



### Christmas Bird Count Results

Several Hoy members participated in this year's Racine, Kenosha, and Burlington Christmas Bird Counts as field parties or feeder watchers. Results of the three counts can be found at: [www.hoyaudubon.org/cbc/](http://www.hoyaudubon.org/cbc/). Here are some of the highlights:

All three counts reported Great-horned and Eastern Screech Owls, Song Sparrows, and Common Mergansers.

#### Racine Count: 53 species (9 field parties)

Duck numbers were lower than in years past, perhaps due to warmer-than-usual weather leading into winter. Mallards were the most plentiful ducks at 575 (though at a 19-year low), with Red-breasted Mergansers a distant second at 235 (7-year low). A lone Green-winged Teal was found at Colonial Park (last reported in 1975). American Black Ducks were at a 17-year low with only 7 found.



Some good birds were located on land: Winter Wrens were a first for the Racine count; three were found by two field teams. Golden-crowned Kinglets (12) were an all time high for a Racine CBC. Wind Point hosted a Palm Warbler and an Eastern Meadowlark. The Palm was a first for the Racine CBC and the fifth December record for the state.

A few birds only appeared during the count week: Cackling Goose, Eastern Bluebird, American Coot, and Great Black-backed Gull.

#### Kenosha Count: 43 species (5 field parties)

Waterfowl numbers were fairly low here too, but notable birds were two White-winged Scoters, a Long-tailed Duck, and a Red-throated Loon. Kenosha had a nice assortment of gulls: 1,486 Herring, 261 Ring-billed, two Iceland (Thayer's), two Lesser Black-backed, two Glaucous, and one Great Black-backed. Uncommon land birds included two Brown Creepers, two Golden-crowned Kinglets, and one late season Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

**Remember to Renew** your Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" membership! Dues is \$15 per individual for the 2019-2020 membership year and is due on **July 1**.

We accept dues and donations via mail or via PayPal

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

#### Burlington Count: 48 species (6 field parties)

This CBC area includes a variety of habitats. Woodlands and agricultural areas hosted 83 Blue Jays and 39 Wild Turkeys. Open field/grasslands yielded one Northern Shrike, one Northern Harrier, two Ring-necked Pheasants, five American Kestrels, 85 American Tree Sparrows, and six Horned Larks. Lakes, rivers and spring fed creeks turned up two Trumpeter Swans, four Belted Kingfishers, 24 American Robins, and a Winter Wren. This CBC contained the only Purple Finch seen in Kenosha and Racine counties for the entire month of December, their numbers being down overall this winter as were other finch species in general.

This Bald Eagle was spotted getting a jump on nest maintenance near Waterford.



Many thanks to all CBC participants!

- Eric Howe

#### 2019 Audubon Convention

July 26-28, 2019 | Milwaukee

For more information, visit:

<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/2019-convention>

**2019-2020 Hoy Board Elections will be at our May 2 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!

## Hoy Board of Directors

**President:**

Jenny Wenzel 262-488-8077

**Vice-President:**

Frank Sharkozy 262-770-2481

**Treasurer:**

Sue Schuit 262-752-5955

**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  
Wendy Sorenson  
Kristin Wegner

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

### Next Board of Directors Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 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](mailto: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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## American Woodcock vs. Wilson's Snipe

As spring approaches many birders' attention turns to shorebirds as the wetlands become open and ice free. American Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe are two shorebirds that arrive quite early in spring, are shaped quite similarly, often live in adjacent damp areas, and can be quite hard to tell apart in flight. If you get a good look at them on the ground separating can be done quite regularly. Here are some hints to be better able to tell them apart.

Both the snipe and woodcock are between 10 and 11 inches in length with long pointed bills used for probing soft mud in search of worms and other food.

The woodcock is more lightly colored than the snipe with gray sides of the neck, a brownish back with light edges on the feathers, and a pale buffy-orange breast and belly. The crown is dark brown with some light lines going across. The eye is large and dark on a buffy face, on the side of the head. The bill is long and quite pale in color.



