



### Meet a Member!

Do you want to know what makes Hoy tick? Well, this new feature will clue you in to some of the energetic planners and participants of the many exciting Hoy activities.

A special thank you goes out to Jenny Wenzel who readily agreed to be the first interviewee of Meet a Member! It's hard to believe that Jenny only joined Hoy Audubon in June of 2008, and she is already actively involved as the treasurer and a board member. Despite the fact that she holds down a full-time job as an occupational and certified hand therapist, she still manages to devote time to her passion for birding as witnessed by the 243 birds already recorded on her Life List! She also enjoys nature and bird photography, reading, gardening, hiking, and, of course, spending time with her husband, David, their pet Doberman, Loki, and cats, Winer and Hazel.



*Jenny Wenzel at Horicon*

When asked about the benefits of being a member of Hoy, Jenny responded, "I really enjoy the field trips that we have throughout the year. It's fun to go to different places and see what different types of birds you can find." She also indicated that Hoy does a lot for the community with their conservation efforts, such as the Purple Martin project and the Bluebird trails which fledged over 500 bluebirds this year. Not one to sit back and watch, Jenny expressed her joy in being a part of the bluebird project. "I helped monitor a Bluebird trail in 2009 and, boy, was it fun to see the bluebirds and their nest-building activities. Then seeing the bluebird eggs turning into growing chicks...and the great feeling of excitement when a young bluebird successfully leaves the nest is definitely something to experience!"

Jenny's always had an interest in backyard birds but it grew from a casual hobby once she became a member of Hoy, which was quite by accident. "I was shopping for bird seed for my backyard birds and there was a flyer about a beginning bird-watching class and some bird walks at Colonial Park." After that she was hooked.

Her advice for novice birders includes participating in some of the activities of your local bird club since she feels you'll learn so much more if you're looking for birds with other people. "It'll be fun and you'll make new friends and birding can be combined with any other outdoor hobby, too! And, it's a great way to relax!"

### Hoy Activity Reports—A brief recap of some of our recent events for members.

**Field Trip to the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and Concordia College:** Purple asters and black-eyed susans greeted seven Hoy members as they set out to explore a portion of the five miles of unspoiled beauty along the trails of the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center (SANC). The land originally provided a grazing pasture for horses that pulled the beer wagons for the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company. You can now visit the new educational building which houses wildflower and animal displays, and where naturalists present interpretive talks on birds of prey as well as offer a wide variety of nature classes.



*Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, 1111 East Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee*

Along the trail, our members caught glimpses of the black-throated green warbler, Nashville and Tennessee warblers, a yellow-rumped warbler, and an American redstart. A smorgasbord of other species flitted about, including a flicker and hairy woodpecker, the bay-breasted warbler, gray cat bird, chimney swift, red-eyed vireo, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, grosbeak, and some blue jays. Four male turkeys, donning their flashy beards, also dashed among the thicket. A blackpoll warbler took a brief respite from its migratory trek to Brazil and a cormorant grazed the horizon along Lake Michigan.

After this successful bird walk the group continued onto Concordia College, which is recognized as an optimum area to spot hawks. Although northwest winds entertain the best days for hawk sightings, the group still managed to spot a couple of sharp-shinned hawks, one red-tail, and an osprey! Both SANC and Concordia are worthwhile stops for nature lovers.



*Hoy Audubon birders on Shoop bird walk, October 31.*

## Hoy Board of Directors

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Helen Pugh 262-637-7585

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Rick Fare 262-632-7585

Dana Garrigan 262-652-1737

Eric Howe 262-594-5853

Cristina Mondragon 262-634-0229

Muffy Petrick 262-886-1185

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

**Next Board of Directors Meeting:**

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 PM, 731 S. Main Street, Racine. All members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!

**Field Trip Coordinator**

Bob McFall 262-697-5167

**Monthly Program Coordinator**

Stan Rosenstiel 262-694-2206

**Note:** If you have suggestions regarding future field trips please contact Bob McFall at: [rmcfall@wi.rr.com](mailto:rmcfall@wi.rr.com) or 262-697-5167

**Additional committee members and chairs are still needed.** If you can give a few hours of your time to help with some of our programs, please contact Helen Pugh.

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

Please email items or suggestions for our newsletter to Linda Fare Hirsch: [lindafare-hirsch@aol.com](mailto:lindafare-hirsch@aol.com)

## Activity Reports continued

**Raptor Migration Through Southeastern Wisconsin.** Do you have eyes like a hawk? Well, even if you *don't*, **Vic Berardi**, founder of the Illinois Beach State Park Hawk Watch and 17-year hawk enthusiast, *does!* Vic provided us with close-ups of these regal predators at his in-depth talk and slide presentation on October 1, at the River Bend Nature Center.

