

The Lake Flyer

Newsletter of Winnebago Audubon

Sept-Oct 2021

All programs and activities are open to the public.

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

Catch, Tag & Release Migrating Monarchs

Saturday, Sept. 4
(Rain Date: Sept. 5)

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.

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.

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 5, 2021.

This event is free and open to the public.

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! 🐦



September Bird Count

Saturday, September 18

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 on-going 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 Winnebago County September bird count has been conducted every year since 1995. The final results are submitted to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

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.

If you do plan on participating PLEASE contact Tom Ziebell and inform him of the location that you intend to cover to reduce duplication of birds counted.

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. 🐦



More Fall Activities on Page 2

From the Quiz Master:

I'm a large, deciduous tree with smooth gray bark that is found in the forests along northern Lake Michigan. I retain my dried, straw-colored leaves through winter. Whooo am I?

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

**1 or 2 Hours of Your Time Helps Immensely
Miller's Bay Restoration Site
Fall Clean-up**

Saturdays, Sept. 11 and 25 — 9:00 –11:00 am
Ames Pt., 1925 Oak Trail, Oshkosh

More volunteers. More fun. Less work. We'll be removing woody growth, trimming plants, weeding, and picking up litter at this native plant restoration. Bring gloves, loppers and pruners if you have them. 🐦



Wood Thrush. Photo by Will Stuart.

**Big Day Birding at
Asylum Pt./Picnic Pt.**

**Saturday, October 9
8:00-11:00 am**

Join us on eBird's October Big Day (Global Bird Weekend and World Migratory Bird Day) to count birds and report our observations to eBird. Everyone is welcome, beginning birders to experienced birders.

Asylum Point Park/Picnic Point Wildlife Refuge (The Carp Pond) is about 170 acres of grassland, brush, woods, and marsh on the shores of Lake Winnebago. We hope to observe migrants such as waterbirds, kinglets, thrushes, sparrows, and warblers. Depending on the weather and winds we could have a good hawk migration, which is always exciting. Come and experience the fun and wonder of migration.

Please dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. This event is free and open to the public.

Directions: From Oshkosh take Bowen Street (CTH-A) north to East Snell Road. Turn right on East Snell Road to the T intersection with Sherman Road. We will meet in the parking area at this intersection. 🐦

American beech, Fagus grandifolia

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.*

Daniel Fiser Family Ken & Megan Karth

Late Fall Activities
Details in Nov/Dec Newsletter & on website.
Nov 6..... Birding Miller's Bay Shoreline
Nov 18..... Program: Sustainable and Environmentally
 Friendly UWO Campus Grounds
Dec 18 or 19 .. Christmas Bird Count

**Birdwatching at Miller's Bay
Restoration Site & Ames Point**

**Saturday, November 6
1:00 pm**

Join us on Saturday, November 6 at the Miller's Bay Restoration Site in Oshkosh. We will meet along the prairie and walk one of the nearby trails. Sightings will be dependent on the wind direction and may include waterfowl, gulls, and sparrow species such as Dark-eyed Junco and American Tree Sparrow.

Please dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Spotting scopes may be helpful but are not required. This event is free and open to the public.

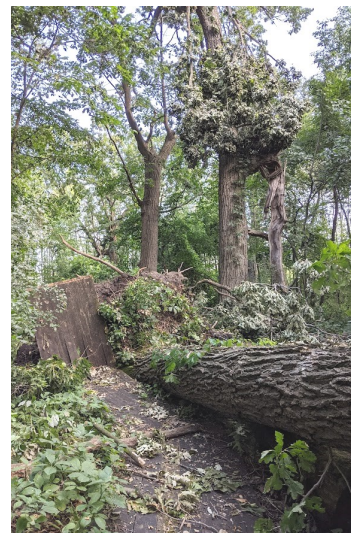
Directions to Miller's Bay Restoration Site: From Hwy 41, take the Hwy 21 exit east into Oshkosh. Turn left on Algoma Blvd. Turn right on Murdock. Continue on Murdock for approximately 2 miles. Turn right on Hickory Street. At the stop sign, continue straight onto Oak Trail. Site address is 1925 Oak Trail, Oshkosh. 🐦

**Sullivan's Woods Closed
after Extensive Storm Damage**

Sullivan's Woods, the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) Environmental Education site, received extensive storm damage on July 28.

