. On campus, bumblebees swarmed onto the blossoms.

In early August, one buttonbush revealed an unexpected secret. When I left home on my early morning walk, the air was clear and calm. As I neared the Fox River, fog had settled over the river and its shoreline.

When I walked past this buttonbush, I was surprised to see it beautifully draped with 26 dew-laden orb spider webs. The webs ranged in diameter from 2 to 10 inches across and were placed at different angles all over the bush. The strands in each web sagged under the weight of dew drops. What a beautiful, glistening work of art.



The following morning, only a few errant support strands were found and not one complete orb web. The orb-weaving spiders were probably still there and had been there all along but without fog, no one would suspect their presence.

This experience reinforces the notion that we really don't know the extent and numbers of unseen insects and spiders that share the world with us. So why were the webs visible this foggy morning? Many orb-weaving spiders spin their webs at dusk and into the night and ingest them sometimes in early morning. This is an adaptation to reuse and recycle scarce nutrients into the next evening's web.

Perhaps fog and possibly the wet strands interrupted this normal procedure on a night of inclement weather for a spider. I really don't know for sure. I regret that I did not return later in the day to see if the webs had been collected and "disappeared" when the fog had lifted.

I walk by this bush daily. This was a revelation. I never would have known the high density of these secretive spiders occupying this one buttonbush if their webs hadn't collected the sparkling dew drops.

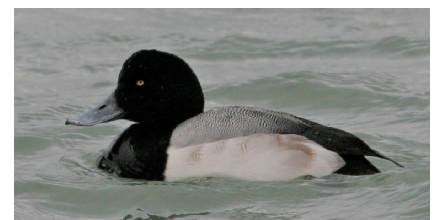
This was my foggy morning "Gift of the Day" - glistening spider webs on a flowering buttonbush. 🐦

Waterfowl Walk at Menominee Park

Saturday, October 29, 2022 — 1:00-2:30 pm

Interested in polishing up your waterfowl identification skills? Join us in the search for waterfowl at Menominee Park. This Winnebago County hotspot is a convenient and accessible location for seeking out more than a dozen species of waterfowl during fall migration. Number and variety of species will be dependent on wind direction and weather conditions. Target species include Cackling Goose, Canvasback, and Greater Scaup.

Directions: Use 1240-1212 Siewert Trail, Oshkosh, for GPS lookup. We will meet at the north end of the Miller's Bay boat launch parking area. This is northeast of the softball diamonds and just across the street from Webster Stanley Middle School. 🐦



Greater Scaup. Photo by Kelli Bahls.



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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.

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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: _____

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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.

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