



Spring is here!

For our spring field trips, bring your binoculars and your bird book, wear your hiking boots, and bundle up! Spring mornings and evenings can be cool, so wear a warm jacket and gloves. If it's raining lightly, we'll still go on a hike. If it's a downpour, we won't. Birdwatchers at all levels, from beginner to advanced, are welcome! Please refer to hoyaudubon.org for more information/maps.

Hoy Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk at the Pike River Pathway (Mt. Pleasant, Racine County)
Wednesday, April 10

Listen to the peents and see the aerial dances of the twittering "Timberdoodle" at twilight.

From Airline Road and Old Spring Street, go east 0.2 mile and turn right (south) onto Timber Lane. Continue 0.25 mile and turn west onto Wendi Court. Proceed to the end to the parking lot. Meet by 5:30 p.m. and we'll walk the paved loop trail (approximately 1.6 miles) in search of early spring migrants. Or, meet by 7:30 p.m. at the parking area. The American Woodcock may begin to call around 7:45 p.m. We'll conclude around 8:30 p.m. A flashlight is recommended.

Hoy Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk at Cliffside Park (Caledonia, Racine County)
Wednesday, April 17

Meet by 5:30 p.m. at Picnic Area #2 (near the yellow gate). During the daylight, we'll bird along the main trail north of the yellow gate for spring migrants and may go as far north as the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan to view waterfowl. Or, meet by 7:30 p.m. at the yellow gate. We'll walk the trail northward and await the display of the American Woodcock. The American Woodcock may begin to call around 7:45 p.m. and will conclude around 8:30 p.m. A flashlight is recommended. Some of the trails may be wet (flooded in spots) from recent rainfall; waterproof footwear is advised.

Hoy Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walks at Chiwaukee Prairie (southeast Kenosha County)
Sunday, April 28 & Sunday, May 5

RSVP with Stan Rosenstiel in advance to sign up ((262)694-2206). Walks begin at approximately 6:30 p.m. A flashlight is recommended.

Hoy Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walks at Colonial Park (Racine)
Wednesdays, April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Colonial Park is one of the best places in the area to see migratory birds like Warblers, Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, and Scarlet Tanagers. Our Wednesday evening hikes begin at 5:30 and are a great way to experience the progression of spring migrants that will pass through on their way from southern wintering grounds to their northern breeding grounds, and those birds that summer here.

Picnicking with the Peregrines



Ricky Jones

Back by popular demand. Bring lunch and enjoy watching the young, newly-fledged [Peregrine Falcons](#) and their parents. The Racine County Courthouse, at 730 Wisconsin Avenue, hosts the most visible Peregrine Falcons in the state! Hoy will have spotting scopes set up near the picnic table on the southwest lawn. Binoculars - bring 'em if you've got 'em!

These falcons are formidable hunters that prey on other birds (and bats) in mid-flight. Peregrines hunt from above and, after sighting their prey, drop into a steep, swift dive that can top 200 miles an hour.

Peregrine Falcons are among the world's most common birds of prey and live on all continents except Antarctica. They prefer wide-open spaces, and thrive near coasts where shorebirds are common, but they can be found everywhere from tundra to deserts.

Peregrine Falcons have nested successfully on the Racine Courthouse and Pleasant Prairie Power Plant for many years. You may view the Peregrine families in person or keep tabs on their progress at falconcam.goracine.org or we-energies.com/environmental/protect_wildlife.htm. The eggs normally hatch about May 5th.

Picnic with the Peregrines!
Wednesdays, June 12 and 19, 12:00 - 1:00 PM.

Hoy Annual Election Time

Our annual elections will again occur immediately after our May meeting this year. We have a few open positions and are always interested in having more members help on the board, so if you can join us to help with any of these positions, let any board member know! The slate for elections is as follows.