The extent of the damage will cause the district to close the property for the cleanup process. Unfortunately this will last through the spring as they will wait until the ground freezes to begin the cleanup. The damage to the boardwalk also means that it will need to be replaced.

Several of our members toured the area soon after the damage took place and alerted OASD personnel. As a group, we understand the district faces an immense challenge. It will take a lot of time and effort to restore the area to the point where it can continue to serve the Environmental Education needs of the OASD. Winnebago Audubon looks forward to the opportunity to work with the OASD as they plan for the future of Sullivan's Woods. 🐦





Grace on the Wing

Mid-August into September is prime time for observing migrating dragonflies. Three dragonfly species, all non-permanent Wisconsin residents, participate in this annual exodus. Arriving in spring, each species has a unique strategy for a temporary stay in Wisconsin.

Large, 3-inch common green darners, *Anax junius*, are our most common and obvious migrant. They may gather in impressive swarms in cattail marshes, wet meadows and along Lake Winnebago to actively feed before departing.

These individuals look like mature adults but they are juveniles. Their southern U.S. destination is still a mystery but warmth and open water are a must. Upon arriving wherever, they mature, mate, lay eggs and perish. The next generation from egg to adult completes its metamorphosis over winter and mature green darners arrive from April into May to repopulate Wisconsin.

Another migrant dragonfly may be spotted in the green darter swarms. Black saddlebags, *Tramea lacerta*, at 2.1 inches, is a member of the skimmer dragonfly family and subgroup called saddlebags. They are easily identified by the large black patches (likened to saddlebags) on the wings next to the body.

Black saddlebags are highly migratory originating in the tropics. Arriving on favorable winds, they repopulate the state from June into July, preferring ponds and small lakes. They mate and lay eggs and the offspring migrate to the tropics. Their broad wings are an adaptation for long-distance flight and gliding. It's always a treat to see black saddlebags—an easy species to identify.

Those who attended the field trip to Bohn Farms HRA (DNR owned) were treated to an even more remarkable migrant dragonfly.

A small swarm of 1.9 inch golden dragonflies were feeding—darting from here to there over the prairie about 20 feet above ground. They seemed like “typical” dragonflies until I later realized they were wandering gliders, *Pantala flavescens*. Their common name is so appropriate for their extraordinary lifestyle feats.

Wandering gliders are also in the skimmer dragonfly family but it is one of only two species WORLDWIDE classified as rainpool gliders, a subgroup of the skimmer family. The other species, spot-winged glider, *Pantala*



Male Wandering Glider © Dan Jackson.

hymenaea, may also be found in Wisconsin but it is less common. Both species are tropical residents.

Wandering gliders are the champion fliers of the dragonfly world. With great endurance, they can fly non-stop, while feeding on the wing, for days—even crossing oceans. They also possess broad wings at the base and a streamlined body which allows for efficient gliding. They are the only dragonfly species able to deposit body fat and then use it for energy on long flights.

The wandering glider is the ONLY cosmopolitan dragonfly species in the world being a resident of all continents except Antarctica.

Both rainpool gliders are common in the United States. They return from the tropics arriving in Wisconsin from late June to early July. Their rainpool glider name is appropriate for these dragonflies search for ephemeral pools, rain puddles or small quiet ponds to lay eggs. Development is rapid. Young emerge in a month or two, rushing to become dragonflies before the pools and puddles dry up. Offspring are flying in August preparing for a flight to the tropics.

For such a fragile-looking insect, I'm awe-struck that wandering gliders are such capable long-distance fliers. I wonder what journeys and interesting destinations await these individuals that we saw in August. Truly amazing insects! 🦋

Bottom Right Photo: Winnebago Audubon Board members have been meeting outside at South Park and love it!

Word of the Day: riparian

- pertaining to the bank of a river, pond or small lake
- riparian habitat





Winnebago
Audubon

Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.
PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

Fall Activities
Details Inside!

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If you are receiving a complimentary newsletter, COMP will appear with an expiration
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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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Mail this form with payment to:
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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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| Lynn Beshears | Leroy Petit |
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Membership questions? Please contact **Membership Chair** at winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com or 920-216-1172