

THE HOY HONKER

HOY AUDUBON
SOCIETY, INC
RACINE — KENOSHA, WI
November / December 2005



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wisconsin Bird Songs

Thursday November 3, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.
River Bend Nature Center

3600 N. Green Bay Rd. — Racine

John Feith is a Madison birdwatcher and the author of both a DVD (Birds, Birds, Birds!) and a CD (Bird Song Ear Training Guide) designed for learning how to identify birds. He will talk about recording bird songs, bird song mnemonics and how he created his DVD and CD. And with John's passion of the natural world, profits from his work go to benefit the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) and The Nature Conservancy. You can visit his website at www.caculo.com

Holiday Potluck

Thursday, December 1, 2005

River Bend Nature Center

3600 N. Green Bay Rd. — Racine

5:30 P.M. Doors Open / Snacks

6:00 P.M. Potluck Dinner

Bring either a salad, main dish or dessert to share, along with your own dinnerware and cup. Beverages (including shade grown coffee) will be provided.

7:00 P.M. Short video - *100 Years of Conservation: The Story of Audubon*

General Announcements

Racine Christmas Bird Count Details

Holiday Carols

We hope to see you for this evening!

Racine Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17, 2005

More than 50,000 observers in the Western Hemisphere participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC", is citizen science in action. Join us on foot and by car for a half day or whole day as we count each bird we find in varied habitats. Home feeder watchers can also participate. Those new to CBC's can be paired with more experienced birders where possible. There is a \$5 dollar fee per participant to help National Audubon Society defray the cost of compiling the data. Birders under 18 are free. For details or to sign up and get assigned to your designated count area, contact Eric Howe at info@hoyaudubon.org (or 262.594.5853). To view our Racine count circle and other nearby counts you can participate in, go to:

www.hoyaudubon.org/cbc

or visit:

www.audubon.org/bird/cbc

to see historical data and of course learn more about these annual counts. If you choose (coming in November or December) you may pay the participation fee online when signing up through this site.

Wednesday Mornings at Windpoint - 7:00 A.M.

Enjoy late fall/early winter mornings as we look for migrant water-fowl (including specialties such as Long-tailed Ducks, Scoters, maybe even a Harlequin Duck?), various gull species (~7 possible), winter sparrows and finches, and more. It's always a surprise at what we might find.

Highlights we've enjoyed during the last two weeks include: a flock of 20 Snow Buntings, a half dozen Black Scoters, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Merlin and Rusty Blackbird. Meet at the Racine Windpoint Lighthouse on Wednesday mornings — 7:00 A.M.

Please contact John Raymond, 262.633.0285 or fieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org for information regarding field trips or to suggest fieldtrips for next year.

ED PRINS' MEMORIAL

Myers Park in Racine (at the foot of 11th Street on the Lake) now has five newly-planted trees installed by Hoy Audubon with the funds donated in memory of Ed Prins. There are two Serviceberry trees, two Washington Hawthornes and a beautiful European Mountain Ash—located just north of the line of pines. The ten foot high mountain ash is/was loaded with berries, and has the 8" x 12" bronze plaque mounted on granite in front of it. The plaque is at ground level and reads: "This tree planted in memory of Ed Prins. Friend to man and bird. Hoy Audubon Society 2005". I hope all club members will visit the area and let us know the first bird they see in "Ed's Tree". The Hoy Board has subsequently been made aware of a need by the city for additional funding for plantings in our parks. They plant along the streets, but have no money for the parks. Therefore, our club would like to encourage additional donations in Ed's memory for native plantings in our city's parks. Contact our Treasurer, Stan Rosenstiel, if you'd like to participate.

Online Resources — ebird.org

eBird, a project developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, provides a simple way for you to keep track of the birds you see anywhere in North America. You can retrieve information on your bird observations, from your backyard to your neighborhood to your favorite bird-watching locations, at any time for your personal use and at no cost. You can also access the entire historical database to find out what other eBirders are reporting in Wisconsin or for that matter anywhere across North America. In addition, the cumulative eBird database is used by birdwatchers, scientists, and conservationists who want to know more about the distributions and movement patterns of birds across the continent. More at www.ebird.org

For more resources online, visit our website and check out the links page.

Organic Shade Grown Coffee—Fundraiser

We again have certified organic shade grown coffee for sale.

In attractive packages, these make great gifts!

Bags can be purchased at our regular meetings or contact board member Stan Rosenstiel for more information.

Many birds familiar to North Americans migrate to the canopies of Latin American rainforests. In fact, 33% of all migratory birds that breed in the United States spend winter in coffee growing areas of Latin America.

