



## WBBA II: Hoy Sponsors European Goldfinch

To help raise funds for the Wisconsin Breeding Birds Atlas II, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) has created a sponsorship program for each species that will be represented in the Atlas. Most birds have already been sponsored, but some still need funding.

Hoy Audubon will sponsor the European Goldfinch, a non-native but showy species that has been confirmed breeding in state. Numerous birders have traveled to Racine and Kenosha counties in search of this bird, so it seemed fitting to sponsor a local “celebrity.”



European Goldfinch  
(John Dixon)

Wisconsin’s European Goldfinch population is thought to have originated from birds released in Illinois. For more information, see this interesting WBBA II article on eBird: [ebird.org/content/atlaswi/news/species-survey-strategy-recently-introduced-european-songbirds/](http://ebird.org/content/atlaswi/news/species-survey-strategy-recently-introduced-european-songbirds/)

Hoy will donate \$200.00 per year over the 5-year atlassing period to sponsor this bird for the atlas. If you would like to help contribute to Hoy’s sponsorship, please contact Jenny Wenzel at [jenny.wenzel@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:jenny.wenzel@hoyaudubon.org).

## Books for Bird Lovers

If the weather’s too bad for birding, why not stay indoors and connect with birds through these marvelous books?

### A Feathered River Across the Sky

*Joel Greenberg*

This well-researched and well-written book traces the history of the Passenger Pigeon from its innumerable flocks to its tragic demise. The eye witness accounts of how the birds (and the people around them) behaved are stunning.

### Red-Tails in Love

*Marie Winn*

The true story of Pale Male, a Red-tailed Hawk who made his home on a high rise adjacent to Central Park in New York City, and the birders who loved him.

### The Verb ‘To Bird’

*Peter Cashwell*

This amusing book covers such diverse topics as why so many state birds are the Cardinal, how the House Sparrow and the European Starling were introduced to the US, and how one catches the birding bug in the first place.

### To See Every Bird on Earth

*Dan Koepfel*

Koepfel tells the story of his father Richard’s life-long obsession with birds and how through his continual observation and perseverance, Richard amassed a life list of over 7,200 species, becoming one of the top ten birders in the world in 2005. (He still ranks in about the top 30 today.)

### A Field Guide to Little-Known and Seldom-Seen Birds of North America

*Ben L. Sill, Cathryn P. Sill, and John Sill*

This “field guide” will introduce you to bizarre species such as the Warbling Cormorant, the Four-Toed Snorkel Bill, and the Eastern Spider Spitter. They aren’t real birds, but the hilarious illustrations may make you wish they were!

- Kristin Wegner

## Christmas Bird Counts

Save the dates and watch Hoy’s website and Facebook page for details and updates.

**Thursday, December 14**  
**Burlington CBC**

To sign up, contact Nick Mimier at  
[nickmimier@yahoo.com](mailto:nickmimier@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, December 16**  
**Racine CBC**

To sign up, contact Eric Howe at  
[cbc@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:cbc@hoyaudubon.org) or 262-498-3355.

**Thursday, December 21**  
**Kenosha CBC**

To sign up, contact Valerie Mann at  
[naturalist@princlenc.org](mailto:naturalist@princlenc.org) or 262-857-8008.

**Hoy Board of Directors**

- President:**  
Frank Sharkozy 262-770-2481
- Vice-President:**  
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- Treasurer:**  
Jim Veltman 262-886-9374
- Secretary:**  
Karen Gavahan 262-633-7136
- Directors:**
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  - Eric Howe
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  - Helen Pugh 262-637-4359
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  - Wendy Sorenson
  - Kristin Wegner
  - Jenny Wenzel 262-488-8077

Email addresses of Board members are available at: [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)

**Next Board of Directors Meeting:**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**  
*Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive  
Mount Pleasant, WI 53406*

**Open committee positions:**  
Field Trip Chair

**Contact Hoy to help!**

**Newsletter Editor**  
Kristin Wegner

**Ideas for the newsletter?**  
Send your suggestions, recaps of birding seminars/activities, fun facts, and birding tidbits to the Newsletter Editor at:  
Hoy Audubon, PO Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404 or email to:  
[hoynewsletter@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:hoynewsletter@hoyaudubon.org)

**The Hoy Honker** is the newsletter of the Hoy Audubon Society, Inc. PO Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404.

