



Mammoth-sized Good Times at Horicon



Hoy's 2015 field trip group at the Horicon Marsh Visitor Center. (Photo from Frank Sharkozy)

Saturday, August 18, 2018 will mark Hoy's tenth field trip to Horicon. If you're interested in carpooling, contact hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org. Horicon Marsh is a great day trip, or if you have the time, you can spend the night at a local hotel or campground.

Horicon tips:

- ◆ Wear sun protection and insect repellent. (Horicon is a marsh, after all.)
- ◆ Drive carefully. Be on the lookout for swooping birds, grazing geese, basking turtles and frogs, and of course, fellow birders. If you bird Highway 49, make sure you pull fully off the road and pay attention to traffic.



Green Frog rescue at Horicon, photo by Eric Howe

- ◆ Drink plenty of water.
- ◆ Watch for unusual birds. Horicon has been known to host Cattle Egrets, various ibis species, and Black-necked Stilts, to name a few!



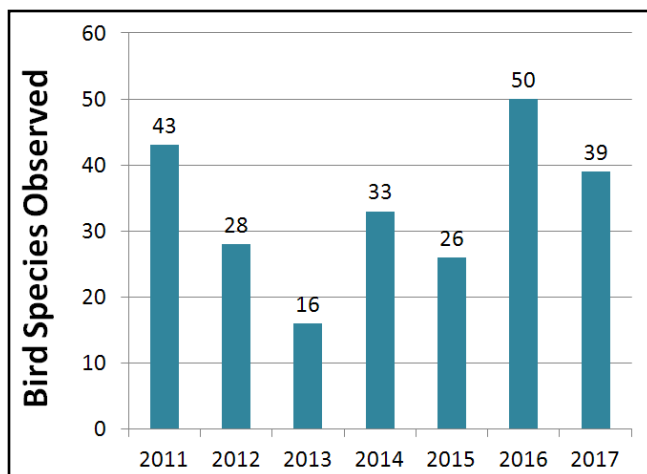
You can now make a donation to Hoy or pay your annual chapter membership dues online! Here's how:

1. Visit www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/
2. Follow the instructions in *Donate With a Debit or Credit Card* section.
3. Once you click the Donate button, you'll be taken to PayPal to complete your donation.
4. Use the *Write in special instructions* field to specify the donation's purpose: Chapter Membership Dues, Trees We Love, or General Conservation and Education.

Remember to renew your Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" membership! Dues is \$15 per individual for the 2018-2019 membership year and is due on **July 1**.

Are You Ready to Sit?

Hoy's eighth Big Sit will be Saturday, September 15 at Samuel Myers Park at 7:00 a.m. It's a great event if you're new to birding or just want to socialize with fellow birders. Here's how many species we've seen in previous years:



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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Thursday, August 9, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

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

All members are welcome to attend!

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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Horicon Memories

Here are a few of my favorite photos from Horicon! - Kristin Wegner

A clever gosling uses one of its parents as a beach umbrella:



A Forster's Tern hovers as it hunts for fish:



Swallows: Tree vs. Northern Rough-winged vs. Bank

Even though migration is mostly over, some birds will spend the summer months with us. Three of those that spend the summer here are the Tree Swallow, the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and the Bank Swallow. These can be tough to get a good look at as they swoop around in the pursuit of flying insects, but here are a few hints that may prove helpful in identifying these aerialists.

Tree Swallows: male, left, and immature, right



Kristin Wegner



Jennifer Ambrose

The largest of the three, the Tree Swallow, is probably the easiest to identify. The adult male has an iridescent bright blue-green, head, and back that show well in the bright sun. The wings are brownish in color with the breast and abdomen being bright white. Most females are quite similar to the male in color, just having the upper part colors being a bit duller. On occasion, some females are brownish backed with only a trace of the iridescence of the male (similar to the immature swallow in the photo above). Tree Swallows can be identified in dim light by their clean, bright white under parts and slightly notched tails.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow



Eric Howe

Northern Rough-winged Swallow males and females look the same, with nondescript, uniform, dull brownish-gray colored upper parts and dingy under parts with the throat being the darkest, which then fades to a pale grayish-white abdomen. The body is rather stocky and noticeably larger than a Bank Swallow. The tail is squared off at the end.

Swallows, continued

Bank Swallow



Rita Wiskowski

The Bank Swallow is the smallest of the three, and males and females look the same. They have a dark brown head and wings, and the back, tail, and rump are a noticeably lighter grayish brown color.

