

The Lake Flyer

Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

Spring-Summer 2020

All programs and activities are open to the public

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

Chapter Status During Current Health Crisis

Winnebago Audubon has suspended all of our activities until further notice because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We want all of our members and friends to be “safer at home” rather than risk further transmission of this novel coronavirus.

We are following the guidelines provided to us by National Audubon Society who has taken the unprecedented step of closing all offices and centers nationwide in order to protect the health of its staff, volunteers, and visitors. They have cancelled all events through June.

We all know how deflating this may feel with migration season going strong, but you can still get outside. Listen to bird songs. Soak up the fresh air and sunshine. Just maintain that 6 foot wingspan distance from everyone else.

And because we all need a birdy “care package” in these trying times, National Audubon built a webpage with all of Audubon’s best bird photos, videos and stories. We hope you enjoy this and share it: <https://www.audubon.org/joy-of-birds>. And here’s a link for the kid’s (or you): Audubon for Kids. (Or search for it at audubon.org.)

Other things to do: pick up litter when you walk; put up a bird house; add a bird feeder or bird bath to your yard, plant native flowers for pollinators and birds.

Stay in touch with our chapter through our Facebook page, where we will continue to share news. As soon as it is safe, we will let you know via Facebook, website, email and newsletter what activities we have planned.

Stay connected on-line. Tell us what birds you are seeing. Share your bird photos with us.

Be safe. Stay well. 🐦

From the Quiz Master:

I’m a foot high, May-blooming plant that resembles an umbrella. My two 12-inch leaves shade my one white flower that develops into a lemon-sized apple-like fruit. Do not eat! Whoooo am I?

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



Field Trip Report: Winter Birding in Menasha

By Kelli Bahls

On Saturday, February 8th, a group of eleven participants gathered at Jefferson Park and Heckrodt Wetland Reserve to search for winter birds. The temperature hovered around 25 degrees with minimal northeast wind.

Even from the parking area south of Konemac Street, the air at Jefferson Park was filled with the sound of calling Common Goldeneyes. A huge raft of these flamboyant, displaying diver ducks stretched from the mouth of the Menasha Channel all the way back west into town. Much of our time was spent scanning the clusters of Goldeneye for other waterfowl species.

Loafing on the shelf ice, like the nearby Mallards and Canada Geese, were two Swans. Distinguishing between Tundra and Trumpeter Swans at a distance, even with a spotting scope, can be challenging. While large yellow lores at the base of the bill provide a definitive identification of Tundra Swan, the curvature of the bird’s bill at its gape is another key identifier. Post-trip photo assessment confirmed that the group observed two species: one Tundra Swan and one Trumpeter Swan.

Additional sightings continued as the morning progressed. Redheads, Ruddy Ducks, Common Merganser, and a mix of Greater and Lesser Scaup were

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Field Trip Report *continued from page 1*

spotted. Perched in a tree across the channel, a Bald Eagle surveyed the open water as the calls of American Crow and White-breasted Nuthatch were heard nearby.

From Jefferson Park, we made the short drive northeast to Heckrodt. The group's attention first settled on owls: two different nests of Great Horned Owls, to be exact. We observed each site at a distance and noted each female owl diligently sitting within her nest, unperturbed by our presence. As we observed the second nest, a male Great Horned Owl flew into a pine tree, providing another opportunity for views.

After some time, three White-tailed Deer drew our attention to the feeder stations along the nature center. Sightings of Tufted Titmouse and Dark-eyed Junco prompted us to head inside. The nature center staff were extremely kind and granted us permission to pass through



the reserved but unoccupied meeting room, allowing us to warm up a little and gaze through the windows adjacent the bird feeders. Species visiting the feeders included Downy, Hairy, and Red Bellied Woodpecker, American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadee, and Northern Cardinal.

We re-grouped outside the nature center, spotting a juvenile Bald Eagle soaring overhead. A small group of us decided to brave the icy trails and walk around the property in search of a few additional species. Between the start of the trail and Lopas Pond, the group spotted a minimum of six Brown Creeper, as well as House Sparrow, House Finch and many more Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. At the observation deck by Lopas Pond, a Red-tailed Hawk perched atop the nearby cellphone tower. With all of these sightings logged, the group headed back to the nature center and concluded the outing.

With a total of 29 species sighted in 3 hours of birding, we were extremely fortunate in terms of bird activity and weather conditions. Some outings yield many birds; other outings yield few. Regardless of how many birds are seen, birding with a group provides a great opportunity to share recent sightings, field experience, and observational techniques.

Thanks again to all who participated, and I look forward to seeing new and familiar faces on the next Winnebago Audubon field trip outing. 🐦

Photo on left by Kelli Bahls.

Photo on page 1 of Great Horned Owl by Matt Saunders.

2020-2021 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND PROPOSED BUDGET

The Winnebago Audubon Society usually holds its annual meeting in April. Because of the COVID-19 situation and Safer at Home order, we will conduct the election of officers and approve the proposed budget for 2020-2021 via mail, e-mail or phone. Please see instructions below.

The board presents the following **slate of officers** for 2020-2021:

President: Janet Wissink
Vice President: Bettie Harriman
Secretary: Zaiga Freivalds
Treasurer: Mike Brandel
Board of Directors: Dana Hartel
 Dave Moon

Kelli Bahls, Anita Carpenter and Evelyn Meuret have another year to serve of their two year terms as Directors.

Thank you to Emily Berger and Daniel Fiser for their time and contribution to our Chapter.

The following **budget** has been approved by the WAS Board. Please take this opportunity to review it.

