



Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

March 2010

Natural History Lectures

Lectures are held at the Neville Public Museum, Green Bay, and co-sponsored with them. For more information, call 448-4460.

Wed. Mar 10, 6:30 pm – **“Bears Biology 101”** by Scott Anderson of the US Forest Service. Learn the "bear" facts about black bear biology and how we can live with them in Wisconsin. Black bears are a very interesting animal from the way they hibernate and give birth in the winter and able to survive on just about any type of food in the forest. However, their need for lots of food has been the reason for many interactions with people throughout the state. Learn the whats, and whys about bears and what you can do to enjoy living with them.

Wed. Apr 14, 6:30 pm – **“Ancient Rodents”** by Deb Anderson, SNC. A Unique Perspective on the Effects of Global Climate Change. Rodents such as the ischyromyids, hamster to marmot-sized rodents, are some of the first rodents to show up in the fossil records in North America, in Early Eocene time (about 54 Ma). This coincides with a time of global warming, the Early Eocene Climatic Optimum. Not only do they appear, but they become very diverse in a relatively short time period (less than 1 million years).

Wed. May 12, 6:30 pm. **“Colorful Moths of Northeastern Wisconsin”** by Lynn White.



Outdoor Hikes and Activities

Christa McAuliffe Park, a portal to the Baird Creek Greenway, is located on Sitka St, east side of Green Bay.

March 20, at 1 p.m. **Spring Surprise Hike** at Christa McAuliffe Park.

April 17, from 9-12 **Earth Week Clean-Up** at Triangle Hill, Green Bay.

May 15 at 6 a.m. **Early Bird Hike** leaving from Christa McAuliffe Park.

May 15 at 1 p.m. **Wildflower and Photography Hike** leaving from Christa McAuliffe Park.

Lake Baikal –Siberia’s Sacred Sea

Audubon Annual Program & Banquet

MAY 5, presented by BILL VOLKERT

This lake is the deepest, oldest and largest lake by volume on our planet. The region around Lake Baikal in central Siberia is a land of enchantment and exploitation, offering a beautiful landscape rich with sites held sacred by the indigenous communities of the region and a target for international tourism and resource development efforts. Enjoy Bill’s beautiful slides and learn a little about projects aimed at research and management of human activities to protect the pristine waters of this sacred lake.

Bill has been the wildlife educator and naturalist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area since 1984. In addition to his work at Horicon Marsh, Bill has been involved in studies and field research on avian ecology, plant ecology and glacial geology, worked in the Lake Baikal region of Siberia and Mongolia and helped to develop a national bird conservation education plan for Nicaragua. He is also a federally licensed master bird bander.



Photo by Tutam, www.flickr.com

In his travels he has seen over 2,200 species of birds.

See page 3 to register for banquet, held at the Holiday Inn, Green Bay.

Take a Stand for Loons and Swans: Attend Your Local Spring Hearing Monday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

By Karen Etter Hale, WI
Audubon Council. Contact for
more information
masoffice@mailbag.com or
608-255-BIRD (2473).



The best thing you can do to help loons and swans is to attend the Spring Hearing in your county on Monday, April 12, at 7 p.m. If you have limited time, stop for a moment to vote for Advisory Question #61 to phase out lead fishing tackle, then leave. All it takes is one lead sinker to kill a loon.

The DNR Spring Hearings on Fish and Wildlife Rules and the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress meetings will be held on April 12 in every county in Wisconsin. All citizens can attend and voice their opinions on each wildlife and environmental issue question. The first half of the evening will be the fish and wildlife rule changes proposed by the DNR. The second portion contains Conservation Congress advisory questions. Many of these become official DNR rule change questions the following year.

The most interesting advisory question this year (#61) advocates for phasing out lead fishing tackle less than one inch long and weighing less than one ounce for use in Wisconsin waters. If this passes the Spring Hearing, it could become a DNR rule the following year. It would go far in reducing the incidence of lead poisoning in waterbirds, especially Common Loons and Trumpeter Swans, and the secondary poisoning of raptors, such as eagles and ospreys. Lead toxicosis is very costly to treat, often exceeding \$1,000 per bird in medication alone. Many inexpensive non-lead alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs are already available, but sometimes only by asking. For more information, see the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Issues paper "Lead Poisoning of Wisconsin's Birds" at www.wisconsinbirds.org/leadpoisoning.htm and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency site at www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/sinkers.cfm#information

Please attend your Spring Hearing if possible.
While it is useful to hear and participate in the

discussion, you can also fill in the ballot and leave if you have limited time. Locations of each county meeting, & a sample ballot are on the DNR website: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/ Look for the 2010 questionnaire under "Spring Hearings".

Butterflies on your phone

We had many interested people show up for our Karner Blue Butterfly program, and thought this was relevant. For those interested, Mike Reese and his son David have now created an iPhone/iPod Touch application for Wisconsin Butterflies. This is an electronic field guide to butterflies in the state and reflects most of the images and materials that many of you have seen on Mike's extraordinary website, perhaps the best of its kind in the country. Read more about the app at the link below. Hopefully this technology will turn more birders into butterflyers!

