



# *The* HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

## SUMMER NEWS

At this point in the Covid 19 pandemic, our fall programs for indoors are still on hold. Our host, MPTC, is still not allowing outside groups to use the facility. Because of the uncertainty, we will not be printing our usual program brochure for this coming season. We will be continuing to plan season by season and getting the word out with each newsletter. You can also check the website and our Facebook page. We will continue to offer outdoor opportunities.

### *Summer Evening Tuesday Walks*

**June 1** Lakeside Park West

**June 8** Mullet Creek State Wildlife Area

**June 15** Shaginappi County Park

**June 22** Mascoutin Valley State Trail

**June 29** Greenway Arboretum

**July 6** Izaak Walton League

**July 13** Kiekhaefer Park

**July 20** Oakfield Ledge State Natural Area

**July 27** Hobb's Woods

**August 3** Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum

**August 10** Camelot Drive

*All walks begin at 6:30 pm.*

*See page 3 for more information. Cancelled if steady rain.*



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[www.fldlaudubon.org](http://www.fldlaudubon.org)

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# AUDUBON HABITAT HERO

## Adam and Jasmine Create Bird Haven

Having just .14 acres of city property hasn't deterred Adam Knueppel and his partner Jasmine Lopez from providing bird-friendly habitat. In the past three years they have logged 87 species of birds passing through. White Cedars are scattered throughout the property, providing cover for birds, as well as two brush piles. Serviceberry, Currants, Gooseberries, as well as Black and Red Raspberries provide high energy snacks. Domestic Plum, Black Cherry, and Apple Blossoms are a favorite of Warblers searching for insects feeding in the blossoms.

A small woodland garden, shaded by old Black Walnut and Sugar Maples has

Trout Lillies, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Black-eyed Susans, Purple Coneflowers, and Mayapples to name a few. Bordering the shade garden are Red-osier Dogwoods, Highbush Cranberry, and Tall Coreopsis.

Always a work in progress, the removal of non-natives this season will be replaced with Cardinal Flowers, Virginia Bluebells, Phlox, Columbines, Pasque Flower, Goldenrods, Butterfly Weed, and Wood Sedge.

In November of 2019, a White-eyed Vireo visited the property for nearly a week.

An extremely rare visitor to the area, particularly that late in the year, he sustained himself by digging through leaf litter in the gardens in search of available food.



## Project SNOWstorm Support

Founded in 2013, Project SNOWstorm has grown rapidly into one of the world's largest collaborative research projects focusing on snowy owls, staffed by a largely volunteer team of scientists, banders, and wildlife veterinarians. It is funded entirely by tax-deductible donations from the public. Check it out at [projectsnowstorm.org](http://projectsnowstorm.org). We have made a third donation of \$3,000 to the project with funds provided by an anonymous donor through the Fond

## Adam Knueppel Joins Board of Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

We are pleased to announce that our board member, Adam Knueppel has joined the board of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. The group's mission is to promote the enjoyment, study and conservation of Wisconsin's birds. They provide opportunities for people to enjoy resident and migratory birds and are a leading steward of and ambassador for Wisconsin birds. Find out more at [wso.org](http://wso.org).

## Audubon Creates Sign for Lakeside Park

Fond du Lac County Audubon Society is producing a 40 x 18 inch sign to identify some of the birds of Lake Winnebago. The sign will be installed at the west end of the park, near the turnaround and the fishing platform. The sign will help visitors identify the birds and find links for helpful birding sites. A dedication will take place in early fall.

### BIRDS OF LAKE WINNEBAGO

 <small>Jim Esthuber</small> Canada Goose	 <small>Carol and Roy Toupek</small> Cedar Waxwing	 <small>Kerry Jellison</small> Double-crested Cormorants	 <small>Kerry Jellison</small> Great Blue Heron	 <small>Kerry Jellison</small> Great Egret
 <small>Kerry Jellison</small> Herring and Ring-billed Gulls	 <small>Adam Knueppel</small> Mallards	 <small>Carol and Roy Toupek</small> Osprey	 <small>Carol and Roy Toupek</small> American White Pelican	

[FdLAudubon.org](http://FdLAudubon.org)    [eBird.org](http://eBird.org)    [Merlin.AllAboutBirds.org](http://Merlin.AllAboutBirds.org)

Sponsors  
Fond du Lac County Audubon Society  
Wisconsin Audubon Council  
Stuart's Landscaping & Garden Center  
Mary Seibel Memorial  
David and Janice Schnell Memorial  
Dr. Edwin O. Sheldon Memorial

Signage by McLean-Cowan Graphic Design

## SUMMER EVENING TUESDAY WALKS

**E**xplore trails in Fond du Lac County and City with members of Audubon. All walks begin at 6:30 pm. Wear good walking shoes, bring insect repellent, and binoculars if available. The walks will last an hour to an hour and a half. For more information about the summer walks, contact [dianahbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dianahbeck@gmail.com) or 920-922-7931.

