



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Snowy Owls and Project Snowstorm

Wednesday, December 12, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Gene Jacobs, President of Raptor Services, will give a presentation on snowy owls and the tracking of their annual movements.



Dynamics of Lake Winnebago Algal Blooms

Wednesday, January 9, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-104

Dr. Marcel Dijkstra, Professor of Environmental Engineering, will discuss seasonal dynamics in lakes, relating stratification, wind mixing, and oxygen levels near the sediments to algal growth, followed by a discussion of dynamics observed in disturbed ecosystems.



Birding in Ecuador

Wednesday, February 13, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-103/104

Jeff Baughman, an active birder for 40 years, will share information and photos from a tour he led to Ecuador. This tiny country, with 1600 species of birds, offers more bird diversity in less space than any other country in the world!



Visit Us Online

www.fdlaudubon.org

Bird Seed Sale February 2

Pre-order high quality seed from our website or brochure.

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AUDUBON WINTER ACTIVITIES

Snowshoe Saturday at Kiekhaefer Park

Saturday, January 19, 1 pm

Enjoy a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at the beautiful and unique Kiekhaefer Park.

Don't have snowshoes? A limited number of participants will be able to reserve snowshoes at no charge, courtesy of Attitude Sports. For trail conditions or to reserve snowshoes, call Diana at 922-7931 or email dianahbeck@gmail.com. From Fond du Lac, take Highway 151 north for three miles to Kiekhaefer Parkway. Turn right on Kiekhaefer Parkway, go to the parking lot on the north side of the road, 4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway.

If there is no snow and the conditions are not muddy, we will be hiking instead of snowshoeing.



Backyard Bird Count, February 15–18

It's time to help again with the Great Backyard Bird Count. More than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Visit the website birdcount.org. Data coming from all of us helps the researchers. You only need to do a minimum of 15 minutes on one of the days and then enter your observations. Or you can make multiple observations on all of the days. This can be done from inside the warmth of your home. Any beginners will find help in bird identification on the website, in addition to bird lists and birding apps. Mark your calendar now and help in the research.



Kerry Schloff

Report on Buckthorn Removal

The weather did not work in our favor this year. We had to cancel three scheduled sessions for buckthorn removal, due to rain or the bitter cold in November. The result was 39 volunteer hours spent at the Peebles Trail and Lallier Park. Please consider helping in the future – especially with the Garlic Mustard Pulls at Hobbs Woods in May and June 2019. Thank you to all who helped.



Landscape Pesticide Registry Signup

Protect your pets, your family, and yourself from neighbors' lawn chemicals. This is an opportunity for you to be informed whenever your neighbors have pesticides applied to their property by a professional yard service. Because there can be wind drift, you can keep your windows closed or not hang out laundry during the scheduled time. You will receive a call the day before the application alerting you to the time and types of pesticides that will be used.

The signup for 2019 is available until February 1, 2019. Those of you who are currently in the registry can easily renew by email and may have already received an email reminder. Visit the website at <https://mydatcp.wi.gov/Account/LogOn>.

Community Shopping Night to Benefit Audubon and Just Fare Market

On Thursday, December 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Fond du Lac County Audubon is partnering with Just Fare Market to promote Fair Trade and provide some funding for our local education and conservation projects. Just Fare Market will donate 15% of total sales during those hours to our local Audubon. This is an opportunity for you to find some unique, affordable, and quality holiday gifts, or to stock up on some gourmet items for your pantry while supporting Fond du Lac County Audubon.

Fair Trade is a direct and cooperative business approach that supports farmers and craftspeople in developing countries by paying a living wage and providing safe working conditions. One of the main principles of Fair Trade is that environmentally sustainable practices are used in producing products. That's especially important in preserving the world's birds and conservation of natural resources. For example, Fair Trade coffee is grown in the shade. According to one study, shaded coffee farms provide habitat for 184 different bird species, whereas only 8 to 12 species were found on the sunny monoculture farms. Help birds by buying shade-grown coffee.

Natural foods for purchase include colorful heirloom rice varieties grown on ancient terraces in the Philippines. Other gourmet items include Divine dark chocolate and quick-and-easy soup mixes.

Just Fare Market stocks some amazing items made from upcycled materials. There are elegant journals made from elephant dung paper, key chains made from string, tablecloths made from recycled saris, and purses made from the pull tops of cans. It's just plain fun to pick up and examine these unique items and marvel at the creative people who turned garbage into useful items.

Have a great evening with Audubon members as you browse through fashionable scarves, select an interesting piece of jewelry, or find an unusual gift to fill a stocking. Bring friends to learn about both Audubon and Just Fare Market, and to support our local Audubon projects. Just Fare Market is located at N7645 N. Peebles Lane in Peebles, on WH just off the 151 bypass. For more info, visit justfare.org.



Climate Change, the Pressing Issue of Our Time

Scientists have been warning humanity of this impending crisis for many years. Unfortunately, the issue has become part of partisan politics in recent years in our country. It won't matter what party one belongs to if your house is being flooded or burned down. Let's come together to address this huge problem.

We need to create a ground swell in public opinion. We need to talk about climate change with our friends, neighbors, and others with whom we come into contact. Ask a question like, "What do you think about climate change?" Some may respond that it's just the weather, which is always changing.

Emphasize a few simple facts. The summer National Audubon magazine had a great article entitled "A Climate of Censorship." An interesting fact from that article states that the average number of major disaster declarations per year involving FEMA has increased from an average of 25 in the 1980s to nearly 90 per year since 2010.

Some people may point out that the polar vortexes prove that we aren't really getting warmer. Recent research by climate scientists is concluding that climate change may be altering air patterns like the jet stream. These ribbon-like air currents move in wave fashion between the equator and poles. When there is a large temperature difference, the jet streams flow faster and keep weather systems moving.

Now that the arctic region is warming significantly faster than the tropics, there is a lessening of the temperature gradient. The result is a weakened jet stream that allows the frosty air in the arctic to descend downward, even as far as Florida. Another result of a slower jet stream is weather patterns staying longer in an area. This prolonging can cause droughts, floods, heat waves, and as we have experienced recently, polar vortexes.



Fond du Lac County
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S O C I E T Y

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Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0084

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

THE HERON

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S O C I E T Y
M E M B E R S H I P

- 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 Canceled in the event of steady rain.

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

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Audubon Board Positions and Volunteer Opportunities

If you enjoy nature, wildlife, and the outdoors, consider becoming involved with others who share those same interests and make a difference in our community. Fond du Lac County Audubon Society needs Board members interested in Field Trips, Conservation, Membership, and Social Media. To find out more, contact Diana Beck: 920-922-7931, dianahbeck@gmail.com. Visit our website and click on How to Help to find out about other volunteer opportunities in the organization.