



The **HERON**

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Wild Feast Potluck

Wednesday, September 7, 5 pm

Lakeside Park, Denevue Creek Shelter

Our season kicks off with a potluck. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish made from wild plants, although conventional food is fine, too.

(See inside of newsletter for more information.)



Protecting Our Natural Spaces

Wednesday, October 12, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Mary Piehl, Executive Director of Glacial Lakes Conservancy, will share information about her organization's work to preserve natural areas. Recent projects include a conservation easement at Birchwood Lake Nature Preserve, initiatives along the Niagara Escarpment in Fond du Lac County, and restoration of Willow Creek Preserve in Sheboygan. Goals of the organization include protection of surface water, maintaining scenic beauty of open spaces, agricultural sustainability, and ultimately, enhancing our quality of life.



Living with a Pet Bird

See LIVE Birds

A FUN FAMILY PROGRAM!

Saturday, November 12, 10-11 am

Theisen Middle School Auditorium

Mary Kay Rosenow and Randy Berryman, founders of The Roseberry Bird Rescue in Neenah, will bring a number of rescue birds for an educational and fun program. Find out about birds' intelligence, communication, and their unique personalities. Learn how to take care of a pet bird successfully. Meet Angel the Cockatoo, Sammie the Macaw, and a variety of other smaller birds including conures, parakeets, and cockatiels.



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www.fdlaudubon.org

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AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

Explore Riveredge Nature Center

Saturday, September 24, 9:20 am–3:30 pm

Riveredge Nature Center, Saukville

Our Audubon chapter is organizing a field trip to one of the largest nature centers in southeast Wisconsin. If you haven't yet visited the Riveredge Nature Center, you are in for a treat. There are over 379 acres with a variety of loop trails that explore the land along the Milwaukee River and wind through prairies, woods, and around ponds. We plan to gather at 9:15 am at the UW campus east parking lot to carpool, departing at 9:20. People may also choose to meet us at the center (4458 County Hwy Y, Saukville) at 10:30 am. There is a \$6.00 entry fee. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage. We will hike with a naturalist on some of the trails and then eat lunch on the deck of the Nature Center. After eating, we will explore another area in the Nature Center. We plan to return to Fond du Lac about 3:30 pm. Bring binoculars if available. If interested, sign up with Diana Beck at 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com. Cancelled if steady rain.



The Big Sit

Sunday, October 9, 5:30 am–6 pm

Lakeside Park, Fond du Lac

This will be a fun day dedicated to spotting as many species as we can from a 17-foot circle. The event has taken place for decades with other bird clubs. This will be Audubon's second Big Sit. The goal is to encourage everyone to enjoy the birds of Lakeside Park. We will have spotting scopes set up and binoculars available. Last year, we saw a total of 36 species, despite strong, steady gusts of wind. Our best bird sighting was a lone snow goose who happily floated on the lake's edge near our viewing circle. We also saw an osprey hunting the shoreline. Come join us! We will be there rain or shine. To learn more about a Big Sit, go to birdwatchers.digest.com/big-sit



Fun at Prairie Fest

On July 30 at Prairie Fest, we provided information on milkweed and monarchs. Visitors made clay seed bombs with milkweed seeds in them that they could plant or toss into an area where they would like to grow milkweed. Children and adults took pictures in our new monarch butterfly and caterpillar cutouts. We had a window cling display and sold this innovation which prevents birds from hitting windows.



Audubon is looking for a volunteer to help with social media. Call 929-9350.

BOOK REPORT

The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman

What is the smartest thing you have watched a bird do? Maybe you have wondered how chickadees find seeds they have stashed, or how orioles find their way back to your yard every year. We are just beginning to tap into how a bird's brain functions. Jennifer Ackerman's book, *The Genius of Birds*, provides an entertaining and scientific account of our knowledge of their knowledge. Discover colorful narratives of individual bird lives, from a New Caledonian crow who could fashion tools for accessing food, to Alec the African Great Gray Parrot who had a vocabulary of several hundred words. Expect to be enthralled by this glimpse into the minds of our feathered friends.



