



7 Simple Actions to Help Birds

From grasslands to forests, North America has had a net loss of 2.9 billion birds since 1970. **That's 1 in 4 birds.** For migratory birds in general, 2.5 billion have been lost, with declines of 53% in grassland species, 33% in boreal species, 17% in eastern forest species, and 32% in aerial insectivores (Source: *Science*, 2019).



While these groups of species have shown a precipitous decline, the good news is that when we have taken action in the past, birds do recover. For instance, through certain pesticide reductions, raptors have increased 15 million during this time, and wetland habitat management has helped waterfowl numbers increase 35 million.

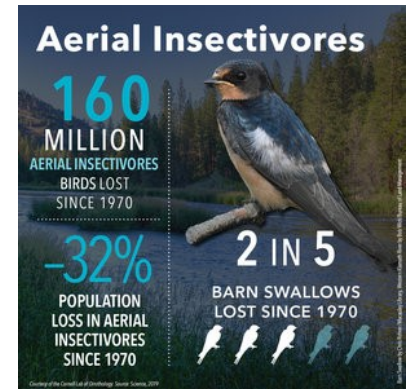
What can you do to help birds? 3billionbirds.org has put together [7 Simple Actions](#) you can take:

1. Make Windows Safer. 50% of the 1 billion birds that die annually collide with home windows. Between screens, outdoor window applications/deterrents, and/or retrofits, there are many opportunities including do it yourself projects that can help you fix the deadliest windows at your home. For more details, visit: abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/stop-birds-hitting-windows/

2. Keep Cats Indoors. Free-roaming and outdoor cats kill 2.6 billion birds annually in the U.S. and Canada. Aside from habitat loss, this is the #1 human-caused reason for the loss of birds. For solutions, see: abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/

3. Plant Native Plants. With 40 million acres of lawn in the U.S., there is a lot of opportunity to reduce the near-sterile lawn landscape and increase native plants that support pollinators and provide insects, seeds, fruits, and shelter for migrating and nesting species. For more information, visit: audubon.org/native-plants

4. Avoid Pesticides. Overuse of pesticides has resulted in reduction of insects that many bird species depend upon for food, as well as direct causes of bird mortalities through poisoning. For more information, visit: abcbirds.org/program/pesticides/home-and-garden/



5. Drink Coffee That's Good For Birds. More than 40 species of North American migratory songbirds may winter in shade grown coffee farms that maintain a forested canopy. Full-sun farms, where forests have been cleared, typically require pesticide/fertilizer inputs and harbor far fewer species. If you buy coffee, look for a shade grown certified label or encourage your favorite supplier to carry it: nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/where-buy-bird-friendly-coffee

6. Protect Our Planet From Plastic. Avoid single use plastics and use reusable/recyclable items when the need arises. Plastics not being recycled (91% worldwide) is an increasing hazard to the environment, as wildlife such as sea turtles and seabirds die from entanglements or mistaking plastic for food. For tips on reducing plastic use, visit: audubon.org/news/eight-easy-ways-reduce-your-plastic-waste



7. Watch Birds, Share What You See. Without monitoring, how do we know how our birds are faring or which species need our help? Help contribute to citizen science projects and also support those organizations/scientists who help lead the way. Visit: birds.cornell.edu/home/citizen-science-be-part-of-something-bigger

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

April 22, 2021. We will continue to meet via phone.

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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Broad-winged vs. Red-shouldered Hawk

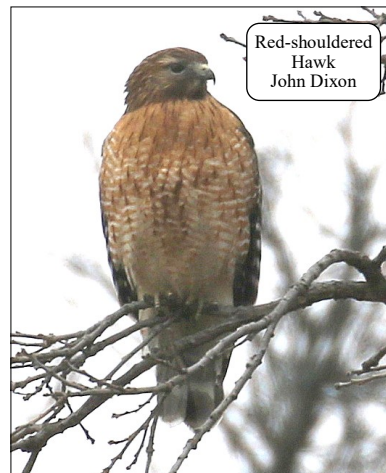
As the height of spring migration approaches, it is once again time to look to the skies for migrating raptors. Two that are quite similar in appearance, the Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk, will be passing through. Here are some tips to hopefully make identifying them easier.



Broad-winged
Hawk
John Dixon

Let's start with the smaller of the two, the Broad-winged. It is a small buteo, often found in dry upland forest, with a reddish-brown chest and heavily barred abdomen and flanks. Its mantle (back) and wings are dark brown in color. Its most notable field mark is its short black and white banded tail, with two wide black bands and one wide white band. The underside in flight shows the solid reddish-brown chest and barred abdomen and flanks along with whitish underwings with black primaries and black border along the trailing edge of the secondaries. Another good field mark is its one-pitch, high, thin whistle: tee seee, tee seee.

