



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Saving Bluebirds

Wednesday, December 11, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-102

Karen Duece-Kinziger, retired nurse and dedicated bluebird monitor, will give a presentation on bluebirds and how we can help them thrive despite the threat from house sparrows and English starlings.



The Future of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Wednesday, January 8, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-108

Mike Carlson, Executive Director of the Gathering Waters Conservancy, will provide information on this vital source of funding used by landowners and communities to protect land and water in Wisconsin.



Become a Citizen Scientist with eBird

Wednesday, February 12, 7 pm

MPTC, Room O-102

Dr. David Gudex-Cross, Ecologist and Postdoctoral Research Associate in Forest & Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison, will give a presentation on joining the world's largest birding community through eBird.

Find out how to keep track of bird lists, photos, and songs, and how you can contribute to science and conservation by sharing bird sightings. Bring your phone.



Kerry Schloff



Visit Us Online

www.fdlaudubon.org

Bird Seed Sale February 1

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

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AUDUBON WINTER ACTIVITIES

Snowshoe or Hike at Kiekhaefer Park

**Saturday, January 18, 1 pm and
Saturday, February 15, 1 pm**

Enjoy a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at the beautiful and unique Kiekhaefer Park. If there is good snow, we will snowshoe; otherwise we will hike. If too muddy, the event will be cancelled.

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.

Backyard Bird Count, February 14–17

Mark your calendars and contribute to one of the most successful bird counts. 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. It is very easy to participate. Observations can be made

from the comfort of your home and only involve a minimum of 15 minutes. Even beginners can help. The website has wonderful aids for identifying the birds in our area. Enter the results online. Final totals and results are available later to all participants. Check the website for details: bbc.birdcount.org

AUDUBON HABITAT HERO

Diana Beck and Birdscaping

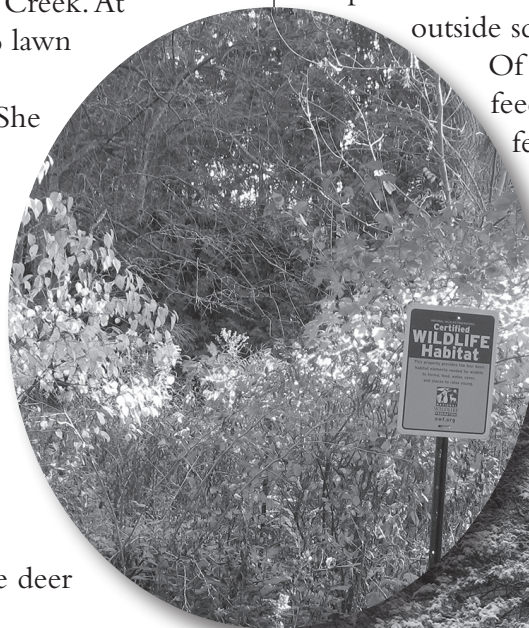
In 1993, Diana moved into a house on an acre property that borders Taycheedah Creek. At that time, the yard was about 80% lawn with some large trees, only a few bushes and small areas of habitat. She was attracted to the possibility of creating habitat for birds. Slowly, native bushes and trees were added that provided food and shelter. Without much effort and with the help of layers of leaves, most of the lawn slowly disappeared, leaving only two small areas of grass.

Because of the location, it was necessary to protect many of the plantings with fencing to keep the deer browse to a minimum.

She has three good sized brush piles, many areas of leaf litter, bird baths, nine birdhouses on poles

or on the house, and many trees and bushes that provide cover and food. She has also made real efforts to prevent bird window collisions with permanent outside screens or window decals and tape.

Of course, she does provide bird feeders, suet, oriole and hummingbird feeders, etc. and even some troughs for turkeys. "It feels like Jurassic Park, when I look out and see a big turkey striding through my ostrich ferns. I love it!"



Community Shopping Night to Benefit Audubon and Just Fare Market

On Thursday, December 5, from 5–7 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 in Wisconsin

Audubon's recent report "Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink" emphasizes that birds face unprecedented challenges from climate change. Check the latest issue of Audubon magazine, which was devoted to this crisis or on their website.

What about our own area? What are the impacts of climate change in Wisconsin? Most of us have noticed the increase in rainfall and heavy rain events. Records show that since 1950, southern Wisconsin has shown a steady increase in heavy rainfall days and 2019 is shaping up to be one of the wettest years on record. Warmer temperatures are causing an increase in water vapor in the atmosphere.

So what about our temperatures? Our average annual temperature since 1970 has increased by 2.7 degrees. The studies show that the Great Lakes region is warming faster than the other states in the continental U.S., which have warmed about 2.5 degrees.

The season most affected is winter, which is warming by 4.8 degrees since 1970, and our lowest temperature each winter is 10 degrees warmer.

Some of you might like mild winters, but there are problems with winter warming. With rain in January and February, there is less snow cover for farmers' fields, winter businesses, and recreation. Fruit trees blossom too early. There is an increase in pollen. Insects carrying diseases survive in milder winters.

Timing is crucial for birds. After a warmer winter and possible early spring, the food supply for birds is disrupted. Insects and plant pollination can become mistimed. The birds might arrive to raise their young and be too late for an important hatch of caterpillars.

Weather extremes make life difficult for all—people, birds, fish, and plants. We are seeing a rise in "danger days" of the heat index above 105 degrees. Tornado outbreaks, storms, and hurricanes all have increased in intensity, resulting in more billion dollar damage events each year since 1950. All of this not just destroying human homes, but habitat that our wild friends depend on.

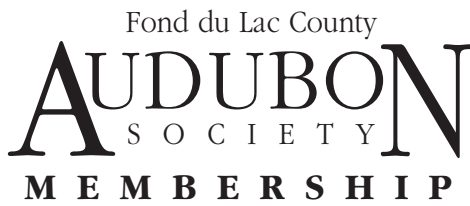
The birds are like the canary in the coal mine. If they are in trouble, we are, too. We can solve the climate crisis if we decide to act. National Audubon has made some excellent suggestions on what we can do. Again, check it out.



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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.

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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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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 2020 is available until February 1, 2020. 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>.