President-Jenny Wenzel
Vice President-John Dixon
Secretary-Karen Gavahan
Treasurer-Jim Veltman
Conservation - Helen Pugh
Education - Rick Fare
Website - Eric Howe
Field Trips - Mary Ann Toutant

Programs - Open Position - Volunteer appreciated
Publicity - John Krerowicz
Newsletter - Open Position - Volunteer appreciated

Hoy Board of Directors

President:

Jenny Wenzel 262-752-0887

Vice-President:

John Dixon

Treasurer:

Jim Veltman 262-886-9374

Secretary:

Karen Gavahan 262-633-7136

Directors-at-Large:

Rachael Baker 262-914-3875

Rick Fare 262-902-9020

Eric Howe 262-498-3355

Ricky Jones 262-497-0111

Becky Jones

John Krerowicz

Helen Pugh 262-637-4359

Mary Ann Toutant 262-554-0563

Jim Veltman 262-886-9374

Colleen Vernon

Email addresses of Board members are available at: www.hoyaudubon.org

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, April 25th 7:00 p.m.

All interested members are welcome. Come and find out what your club is doing!

Monthly Program Coordinator*

Colleen Vernon

Field Trip Coordinator*

Mary Ann Toutant 262-554-0563

* If you have suggestions regarding future programs or field trips please contact the coordinators directly.

Newsletter Editors

Eric Howe

Ricky Jones

Becky Jones

Sharon Kennedy

Ideas for the newsletter? We welcome your suggestions, recaps of birding seminars/activities, fun facts and birding tidbits for use in future newsletters. Please mail to the attention of Newsletter Editor at: Hoy Audubon, P.O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404 or email to:

hoynewsletter@gmail.com

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

International Migratory Bird Day May 11, 2013



Ricky Jones

[Hoy Audubon](#) of Kenosha and Racine Counties will have two bird festivals on Saturday, May 11 as part of [International Migratory Bird Day](#) 2013. One event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Ave., Kenosha, and the other will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the [River Bend Nature Center](#), 3600 N. Green Bay Road, Racine. Both gatherings are free and open to the public.

Live birds will be featured at both sites.

The museum will have falconer Ed Foster, treasurer for the [Wisconsin Falconers Association](#), make a presentation on the Mezzanine at 11 a.m. Afterward, the Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education, from Love's Park, Illinois will show off various raptors between noon and 2 p.m.

In Racine, the [Schlitz Audubon Nature Center](#), from Milwaukee, will present its raptors at 2 p.m.

There are various other programs planned. Kenosha will have a bird display, design your own bird activity, and other attractions. A Bluebird talk is set for 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Racine will have a beginning birding class from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Birding walks will take place if the weather cooperates.

-John Krerowicz



Ricky Jones

Report Your Chimney Swift Sightings!



Photo courtesy of Driftwood Wildlife Association

The first Chimney Swifts of 2013 have been spotted on the Gulf Coast. Once again this year the Driftwood Wildlife Association will be plotting the swifts' movements northward over the next few months. Please let them know when you see the first ones in your area by emailing them at dwa@austin.rr.com.

The results will be posted on their web site at: www.ChimneySwifts.org. The Driftwood Wildlife Association is a non-profit, all volunteer organization based in Texas that is dedicated to promoting research and providing community education in the areas of wildlife rehabilitation and avian natural history.

Colonial Park



Jerry DeBoer

This is the favorite park of locals and visiting birders. Located at the end of West High Street which is accessible off Hwy. 38 about 2.1 miles east of its intersection with Hwy. 31. The numbers of birds seen in spring migration can range to spectacular. The Root

River bisects the park and the trails which hug the river are usually the most productive. Thirty-seven species of warblers have been recorded in the park over the years including Kirtland's, Prairie, Hooded, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Other rarities include Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, White-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager.

Hoy Audubon Society hosts a number of bird walks here every spring which are always a lot of fun. Check the activity calendar for the dates for this year's hikes and come join us!

Jerry DeBoer
 "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts"

Global Great Backyard Bird Count Shatters Records!

New York, NY - From Antarctica to Afghanistan, bird watchers from 103 countries made history in the first global [Great Backyard Bird Count \(GBBC\)](#), February 15–18, 2013.

In the largest worldwide bird count ever, bird watchers set new records, counting more than 25.5 million birds on 120,000+ checklists in four days—and recording 3,144 species, nearly one-third of the world's total bird species. The data will continue to flow in until March 1.



Ricky Jones

Building on the success of the GBBC in the United States and Canada for the past 15 years, Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird

Studies Canada opened the count to the rest of the world for the first time this year, powered by [eBird](#), a system that enables people to report birds globally in real-time and explore the results online. Bird watchers are invited to keep counting every day of the year at www.eBird.org.

