



Audubon Log

Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Inc.

August 2008

A GREAT AUDUBON LEGACY

Because it created name confusion, Audubon's Land Fund for Wisconsin has dropped the name Audubon and is now Wisconsin Land Fund. Nothing else has changed.

The mission statement of the Wisconsin Land Fund is to annually award grants to those who will protect Wisconsin's declining natural areas. It emphasizes placing land into permanent wilderness trust, especially near water.

At present, the Wisconsin Land Trust has \$162,000 in its endowment fund invested with the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation Inc. In 2007, \$6200 in grants was awarded to help place 1130 acres into permanent wilderness protection. Some recipients include:

\$400 - Northeastern Land Trust

\$400 - Baird Creek Preservation Fnd.

\$686 - West Wisconsin Land Trust

\$850 - NEW Audubon (Red-shouldered hawk study)

\$1753 - Northeastern WI Land Trust

The fund was founded by Dennis Prusik and NEW Audubon in 1979 with the proceeds from the sale of Wisconsin Nature calendars (originally Weather Friend Calendar). Dennis still produces the calendar, highlighting phenology for Wisconsin. It is an excellent resource for nature activities, listing when to expect wildflowers, fish spawning, bird nesting, and many other seasonal events.

We thank Dennis Prusik, John Jacobs and Paul Hartman for their leadership and efforts as members of the Wisconsin Land Fund Advisory Committee.



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

We all know that future care of our environment will depend on choices and actions taken by our young people. And we hear so much lately about children spending their time in front of TVs and video games instead of outdoors. So how can we get young people interested and involved in nature? As parents, we can limit TV and video time, and take our children camping or on walks. However, we usually expect teachers to provide the science background.

Teachers are under a lot of demands now to meet state standards and often don't have time to create programs beyond what is provided by the textbook companies. The National Audubon Society fills this need for creative quality environmental activities with their Audubon Adventures classroom kits.

Each year the kits focus on different aspects of ecology. For the coming school year, the focus is on "Feats of Nature"—migration, animal builders, animal defenses, and plants. Their goal is to provide the knowledge base and skills necessary for recognizing our individual and collective responsibility for the health of our environment. Out of that recognition comes the understanding that personal actions can have meaningful, positive, and far-reaching effects.

NEW Audubon is providing classroom kits (consisting of a teacher resource manual and 4 issues of the newsletters for each student) for 5 teachers in NE Wisconsin. If you are interested in supporting this project, you can do so in several ways: 1) send NEW Audubon tax-deductible donations earmarked for "Audubon Adventures", 2) send earmarked donations to the National Audubon Society, or 3) purchase classroom kits directly at www.audubon.org/educate/aa. If we have sufficient donations we will provide kits for more schools. If you are a teacher, or know of a Grade 3-5 teacher who would like to use a kit, write to us at NEW Audubon, PO Box 1, Green Bay WI 54305.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2008

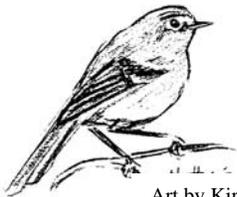
Sunday, Aug 31. 1 pm. "A Monarch Adventure" field trip by Ann Shebesta to net and tag Monarch butterflies, at Crossroads, 2041 Michigan St (Hwy TT, one block off Hwy 42-57) Sturgeon Bay. No charge. For more information 920-746-5895.

Wednesday, Sept. 10 7 pm. "Do-it-yourself Safari in South Africa" program by Bob Howe & Amy Wolf, at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

Saturday, Oct 4. 9am-3pm. "Salmon Spawning" at Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility, 3884 Ransom Moore Lane - off of County Highway F, west of Kewaunee, on the west bank of the Kewaunee River (920) 388-1025 Come for the open house and stay to hike the trails and watch birds.

Wednesday, Oct. 8 7 pm. "Wildlife Photographer of Barkhausen" program by Reginald Muhl, at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.

Wednesday, Nov 12. 7 pm. "The Scoop on Squirrels" program by Bob Howe, at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay. No admission charge. For more information call 920-448-4460.



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NEW Audubon Board

Board meetings are held 3rd Wednesdays monthly at Brown County Library, 515 Pine St, Green Bay.

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Janet Smith *Program Committee*

Barbara Boehler babsnpaul@peoplepc.com
Membership & Program Committee

David Webster houseoftawet@yahoo.com

Upper Midwest Audubon Conference October 17-19

Meet with other Audubon members for an informative and fun weekend in Dubuque, IA. The theme of the conference is "Partners in Conservation": looking at innovative ways to be a positive presence in our communities.

Friday night begins with a reception and music at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, home of the Audubon Ark. National Audubon President, John Flicker, will give the keynote address at the Saturday luncheon. Workshops include presentations about Peregrine Falcon and Trumpeter Swan reintroductions, Neotropical migrants in Iowa, the acquisition of Whitewater Canyon (one of the field trip destinations) and Reconnecting with the Environment. Storyteller Fox Ellis will appear at the Saturday night dinner as John James Audubon.

