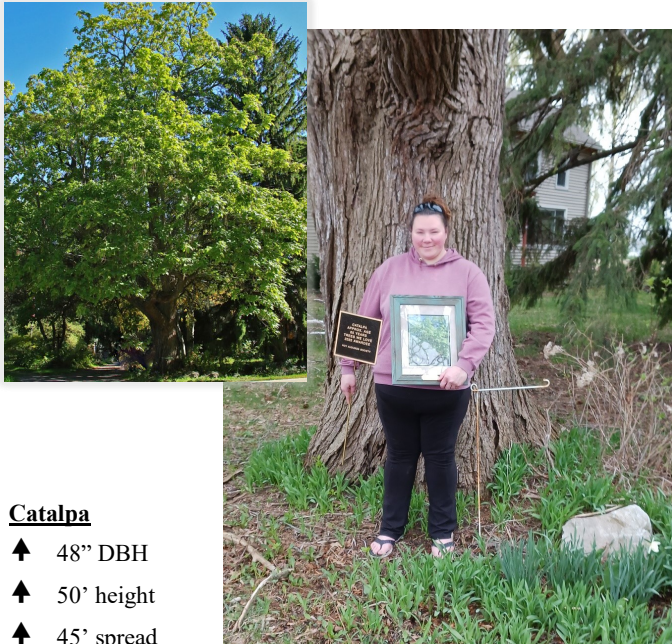




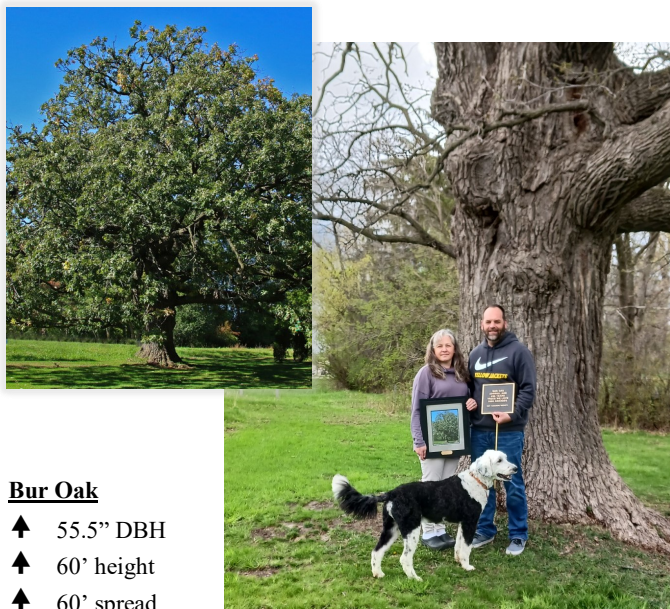
**Trees We Love
Stewards Awarded**

Here are our [2022 Trees We Love](#) winners with their awards and their trees! Tree photos by John Krowicz and steward photos by Sue Schuit.



Catalpa

- ▲ 48" DBH
- ▲ 50' height
- ▲ 45' spread
- ▲ Approx. age: 65
- ▲ Melanie & Matthew Urban



Bur Oak

- ▲ 55.5" DBH
- ▲ 60' height
- ▲ 60' spread
- ▲ Approx age: 230
- ▲ Jamie and Loretta Tuinstra

**Silver Passenger Pigeon:
Congratulations, Jenny!**

At this year's Wisconsin Society of Ornithology (WSO) convention, Hoy's Vice President Jenny Wenzel was awarded the Silver Passenger Pigeon for distinguished service to the WSO.

Congratulations, Jenny!



~ Time to Renew ~

Hoy Audubon Society "Chapter Supporter" membership dues for the 2023-2024 period are due on **July 1**.

Dues are \$15 per individual.

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



Warbler walk
photo by Helen Pugh

Hoy Board of Directors

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

August 10, 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

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

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Where’s John?

In 2014, four fellow Hoy members and I went to the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas. One stop was where Brown Jays, a rare visitor from Mexico, had bred for several years. We were too late, as they had stopped breeding in Texas several years before, but we saw many awesome birds. So the chance to see them again in the United States was very small.

In March of 2023, my chance to try for this bird came again when up to four were seen regularly on Sant Margarita Ranch, a private stretch of land along the Rio Grande River near Roma Bluffs. A guide was needed to access the ranch. After procuring one of the two guides used, and paying a nominal fee, I was ready to try for Brown Jay.

Arriving in the morning, I met with the guide and one other birder who was there. Believe it or not, it was another birder from Wisconsin who had allowed me to bird his property for rarities in the past. After a hike thru hilly terrain, we arrived at the cool shade along the Rio Grande where the Brown Jays had been seen.

Due the fact that the birds usually didn’t appear until noon or later, we had a long wait. The birding was slow, but like clockwork, we heard a Brown Jay right around noon. Walking towards the call, I spotted an adult Brown Jay actually sitting in the open. Success! It and at least one of its young made their way to their usual spot and came to an orange which had been put out for them. They stayed in the area for quite a while before making their way back into the cool shade along the river.