2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME:

Chapter Memberships.....	\$ 1,100.00
Donations	4,100.00
National Dues Share	771.00
National New Memberships	200.00
Program Admissions	364.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$ 6,535.00

EXPENSE:

Activities	\$ 2,500.00
Annual Report	10.00
Donations	1,250.00
Dues and Memberships	75.00
Fundraisers-Annual Appeal.....	225.00
Liability Insurance	265.00
Newsletter	800.00
Postage	400.00
P.O. Box Rental	160.00
Supplies/Storage.....	65000
Website	200.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 6,535.00

BALLOT Instructions: Only Chapter and National Members may vote. **Voting ends May 15, 2020.**

- 3 Options:**
1. Fill in this ballot and mail to Winnebago Audubon, PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903.
 2. E-mail your vote to winnebagoaudubon@gmail.com.
 3. Call or text your vote to Janet at 920-216-1172.

NAME _____
 To verify that you are a member. Thank you.

Do you approve as presented above?

Slate of Officers Yes No
 Budget Yes No



Bloodroot

Spring in a maple woods is a burst of pastel colors - lavender, pink, yellow, green and white. Spring ephemerals, the name given to early, fast-growing, short-lived flowers, carpet the forest floor from April into May. They must bloom before the maple leaves unfurl and block the incoming sunlight.

One of the earliest spring ephemerals to appear is bloodroot, a diminutive plant with an unusual name and an uniquely-shaped leaf. Bloodroot's daisy-like flower is so short-lived that, I feel, if I pause to blink, I will have missed its beauty. Each bloodroot plant gives rise to a single white flower. Perched atop a leafless stem, bloodroot reaches an astonishing height of 3 to 6 inches. Each blossom displays 8-12 wax-like petals and measures up to 1-1/2 inches across. Many yellowish-orange stamens surround a hidden stigma which makes up its "button" center. The flower responds to sunlight and temperature - opening on sunny days and closing at night as the temperature drops. The flower may only last one to two days.

Bloodroot has one leaf per plant. When the leaf first appears, it is small and wrapped around the flower stem. The leaf uncurls after the flower blooms and pollination has occurred. The leaf continues to grow, eventually reaching nine inches across and persists on the landscape into summer.

The round leaf, botanically described as orbicular, deserves a closer look. Standing upright, it is deeply notched where it attaches to the leaf stalk. The leaf is deeply lobed into three to nine sections with wavy irregular edges. The one-of-a-kind leaf is beautifully artistic and could be the inspiration for a fine doily placed under a teacup at a formal party.

Bloodroot is pollinated by insects but the only reward for the visiting insect is pollen, for no nectar is produced. This pollen-only strategy is more attractive to pollen-gathering bees. In the chilly temperatures of early spring, bumblebees are the likely pollinators.

If for some reason the flower is not pollinated by day three, the plant will self-pollinate. Bloodroot has an interesting adaptation that first avoids self-pollination and then encourages it. Up until day three, the pollen-laden anthers bend outward toward the flower's outer edge to avoid self-pollination. On or after day three, the anthers now bend toward the flower's center where pollen may drift or fall onto the receptive stigma. I wondered, how does the plant "know" when two or three days have passed? Is there a chemical reaction or a physiological trigger that causes the anthers to turn from leaning outward to leaning inward? If only bloodroot could speak.

After pollination and maturation has occurred, a long, narrow seed pod splits open in June revealing rows of tiny dark brown seeds. Ants collect and carry the seeds back to their nest. Here the seeds may germinate and start a

new plant.

How did bloodroot get its name? (Please do not pick a flower to view this!) Bloodroot has red sap. Why is it red? Chemists discovered a naturally-occurring alkaloid, sanguinarine, that is not found in other plants. As a pure crystal, the alkaloid is colorless. However, in plant tissues, the alkaloid occurs as a soluble acid-alkaloid salt that, when dissolved in plant fluid, produces a red color.

One might assume that blood root was given its scientific name, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, after the discovery of the alkaloid. However, the plant was named much earlier by Linnaeus in the 1700's, before chemists

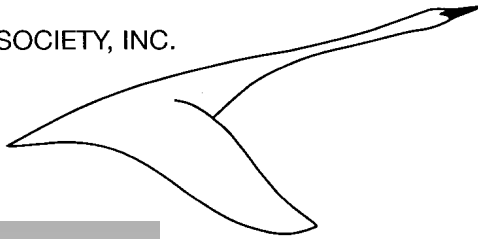


could isolate alkaloids. The red sap probably reminded Linnaeus of blood. The genus name, *Sanguinaria*, is derived from Latin, *sanguis*, meaning blood. Later when chemists isolated the alkaloid, they probably named it sanguinaria after the plant's genus name.

If you chance upon bloodroot in your springtime wanderings, bend down for a closer look. Since plants arise from points along a spreading underground rhizome, large bloodroot colonies may be found. Bloodroot is in the poppy plant family, Papaveraceae. It has the distinction of being the only species in the genus *Sanguinaria*, at least in the eastern United States and Canada. Blooming for just a few days, the delicate flower and lobed leaf are welcome signs that spring has arrived in the north woods. 🐾

Mayapple, Podophyllum peltatum

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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.

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: Orbicular

In botany - essentially circular in outline - applied to flat surfaces, e.g. leaf.

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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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Grace Beam | Nancy Ogombe |
| Mary Butcher-Putzer | Kimberly Rivers |
| Jeff Christensen | R Schallert |
| Wayne Gayhart | Callaghan Schellenger |
| Sally Guenther | Bill Schumann |
| Matthew Jones | William Schuster |
| Susan Lilly | Karla Seaver |
| Murial Marquardt | Zoe Stowers |
| Laurie Metzen | Jack & Diane Yearwood |

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