



Trees We Love Turns Three!

2018 is the third year for the Trees We Love program, a source of celebration, recognition and much-needed positive environmental news. We feel it's a high-impact conservation program with positive, long-term results. Awardees receive permanent recognition, promoting stewardship for, and appreciation of, our beautiful heritage trees.



A 2017 winner:
Camperdownii Elm,
Mount Pleasant

Photo by John Krowicz

Such recognition occurred with one of our 2016 awardees, a 110 year old Sycamore owned by the City of Racine. A concrete slab was poured to ensure plaque permanence at the base of the tree, which is in close proximity to Park High School. Before the concrete had hardened, a picture of a heart and tree were carved into the wet base. We believe the artist may well have been a student who heartily approved.



Photo by Sue Schuit

Do you know a tree that deserves recognition? Visit www.hoyaudubon.org/TreesWeLove to download a nomination form, and submit your nominations by **May 31**.

- Sue Schuit

Parting Shots: Farewell, Winter Birds

Winter 2017-2018 brought some photogenic birds to the area; here are a couple photos by Hoy members.

John Dixon captured this Slaty-backed Gull in flight at Lake Andrea. Note the lovely "string of pearls" on its wings:



Kristin Wegner took this portrait of Pugh Marina's visiting Snowy Owl when it unexpectedly popped up nearby after hunting prey in the rocks:



Hoy Board of Directors

President:

Frank Sharkozy 262-770-2481

Vice-President:

(open)

Treasurer:

Jim Veltman 262-886-9374

Secretary:

Karen Gavahan 262-633-7136

Directors:

John Dixon

Rick Fare 262-902-9020

Eric Howe

John Krowicz 262-694-8736

Helen Pugh 262-637-4359

Sue Schuit 262-752-5955

Wendy Sorenson

Kristin Wegner

Jenny Wenzel 262-488-8077

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, April 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

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

All members are welcome to attend!

2018-2019 Hoy Board Elections will be at our May 3 meeting, and we need volunteers! Please consider joining the board or a committee to keep Hoy going strong. A few hours' work makes a huge difference!

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

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

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Greater vs. Lesser Yellowlegs

Now that spring is around the corner and the snow will hopefully be melted soon, it will be time to look for some of the early arriving shorebirds along the Lake Michigan shoreline and in the local flooded fields. Two of the early ones are Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, which can pose a difficult identification problem. Here are a few general field marks that will hopefully help.

They both have long yellow legs, with the Lesser's seeming slightly longer relative to body size compared to the Greater's. Both yellowlegs have relatively small heads, with a bold white eye ring and thin necks. They both are very active feeders, dashing and chasing their prey through the water. In these ways they are very similar along with many of their other field marks.

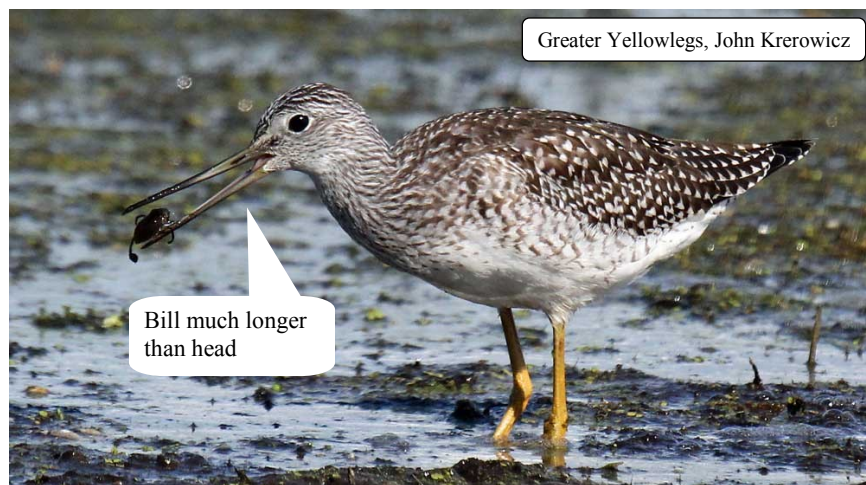
If the two are seen together the id is generally pretty straightforward with the Greater Yellowlegs being noticeably larger than the Lesser Yellowlegs. But besides size difference there are a few other field marks to look at.

One is the length and appearance of the bill. In the Greater, the bill is quite long, being much longer than the head, fairly sturdy, and usually has the appearance of being slightly upturned. The Lesser's bill is just slightly longer than the head, is rather thin, and is very straight.



Lesser Yellowlegs, Kristin Wegner

In spring, the flanks of the Greater are extensively marked with dark bars. While the Lesser also has barred flanks, the bars are fewer and not nearly as bold.



Greater Yellowlegs, John Krowicz

Another good way to tell them apart is by their call. The Greater gives a loud *que, que, que*, or *pew, pew, pew* sounding note while the Lesser's call sounds like *Too too, too too, too too*. This call is often heard as a bird or flock takes flight, and while in flight.

Hopefully with these tips and some practice will help with the identification of these two similar shorebirds.

- Article by John Dixon

Upcoming Activities: April

Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m. (or 5:30 p.m. for general birding)

Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk: Pike River

Pike River Pathway, North of Hwy 11, Mount Pleasant

Meet at 5:30 p.m. to walk the trail north from the parking area in search of early spring migrants. At 7:00 p.m., we'll again walk the trail north and await the display of the American Woodcock.

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

Hoy Meeting, Program: Give Monarchs a Royal Reception

River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Judy Grasser, a Village of Salem Lakes resident who has raised and released hundreds of Monarch butterflies, will discuss the importance of preserving Monarch habitat and how to create a garden to attract Monarchs.

Monday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress: Annual Spring Meeting

In Kenosha County: Kenosha County Center, Hearing Room, 19600 75th Street, Bristol, WI 53104

In Racine County: Union Grove High School, Auditorium, 3433 S Colony Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182

This annual meeting allows the public to give input on proposed changes to conservation regulations. Important questions this year concern climate change science and neonicotinoid insecticides. Visit dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html for more info.

Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. (or 5:30 p.m. for general birding)

Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk: Cliffside

Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Meet at 5:30 p.m. to look for early spring migrants. At 7:00 p.m. we'll walk the trail to the north and await the display of the American Woodcock. Waterproof footwear advised.

Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.

Education: Bluebird Talk

Eco-Justice Center

7133 Michna Road, Racine, WI 53402

Rick Fare will discuss the lifecycle of the Eastern Bluebird, how to attract them to your yard, and how to become a bluebird monitor, followed by a short hike to check Eco-Justice's new bluebird trail. Adults & children age 6 and older are welcomed. Please register by April 9 by calling Sarah at 262-681-8527. Cost is \$5/person.

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day

Gateway Kenosha Campus: 3520 30th Ave. Kenosha

Join Hoy as Gateway celebrates Earth Day with displays, workshops, electronics recycling, and hands-on activities for people of all ages. Visit www.gtc.edu/celebrate-earth-day for info.

Thursday, April 26, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow

Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI

Birdwatchers of all experience levels are welcome. Bring your binoculars and your bird book.

Friday, April 27, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend

River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Birdwatchers of all experience levels are welcome. Bring your binoculars and your bird book.

Upcoming Activities: May

Tuesday, May 1, 5:30 p.m. AND Tuesday, May 15, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walks at Cliffside Park

Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Wednesday, May 2, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park

Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Thursday, May 3, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow

Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI

Thursday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting, Board Elections & Program: Warblers

River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Vote for your 2018-2019 Hoy Board members (**volunteers needed!**), then enjoy our presentation about wonderful warblers.

Friday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend

River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Saturday, May 5, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at Trout Ponds

Caledonia, just west of Hwy 31 and 4 Mile Rd

Tuesday, May 8, 8:00 a.m. AND Tuesday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walks at Cliffside Park

Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park

Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Thursday, May 10, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow

Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI

Friday, May 11, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend

River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Wednesday, May 16, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park

Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Thursday, May 17, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow

Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI

Friday, May 18, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend

River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Wednesday, May 23, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park

Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Field Trip Notes: We post field trip cancellations on Hoy's website and Hoy's Facebook page/group whenever it is possible to do so ahead of time. If you are unsure whether a trip will take place, please use good judgment when deciding whether to attend.

Upcoming Activities: June

Thursday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting, Program: Whooping Cranes

Sealed Air YMCA, 8501 Campus Drive

Mount Pleasant, WI 53406

Lizzie Condon from the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI, will discuss the ICF's efforts to save the endangered Whooping Crane, of which only 757 are left in the world.

Tuesday, June 5, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 9, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Field Trips: Picnic with the Peregrines!

Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Ave, Racine, WI

Enjoy watching the young Peregrine Falcons beg food from their parents and practice flying.

Hoy Needs Your Help!

Hoy's annual elections will occur at our **May 3** meeting, so if you're interested in helping your fellow birders, please consider joining the board. No prior experience is necessary!

What do board members do?

We attend board meetings (6 a year) where we review our budget and membership status, plan upcoming field trips and programs, suggest ideas for the newsletter, and discuss Hoy's education and conservation efforts.

What makes this year different?

Per Hoy's by-laws, Officers can serve for three years in a row. Our current Officers have already served that limit, so we need new volunteers. If you would like to run for a position, join a Committee, or simply learn more about what a particular Officer or Committee does, contact hoyinfo@hoyaudubon.org or talk to us at the next meeting or field trip. Please consider giving the gift of your time to keep Hoy going strong!

So far, these members have expressed interest in running:

Officers			
President: OPEN!		Treasurer: OPEN!	
Vice President: OPEN!		Secretary: OPEN!	
Directors			
John Dixon	Rick Fare	Eric Howe	Kristin Wegner
Sue Schuit	Helen Pugh	Jenny Wenzel	Wendy Sorenson
Committees & Committee Chairs			
Conservation: Sue Schuit		Field Trips: John Dixon	
Education: Rick Fare		Programs: Frank Sharkozy	
Newsletter: Kristin Wegner		Membership: Helen Pugh, Wendy Sorenson	
Publicity: John Krerowicz			

Looking for even MORE birding activities?

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has put together a list of birding festivals all over the country:

www.fws.gov/refuges/news/finding_Birding_Festivals.html



- ◆ View the Hoy Honker in full color at www.hoyaudubon.org
- ◆ Visit Hoy on Facebook at 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**