



Racine Falcon Cam

Peregrines are back in the box on top of the Racine County Courthouse. You may have seen them around the building during the winter, but soon, the excitement of nesting will begin. The falcons don't appear to have eggs just yet.



Eric Howe snapped this next screenshot on March 18 after one of the falcons returned to the box with fresh prey. Lunch appears to be a Wilson's Snipe; Eric saw orangish tail feathers as the falcon began to pluck its prey. The falcon cached the remains of the bird in the box after eating.



You can watch the falcon's progress live here: falconcam.racinecounty.com

May Meeting: Hoy Board Elections

Join us on Thursday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. at Hawthorn Hollow for Hoy's annual board elections. (We had an election in October to catch up after the pandemic; this will be our regularly-scheduled May election.)

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	Frank Sharkozy	
Committees & Committee Chairs			
Conservation: Sue Schuit	Field Trips: John Dixon		
Education: Rick Fare	Programs: Frank Sharkozy		
Newsletter: Kristin Wegner	Membership: Helen Pugh		
Publicity: Anna Hudson			

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

~ Almost Time to Renew ~

Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" membership dues for the 2023-2024 period will be due on July 1.
Dues are \$15 per individual.

We accept dues and donations via mail or via PayPal
www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/

Hoy Board of Directors

President:
Rick Fare 262-902-9020

Vice-President:
Jenny Wenzel 262-488-8077

Treasurer:
Sue Schuit 262-752-5955

Secretary:
Anna Hudson 262-960-5675

Directors:
John Dixon
Eric Howe
Helen Pugh 262-308-6419
Frank Sharkozy 262-770-2481
Kristin Wegner

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

April 13, 2023.

We will continue to meet via phone and Zoom for now.

Renew or Donate Online

To join Hoy, renew your Chapter Supporter membership, or make a donation, visit www.hoysaudubon.org/donate/

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

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A Quest for a Fan-tailed Warbler

As some of you know, I travel all around the United States, and sometimes Canada, to go see, and find, birds in the ABA (American Birding Association) area, which is the US and Canada, that I haven't seen before. Last November, I went on one of those trips.

Watching eBird and Facebook ABA rare bird alerts, I saw two Fan-tailed Warblers, an ABA Code 4 bird, were being seen in Mesa and Tucson, AZ. Having missed this species by a day in 2018, I was happy to get another chance to try for it. On the way I picked up two of my Tennessee birding friends in West Memphis, AR, and we piled into my Jeep and took off for Mesa.



Driving all night we made it to the area in time to take a nap before sunrise. We then searched the area with other birders until 1 p.m. with no luck. The day before, I alerted another friend who lives in Green Valley, AZ, of the other bird in Tucson. She was able to see it there. I asked her to let me know if that bird was relocated. At 1 p.m. she texted me the bird was found again in the same location. My friends and I jumped into my Jeep and we raced, literally, down to Tucson. Another friend I had met while birding in CA followed.

After getting turned around in the maze of trails there, we found a group of birders in a wash all looking at the same spot. This is almost always a good sign. We made our way there and always immediately saw our target bird, the Fan-tailed Warbler! We were ecstatic and were able to watch it at our leisure for over an hour as it walked on the ground like an Ovenbird, chasing insects while spreading its fan-like tail.



Fan-tailed Warbler, John Dixon

The four of us then went out for a celebratory dinner. The next day my friends and I drove back home. It was a great time with friends I've met on my many birding travels!

- John Dixon, Hoy Field Trip Chairman

Chiwaukee Prairie Plant Walks

Kay McClelland, Hoy member and Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund naturalist, will lead plant identification walks at Chiwaukee Prairie from 9 to 11 a.m. on these Saturdays:

- ☼ May 6
- ☼ June 3
- ☼ July 1
- ☼ August 5
- ☼ September 2



Field Milkwort,
Eric Howe

Information includes a little history, a little geology, and lots of plant names and facts. Over the months you will look at and identify more than 100 different flowering plants, grasses, and some sedges. There will likely be a plant list available each time as well as occasional other handouts. Visit chiwaukee.org/volunteer prior to the hike day for confirmed meeting location (tentatively at 121st Street and 2nd Avenue in Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County).