This can often be seen well as the bird banks in flight. The throat and breast are bright white, similar to the Tree Swallow, but the Bank Swallow has a dark brown breast band below the throat. Again, when the bird banks, this field mark is often readily seen. The grayish-brown tail is rather long and fairly deeply forked.

Flight

Of these three swallows, the Bank's flight seems to be the quickest, with fast, flicking wing beats. They also seem to be somewhat more maneuverable than the other two, changing direction quickly.

Nesting Habits

Another clue for identification is nesting. Tree Swallows nest in tree cavities and bird houses, whereas both the Rough-winged and Bank Swallows nest in banks along lakes, or sometimes, wherever they find a large mound of dirt. The Rough-winged nests singly while the Bank Swallow nests in large groups, or colonially, as shown in the photo at right.



Rita Wiskowski

All three of these swallows are found near water and quite often in the same flock, but hopefully with these tips you'll be able to separate them more easily.

- Article by John Dixon

Upcoming Activities

Thursday, July 12, 5:30 p.m.

Hoy Audubon's Annual Summer Picnic

Petrified Springs Park, Area 4

716 Green Bay Road, Kenosha, WI 53144

We look forward to seeing you! Bring your own beverage, a dish to pass, a plate, and flatware. We'll meet at picnic area four; if four is unavailable, we'll meet at area five or six further north. After we picnic, we'll look for birds and play bocce ball. Come have fun!

Sunday, July 22, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Racine Nature Club Field Trip with Hoy Audubon

Samuel Myers Park, 11th St, Racine, WI 53403

Hoy Audubon will co-sponsor a bird walk with the Racine Nature Club. Search the sands for sandpipers, scan the skies for raptors, and splash in the water for fun! Hoy Audubon's education expert, Rick Fare, will guide a search and discussion of birds out on the trails. For more information about the Racine Nature Club, visit: www.racinezoo.org/content/racine-nature-club

Hoy will not have an August meeting this year, but there are other August events you can attend.

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

Hoy Field Trip: Horicon Marsh

This is the tenth year that we'll be going as a group to Horicon, one of Wisconsin's premiere birding hotspots. We will meet at the Auto Loop Trail parking area off of Hwy 49 at 9:00 a.m. If you have questions, need directions, or are interested in carpooling, contact hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org.

Saturday, August 25, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Samuel Myers Park Cleanup

Samuel Myers Park, 11th St, Racine, WI 53403

Grab your gloves and join Hoy to pick up litter and make Myers Park even more beautiful!

Sunday, August 26, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Root River Festival

Lincoln Park, 2200 Domanik Drive, Racine 53405

Celebrate Racine's Root River at this free festival, offering live music, environmental education, canoeing, kayaking, and more!

Thursday, September 6, 5:30 p.m. bird walk + 6:30 p.m. meeting

Hoy Meeting, Program: Hummingbirds

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

We'll start with a bird walk at 5:30 p.m., followed by our meeting at 6:30 p.m. Our presenters will be Christina Ciano and Jeff Buss, wildlife enthusiasts and filmmakers of *A Place in the Garden*, a documentary about hummingbirds; Larry and Emily Scheunemann, retired schoolteachers and hummingbird enthusiasts; and Mickey O'Connor, hummingbird bander and Avian Zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo. We'll learn all about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: how they behave, the habitat they need, and why they are so important to our ecosystem.

Saturday, September 8, 7:30 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Wind Lake Sod Farms

Meet at the Highway 20/I-94 Park & Ride

We'll carpool to the sod farms and, from the roadside, look for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden-Plovers, Brewer's Blackbirds and other fall migrants.

Thursday, September 13, 5:30 p.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Bird Walk, Petrifying Springs

761 Green Bay Rd Kenosha, WI Meet at lot 3

Meet at lot 3; Rick Fare will lead, looking for fall migrants.

Saturday, September 15, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Big Sit

Samuel Myers Park, Racine

Hoy's eighth Big Sit is a FREE EVENT and open to EVERYONE! It is an easy activity for those with limited mobility, as birders watch from a stationary location. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, snacks, and a folding chair. Our experts will have spotting scopes set up for the public and will be happy to talk about birds with you and your family.

Weather Advisory: 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.

Summer can be hot, so be sure to take water with you on your journeys outdoors, and don't forget your sun protection!

- ◆ View the Hoy Honker in full color at www.hoyaudubon.org
- ◆ Visit Hoy on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety

Join [Hoy Audubon](#) 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**