Locations for our Spring Meetings: Note that the April Meeting will be at the **Mount Pleasant Village Hall - Community Room, 8811 Campus Drive**. The May and June meetings will be at **Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant**. For directions check MapQuest or Google Maps.

Upcoming Activities

Hoy Field Trip: Waterfowl Eagle Lake, Saturday, March 30, 8:00 a.m. Meet at Park 'n Ride at Hwy 20 & I-94 at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to Eagle Lake. Prior to birding Eagle Lake we'll check the wetlands west and north of Hwy 11 & Hwy 75. We'll then meet at Eagle Lake Park (north side, south of Church Rd.) some time after 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Meeting, Thursday, April 4, 7:00 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Village Hall, Community Room, 8811 Campus Drive, Mt. Pleasant, WI. Bill Sasse, Director of Engineering for the Village of Mt. Pleasant, will present the past and upcoming projects within the Pike River corridor.

Hoy Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk - Pike River Pathway, Wednesday, April 10, 5:30 p.m. (or 7:30 p.m.) Meet by 5:30 p.m. for general birding, or meet by 7:30 p.m. at the parking area at the end of Wendi Ct. to walk a portion of the pathway and await the display of the American Woodcock. See page 1 of this issue for more details.

Hoy Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk - Cliffside Park, Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 p.m. (or 7:30 p.m.) Meet by 5:30 p.m. at Picnic Area #2 for general birding, or by 7:30 p.m. at Picnic Area #2 to await the display of the American Woodcock. See page 1 of this issue for more details.

Earth Day Celebration, Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Gateway Technical College, Racine and Kenosha campuses.

Hoy Field Trip: Colonial Park Warbler Walks, Wednesdays, April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 5:30 p.m. Birdwatchers at all levels are welcome. See page 1 of this issue for more details.

Hoy Field Trip: Bird Walks at River Bend Nature Center, Fridays, April 26, May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 8:00 a.m. Rick Fare will lead these walks. Birdwatchers at all levels are welcome.

Hoy Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk - Chiwaukee Prairie, Sundays, April 28 and May 5, 6:30 p.m. RSVP with Stan Rosenstiel in advance to sign up at (262)694-2206. See page 1 of this issue for more details.

Hoy Field Trip: Bird Walks at Hawthorn Hollow, Tuesdays, April 30, May 7 and 14, 8:00 a.m. Meet Stan Rosenstiel outside the nature center.

Hoy Meeting, Thursday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Dr., Mt. Pleasant, WI. Program TBA.

Hoy Field Trip: Bird Walk at the Trout Ponds, Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m. Rick Fare will lead the walk at this Caledonia Conservancy property. The parking lot is located 0.1 mile west of Hwy 31 along Four Mile Road.

International Migratory Bird Day 2013 - Life Cycles of Migratory Birds, Saturday, May 11. Kenosha Public Museum, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; River Bend Nature Center in Racine, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. See page 2 of this issue for more details.

Hoy Meeting, Thursday, June 6, 7:00 p.m. Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Dr., Mt. Pleasant, WI. Program TBA.

Hoy Field Trip: Picnic with the Peregrines, Wednesdays, June 12 & 19, noon to 1:00 p.m. Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine, WI. See page 1 of this issue for more details.

HOY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 044626

RACINE, WI 53404

www.hoyaudubon.org



Hoy Members Birding at the Lakefront, Dec. 2009.

Please take the time to renew your [Hoy Audubon Chapter Membership](http://www.hoyaudubon.org) for 2012/2013.

Annual renewals for Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" memberships are due on July 1 of each calendar year. Please send a check payable to Hoy Audubon Society.

Chapter Supporter Dues: \$12 per individual

Total amount enclosed: _____

Do you wish to receive chapter newsletter by email only?

Yes, my email is: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Send to: Hoy Audubon Society, P. O. Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404



Checking a bluebird box for eggs!

Remember...you can see the Hoy Honker "In Living Color." There are two ways to see our newsletter in color: view it on the Hoy website at www.hoyaudubon.org or get on the e-mail newsletter distribution list by sending an e-mail to jenny.wenzel@hoyaudubon.org and ask to be put on the electronic mailing list. You can now find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety