



Treasurer Updates

Greetings Hoy Audubon members! I am Sue Schuit, Hoy's Treasurer, Conservation Chair, and creator of our program, Trees We Love. I've been the Treasurer for approximately 3 years, Conservation Chair for approx. 6 years, and Trees We Love coordinator for 4 years. In this article I am wearing my Treasurer's hat...

At recent board meetings we've realized it's been some time since we have shared Hoy's financial status and updates. We believe the start of a new calendar year is a fitting time to do so.

First and foremost, a big **THANK YOU** to the many members and non-members who have donated to Hoy in the past two years! Thanks to all of you, Hoy has had an increase of over \$500 in donations at 6/30/21 over 6/30/20 (\$1,910 vs \$1,333) and an increase of over \$1270 as of 11/30/21 versus 11/30/20 (\$2,020 vs \$750). As a member organization it is always great news to see an increase in membership. While Hoy has not seen a dramatic increase in membership numbers, neither have we seen a dramatic decrease in the last 3 years. Our membership fees average approx. \$2,400 annually. At a \$15 annual membership, that translates to approximately 166 paying members; the newsletter and email list is much higher at approximately 580 receivers.

While the above numbers may seem to some of you to be quite modest, please keep in mind that our financial obligations are as well. Normal expenses such as P.O. Box Rental, Postage, Printing, Directors and Officers Insurance, Meeting Expense... average approximately \$2,400 annually. In a nutshell, while serving as Hoy's Treasurer, our average annual income is approximately \$4,000 with expenses averaging \$2,400 – thus allowing Hoy to realize a surplus pattern in the last 3 years.

Hoy Audubon also has, for our size, some healthy reserves, and unrestricted equity (cumulative year after year income after expenses as well as bequests) in excess of \$25,000. These liquid funds are held in several ways; checking, savings and a CD account.

With the above information, the Hoy board is currently discussing what we can do with a portion of some of the above unrestricted funds to further **our mission, which is:**

To initiate, encourage, coordinate, stimulate, and assist civic and community organizations, business, professional and educational interests and appropriate units of government in the study and appreciation of ornithology; to preserve and protect wildlife habitats; to support all reasonable programs of air and water pollution abatement and control; to support the principles of conservation of natural resources at local, state and national levels; to encourage and enlist the active cooperation of all citizens in the Racine and Kenosha County areas in support of these aims.

Treasurer Updates, continued—

We have recently made a \$500 sponsorship to Bird City, WI, and we have also purchased 3 Audubon Adventure kits (\$137.85) as well as 2 different brands of binoculars for quality testing (\$163.79). The kits and the binoculars (10 pairs) will be donated for educational programs to the following non-profit organizations: Eco Justice Center, Hawthorne Hollow, Pringle Nature Center and River Bend Nature Center. Additional ideas we are pursuing include acquiring a Hoy banner for use at educational events as well as purchasing a number of anti-collision window bird stickers to distribute at such events.



Cedar Waxwing,
Kristin Wegner

We would like more ideas and projects, you are our members, we represent you. What would you like to see Hoy do to fulfill our mission? Anything new, anything different? We want to hear from YOU! In the near future we will be sending out a survey asking for your thoughts and suggestions on various topics such as: Mission enhancement ideas? Education ideas? Meeting topic suggestions? Program suggestions? Birding field trip ideas? Volunteer opportunities? We welcome any and all input!

We are also very open and quite eager to receive creative ideas and new board volunteers! Hoy is currently looking to fill the positions of Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity Chair, as well as additional members for all committees: Conservation, Education, Field Trips, Membership, Newsletter, Programs, and Publicity.

If you are able to give a few hours of your time to help and/or would like to share your ideas, please contact Jennifer Wenzel at jenny.wenzel@hoyaudubon.org!

Happy 2022 to each and every one of you, may 2022 allow you to "Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth." - Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

- article by Sue Schuit

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	262-308-6419
Kristin Wegner	

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

February 10, 2022. We will continue to meet via phone for now.

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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Canvasback vs. Redhead

As winter is now upon us, it is time to turn our attention to migrating waterfowl on the inland lakes, ponds, and Lake Michigan. Two species that are often seen and could be mistaken for each other are Canvasback and Redhead, both of which are diving ducks. Although sometimes seen together on Lake Michigan in harbors and bays, they are more likely to be seen together on inland lakes. Eagle Lake in western Racine County is a good place to see them together for a good comparison.

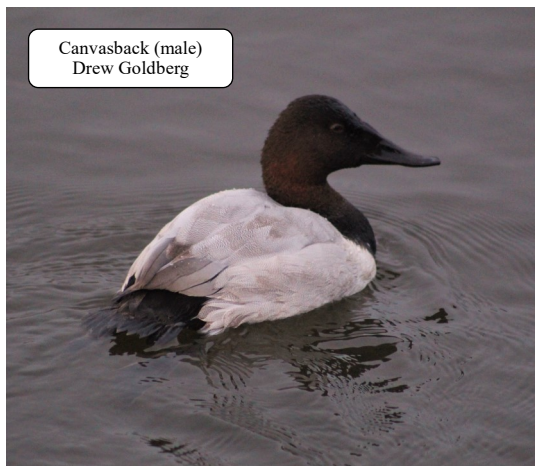
Let's start with the more common of the two, Redhead. The male, or drake, lives up to its name in having a roundish red head, yellow eye, a black chest, gray back and flanks, and black undertail coverts. Its bill is light blue with a white band separating the blue from a black tip. Size wise it is noticeably smaller than a Mallard.

The female, or hen, Redhead is an overall soft brownish color with a dark eye, and a dark gray bill with a white ring and black tip.



Redhead female (left) and male (right)
Rita Wiskowski

On the other hand the Canvasback is larger, being slightly smaller than a Mallard. Its head and neck are more robust than the Redhead's, with the male having a deeper shade of red head plumage than the Redhead along with a dark red eye. Its bill is long, black, and quite a bit larger than its counterpart, the Redhead. The forehead is sloped, and the male has a blackish cap. One of the most distinctive features is the male's white back and sides with black undertail coverts.



Canvasback (male)
Drew Goldberg

The female Canvasback has a brown head and neck, dark eye, long black bill, and a light grayish-brown back and flanks. Her head shape is like the male's and helps distinguish her from the female Redhead.

If seen together they are quite easily told apart. When alone, they may be a bit more of a challenge, but hopefully these tips make it easier.

- John Dixon

Book Review:***A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds***

Written by: Scott Weidensaul

Reviewed by: Wendy Frasheski

If you want to dive deep into the depths of the migration story, you may not find anyone more knowledgeable about the subject than Scott Weidensaul. He has written two books about the subject, *Living on the Wind* and *A World on the Wing—The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, his most recent release, 2021. This review is about *A World on the Wing*.

Scott has done extensive field work and research in the science and technology involved in the study of bird migration. He traveled all over the world discovering many pieces of the migratory puzzle. One such study followed the journey of a semipalmated sandpiper which travels thousands of miles without food, water, or rest, drinking moisture from their muscles without dehydrating, and putting half their brain to sleep for a few seconds at a time, alternating sides!



Semipalmated Sandpiper
Kristin Wegner

Scott worked with Forest Service biologist Brian Woodbridge whose banding projects and research in Butte Valley, California, and Argentina concluded that the Swainson's Hawk was being threatened by pesticides used at its winter migratory home in Argentina, a story introduced in *Living on the Wind* and continued in *A World on the Wing*.

Great reading for understanding and appreciating the fascinating lives of migratory birds!

Book Review:***A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching***

Written by: Rosemary Mosco

Reviewed by: Kristin Wegner



When you're a birdwatcher, pigeons can seem a little passé (unless you're lucky enough to see a Banded Pigeon that's veered into the state, as some of us were several years ago).

But Rosemary Mosco's new book, *A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching*, is sure to change your mind. You may know her work from her hilarious-yet-scientific nature comic, *Bird and Moon*. Her wit is on full display in the pages of this book as she takes readers through the lives and histories of pigeons.

She delves into all sorts of questions, such as: Why do pigeons have such a bad reputation? Why would humans have wanted to domesticate pigeons in the first place? Why on earth do pigeons bob their heads when they walk? (I won't spoil this one...)

There's a nice chapter on pigeon behavior that can teach you some things about dove behavior in general, from basic functions to courtship to (extremely pathetic, as it turns out!) nest building. And you'll be happy to hear there's an "extra credit" chapter at the end that provides an introduction to birding for those who've been enticed by the book.

Once I picked it up, I couldn't put it down, nor could I stop telling everyone I talked to that they needed to read it.

I am now fortified with pigeon facts. For example: Thanks to the tips within, I can now classify the birds in the above photo: the bird on the left looks like a blue T-check, while the bird on the right appears to be a dilute blue bar. (But apologies to pigeon experts if I'm mistaken; I'm still learning!)

Upcoming Activities

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 observe the latest CDC guidelines regarding masking and social distancing. 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.

Saturday, January 8, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Chiwaukee Prairie Plants: Rare, Colorful, Unique

Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140
Come learn about the unique, colorful, and rare plants of Chiwaukee Prairie in a public presentation held in partnership with the local chapter of the Wild Ones. Photographer and Carthage College biology professor Dr. Dana Garrigan will team up with Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Association's volunteer naturalist Kay McClelland to take you on a photographic tour to see the unique native plant species of Chiwaukee Prairie. Along the way, you'll learn about the ways in which these native plant gems are uniquely suited to their prairie and wetland environments as well as cultural history of some of these plants and their use by people, including traditional uses by indigenous people and contemporary uses in landscaping to promote backyard biodiversity. Following the presentation, you'll have an opportunity to tour the exhibit *Chiwaukee Prairie - A Photojournal of Preservation*.

Saturday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Waterfowl & Gulls on the Kenosha Lakefront

7825 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143

We'll meet at the Southport Park parking area (just north of the Kenosha Sand Dunes). Dress warmly!

Thursday, February 3, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Birds of the Chiwaukee Prairie

Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140
Join the Hoy Audubon Society for a public presentation about local birds. Carthage biology professor and photographer Dr. Dana Garrigan will team up with John Krerowicz, a local bird enthusiast and member of the Hoy Audubon Society's board of directors to introduce you to some of the bird species present in Chiwaukee Prairie in southeastern Kenosha County. You'll see engaging photos of both common and less familiar species and have a chance to learn about the biology and behavior of birds. The presentation will be suitable for all ages and will be followed by an opportunity to tour the exhibit *Chiwaukee Prairie - A Photojournal of Preservation*.

Saturday, February 12, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Gulls on the Racine Lakefront

Myers Park, Racine

We'll begin at Myers Park then make our way northward to the Racine Harbor. Bring your binoculars (and spotting scope if possible) and dress for the weather!

Friday, February 18 through Monday, February 21

The Great Backyard Bird Count!

A world-wide, joint effort by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and Bird Studies Canada—open to all. Visit birdcount.org for more information.

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Eagle Lake Waterfowl

23705 Church Rd., Kansasville, WI

We'll arrive at Eagle Lake park (north side) at 9:00 a.m. We'll bird the lake then check the wetlands near the intersection of Hwy 11 and 75 on the way back. **Check our website prior to the trip;** if the lake is still frozen by late March, we may postpone to March 26 and try again.



Long-tailed Duck
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: _____

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**