

# THE HOY HONKER

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Thursday, December 4, 2008**

**5:30 P.M. - Doors Open/Snacks**

**6:00 P.M. - Holiday Potluck Dinner**

**7:00 P.M. - Program: Purple Martins**

**River Bend Nature Center**

**3600 N. Green Bay Rd. - Racine**

You are cordially invited to join us for the annual holiday potluck dinner (starting at 6:00 PM) at River Bend, prior to the program, which begins at 7:00 PM.

Bring a dish to share and your own dinnerware. We'll highlight the past year and upcoming Hoy Audubon programs, hear updates from River Bend Nature Center, and discuss how you can help with the next Racine Christmas Bird Count on December 14th.

Mr. Richard Nikolai will present a special program on Purple Martins for Hoy Audubon. Mr. Nikolai, a well known Purple Martin expert, has worked for the Wisconsin DNR for 34 years. During this time, he has accumulated numerous awards of distinction including being named the 2001 Ducks Unlimited Conservationist of the Year and 2007 Wildlife Biologist of the Year for the state of Wisconsin. He was one of the founding members of the Bluebird Restoration of Wisconsin (BRAW) having served as both a board member (1986-90) and President (1989-90).

Mr. Nikolai holds a Wisconsin Master bird-banding license and has used this technique to study differences between rural and urban

populations of martins. His Purple Martin research, ongoing since 1982, has focused on site fidelity, cavity fidelity, longevity, pair fidelity, reproduction, types of housing success, etc. He has been an active hunter and bird watcher for more than 40 years.

Please join the Hoy Audubon Society in welcoming this distinguished speaker. This will be a great opportunity to get answers for all your Purple Martin questions.

Following the program, we'll finish the evening with some holiday songs!



**Sunday, December 14, 2008**

**Racine Christmas Bird Count**

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), in its 109th year nationwide, has become a valuable method to monitor the winter range and numbers of bird populations throughout the decades. Join us on foot and by car for a half or whole day as we count all birds we find in various habitat types of eastern Racine County. Every effort will be made to pair new field observers with more experienced birders where possible. There is a \$5 fee per field observer. Home feeder watchers and observers under 19 years of age are not asked to pay the fee. Paid participants receive the CBC summary issue of *American Birds*:

*Summary of the CBC* from National Audubon Society which arrives later in 2009. To sign up and receive a designated count area, contact Eric Howe prior to the 13th at [cbc@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:cbc@hoyaudubon.org) or 262.594.5853. You can also pre-register online (available soon) through National Audubon Society's website:

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>. Once registered and logged on, you will have the option to sign up for a CBC. The CBC circle code that you will need to enter for the Racine CBC is "WIRC".

**Hoy Meeting Location for January - March 2009**

To accommodate for better parking in the snow covered winter months, our general meetings will be held at the YMCA (725 Lake Avenue, Racine) in The Buhler Room (second floor) on Thursday, January 8th, Thursday, February 5th, and Thursday, March 5th.

Parking is available on Lake Avenue; no fee at meters after 6 pm. From Lake Avenue, enter in the northern facing doors and go up the steps one flight or take the elevator to the second floor. The Chapel (where the Jan. 5th board meeting will be held), is "kitty corner" from the stairs. The Buhler Room, where the general meetings will be held, is west of the Chapel down the large hallway.

You may also park in the lot behind the "Y" for \$1.00. (Note: 4 quarters needed for parking lot entrance gate.) From there, you will have a few steps and then the elevator and stairs are on your right. Remember, the second floor is two flights up from the back (lakeside/parking lot) entrance.

## HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC

RACINE — KENOSHA, WI

December 2008 - January 2009

**Thursday, January 8, 2009**

(Note : 2nd Thursday in January due to New Years Day.)

**How To Help Birds in Your Backyard**

**YMCA - The Buhler Room - 725 Lake Avenue - Racine**

**7:00 P.M. - Program**

Vicki Piaskowski will present results of *Birds Without Borders - Aves Sin Fronteras*® project research in Wisconsin and discuss and distribute free copies of their guide: *The Birds Without Borders - Aves Sin Fronteras*® Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage your Land to Help Birds. Vicki is with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and is the International Coordinator of BWB-ASF project. More information at:

<http://www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF>

**Saturday, January 17, 2009**

**Winter Birding Class**

**Racine Library : 2:00 - 3:30 P.M.**

This class is free and provided as a community service by Hoy Audubon. Reservations suggested. Call 636-9217. Follow-up field trips will be announced at the class.

**Thursday, February 5, 2009**

**Winter Birds**

**YMCA - The Buhler Room - 725 Lake Avenue - Racine**

**7:00 P.M. - Program by Keith Kennedy and Rick Fare**

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday Mornings Through End of Year**

**Lakefront Birding at Shoop Park/Wind Point**

**Lighthouse (Racine) - 8:00 A.M.**

Join us at the Shoop Park parking area where Rick Fare will lead the group in viewing waterfowl, gulls, and other winter passerines found along the lakefront and ravine.

**January 24, 2009 - Shoop Park - 9:00 A.M.**

**Lakeshore Birding - Winter Waterfowl**

**January 31, 2009 - Bong State Rec. Area - 3:00 P.M.**

**Winter Birds of the Grasslands**

**February 13-16, 2009 - Great Backyard Bird Count**

(Press Release Excerpts from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

**Count for Fun, Count for the Future**

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13-16, 2009.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future."

