



October Meeting: Hoy Board Elections

Join us on Thursday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m. at River Bend for Hoy's first in-person meeting since the pandemic started. (Note that we will continue to monitor CDC guidelines leading up to the meeting.) One important event at this meeting will be our annual board elections, which have been postponed for over two years.

Here are the members currently running:

Officers			
President: Rick Fare		Treasurer: Sue Schuit	
Vice President: Jenny Wenzel		Secretary: Anna Hudson	
Directors			
John Dixon	Karen Gavahan	Eric Howe	Kristin Wegner
Helen Pugh			
Committees & Committee Chairs			
Conservation: Sue Schuit		Field Trips: John Dixon	
Education: Rick Fare		Programs: Frank Sharkozy	
Newsletter: Kristin Wegner		Membership: Helen Pugh	
Publicity: OPEN			

Don't forget—our board meetings are open to all Hoy members, so if you'd like to attend one to see what it's like or to share some ideas, please join us! We are continuing to meet virtually for the time being, so it's easy to call in or join via Zoom. We meet 6 times a year, and we're always looking for input.

We can always use help with:

- Planning field trips and programs
- Creating newsletter content
- Managing memberships
- Generating ideas for conservation activities

Happy 100th Birthday, George!

Hoy wishes a very Happy 100th Birthday to George Prins, one of the founding members of Hoy! George will be celebrating his 100th birthday on December 24, 2022.

George's brother Edward Prins organized the first meeting of the Hoy Nature Club in May 1939 with George Prins, Dr. Von Jarchow, Wally Nelson, and Hans Zell. At the group's first meeting, George demonstrated how to prepare a bird for taxidermy.

In an upcoming Hoy meeting, George's son Dave will join us to share additional history. Watch Hoy's website and Facebook page for details!

Thank you, George, for helping Hoy fledge!



Did You Forget to Renew?

It's not too late to renew your 2022-2023 Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" membership!

Dues are \$15 per individual.

We accept dues and donations via mail or via PayPal

www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/

Christmas Bird Counts

Save the dates and watch Hoy's website and Facebook page for details and updates.

Wednesday, Dec 14 (backup Dec 15)

Burlington CBC

To sign up, contact Nick Mimier at nickmimier@yahoo.com or 262-363-8856.

Saturday, Dec 17 (backup Dec 18)

Racine CBC

To sign up, contact Eric Howe at cbe@hoyaudubon.org

Wednesday, Dec 21 (backup Dec 22)

Kenosha CBC

To sign up, contact Valerie Mann at kenoshacbc@gmail.com or 219-477-0006.

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	
Helen Pugh	262-308-6419
Kristin Wegner	

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

October 20, 2022. We will continue to meet via phone and Zoom 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@hoysaudubon.org

The Hoy Honker is the newsletter of the Hoy Audubon Society, Inc. PO Box 044626, Racine, WI 53404.

Copyright © 2022 Hoy Audubon Society. Copyright © of each work belongs to the author or creator of the work.

Welcome Back!

As you are much aware, it's been a rough couple of years making our way through this pandemic. Hopefully the time is right to start moving forward towards a semblance of normalcy. With that being said, Hoy Audubon Society would like to reopen our first Thursday of the month in-person programs and get together. Please consider joining us at River Bend Nature Center in Racine on Thursday, November 3, from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Rather than a speaker presentation, this evening will be a membership meet and greet opportunity to introduce / reintroduce ourselves to other as likeminded nature enthusiasts and to discuss what we have been seeing in the field and at the feeders. I'm hoping to see many new and familiar faces that evening. Your participation makes the efforts that go into the planning of programs and field trips so much more worthwhile and enjoyable, so please consider joining us. I wish to see Hoy Audubon emerge from this pandemic a more active group than ever.



Sharp-shinned Hawk from 2021 Chiwaukee Hawk Watch, Frank Sharkozy

BUT WAIT. If November seems too far off, Hoy Audubon Society will also host an October meeting at River Bend Nature Center on Thursday, October 6, from 7:00-9:00 pm. Hoy Audubon's very own Education Director, Rick Fare, will present his ever popular program on Winter Birds.

BUT THATS NOT ALL. Tom Elliot, one of the owners of the new Wild Birds Unlimited store on Hwy 50 in Pleasant Prairie, will attend one of these meetings to introduce himself and talk a little about the new store. (Watch Hoy's website and Facebook page for details!)