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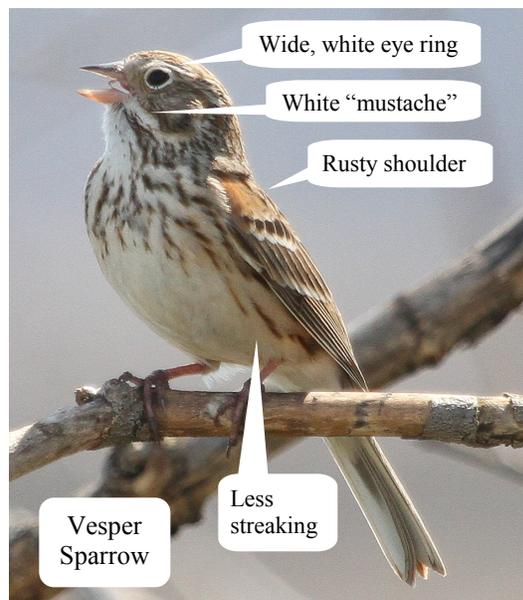
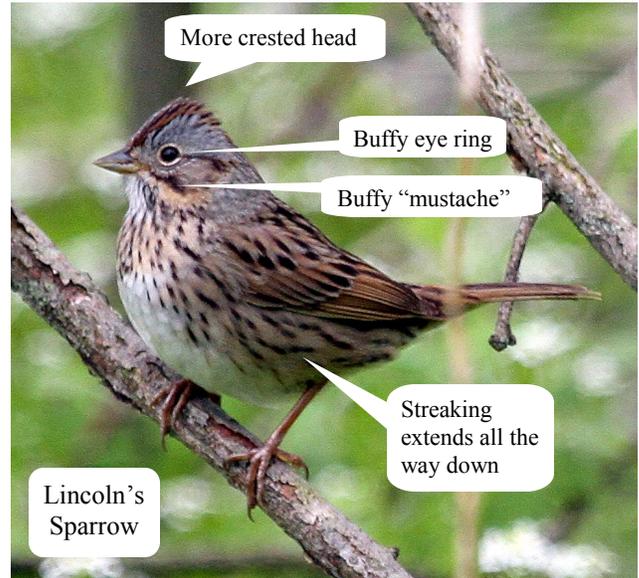
**Vesper Sparrow vs. Lincoln’s Sparrow**

Now that fall migration is just around the corner, some of the sparrows that passed through during the spring migration are headed back south for the winter. Two of those sparrows, namely Vesper Sparrow and Lincoln’s Sparrow, are quite similar in appearance. Since the Vesper breeds in our area, there may be more of them to see now and compare to the Lincoln’s Sparrow, which breeds farther north. Here are a few tips that hopefully will help with identification.

The Vesper Sparrow is a bit larger and is a colder, grayish brown color on the back and wings versus the Lincoln’s, which is a more rusty brown with finer streaking on the back and quite rusty wings. The breast and belly of a Vesper are often quite white with coarse streaking on the breast, which lessens down the sides and along the flank, while the Lincoln’s breast and

belly are a duller white with finer streaking which usually goes all the way down the side and flank to the undertail coverts. Lincoln’s Sparrow also has a buffy color on the upper breast and down the side and flank to the undertail coverts.

One quite noticeable field mark is the wide, bright white eye ring on the Vesper, while the Lincoln’s eye ring is not quite as conspicuous and is buffy instead of white. The Vesper Sparrow is quite brown around the face area and head, which is rounded, but it has a bold white mustache stripe and black malar stripe, while the Lincoln’s has an almost crested head with a buffy malar stripe, a brownish mustache stripe, and a conspicuous gray supercilium, nape, and sides of its neck.



