



The HERON

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

WINTER EVENTS

Safe Activities during the Pandemic

Our Audubon chapter board has decided to offer only outdoor events during the winter season. Our usual venue for our monthly programs, MPTC, is not available due to the current Covid-19 crisis. We will wait and see if we might be allowed into the building in the spring.

Winter in Wisconsin can be a beautiful time to be outside.

Dress for the weather and join us for some outdoor adventures. Consider investing in some skis, snowshoes, or Yaktrax if you do not already own winter traction devices (available at Attitude Sports).

We hope to see you at our events.

November 29 or 30

Full Moon Walk at Eldorado Marsh

December 3

Community Shopping Night
with Just Fare Market

December 12

Bird Hike at Mauthe Lake

January 23

Snowshoe Saturday

January 30

Bird Seed Sale

February 12-15

Backyard Bird Count

February 14

Valentine Snowshoe Sunday



Thank you
Haentze Floral Company
for hosting the
Audubon Bird Seed Sales.

Visit Us Online
fdlaudubon.org

Follow Us on Facebook

See page 2 for more information on the December, January, and February events.
(The Full Moon Walk info was in our Fall newsletter and is on our website.)

AUDUBON WINTER EVENTS

Community Shopping Night to Benefit Audubon and Just Fare Market

Thursday, December 3, 10 am–4 pm
N7645 N. Peebles Lane and also online

Audubon's annual shopping spree at Just Fare Market will have new features this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. As usual, our shopping date is the first Thursday in December, but a change in the time: 10 am to 4 pm, during Just Fare's open hours. Please wear a mask and observe social distance.

Also, new is the ability to shop online during event day and pick up your order during store hours. Go to justfare.org, and click on "Shop now." Browse through an amazing array of items and place your order. Be sure to place "**Audubon**" in the order memo line, so that Audubon receives credit for your purchase. An email confirmation of your order will be sent, and you may pick up your order during the 10 am to 4 pm event or on Saturday, December 5 from 9 am to 2 pm. Upon arrival at the store call 322-3334 and your order will be brought to your car. If you have questions, call Bonnie at 322-3334.

This shopping event is your opportunity to "feed two birds" with one effort! First, Just Fare Market, a Fair Trade store, benefits from your much-needed business. Fair Trade is a direct and cooperative business approach that supports farmers and artisans 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 production. That's especially important to those of us who are interested in preserving the world's birds and conservation of natural resources. Second, Fond du Lac County Audubon benefits, as we receive 15% of total sales during event hours. Those funds support our local programs, conservation, and education efforts.

Bird Hike at Mauthe Lake

Saturday, December 12, 8 am
Mauthe Lake Recreation Area

The winter of 2020/2021 has been an "invasion" year for Northern Finch species. Due to poor cone crops in the boreal forests, Purple Finch, Pine Siskins, Crossbills, Redpolls, and Evening Grosbeak have been reported around the state. Adam Knueppel and Doug Stadler will expose participants to a couple

of different habitats, targeting resident birds as well as these sporadic visitors. Meet in the parking lot at 8 am. The full walk will be until noon, but there will be opportunities to depart early. Dress warm and bring a lunch if you desire. A limited number of binoculars will be available if you do not have your own. A state park sticker is required for entrance.

Snowshoe or Hike at Kiekhaefer Park

Saturday, January 23, 1 pm and

Sunday, February 14, 1 pm

Enjoy a guided winter exploration of the hilly trails at beautiful Kiekhaefer Park. If there is good snow, we will snowshoe; otherwise we will hike. If too muddy or if it's raining, 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.

Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, January 30, 9–11 am

Haentze Floral Company

658 Fond du Lac Avenue

Pre-order bird seed by January 16.

See our flyer or the order form on our website. We offer high quality seed to attract a variety of birds to your feeders.

There is limited seed available if not pre-ordered.

Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 12–15

Mark your calendars and contribute to one of the most successful bird counts. More than 173,000 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: gbbc.birdcount.org



***Empowering the Conversation:
Small Farmers, Big Change***

Fond du Lac County Audubon collaborated with eight other community organizations: Just Fare Market, Moraine Park Technical Fair Trade College, Sustain Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac Fair Trade Towns, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes, Farm2Table Co-op and Café, UW Oshkosh–Sustainability Institute for Regional Transformations (SIRT), and 5-Stones Fox Valley, to sponsor a virtual event on October 14. One advantage of virtual events is meeting with expert speakers from afar. Leif Rawson-Ahern, an Equal Exchange tea supply chain developer, beamed to us from Massachusetts and described her first-hand experience with small farmers in India. Emily Ambrose spoke from Madison. Involved in Wisconsin agriculture, she has worked with women growing vegetables in Africa. Together they informed us about the Fair Trade movement, alternative trade organizations, worker-owned cooperatives, building small farmer supply chains, and sustainability. After their presentation, a representative from each organization described future plans to promote sustainability locally.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Help

Wildlife rehabilitation of orphaned, injured, and ill birds and mammals is being facilitated by LouRea Kenyon, our board member and a retired (after 38 years), permitted and certified wildlife rehabilitator, lecturer, and published author. She owned her own wildlife rehab center in Florida, where she trained many other rehabilitators and hundreds of volunteers. For information and help, call her at 920-872-2266.

Here are some examples of recent calls:

- Great Blue Heron in yard with dangling leg
- Baby Killdeer fell through a grate and was injured
- Mourning Dove trapped inside Fleet Farm store
- Chimney Swift with fractured wing
- Hawk down in farmer’s lane and unable to fly
- Three baby Robins on the ground, unable to fly
- Injured Sea Gull flopping around in field
- Goose with fractured wing in yard

Stories from the Bird Lady

This book is a collection of Barbara Harvey’s articles over a 30-year period. Purchase on Amazon or at Marsh Haven Nature Center, Waupun. For door pick up, call Renee Wahlen at 920-318-9518. This is a perfect holiday gift for nature lovers!

AUDUBON HABITAT HERO

***Margie and John Winter Converted
Lawn to Native Plantings***

Margie and John Winter purchased their home on an approximate one-acre lot in 1994. There were very traditional foundation plantings, about 10 trees on the lot, and a great deal of mowed lawn. Since 1994, they have added many gardens and plantings to make their lot environmentally friendly and attractive to birds. They now have shade gardens with native wildflowers like trillium, baneberry, great lakes iris, and ferns. Native prairie flowers are found in many plantings around the property where it is sunny. Native shrubs such as grey dogwood, nannyberry, wild plum, witch hazel, red osier dogwood, pagoda dogwood, hazelnut, gro-low fragrant sumac, and more make for great habitat and berries for birds. A rain garden was installed about 15 years ago to manage water runoff from the driveway. It contains many water-loving native plants that soak up the runoff.

Non-native and diseased trees have been removed

and replaced with red oak, bur oak, Kentucky coffee tree, serviceberry, white cedar, and black cherry trees.

Margie and John enjoy the diversity of birds and the natural aesthetic of the property every day!

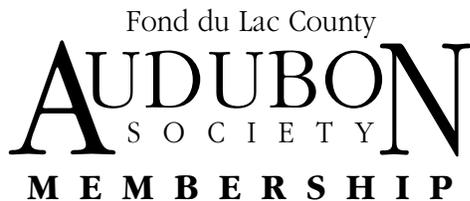




P.O. Box 84
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Submit articles for the Audubon newsletter
via e-mail to evelyn@mcleancowan.com

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.
- I am a renewing member.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

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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You shop. Amazon gives. Sign up through AmazonSmile and choose Fond du Lac County Audubon Society as the charitable organization to which Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1625975>. Then, start shopping and making a difference for our local charitable organization!

Landscape Pesticide Registry Signup

Protect your pets, your family, and yourself from neighbors' lawn chemicals. Be informed whenever your neighbors have pesticides applied to their property by a professional yard service. You will receive a call the day before, alerting you to the time and types of pesticides that will be used.

Sign up for 2021 by February 1. Visit the website at <https://mydatcp.wi.gov/Account/LogOn>.

Audubon Membership Expiration

Note your Audubon membership expiration date on the mailing label.

Project SNOWstorm

Visit ProjectSnowstorm.org at the end of December to see if there is any activity with our owl.