On the other hand the snipe is darker in color with bold cream-colored stripes on a dark back. The head is striped as well with creamy white and black stripes. The breast and sides are heavily barred with the bars becoming darker towards the tail. The eye is quite a bit smaller than the woodcock's and not nearly as visible. The bill is also long, but darker in color.



Habitat could also be a clue as the woodcock prefers damp brushy areas while the snipe is more likely to be seen among tall grass in a marshy area or in grasses and weeds along the edges of muddy, flooded fields.

If you happen to catch a woodcock in its mating display, it makes a twittering sound as it takes off and while making sharp turns in flight. It also makes a distinctive "peent" call when displaying on the ground. The snipe in courtship display makes a "winnowing" sound with its outer tail feathers while in flight. Often times the snipe is so high you can't see it, but the winnowing sound is very distinctive.

Be on the lookout for these two stocky shorebirds and hopefully these tips will make identification easier.

- John Dixon



**Upcoming Activities: April**

Wednesday, April 3, 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.

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Meeting, Program: Know Your Nests**

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

Always wondering what made that nest? Join DNR Naturalist Beth Goeppinger to discover how and why animals make nests.

Monday, April 8, 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 lets the public give input on proposed changes to conservation regulations. Important questions this year concern restoring public funding for public lands and banning lead ammunition and fishing gear. For more info, visit [dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html)

Wednesday, April 10, 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.

Saturday, April 13, 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](http://www.gtc.edu/celebrate-earth-day) for info.

Saturday, April 27, 9:30 a.m.

**Education: Beginning Bird Class**

*Eco-Justice Center*

*7133 Michna Road, Racine, WI 53402*

Rick Fare will discuss ID tips for birds, how to choose binoculars, the annual lifecycle of a songbird, and bird migration. Please register by calling Sarah at 262-681-8527. Cost is \$5/person.

Tuesday, April 30, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walks at Cliffside Park**

*Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County*

**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: May**

Wednesday, May 1, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**  
*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

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

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow**  
*Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI***Upcoming Activities: May**

Thursday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Hoy Meeting, Board Elections & Program: Super Insects**

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

Vote for your 2019-2020 Hoy Board members, then Tom Kroeger will explore the often overlooked roles and abilities of insects, including navigation, chemical warfare, and camouflage.

Friday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

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

Tuesday, May 7, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walks at Cliffside Park**

*Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County*

Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

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

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow**

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

Friday, May 10, 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 11, 7:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

**Birds and Breakfast at Hawthorn Hollow**

*880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI*

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

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at Trout Ponds**

*Caledonia, just west of Hwy 31 and 4 Mile Rd*

Tuesday, May 14, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walks at Cliffside Park**

*Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County*

Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

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

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow**

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

Friday, May 17, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

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

Tuesday, May 21, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walks at Cliffside Park**

*Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County*

Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 p.m.

**Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park**

*Colonial Park, Racine, WI*

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

**Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow**

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

Friday, May 24, 8:00 a.m.

**Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend**

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

## Upcoming Activities: June

Thursday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.

### Hoy Meeting, Program: Evening with a Naturalist

*River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI*  
Christa Trushinsky, naturalist at River Bend, will discuss bats and host a bat walk, weather-permitting. We'll also review our May warbler sightings.

Saturday, June 8, 12:00 noon

### 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 2** 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.

### How can you help?

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](mailto: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: Jenny Wenzel	Treasurer: Sue Schuit
Vice President: Frank Sharkozy	Secretary: Karen Gavahan

### Directors

John Dixon	Rick Fare	Eric Howe	Kristin Wegner
Helen Pugh			

### Committees & Committee Chairs

<b>Conservation:</b> Sue Schuit	<b>Field Trips:</b> John Dixon
<b>Education:</b> Rick Fare	<b>Programs:</b> Frank Sharkozy
<b>Newsletter:</b> Kristin Wegner	<b>Membership:</b> Helen Pugh
<b>Publicity:</b> John Krowicz	

Immature Male Orchard Oriole



Kristin Wegner

- ◆ View the Hoy Honker in full color at [www.hoyaudubon.org](http://www.hoyaudubon.org)
- ◆ Visit Hoy on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HoyAudubonSociety](https://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.

Join or renew online at: [www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/](http://www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/)

Or complete the form below and mail it with 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**