See the Stunning Film, The Messenger

Thanks to a generous donation from Jerry Sanders, Fond du Lac County Audubon has been able to partner with Gottfried Prairie Arboretum to purchase screening rights for "The Messenger," a film by Su Rynard. Participants at Prairie Fest 2016 were treated to the first local showing of this film that documents the alarming disappearance rate of our songbirds. With exclusive footage and high-tech cinematography, the film explains the plight of our birds. Stunning flight sequences are conveyed in slow motion, making the complexities of wing movement, control, and rhythm visible to the human eye. Anyone who loves birds will enjoy the artistry of the images, while being sobered by the multiple threats to our feathered friends enumerated in the documentary. The film is worth seeing several times; Audubon and Gottfried will again show the film on Wednesday, February 15, at 7 pm in the Prairie Theater on the UW-Fond du Lac campus.

Wild Feast Potluck – September 7

Our annual Wild Feast Potluck will be held on Wednesday, September 7, starting at 5 pm.

Meet at the Denevue Creek shelter in Lakeside Park (east end of Harbor View Drive). We plan to be eating at 5:30 pm. Bring your own plate, cup, bowl, utensils, and beverage. Beer and wine is allowed.

Your contribution of food or drink to the potluck should include some wild ingredients or fresh produce from your garden. This is an opportunity to experiment and try something new. There are many edible weeds in your own yard. However, avoid areas treated with pesticides. Please bring a list of the ingredients or the recipe, so that people can avoid foods to which they may have an allergy.

Entrées from the past have included creamed dandelion greens, savory burdock patties, plantain casserole, daylily bud salad, garlic mustard pesto, venison stew, hickory nut cookies, and elderberry pie.

A short presentation will be given by Rick Slager of Produce with Purpose. He will share their farm's goals of producing quality food and maintaining sustainable agriculture. In addition to being a local CSA, Produce with Purpose is passionate about helping small farmers in West Africa.

For more information on the Wild Feast Potluck, call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com

Community Shopping Night to Benefit Audubon and Just Fare Market

On Thursday, December 1, Fond du Lac Audubon will host a shopping night at Just Fare Market in Peebles from 6–8 pm. Just Fare Market will donate 15% of total sales to Audubon during those hours. This is a great way to contribute to both Audubon and the social justice movement encompassed by Just Fare Market. See details on our website.

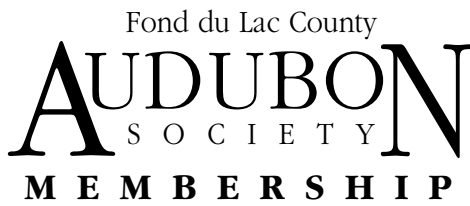




P.O. Box 84
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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to evelyn@mcleancowan.com

THE HERON



- Yes!** I want to become a member or renew my membership to the National Audubon Society, and the Fond du Lac County Chapter. The annual membership dues of \$40 entitle me to six issues of the Audubon magazine, and all local chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- I am only interested in being a member and supporting the programs of the Fond du Lac County Audubon. The annual local membership dues of \$20 entitle me to receive the chapter newsletter and all chapter benefits. I am enclosing a check payable to Fond du Lac County Audubon.
- I am a new member.
- Save trees. Please send the newsletter to me via email.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Mail this form with payment to:
Fond du Lac County Audubon, Membership Services
N5545 Winnvue Court, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Buckthorn Removal Sessions

The best time to tackle the invasive European buckthorn is in the late autumn. It is one of the last plants to drop its leaves, so it is easy to locate them.

Please join us in the effort to clear the Peebles Trail, which has a lot of buckthorn. Also, we will have two sessions at Hobbs Woods. Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants, good work shoes or boots, and bring a pair of garden/work gloves. All equipment will be supplied. No experience is necessary. All sessions will begin at 9 am and end at 11 am. Cancelled in the event of steady rain.

Peebles Trail (Luco Road)

Directions: Meet on Luco Road at the junction with the Peebles Trail (just south of Winnebago Drive).

Saturday, October 8

Saturday, October 15

Wednesday, October 12

Peebles Trail (Hwy K)

Directions: Meet on Hwy K at the junction with the Peebles Trail (½ mile south of Winnebago Drive).

Thursday, October 20

Saturday, October 22

Hobbs Woods

Directions: South Hickory Road, about 5 miles south of the city

Saturday, October 29

Thursday, November 3

For more information call 920-922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com