On the way home, I made a detour to Mustang Island looking for Aplomado Falcons. I had seen them once before, but at a great distance, so I was hoping for better views and photos. Using eBird, I found several spots where they were being seen frequently. The first stop proved a winner as I saw one catch a dragonfly in flight and perch on an overhead wire for great, fairly close views.

Going through Houston, I stopped at Buffalo Bayou Park to look for Red-vented Bulbul, an escaped bird who has gained a firm foothold in Houston. After quite a bit of walking, I found two males and a female mixed in with a large flock of Cedar Waxwings feeding in a fruiting tree.

It was a great way to end another birding adventure!

- article and photos by John Dixon, Hoy Field Trip Chairman

Warbler Walk Photos

Thanks to Helen Pugh for these photos from Hoy’s spring warbler walks!



Author Recommendation:

Lyanda Lynn Haupt

If you’re looking for excellent (and entertaining!) reads about birds and nature, I highly recommend the works of [Lyanda Lynn Haupt](#). She’s an award-winning author and naturalist whose career has included directing educational programs for Seattle Audubon, raptor rehabilitation in Vermont, and seabird research in the remote Pacific.

I was introduced to Haupt’s work by a friend who recommended *Rooted*, her latest book. Subtitled “Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature, and Spirit,” *Rooted* examines ways we can reconnect with nature, and the vital need for us to do so. It’s beautifully written. After reading *Rooted*, I snapped up several more of her books. Let me tell you about the two I read recently:



Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds features short essays about birds of the Pacific Northwest, but you’ll recognize several species we have in Wisconsin as well: Evening Grosbeaks, Snowy Owls, Double-crested Cormorants, Winter Wrens, White-crowned Sparrows, Dunlins, Swainson’s Thrushes, and Crows. (Wait until you hear some of the crow stories...they are a hoot!) She offers both a scientific perspective on her avian subjects and a great deal of warmth. One particularly memorable chapter about Vaux’s Swifts details her previous efforts to rehab Chimney Swifts; I won’t spoil the surprise there, but suffice it to say, it takes real dedication to rehab birds!

If you’re a corvid fan, you’re sure to enjoy *Crow Planet*. Haupt examines the reasons crows fascinate some people but unnerve others, discusses what we can learn from observing crows, and shares interesting (and sometimes very funny!) stories about crow behavior. Crows, Haupt observes, are just about as ubiquitous a bird as can be, all over the world, so they make great subjects to study. Everyone she meets seems to have a crow story, and many are collected in this book.

Happy reading!

- Kristin Wegner

Upcoming Activities

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

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

Hoy Audubon’s Annual Summer Gathering
Petrifying Springs Park, meet at parking area #2 by 5:30 p.m., we will then walk to the Biergarten, 5555 7th St Pavilion #1, Kenosha, WI 53144

We’re trying something new this year: We’ll eat at the Biergarten instead of having a potluck. For available food and beverages, see the Biergarten website for details: www.petsbiergartenmenu.com. (Non-alcoholic beverages are also for sale there. Note that alcohol cannot be carried into the park.) We look forward to seeing you!

Saturday, August 19

Hoy Field Trip: Horicon Marsh
7:30 a.m. Hwy 20 Park & Ride, Greenmonte Dr, Sturtevant, WI 9:00 a.m. @ Auto Loop parking lot

This is our annual trip to Horicon, one of Wisconsin’s premiere birding hotspots. If you plan to carpool or caravan, meet at the Hwy 20 Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. OR meet at the Auto Loop Trail parking area off of Hwy 49 at 9:00 a.m. Sunscreen, hats, water, and snacks highly recommended. If you have questions or need directions, contact hoyfieldtrips@hoyaudubon.org.

Saturday, September 2, 8:00 a.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Wind Lake Sod Farms
7:30 a.m. Hwy 20 Park & Ride, Greenmonte Dr, Sturtevant, WI 8:00 a.m. Burmeister and Britton Roads, Racine County
 Meet at the Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. or meet at the Burmeister and Britton Rd. intersection by the sod farms. From the roadside, we’ll look for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden-Plovers, Brewer’s Blackbirds, and other fall migrants.

Thursday, September 7, 7:00 p.m.

Hoy Meeting, Program: Gardening for Hummingbirds
River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N Green Bay Rd, Racine, WI
 Kathi and Michael Rock will teach you how to create a sanctuary for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in your own backyard. Through the use of perennial and annual plants, wildflowers, trees, water features, and hummingbird feeders, you can discover the magic of hummingbirds!

Thursday, September 14, 5:30 p.m.

Hoy Field Trip: Petrified Springs
Petrified Springs Park, Area 2 716 Green Bay Road, Kenosha, WI 53144
 Meet at the area 2, where the feeders are, for a bird walk.

Saturday, September 16, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Big Sit
Carre-Hogle Park, 1699 Main St. Racine, WI
 Hoy’s annual Big Sit is a FREE EVENT and open to EVERYONE! It is an easy activity for those with limited mobility, as birders watch from a stationary location. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, snacks, and a folding chair.



Barred Owl
John Dixon

◆ 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**

*Keep an eye out
 for Chimney Swifts!*