The Red-shouldered Hawk, also a forest dweller and often found near water, is a medium-sized buteo just a bit larger than the Broad-winged, with a finely barred orangish chest and abdomen. The red lesser coverts (shoulders) can be quite evident in flight when the bird banks. The mantle, secondaries, median and greater coverts are checkered black and white. The underwings are also checkered black and white with axillaries a pale rufous. The tail is banded black and white with three wide black bands and three narrow white bands. The call, often imitated by the Blue Jay, is a loud, far-carrying, high pitched squeal: kee yer, kee yer.



Red-shouldered
Hawk
John Dixon



Broad-winged
Hawk showing a
common spring
molting pattern

During migration both species can be seen circling high overhead, with the Red-shouldered normally being seen singularly, while the Broad-winged sometimes is seen in large, swirling kettles, trying to gain altitude. As a rule, the Red-shouldered migrates earlier, and can sometimes be seen in the winter while the Broad-winged arrives later in the spring.

Another thing to note is these buteos are noticeably smaller than the more regularly seen resident Red-tailed Hawk.

Kristin Wegner

Hopefully these ID marks will help in separating these two similar species.

- article by John Dixon

In Memory

Hoy Audubon Society has received several recent donations in memory of Anna Rose Locante.

Thank you for thinking of Hoy.

Become a Bluebird Monitor!

Do you enjoy watching bird behavior?

Would you like to participate in a project to help bird populations grow?

Why not become a Bluebird monitor?

Opportunities exist to either have your own trail or assist others on theirs. It's a lot of fun and very rewarding.

If you are interested in becoming a Bluebird monitor, please contact Rick Fare: 262-902-9020 or rick.fare@hoyaudubon.org



photo by Kristin Wegner

COVID-19 Precautions

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, Hoy will limit our field trips to activities/locations where we can maintain social distancing.

If you attend our field trips, we ask that you **wear a mask**, and please bring your own water, snacks, and optics (binoculars and spotting scopes) to help minimize contact. We will also not be carpooling to events as we have in the past.

If you have questions or need directions to field trip locations, contact hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org.

Upcoming Activities: April

Wednesday, April 7, 5:30 p.m.

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 7:15 p.m. we'll walk the trail to the north and await the display of the American Woodcock. Waterproof footwear advised.

Monday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress: Annual Spring Hearings

This annual meeting lets the public give input on proposed changes to conservation regulations. Important questions this year concern support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, eliminating the risk of a Line 5 oil pipeline spill, implementing Best Practices for CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) for deer, and support for a study to determine the effects of dog training/trailing on nesting birds.

The questionnaire is available online, so you can make your voice heard even from home. For more info, visit dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html

Wednesday, April 14, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk: Pike River

Pike River Pathway, Wendi Court parking area, Mount Pleasant

Meet at 5:30 p.m. to walk the paved loop trail south from the parking area in search of early spring migrants. At 7:30 p.m., we'll meet at the parking area again then walk the path to await the display of the American Woodcock.

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Earth Day Events

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gateway Technical College is combining EcoFest Racine and Celebrate Earth Day. The event will consist of some drive-through activities followed by a virtual exhibitor fair / informational sessions from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM through a virtual event platform.

Watch this site for details: gtc.edu/business-community/additional-information/community-events/ecofest-racine

Wednesday, April 21, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Woodcock Walk: Chiwaukee Prairie

121st Street and 2nd Avenue, Pleasant Prairie

Please park along the west side of 2nd Ave. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. to walk in search of early spring migrants. At 7:30 p.m. we'll await the display of the American Woodcock. Waterproof footwear advised.

Wednesday, April 28, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park

Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Thursday, April 29, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow

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

Friday, April 30, 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: May

Saturday, May 1, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at McCalvy Tabor Wood
5131 Tabor Road, Caledonia, WI 53402

Tuesday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Cliffside Park
Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

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

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

Thursday, May 6, 5:30 p.m.

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

Friday, May 7, 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 11, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Cliffside Park
Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Wednesday, May 12, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Friday, May 14, 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 18, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Cliffside Park
Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Wednesday, May 19, 5:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, May 20, 5:30 p.m.

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

Friday, May 21, 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 25, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Cliffside Park
Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Upcoming Activities: June

There are currently no activities scheduled for June.



Tree Swallows,
Kristin Wegner

- ♦ 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: _____

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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 _____

Send check and information to: Hoy Audubon Society
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