



Loon Rescue

Friday, April 12th, 2019 started out like any other day for me. I woke up, fed my cat and dogs, enjoyed some coffee and watched the bird feeders while listening to the local news. Since it was my day off, I proceeded to work on some things around the house and in the yard when my phone rang at about eleven in the morning. It was a number I didn't recognize, so I let it go to voicemail, as I often do.

The message I received was from Joe Mawdesley, an over the road truck driver from Michigan whose truck was being loaded at the Meijer Distribution Center in Kenosha. While he was there, Joe noticed a Common Loon laying in the grass on the other side of the fence.



Common Loon, stranded in the grass.
It's amazing Joe spotted her!

He knew it shouldn't be there and that it was injured and needed help. Joe looked up Hoy Audubon Society's website and called my number. As soon as I listened to the message I called him right back to get the details about the loon. I was so thankful that it was my day off and that I was going to be able to try to help this bird. I hurried around the house gathering some supplies I thought I might need to help in this rescue effort. A large container, boots, gloves, a towel for the container, a blanket to cover the container. Then I was off!

I arrived at the distribution center and started looking around, but did not see the area where Joe had mentioned the loon was. I proceeded to call him back, hoping he had not left with his truck yet. Thankfully he answered and was still there! He directed me to the correct location and waved me over to where the loon was stranded in some dried grass below some high tension power lines. I slowly approached the loon and was able to gently put her into the container I had brought. I spoke with Joe who was so grateful that someone was able to come out to help this loon he had found. I thanked him so much for calling! It was a miracle that he saw it while waiting for his truck to get loaded.



On the way to
Fellow Mortals

Once the loon was safely in my car, I called the Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital in Lake Geneva. They called me back within the hour and arranged for me to drop off the loon very quickly. Once I dropped the loon off, I waited to see how she was doing after her initial assessment. The woman I spoke with noted she was a good weight, and indicated that that was a good sign. The intake form I received indicated that she had a right wing injury and some head and body trauma. I thanked them for taking her and trying to help her.

Later in the week I was ecstatic to see a video on the Fellow Mortals' Facebook page stating she was recovering! She was swimming around in the hospital and singing her beautiful song! She had no broken bones and no lead poisoning! It was a miracle! I messaged Joe right away to be sure he had heard that the loon he found was recovering. We were both so happy to hear she was doing well. I even cried the morning I watched her swimming because I was so thankful that Joe had found her and that Fellow Mortals was able to save her. Even better: We soon learned the loon was released successfully! It was a great ending to this adventure that I will never forget!



From stranded to
swimming and singing!

Thank you to both Joe Mawdesley and Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital! www.fellowmortals.org

- article and photos by Jenny Wenzel

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Thursday, August 15, 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

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Warblers:

Common Yellowthroat vs. Hooded vs. Kentucky

Now that migration is over, I thought it might be interesting to compare three of the warbler species that may have been seen in the area that look similar to one another. The three species are Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler. They are similar in size, about 5 inches long, and have similar coloring, with all three having yellow underparts and olive backs. None of the three have wing bars. I will concentrate on the head and facial field marks that separate them.

I'll start with the most common of the three, Common Yellowthroat. The male has a black mask that covers the eyes, the forehead, and extends down the side of the neck. The mask also has a whitish border on the top side. The throat, as the name implies, is bright yellow.



Common Yellowthroat

Kristin Wegner



Hooded Warbler

Kristin Wegner

The Hooded Warbler, which is not common but seen regularly, is similar in size. The male has a bright yellow face and forehead surrounded by a black cap and black throat which gives it the hooded appearance. One key field mark the Hooded has that the other two do not have is bright white feathers on the edge of its tail, similar to that of a Dark-eyed Junco.

The Kentucky Warbler, the rarest of the three, but seen occasionally, is a quite shy bird. The male has a bright yellow throat also, but unlike the Common Yellowthroat has bright yellow spectacles which barely go around the bottom of the eye. They also have black "sideburns" which border the spectacles and reach down the side of the neck below the eye and a black cap which gets less dark with a somewhat scaly appearance from the middle of the crown to the beginning of the nape.



Kentucky Warbler

John Dixon

Hopefully these field mark tips will help separate these three somewhat similar species.

- John Dixon

A Swift Rescue

As the birder in the family, I tend to get texts from my family when they see a weird bird they can't ID. Sometimes this pays off in a big way, such as when my brother saw "a couple weird seagulls but they aren't seagulls" perched in some trees along the Root River, and they turned out to be Black-crowned Night Herons. (And it turned out there were **thirteen** of them!) Other times they will text me for general bird advice, such as an attacking Red-winged Blackbird or a robin nesting in a weird place. "Why build a nest on top of a ceiling fan!?" (Don't worry, they noticed in time and didn't turn on the fan.)

So I wasn't surprised when my brother texted me a bird question recently, but I was surprised to see his photo: A Chimney Swift clinging to the handle of a door, staring up at a sign that read *Please Open Door SLOWLY Thanks*.

"We seem to have a chimney swift stuck in our stairwell. Didn't think we had a chimney at work."