We discovered that patience is the main attribute of hawk observers and Vic and his crew spend between 600 to 700 hours a year identifying these “specks” in the sky for which binoculars are absolutely essential. A team of two-to-four watchers diligently records the numbers of the 15 to 20 species of hawks passing through southeastern Wisconsin on their migratory journey. “You need a good vista to the north and mostly to the northwest to see them.” Vic informed us.

“And certain species prefer different times of day for whatever reason.” He cited an example of some recent-visiting falcons, “The watchers counted 51 after 3 o’clock and 40 of those after 4 o’clock. The official hawk-watching season begins on the last Saturday in August and ends on the last Sunday in November.



Red-tailed hawk. Photo by Vic Berardi

Since hawks are difficult to see, Vic suggests identifying them by how they fly and recommends beginning with the red-tailed hawk. Some other types of hawks that pass through our area include the sharp-shinned hawk, northern goshawk, red-shouldered hawk, Swainson’s hawk, ferruginous hawk, the merlin and the Cooper’s hawk. “The Cooper’s hawk,” Vic pointed out, “is the one you’d most likely see in your backyard.” Vic’s personal favorite is the rough-legged hawk because as he indicated, “They all seem so different and are very remote. They breed in the Arctic and then a few months later come south. It takes about six weeks and 2, 600 miles to get to Wisconsin where they see their first cars and buildings,” he added, explaining how awe-struck they must be at experiencing this initial glimpse of their new surroundings.

Vic also explained two of the procedures used for tracking the migratory patterns of the birds. One is banding, in which a pigeon on a tether acts as a lure in order to catch the hawk and band it. Then it’s sent on its way. Another technique, used primarily for peregrine falcons, is examining a feather using radiation.

Vic referred interested birders to the website of the Database of Raptor Reports at [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org). Another good site is the Hawk Migration Association of North America at [www.hmana.org](http://www.hmana.org). He also suggested checking out one of the top-four hawk-watching sites in Wisconsin, which are Bender Park, Cliffside Park, Chiswaukee Prairie and Illinois Beach State Park. Concordia College and Bong State Recreation Center also provide good viewing.

**Binoculars—more magnification is not always better!** Roger Tory Peterson (Peterson Field Guide to Birds of N. America) and David Sibley (The Sibley Guide to Birds) both used binoculars that were 7x42 during preparation of their field guides. While many non-birders seem to prefer 10X power binoculars, they can be difficult to use for general birding. For tips on selecting the right pair of binoculars for birding, see the latest issue (Nov-Dec) of Audubon Magazine.

**Want to see the newsletter in color?** Subscribe by email (send an email to [keith.kennedy@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:keith.kennedy@hoyaudubon.org)) or go to the Hoy website: [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)



**Location for our Winter Meetings:** note that we will have our January, February, and March monthly meetings at the **Northside branch of the Kenosha Public Library**, 1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha, WI ((262) 564-6100). For directions from Racine, check MapQuest or Google Maps (Ohio Street is almost a straight shot to the library).

**Audubon Featured in PBS Ken Burns series on National Parks.** The founding of Audubon, profiles of its leaders, and pivotal conservation efforts for birds enhanced by an avid birder in the White House, Teddy Roosevelt, was highlighted in the second episode of this beautiful documentary series seen by millions across the USA. The entire series will be rebroadcast in late January through February, 2010.

## Christmas Gift Ideas from Hoy

**2010 Calendars:** We have purchased a number of "Bird-A-Day" Calendars from Audubon to help you with the gift-giving season ahead. These are beautiful, full-color wall calendars with many glorious birds shown. You'll want one for yourself for sure. They will be available at the December meeting for \$10 each or you can call Helen at 637-4359. All of the proceeds support Hoy Audubon.



**Song bird coffee.** A bag of this organic / shade-grown coffee with beautiful song birds featured on the package makes for a great Christmas gift. Shade grown coffee provides invaluable habitats for our neotropical migrants in contrast to that of full sun monocultures which require significant chemical inputs. In addition, fair trade certified coffee guarantees a fair wage and good working conditions for the workers. A 12oz. bag of regular ground or bean coffee is \$10. A portion of the proceeds supports Hoy Audubon. Available at our monthly meetings.