Shade coffee farms support over 150 species of birds. This is a far greater number (up to 10 times) than is found in other agricultural habitats and is only slightly exceeded in undisturbed rainforests. In the midst of shrinking rainforest habitat, migratory birds have found sanctuary in shade grown farms.

HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Audubon Denounces House Passage of 'EXTINCTION BILL'
Endangered Species Bill Shreds Safety Net for Most Vulnerable Wildlife

On September 29, 2005, the US House of Representatives demonstrated its determination to roll back 30 years of conservation success when it voted to pass HR 3824. The legislation, more aptly called the "Extinction Bill," undermines the protection of habitat critical to endangered and threatened wildlife, while delivering a windfall in benefits for wealthy landowners and developers, at taxpayer expense. Since its passage in 1973, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has successfully protected many endangered species, including the Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Whooping Crane. Only 9 out of the 1,800 species listed as threatened or endangered have gone extinct. The "Extinction Bill" puts many more species at risk of being lost forever, abandoned to commercial development and special interests. For 30 years the federal government successfully provided a safety net for them; this legislation tears that up.

"Endangered species are America's weakest and most vulnerable wildlife," said John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society. "When government fails to honor its responsibility to protect the weak and the vulnerable, in favor of the rich and powerful, the weak and the vulnerable eventually die."

This wrong-headed bill, introduced by Congressman Richard Pombo (CA), will simply put all of America's endangered species in harm's way.

- Habitat critical for the recovery and survival of endangered species will no longer be protected, ignoring the most essential element of any plan to protect endangered species.
- The bill would exempt all pesticide decisions from compliance with the ESA for at least five years, ignoring the fact that pesticides have been a significant factor in the historic decline of species, including the Bald Eagle, and pose a current problem for many other species.
- With the safety net shredded, the bill further authorizes payments to landowners and developers if there is any interference with development plans, turning our priorities upside down by punishing taxpayers.
- The bill prohibits the Fish and Wildlife Service from using any scientific information about an endangered species that is learned after a conservation plan is completed. This is like prohibiting a doctor from using any medical information that is learned after the patient is admitted to the hospital.

"Through no fault of their own, America's birds and wildlife face an uncertain future," said Betsy Loyless, Vice President for Policy of the National Audubon Society. "Congressman Pombo's 'Extinction Bill' abandons responsible protection of vulnerable wildlife in favor of concessions to the wealthy and well-connected. We will take the fight to save the ESA to the US Senate, where more thoughtful, responsible deliberation may prevail."

For more information and keep up to date on this issue, go to <http://www.audubon.org>

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

While this bill or a similar version of it has not moved onto the US Senate *YET*, you can still write or call your US Senators. Ask them to oppose any bill that would strip critical habitat away from endangered wildlife, and ask them to oppose compensation schemes as stated above. Also ask them to support more Congressional funding for habitat protection and restoration to help fully recover endangered wildlife back to healthy populations, and to provide reasonable incentives for private landowners to protect wildlife habitat.

Contact Senator Russ Feingold or Herb Kohl at: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or call Senator Feingold at (202) 224-5323 (russ_feingold@feingold.senate.gov) or Senator Kohl at (202) 224-5653.

Hoy Audubon Society Membership

Hoy Audubon Society offers "Chapter Supporter" memberships. PLEASE NOTE the expiration date by your mailing address. If it is past due or does not appear, please send in your Chapter Contribution to continue to receive our newsletter for information on current programs and fieldtrips AND to help support LOCAL projects in our area. Thanks! To maintain your national membership and the Audubon Magazine subscription with National Audubon Society, refer to information you receive from National Audubon Society. Chapter Supporter Dues are \$15 per year (single)/ \$20 per year (families).

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Send dues to P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email only? Yes No e-mail: _____

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Website for Hoy Audubon Society - www.hoyaudubon.org

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Next Board Meeting at home of Joan Rohan - Tues. Nov 22 - 7:00pm

Project: Give a second life to used feeder

Hoy is seeking: Usable, used feeders they may need a small amount of rehab. Persons who would like to receive used feeders. A person to rehab used feeders and redistribute them.

Hoy's Library Open to Members

Hoy Club's growing library of books, videos, CD's, etc. is set up for your use at the River Bend Nature Center. Any member may access any of Hoy's library material at the River Bend Nature Center by simply signing out for it. Should you wish to make a donation to the library, please give the item(s) to a board member. River Bend is open 9am-4:30pm Mon-Fri and 12:30pm-4:30pm Sat & Sun .