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards - whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

**A Note of Thanks** to Bob Stocks and Mike Kling for building and donating bluebird nest boxes.

All programs and fieldtrips are open to anyone interested. Contact John Raymond, 262.633.0285 for information regarding field trips or to suggest future fieldtrips.



**HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**  
**P.O. BOX 044626**  
**RACINE, WI 53404**  
[www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)

### **Hoy is Host to Wisconsin Audubon Council** *by Helen Pugh*

Wisconsin Audubon Council (WAC) is a coalition of the 13 Wisconsin Audubon Chapters and represents approximately 10,000 Audubon members in the state. The Wisconsin Audubon Council promotes, fosters and encourages the conservation, preservation and study of all wildlife, plants, soil, water, air and other natural resources for the benefit of nature and society. In furtherance of those goals they work to combine the efforts of their member organizations in any pursuits as may be a part of the stated purpose of the National Audubon Society. The Hoy Audubon Society is one of WAC's chapter members and hosted the most recent meeting at River Bend on November 8th. Hoy members present were: Muffy Petrick, Keith Kennedy, Rick Fare, Helen Pugh, Eric Howe, and John and Rosemary Nalbandian. If you would like more information on this meeting, please see one of the members that were present. Special thanks to Arlene Howe for providing a sumptuous and wonderfully presented lunch.

### **Root River Canoe Trip Highlights** *by Jenny Wenzel*

Hoy Audubon and River Bend Nature Center hosted a relaxing canoe trip on October 11th. It turned out to be a perfect day for paddling and enjoying some beautiful Wisconsin scenery! There were around 20 people who attended the event. Some of us even had the opportunity to try out kayaking in one-person kayaks!! Novice and experienced paddlers alike enjoyed the calm waters of the river and helped each other out in fine-tuning our paddling techniques. A variety of birds were spotted including ducks, woodpeckers, finches and a grouse. (It turned out to be a little tricky at times paddling and looking for birds at the same time!) Hopefully next year we'll enjoy another great opportunity like this one to meet new friends, do some birding, and enjoy the outdoors! Thanks to Helen Pugh for organizing this event!

### **Additional Trips of Interest - Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Field Trips**

Join the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) for field trips throughout the New Year. For 2009 field trip dates and locations, visit [www.wsobirds.org](http://www.wsobirds.org) later this year when they are posted. For the WSO field trips, severe weather conditions may cancel the trip. In the event of cancellation, every attempt to notify participants via the WSO Hotline (call 262.784.4032 for recording) and WisBirdNet (recent postings at <http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/WISC.html>)

### **Experience the Grand Canyon - Raft with ALAS**

The Aldo Leopold Audubon Society (ALAS) of Central Wisconsin will once again sponsor two rafting trips through the Grand Canyon. Last year 52 ALAS members completed a 7-night, 8-day rafting trip covering nearly 300 miles of the Grand Canyon. Participants raved about the side canyon hikes, birding opportunities, superb guides, food, exhilarating rapids and camaraderie.

The first rafting trip will leave on June 5th and return on June 13th. The second trip leaves June 12th and returns June 21st. Both trips leave from Las Vegas. ALAS is using the Colorado River and Trails Expeditions Rafting Company and have received a reduced rate for a group. Each trip can accommodate 26 people.

Members of any Audubon Chapter in Wisconsin are invited to go along as participants. If you register and pay for the trip, your chapter (Hoy Audubon) will receive a \$50 donation from the rafting company. For complete details, dates, times, cost etc., contact John Munson at [barbjohn@charter.net](mailto:barbjohn@charter.net) or call him at 715-341-1208 evenings or at 715-340-4855 during the day. He will provide complete information and assist you in becoming a participant. As space is limited, all participants should register no later than December 15th. The trip will fill quickly so applications will be on a first-come, first serve basis. We guarantee that you will look back at this trip as one of the highlight trips of your life. Every twist and turn of the river will bring visual delights. Every canyon hike will fill your soul. Every evening watching the stars from your cot will bring you peace. Please consider going along.

### **New Annual Renewal Date for Hoy Audubon Society Chapter Membership**\*\*\*

Annual renewals for Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" memberships will now be due on July 1 of each calendar year. This simplifies the renewal process for everyone and insures that all members continue to receive our bi-monthly newsletter for information on current programs and field trips. To renew your Chapter Supporter membership for 2008/2009, please send in a check for \$12 (payable to Hoy Audubon Society). Your local chapter membership also helps to support local Hoy Audubon projects in our area such as our Bluebird restoration projects, beginning birding classes, and bird walks. Please note: if you have submitted Chapter Supporter dues (\$12) for 2008 (between January and December), you are considered to be in full membership for 2008/2009.

To continue your national membership and the Audubon Magazine subscription with National Audubon Society (NAS), please refer to information you receive from NAS. NAS only members will receive the Hoy Audubon Society newsletter twice a year.

Chapter Supporter Dues are \$12 per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Send dues to Hoy Audubon Society, P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI

Receive chapter newsletter by email only? Yes, my e-mail is \_\_\_\_\_ No

#### **Contact Information:**

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January 5th at 7:00 P.M. - The next Board meeting will be held at the YMCA, 725 Lake Avenue, Racine in the Chapel Room on the second floor. See directions on page one. All members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!!

**[www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)**