Washington Islands Birding Festival

If you're interested in visiting Door County this spring, this year's Washington Islands Birding Festival will be held on May 12-14. In addition to birding on Washington Island, this year's festival will include a boat trip to Plum Island (weather permitting) and an opportunity to attend a fish boil.

For registration and details, visit: wianc.org/bird-festival
Space is limited!



Upcoming Activities: April

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

Wednesday, April 5, 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.

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

Hoy Meeting: History of Hawthorn Hollow

Hawthorn Hollow, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI

TJ Leveque, Executive Director of Hawthorn Hollow, will discuss the history of this nature sanctuary as well as recent updates.

Monday, April 10 @ noon, through April 13 @ noon

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: biosolids testing and initiatives to detect PFAS chemicals, restricting lead fishing tackle (which poisons loons), developing an outreach program to decrease the use of lead ammunition (which poisons eagles), and support for clean water. 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 12, 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.

Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 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 6:30 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.

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Earth Day

Gateway Technical College 3520 - 30th Avenue, Kenosha, WI

Check the link below for confirmed activity times (once updated). gtc.edu/business-community/additional-information/community-events/celebrate-earth-day. Gateway celebrates our environment with displays, workshops and hands-on activities for people of all ages. The event started on Gateway's Kenosha Campus in 2008 and extended to the Elkhorn Campus in 2012. Hundreds of community members participate in Celebrate Earth Day every year to learn how to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle and to show their support for green community practices.

Wednesday, April 26, 5:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park

Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Upcoming Activities: May

Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 p.m.
Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park
Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Thursday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walk at Cliffside Park
Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Thursday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.
Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow and Meeting: Board Election
Hawthorn Hollow, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI
 Meet at the nature center for a bird walk at 5:30 p.m. followed by Hoy meeting and annual board election.

Friday, May 5, 8:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend
River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at Wind Point
Wind Point Lighthouse, 4725 Lighthouse Drive, Racine, WI

Wednesday, May 10, 5:30 p.m.
Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park
Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Thursday, May 11, 8:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walk at Cliffside Park
Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Thursday, May 11, 5:30 p.m.
Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow
Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI

Friday, May 12, 8:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Morning Bird Walk at River Bend
River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI

Saturday, May 13, 9:00 a.m.
Birds and Plants at Hawthorn Hollow
Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI
 Hoy members will lead bird walks at 9 and 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 17 AND 24, 5:30 p.m.
Field Trips: Evening Warbler Walks at Colonial Park
Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Thursday, May 18, 8:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Morning Warbler Walk at Cliffside Park
Picnic Area #2 at Cliffside Park, Racine County

Thursday, May 18, 5:30 p.m.
Field Trip: Evening Bird Walk at Hawthorn Hollow
Meet at Nature Center, 880 Green Bay Rd, Kenosha, WI

Friday, May 19, 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 23, 7:00 p.m.
Field Trip: Chiwaukee Prairie Bird Walk
122nd Street and 2nd Avenue, Pleasant Prairie, WI
 Meet near the orange gate by 7 p.m. We'll walk the trails in search of early spring migrants. Or, meet by 8:15 p.m. at parking area. We'll listen for possible Eastern Whip-poor-will and American Woodcock. Recommendations: Dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

May, continued

Wednesday, May 24, 5:30 p.m.
Field Trip: Evening Warbler Walk at Colonial Park
Colonial Park, Racine, WI

Upcoming Activities: June

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.
Hoy Meeting: Cranes Over Wisconsin
River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI
 Join Stephanie Schmidt, Whooping Crane Outreach Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation, to learn the history of the cranes of Wisconsin and how you can help safeguard their future!

Saturday, June 10, 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Field Trip: Picnic with the Peregrines!
Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Ave, Racine, WI
 Bring your binoculars, chair, and lunch to the courthouse lawn (southwest corner along 8th Street). The chicks should be active at this point (assuming all goes well during nesting beginning in spring). Spotting scopes will be available for closeup views. In the meantime, check out the action at falconcam.racinecounty.com!

◆ 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. To join or renew online, visit www.hoyaudubon.org/donate/. To join or renew by mail, complete this form and send with 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**