



Trees We Love Turns 5!



April is here and this may be a spring unlike any we have experienced before. Many of us are spending a great deal more time in our homes, our yards and our immediate neighborhoods. While regular routines and activities may have been put on hold for a time the beauty of spring, the reassuring, predictable cycle of nature, which lets no one or nothing stop her in her tracks, can this year, more than ever, be exactly the right medicine our hearts and minds are craving.

Look out the window, work in the yard, ramble thru the neighborhood and relish the wakening of the trees. Do you have a favorite tree, a tree you love? That matriarch oak in the back, the graceful willow by the creek, the flowering apple, cherry, pear on the path, the stately maple down the road...?

If so, we want to know! Hoy's Trees We Love 2020 program is accepting nominations. Nominate the tree you love, return to the address as stated and we will site visit, measure, identify and determine approximate tree age. Award winners also receive a bronze plaque, framed photo and a written historical narrative.

*"And into the forest I go,
to lose my mind and find my soul."*
— John Muir

Visit www.hoyaudubon.org/TreesWeLove to download a nomination form, and submit your nominations by **May 31**.

— Sue Schuit
(photo by Kristin Wegner)



April - June Cancellations Due to COVID-19

Due to recent events surrounding COVID-19 and the public health emergency in the state of Wisconsin, we have decided to **cancel our April thru June meetings and field trips**. Our primary concern is the desire to keep our membership and the public safe and healthy.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and review recommendations from the CDC, the health department, and from the National Audubon Society.

We will send out notifications of any future Hoy Audubon Society cancellations, including to upcoming field trips. Please watch Hoy's website, Facebook page, and your email for further updates. The Hoy Board is also discussing how to handle our postponed May elections.

Visit Audubon's website to learn more about practicing social distancing while birding: audubon.org/news/birding-perfect-activity-while-practicing-social-distancing

Stay safe out there!

Your Hoy Audubon Board



Tree Swallows, photo by Kristin Wegner

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

No in-person meeting in April. We will attempt to meet virtually instead.

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

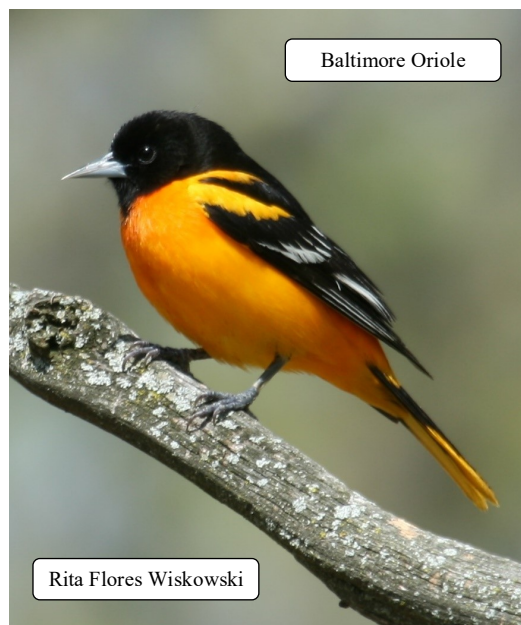
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Baltimore vs. Orchard Oriole

Now that spring is just around the corner, our thoughts will soon turn to the migrants that will be returning in late April thru the end of May. Two of the favorites, because of their bright colors and willingness to use food put out in our feeding stations, are the Baltimore and Orchard Oriole. In this column I will point out the ID marks of the males that can be used to separate them in the field.

Let's start out with the more common of the two, the Baltimore Oriole. Being about 9 inches in length, it is smaller and slimmer than a Robin, with the head, throat, upper chest, and upper back being jet black in adult males. Its wings are also black with one broad white wing-bar, orange scapulars, and white edged primaries and secondaries. The lower chest, abdomen, lower back, rump, underwing coverts (seen in flight), and undertail coverts are bright orange. The tail is black with wide orange outer feathers. The bill is fairly short and sharply pointed, with the upper mandible being black and the lower silvery in color.



Baltimore Oriole

Rita Flores Wiskowski



Orchard Oriole

Jennifer Ambrose

In contrast, the Orchard Oriole is quite noticeably smaller, being just over 7 inches in length and a bit slimmer than the Baltimore Oriole. It is patterned quite similarly to the Baltimore Oriole with several noticeable differences. While the head, throat, upper chest, upper back, and tail are all black on the Orchard Oriole, the orange colored plumage of the Baltimore Oriole, which is the lower chest, abdomen, lower back, rump, outer tail feathers, and underwing coverts, is replaced, except on the tail, by a deep chestnut color on the Orchard Oriole, making the male Orchard appear to be a dark colored bird at a distance. The bill is similar to that of the Baltimore.

As mentioned above, both species will come to feeding stations stocked with oranges and grape jelly, so it is possible to see both species together at feeders to get a direct side by side comparison. If this occurs, the differences between the two males of these species are quite apparent.

Enjoy spring migration!

- article by John Dixon