**Clean your bird feeder for the winter!** It's time to make sure your feeders and feeding area are cleaned up and ready to help our feathered friends through the winter. Take your empty feeders, brush off the grit and grime and put them in a bucket or utility sink to soak for 20 minutes in a 10% bleach solution. Rinse them very well and let dry before filling with seed. Don't forget to rake underneath the area to remove the spoiled seeds.

**Make your own suet!** This is a great time of year to offer your backyard feathered friends some high energy suet. For recipe's and directions, check out our website [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)

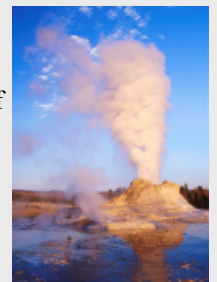
## Upcoming Activities

**Thursday, December 3, 7:00 PM: Christmas potluck dinner,** This is our annual Christmas potluck dinner—please bring a dish to pass and some flatware, Hoy will provide beverages. River Bend Nature Center, Racine.

**Saturdays, December 5 and December 12, 9:00 AM: Lake-front Birding.** Join Hoy Audubon bird expert **Rick Fare** to look for late fall migrants and winter ducks along Lake Michigan. Meet at the Shoop Golf course parking lot at 9:00

**Saturday, December 19, 8:00 AM-12:00 Racine Christmas Bird Count.** The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), in its 110th year nationwide, has become a valuable method to monitor the winter range and numbers of bird populations. Join us on foot and by car for part of or whole day as we count all birds we find in various habitat types of eastern Racine County. To sign up and receive a designated count area, please contact (email) Eric Howe prior to the 13th at [cbc@hoyaudubon.org](mailto:cbc@hoyaudubon.org) or call him at 262-594-5853. Should inclement weather exist on the 19th, the backup date will be Sunday, December 20th. For more information, go to CBC on the Hoy Audubon website.

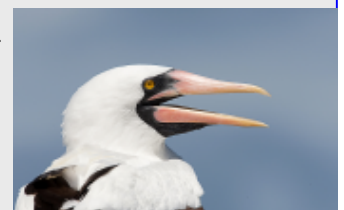
**Thursday, January 7, 7:00 PM: Trip West...Plus.** Presented by **Wayne Rohde**. The program will focus on the various sites in and around Yellowstone and Glacier Parks, highlighting a few of the birds and animals, but dealing primarily with the beauty of these parks. Yes, we enjoy birds not only because of their beauty, but also because of the beauty of the environment in which they're found. The program will also feature a look at the rugged northwest portion of Wisconsin, particularly waterfalls in autumn. Kenosha Northside Library (see directions at top of this page).



Castle Geyser,  
Yellowstone Nat. Pk.

**Saturday January 9, 8:00 AM: WSO Lake-front Birding.** Meet at South Shore Yacht Club at 8AM or call Helen Pugh if you'd like to carpool from Racine. Bring a lunch and/or snacks and dress for the weather. See [www.wsobirds.org](http://www.wsobirds.org).

**Thursday, February 4, 7:00 PM: The Galapagos Islands—a photographic journey.** Presented by **Keith Kennedy, Hoy Audubon**. Discover why these are still called 'the enchanted islands' 175 years after Darwin's visit. Explore the diversity of unique life forms through images taken during a photographic expedition to the Galapagos in July, 2009. Some of the animals that will be featured include: Darwin's finches, Galapagos tortoise, Blue-footed Booby, Marine Iguana, and many more. The impact of tourism on this fragile ecosystem will also be discussed. Kenosha Northside Library, (see directions at top of this page).



Nazca Booby, Galapagos Islands

**HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**

**P.O. BOX 044626**

**RACINE, WI 53404**

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

**Renew your Hoy Audubon Chapter Membership dues for 2009/2010**

Annual renewals for Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" memberships are due on July 1 of each calendar year. To renew your Chapter Supporter membership for 2009/2010, please send a check payable to Hoy Audubon Society and mark the appropriate box (s) below:

☐ Chapter Supporter Dues: \$12

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*Looking for winter ducks at Shoop.*

**From your Hoy Honker Newsletter crew (Linda, Cristina, Keith):** We welcome your suggestions, recaps of birding seminars/activities, fun facts and birding tidbits for use in future newsletters. Please email to: [lin-dafarehirsch@aol.com](mailto:lin-dafarehirsch@aol.com)



**Sauk Prairie 23rd Eagle Watching Days:** Friday evening, January 15th & Saturday, January 16th, 2010, Sauk City & Prairie du Sac, WI. For more information, call 800-683-2453 or go to: [www.saukprairie.com](http://www.saukprairie.com)