The Vesper Sparrow’s bill is quite large and pale compared to the grayish, smaller bill of the Lincoln’s Sparrow.

One field mark that is a clincher, but not always seen, is the rusty shoulder patch on the Vesper, which shows well in the photo at left. The Vesper Sparrow also has two white wing bars which the Lincoln’s does not show.

Hopefully these tips will help with identification, even when a direct comparison in the field is not always possible.

- Article and photos by John Dixon

## Monitoring Monarchs

Other winged creatures are headed south this fall: the year's final generation of Monarch Butterflies. They will winter in Mexico before journeying back north in spring. It may be their children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren who will arrive in Racine and Kenosha to continue the cycle.

This year my husband Eric introduced me to a new adventure: raising and tagging monarchs. He collected eggs and caterpillars from the milkweed in our yard and put them in containers in the kitchen, refreshing the leaves each day. As each caterpillar reached its final stage, it climbed the wall to dangle from the lid of the container and form a chrysalis. Then...we waited.

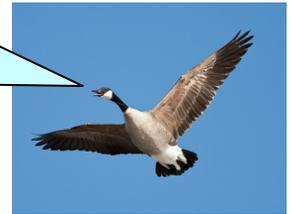


A little less than two weeks later, butterflies began to emerge. Every evening Eric would gently retrieve the day's butterflies and carefully affix a tag to each before releasing it outside. Now it's a new round of waiting, to see if any of our tagged butterflies are found in the future. Good luck, small friends!

- Article and photos by Kristin Wegner

## Updates to Hoy By-laws

Hoy recently voted on two changes to our by-laws; these changes passed, so the by-laws have been updated accordingly. Honk!



**Update 1:** Under ARTICLE V-Board of Directors, the following Section has been added:

### Section 9 Action by email

Directors may vote by email on issues that require action or that are permitted by the articles of incorporation, by-laws, or any provision of law. This does not allow a director who is absent from a meeting to cast a vote by email.

- a. An email shall be sent to all directors to explain the issue that requires action.
- b. Discussion-by email, phone, or other means-of the issue is encouraged. No sooner than 24 hours after the email was sent, a director may make a motion regarding the issue.
- c. A second to the motion must be made within 48 hours, otherwise the motion dies. After a second is made, directors can vote by email and will include their first and last names in the email. These votes will be considered as valid as votes cast at a meeting. Votes must be received within 72 hours of the second.
- d. The motion passes if a majority of the total number of directors vote yes and/or support the motion. Otherwise the motion fails.
- e. The motion, if passed, becomes effective immediately.
- f. Results of the email vote will be placed in the minutes and be as valid as a vote taken at a meeting.

**Update 2:** Under ARTICLE XIII-AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS, the section now states:

These by-laws may be amended by the following procedure.

- a. A majority of directors shall agree on the proposed by-law change.
- b. Members will be notified in print and at a meeting prior to the meeting which will hold the vote on the proposed by-laws. Members will also be given the date of the vote on the proposed by-law change at a prior meeting and in print.
- c. New by-laws will be adopted if the majority of the members at the regular meeting vote in favor of the proposed by-law change.

## Advice for Fall and Winter Birding

**What to Wear:** Weather can be unpredictable, so warm layers are advised. Comfortable, waterproof footwear is a must, as are a warm coat, hat, and gloves. Hand warmers are highly recommended.

**Finding Your Field Trip:** Visit Hoy's website for driving directions and maps (when available).

**Watch the Weather:** Heavy snow, icy roadways, poor visibility, or other potentially hazardous conditions may cause a field trip to be cancelled. We post cancellations on Hoy's website and the Hoy Facebook page/group whenever it is possible to do so ahead of time. **If you are unsure whether a field trip will take place, please use good judgment when deciding whether to attend.**

## Hoy's Upcoming Activities

Thursday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Meeting, Program: Bees in Your Backyard**

*Kenosha Northside Public Library  
1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140*

Tim Fulton and his wife Lois have been small scale beekeepers for over 20 years. Tim is a member of the Racine/Kenosha Beekeepers club, Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, and American Federation of Beekeepers. He will share the latest information about honey bees and introduce you to the elusive world of the native bees in our own backyards.