<http://wisconsinbutterflies.org/butterfly/iphone>



Birders, would you like to double as Froggers?

The Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey has routes available and is looking for volunteers to run them. Survey routes are run 3 evenings per year, in April, late May, and early July, and are lots of fun! More information and route maps are available at <http://www.wiatri.net/inventory/Frogtoadsurvey/>

1-2 Volunteers are needed in the following NE WI counties: Brown, Florence, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Monroe, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Waupaca. We maintain a waiting / backup list for counties not listed here.

The data from this project are actively used by the DNR and other organizations to monitor frog and toad distributions, population trends, and possible conservation status changes.

If you are interested in participating or learning more, please send an email to WFTS@wisconsin.gov. Until April 16th, you also can contact Ann Murphy by phone at 608-266-3369.

Membership Form

Mail to: NEW Audubon, PO Box 1
Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

- Renew local NEW Audubon chapter & National Audubon Society: special offer for dual membership--only \$35
- New or renewed NEW Audubon chapter \$25
- Tell a friend! Special offer for new members only. New national & local membership \$35

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

(\$7.50 of national membership is for the Audubon Magazine and is not tax-deductible)

Support N.E.W. Audubon

Your direct support annually enables us to offer more programs and services. NEW Audubon Society has 501(c)(3) status; your donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS allows you. Renewing your national Audubon membership through us keeps more of your funds in this local area.



Check Your Mailing Label to see if your membership has expired
Your chapter membership number and expiration are printed above your address, followed by your

national membership number and expiration. If your membership is about to expire, please consider renewing now. If you haven't paid local dues in the last 2 years, your expiration date is listed as 00/00 or is blank.

Banquet and Annual Program Registration

Name: _____

Circle one: Vegetarian or Chicken

Name: _____

Circle one: Vegetarian or Chicken

Name: _____

Circle one: Vegetarian or Chicken

Dinners are \$25 each

Total enclosed _____

Phone (email optional) _____

Address _____

Mail to: NEW Audubon, PO Box 1,
Green Bay, WI 54305

Holiday Inn, Green Bay
200 Main St.

Wednesday, May 5
RSVP by April 28

5:30 –Social

6:15 –Dinner

6:45 –Business and Board Elections

7:15 –Program: Lake Baikal by Bill Volkert

Our annual banquet and program is open to all—members and non-members alike. We have a new location, locally renowned for its excellent dinners. The Holiday Inn City Center location is in downtown Green Bay, along the Fox River, with free parking.

Meal choices are 1)Vegetarian: Eggplant Parmesan, herbed fettuccini marinara, salad, roll and sherbet, or 2)Chicken Oscar topped with crab, asparagus and hollandaise sauce, rice pilaf, California vegetables, salad, roll and sherbet.

NEW Audubon Board

Board meetings are held 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 5:30, followed by member programs. We meet at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay.
Marty Gallagher Martygal1@yahoo.com *President*
Mike Reed mikere@ci.green-bay.wi.us *Vice President*
Ned Dorff, dorffned@gmail.com *Secretary*
Juniper Sundance sundj30@hotmail.com *Treasurer*
Charlie Frisk chkafrisk@yahoo.com
Carl Scholz scholz@charter.net *Finance &Program*
Jim Servais jim@servais.us *Newsletter Committee*
Janet Smith *Program Committee*
Barbara Boehler babsnpaul@att.net *Membership*

Northeastern WI Audubon Society, Inc.
PO Box 1
Green Bay, WI 54305-0001

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Visit our website

Check www.newaudubon.org for latest information on field trips and events. Updates may take a couple of weeks, so for notification of events as soon as they are planned, send your e-mail address to newaudubon@live.com and request to be put on our field trip mailing list.



SALAMANDER SURVEY

Because of a concern for declining in amphibian populations, salamander numbers are being monitored by the Wisconsin Salamander Survey, a project of the WI Audubon Council.

As the term, amphibian suggests, most of the animals in this class (class Amphibia) live in the water and on land. There are exceptions, however. Mudpuppies never leave the water and red-backed salamanders never enter the water.

The Shivering Sands Area is a wetlands complex, and as such, an ideal habitat for these environmentally blooded (cold blooded) creatures that are important in the web of life.

In 2009, traps were set in a Shivering Sands wetland during April 2-6. The results:

- o 188 blue-spotted salamanders (one day a trap had a record 38)
- o 20 giant water beetles
- o one crayfish
- o one wood frog

Capturing only one frog is disturbing---their numbers are down, even from cursory observation. Four other "sallies" are found in this area----the red-backed, spotted, Eastern Tiger Salamander and the newt. About 75 people volunteered as citizen monitors across Wisconsin during the second year (2009) of the survey. 40 sites were monitored in 20 counties, with 15 sites finding at least one species and 4 sites finding two species. The salamanders are released back to their wetland as soon as they have been counted.

If you would like to monitor salamanders this year, contact Juniper Sundance at 920-826-2612 for training and information. Act quickly, because the salamanders can only be trapped during their early spring movement.