Please consider attending one of these "Testing The Waters" programs as it will give Hoy a sense the group's interest moving forward. The Winter Bird program is also being promoted to the members of River Bend as well. Looking forward to discussing nature and having fun again!

Best regards,

Frank Sharkozy, Programs Director

P.S. There will be cookies and juice.

2022 Purple Martin Report

Lots of good news this year for Hoy's Purple Martin Lakefront Initiative. The numbers of fledglings increased in both Racine and Kenosha for a total of 317!

The second-year 8-gourd rack at Gateway fledged its first brood, and two other gourds had eggs which didn't hatch. We were pretty excited when there were three nests started; we have high hopes for next year. Gateway's house doubled its production to 28. The Coast Guard house had the exact same number as last year: 62. The four houses at the Water Department are, once again, nearly full and fledged 207 birds! There was a drop in the total number of eggs produced, but the hatching and survival rate went up. Kenosha held at 16.

Kenosha added another monitor this year, and they have a solid working group of three. Shown at right: Marianne Giannis, Stephen Gifford and Debby Eisel.



Racine continues with their working group of four. Shown at left: Terry Ansel, Tom (not pictured) and Karen Gavahan, and Annie Shace.

Stephen brought his grandchildren to help.



The season's monitoring is finished, but we will get together soon for a celebratory luncheon, and then for a final clean out later in the fall. It's a pleasure to work with this dedicated and enthusiastic group.

Photo of 5-6 day old chicks:



The only hindrance to expanding our Initiative is the number of volunteer monitors. Please give me a call if you would like to join us next May. We play with baby birds!!

- article and photos by Helen Pugh

Upcoming Activities

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

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

Hoy Meeting & Board Elections

River Bend, Main Hall

3600 N. Green Bay Road, Racine, Wisconsin 53404

Our first in-person meeting in a long time! Hoy member Rick Fare will lead a presentation on winter birds. We will also have our annual Hoy Board elections. See page 1 for our candidates.

Saturday, October 8, 8:30 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Hawk Watch at IL Beach SP

Illinois Beach State Park (North Unit), Zion, IL

Meet at the BP gas station at 12720 Sheridan Rd (corner of Sheridan and Russell). The group will continue from there. Bring your binoculars, a chair, water, snacks, and layered clothing.

Saturday, October 15, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (backup date: Oct 22)

Hoy Field Trip: Hawk Watch at Chiwaukee Prairie

121st St. and 2nd Ave., Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

Hoy will meet at Chiwaukee to watch for migrating raptors. There is roadside parking in this area, as well as a portable bathroom unit. Bring your binoculars, a chair, water, snacks, and layered clothing in case it's breezy. If migration conditions are poor, we will postpone the trip until October 22. Watch Hoy's website and Facebook page for details!

Thursday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting & Meet and Greet

River Bend, Main Hall

3600 N. Green Bay Road, Racine, Wisconsin 53404

Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Shoop Park/Wind Point Birding

Shoop Park, Racine

Meet at the Shoop parking lot to look for fall migrants. We may walk to the Wind Point lighthouse as well, depending on lake level. Dress for cold & windy weather and wear sturdy walking shoes.

Friday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Owl Prowl at Bong State Recreational Area

Meet at DNR parking lot on north side of Hwy BB (7th Street)

We will drive near and within the park to listen for owls. (Note that a WI State Parks vehicle admission sticker is required to park within Bong.) If excessive wind and/or rain is forecasted, this event may be canceled.

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

Hoy Field Trip: Kenosha Lakefront Birding

7825 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143

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

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

Hoy Field Trip: Eagle Lake Waterfowl

We'll arrive at Eagle Lake park (north side) at 9:00 a.m. and look for migrating waterfowl. Hoy will keep an eye on the lake leading up to the trip, and if waterfowl levels are low, our backup location will be Shoop Park in Racine. Watch Hoy's website and Facebook page for updates!

Saturday, November 26, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Shoop Park/Wind Point Birding

Shoop Park, Racine

Meet at the Shoop parking lot to look for fall migrants. We may walk to the Wind Point lighthouse as well, depending on lake level. Dress for cold & windy weather and wear sturdy walking shoes.

Activities, continued

December meeting details TBD; watch Hoy's website and Facebook for details!

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Kenosha Lakefront Birding

7825 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143

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



Rusty Blackbird,
Kristin Wegner

♦ 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**