**June 1 Lakeside Park West Hwy 45 N & Howard Litscher Dr.** (from Fond du Lac, take Hwy 45 north and take the first right to Howard Litscher Drive.) Meet at the first parking lot on your left upon entering Supple Marsh. We will quickly scan this area for songbirds and waterfowl before heading over to the Archer Thomas Olsen Trail looking for late migrants and breeding birds. *Leader – Adam Knuettel*

**June 8 Mullet Creek State Wildlife Area**  
Explore a rich array of wetland, forest, grassland, and farmland. Mullet Creek flows through the entire property, eventually joining the Sheboygan River. Be prepared for the possibility of bugs and perhaps muddy conditions. (East on Hwy 23 for approximately 15 miles. Right on Hillview Road. Continue down the hill and across the expanse of open water, then watch for gravel parking areas on the right/west side of the road. There are two parking areas – go to the second parking area to meet for the walk.) *Leader – Margie Winter*

**June 15 Shaginappi County Park**  
The park is a natural area of 100 acres of wetlands, lakeshore, woods, and prairie and is situated adjacent to Columbia Park, sharing Calumet Harbor. Pipe Creek also winds through the park property. (North on Hwy 151 to just north of Pipe. Turn left on Velvet Beach Road. Continue about ½ mile and turn into a parking lot on the left.) *Leaders – Dave & Kerry Sehloff*

**June 22 Mascoutin Valley State Trail**  
Walk part or all of the two-mile trail section between Eldorado and Rosendale. Watch for animal dens as the abandoned railroad bed passes through embankments and search for green heron nests along a small tributary of the Fond du Lac River. (West on Hwy 23 and north on C about ¼ mile on left.)  
*Leader – Kathleen Stetter*

**June 29 Greenway Arboretum**  
Discover over two miles of beautiful nature trails along the Fond du Lac River on 24.5 acres in town. Through the efforts of ParkWatch and local citizen volunteers, restoration of native tree plantings and an oak savanna are in progress, along with new walking trails. Meet at the west side of the parking lot at the south Pick 'n Save store at 55 West Pioneer Road. *Leader – Evelyn McLean-Cowan*

**July 6 Izaak Walton League N6491 County Road K**  
Go south ¼ mile on Hwy K from Hwy 23. Parking lot is on the left. This private property on the Ledge features an open forested area, wildflowers, and beautiful stream sites. *Leader – Liz Roy*

**July 13 Kiekhaefer Park W4235 Kiekhaefer Parkway**  
This park of 120 acres has wonderful trails through hilly, wooded terrain and is part of the Niagara Escarpment. *Leader – Diana Beck*

**July 20 Oakfield Ledge State Natural Area, off Breakneck Road**  
This property features a substantial exposure of the Niagara Escarpment as well as a unique ecosystem. See undisturbed native vegetation and forest floor habitat. (Travel south on County Road Y from Oakfield. Turn right on Breakneck Road and watch for the parking lot on the right after about two miles.)  
*Leader – Diana Beck*

**July 27 Hobb's Woods 4197 Hickory Road**  
This 60-acre park is located about five miles south of Fond du Lac. We will explore the mid-summer vegetation and look for signs of wildlife.  
*Leader – Diana Beck*

**August 3 Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum**  
The Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum offers 37.5 acres of native prairie. It includes 55 kinds of native wildflowers and six species of grass, as well as a 3.5 acre formal arboretum of 250 native trees and 140 native shrubs. Meet in the east parking lot at the UW campus, 400 University Drive. *Leader – Margie Winter*

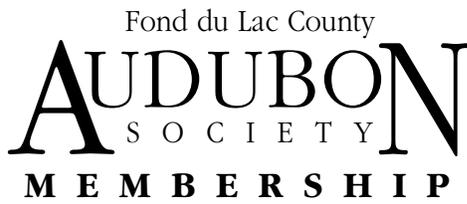
**August 10 Camelot Drive**  
This trail and pond on the south end of the city offer an easy hike through a variety of vegetation, good birding, and scenic views. Meet on Camelot Drive by the west side of the pond and near the corner of Southlake Circle. *Leader – Diana Beck*



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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter  
via e-mail to [evelyn@mcleancowan.com](mailto: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.

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Name

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

### ***Audubon Bird Seed Sale***

We will have two bird seed sales in the upcoming season: October 16, 2021 and early February 2022 (date to be determined). Watch for the details in the fall and winter newsletters and on our website.

### ***Free Virtual Wildlife Programs***

The Mead Wildlife Area is hosting monthly virtual “Mondays at Mead” programs the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 pm through October, and a special speaker on October 11.

View the programs offered by Mead on Zoom at the “What’s Happening” link at [meadwildlife.org](http://meadwildlife.org).

### ***Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund***

A field trip for the Boys and Girls Club second and third graders has been organized for the summer of 2021 at Ledgeview Nature Center.

The Dave Stetter Environmental Education Fund received a generous donation (\$1800) from Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation, whose purpose is to expand youth outdoor education and wildlife conservation efforts worldwide.

The objectives of the Stetter EE Fund are to provide conservation camp scholarships and nature study field trips. The pandemic has prohibited these activities, but we hope to resume sponsorships as soon as it is safe for children. Additional donations are always helpful as well.