Saturday, October 14, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (backup date: Oct 21)

**Hoy Field Trip: Hawk Watch at Chiwaukee Prairie**

*121st St. and 2nd Ave., Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158*

Hoy will meet at Chiwaukee to watch for migrating raptors. There is roadside parking in this area, as well as a portable bathroom unit. Bring your binoculars, a chair, water, snacks, and layered clothing in case it's breezy. If migration conditions are poor, we will postpone the trip until October 21. Watch Hoy's website and Facebook page for details!

Tuesday, October 17, 10:00 a.m.—noon

**UW Parkside Bird Program: Winter Birds**

*Talent Hall, room 182, UW Parkside  
900 Wood Road, Kenosha, WI 53141*

Hoy member Rick Fare will present a program about identifying winter birds and the tactics they use to cope with the cold.

Thursday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Meeting, Program: Evening With An Arborist**

*Kenosha Northside Public Library  
1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140*

Hoy welcomes Kevin Nolan, a Certified Arborist with Cassity Tree Service, Inc. Kevin will discuss his job as an arborist, describe how the Emerald Ash Borer is changing our landscape, and tell us more about the Hoy-sponsored program *Trees We Love*.

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m.

**Hoy Field Trip: Shoop Park/Wind Point Birding**

*Shoop Park, Racine*

We'll meet at the Shoop parking lot and walk north along the lakeshore trail to the Wind Point Lighthouse to look for fall migrants. Dress for cold & windy weather and wear sturdy walking shoes (it's 0.6 miles one way, and the trail may be overgrown).

Saturday, November 4, 10:00 a.m.—noon

**Hawthorn Hollow Bird Program: Winter Birds**

Fee: \$4 (Hawthorn Hollow Members), \$9 (Non-Members)  
*880 Green Bay Road Kenosha, WI 53144*

Hoy member Rick Fare will present a program about identifying winter birds and the tactics they use to cope with the cold.

Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m.

**Hoy Field Trip: Shoop Park/Wind Point Birding**

*Shoop Park, Racine*

Friday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Field Trip: Owl Prowl at Bong State Recreational Area**

*Meet at DNR parking lot on north side of Hwy BB (7th Street)*

We will drive near and within the park to listen for owls. WI State Parks vehicle admission sticker required to park within Bong.

## Activities, continued

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.

**Hoy Field Trip: Kenosha Lakefront Birding**

*7825 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143*

We'll meet at the Southport Park parking area (just north of the Kenosha Sand Dunes). Dress warmly!

Saturday, November 25, 9:00 a.m.

**Hoy Field Trip: Shoop Park/Wind Point Birding**

*Shoop Park, Racine*

Thursday, December 7, 5:30 p.m. Setup; 6:00 p.m. Dinner

**Annual Holiday Potluck and Program**

*Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406*

Hoy's annual Holiday Potluck! Bring a dish to pass along with your own dinnerware and utensils. Hoy will provide coffee and napkins. We'll discuss bird sightings and upcoming events.

Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.

**Hoy Field Trip: Kenosha Lakefront Birding**

*7825 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143*

- ◆ View the Hoy Honker in full color at [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)
- ◆ Visit Hoy on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety)

## Join [Hoy Audubon](http://www.hoyaudubon.org) or renew your Membership!

Renewals for Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" memberships are due on July 1 of each calendar year. Chapter Supporter dues are \$15 per individual.

Please send a check payable to **Hoy Audubon Society**.

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Hoy distributes newsletters and field trip announcements by email. Please enter your email address below to be added to this distribution.

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check and information to: Hoy Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 044626  
Racine, WI 53404**