Saturday field trips include river trips on either an excursion boat or flat bottom boat. Additional trips to birding hot spots will go by land. Field trips are likely to fill quickly, so register soon. Registration information is available from Maggie O'Connell: birdlady1@iowatelecom.net or Joe Tollari: jtollari@mchsi.com Dubuque Audubon Society, POB 3174, Dubuque, IA 52004-3174.

Local History Donation

We recently unearthed scrapbooks and minutes from our predecessor organization (Green Bay Bird Club) and early NEW Audubon dating from 1936. These have now been donated to the Area Research Center of the Wisconsin Historical Society, housed at the Cofrin Library on the UWGB campus. After indexing, these records will be available for public research.



Volunteer Opportunities

We want to provide a number of activities this coming year, but we can't do it without your help. Contact member.newaudubon@gmail.com or drop us a note if you are able to spend a few hours 1) registering field trip participants, 2) staffing an information table at public events, 3) publicizing our events, 4) coordinating the newsletter, or 5) improving the look of our website.

Scarlet Macaw Conservation

The beautiful Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) is the most widely distributed of all macaw species. Their range extends from Mexico into the Amazon basin of Brazil. Although they exist across a large geographical area, scarlet macaw populations have significantly declined, and the species is listed as **threatened with extinction** by CITES. This designation prohibits all commercial international trading of scarlet macaws. However, a significant number of macaws are still collected illegally by poachers for the pet trade. Because scarlet macaws only produce 2 to 4 eggs every 1 to 2 years, and they nest in hollow trees, which tend to last only a short time in the rainforest, their populations are very sensitive to disturbance.

Scarlet macaws once occupied much of Costa Rica. Now only about 1000 birds remain in the forests of the Pacific coast, with one of the two remaining populations being located in Carara National Park. The decline of macaw populations in Costa Rica is alarming considering the fact that the country is widely regarded as the most conservation-minded of all Central American countries. As with any conservation effort, the challenge is to engage the support of the local population and to demonstrate economic alternatives to poaching.

Since 2004, students from UW-Green Bay and other area schools have traveled to Carara National Park in Costa Rica each January to participate in a Tropical Conservation and Ecology course. During the 2008 trip, students and faculty began an educational program at the suggestion of Carara staff members. The program goal is to bring local schoolchildren to Carara to experience the valuable resources their nation is preserving, and to teach them about the economic, social, and ecological importance of conserving local biodiversity.

NEW Audubon has contributed to the scarlet macaw conservation program. If you also wish to support this program, we will pass on any earmarked donations mailed to NEW Audubon, or you may donate directly to UWGB, with "Costa Rica 133KJ28" in the memo line. Mail to Director of Grants & Development Services, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311-7001. Donations will be used to purchase supplies for distribution to teachers and students in schools adjacent to Carara National Park and transportation of school groups to Carara and for hands-on educational programs

For information on UW-Green Bay's activities in Costa Rica please contact one of the trip leaders: Dr. Kevin Fermanich--(920) 465-2240, Dr. Mathew Dornbush--(920) 465-2264, or Dr. Daniel Meinhardt--(920) 465-2398.



Costa Rican children visiting Carara National Park thanks to funds raised by students at UWGB.

You Can Have A Bluebird Trail

We have grant money for establishing new bluebird trails in the Fox Valley area (Outagamie, Calumet, northern Winnebago, Shawano and Waupaca Counties). If you would like to help out this native bird, contact Juniper at 920-826-2612 for more information on receiving the nest boxes. You will be shown how to set up a trail and how to monitor the nest boxes to ensure bluebird success. You will need access to several acres of open short grass with scattered trees. The boxes will need to be installed this fall since bluebirds select nest sites early in spring. This is an excellent learning opportunity for young children—or bird lovers of any age.



Have You Heard? The oldest known bald eagle in the wild was found this May at Razorback Lake, near Sayner, WI. She had a legband from 1977, so was 31 when she died. Previously, only a few eagles were known to live as old as 25 or 30.

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 member.newaudubon@gmail.com and request to be put on our field trip mailing list.

Support NEW 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.

Check Your Mailing Label!

Your chapter membership number and expiration are printed on this newsletter's label. If your chapter 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.

The Audubon Log is published intermittently by the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society Inc, PO Box 1, Green Bay, WI 54305. There is no subscription fee; issues are sent to members as a membership benefit.

Membership Form

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

- Renew local NEW Audubon chapter & National Audubon Society: joint membership \$50
- New or renewed NEW Audubon chapter \$25
- Tell a friend! Special offer for new members. New national & local membership \$35

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

(\$15 of national membership is for the *Audubon* magazine and is not tax deductible)