The saga unfolded over a series of texts. I warned him that swifts can't really perch, so that if they managed to get the bird outside, they might have to give it a little lift into the air. The bird somehow got out of the stairwell and into a larger one. My brother nearly scooped it up, but it flew up about fifteen feet. Then at last, he captured the swift in an empty printer paper box and released it outside, where it flew off without incident.

He discovered that there is indeed a chimney in the building, but they have yet to determine how the swift got in, as it doesn't seem like there is an obvious connection between chimney and stairwell. The search continues...

- Kristin Wegner

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/

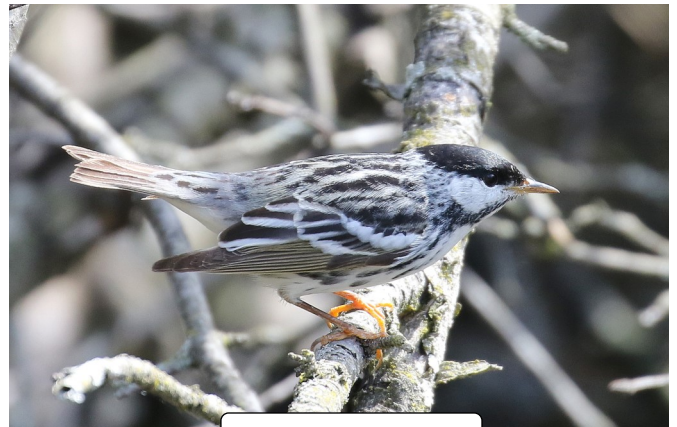
2019 Audubon Convention

July 26-28, 2019 | Milwaukee

For more information, visit:

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

More Warblers from John Dixon



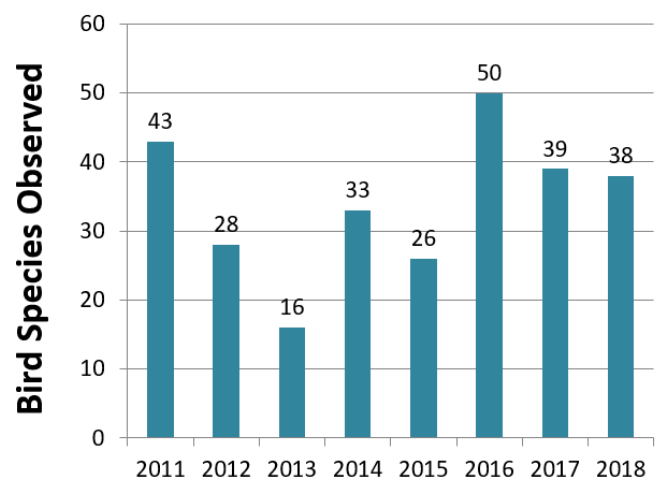
Blackpoll Warbler



Black-throated Blue Warbler

Ninth Annual Big Sit

Hoy's ninth Big Sit will be Saturday, September 7 at Carre-Hogle 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.



Upcoming Activities

Thursday, July 11, 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. Come have fun!

Hoy will not have an August meeting this year.

Saturday, August 17

Hoy Field Trip: Horicon Marsh: Boat Trip & Birding

7:00 a.m. Fgrctv/Hwy 20 Park&Ride, Greenmonte Dr, Sturtevant. Y I

8:45 a.m. @ boat tour, 305 Mill Street Horicon, WI, 53032

This is our eleventh trip to Horicon, one of Wisconsin's premiere birding hotspots. This year, we will begin with a pontoon boat tour! Cost is \$22 per person. If you plan to carpool, meet at the Hwy 20 Park & Ride at 6:45 a.m. OR you can meet us at Horicon Marsh Boat Tours (address above) no later than 8:45 a.m. (If you don't want to take the boat tour, meet us there anyway so we can plan where to meet up again later.) If you have questions or need directions, contact Rick Fare @ 262-902-9020 or hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org.

Saturday, August 31, 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 at the Burmeister and Britton Rd. intersection and bird from the roadside, looking for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden-Plovers, Brewer's Blackbirds and other fall migrants.

Thursday, September 5, 6:00 p.m. bird walk + 7:00 p.m. meeting

Hoy Meeting, Program: Not Your Grandfather's Lake: How Non-Indigenous Species Have Changed Lake Michigan

River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI
Harvey Bootsma will review the changes that have occurred in the chemistry and biology of the Great Lakes over the past half century, with an emphasis on how invasive quagga mussels have altered the lakes' productivity and food web structure.

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

The Big Sit

Carre-Hogle Park, Racine

Hoy's ninth 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.

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

Hoy Field Trip: Bird Walk, Petrifying Springs

761 Green Bay Rd Kenosha, WI Meet at lot 2

Meet at Picnic Area #2 to look for fall migrants.

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!



Black-throated Green Warbler

John Dixon

- ◆ 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.

Join or renew online at: www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/

Or complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to **Hoy Audubon Society**.

Total amount enclosed: _____

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Hoy distributes newsletters and field trip announcements by email. Please enter your email address below to be added to this distribution.

Email _____

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