

THE TRUMPETER: NEWSLETTER OF WISCONSIN METRO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Our mission is to encourage wise environmental practices through education and awareness.

Website: www.wisconsinmetroaudubonsociety.org **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/AudubonWMAS/>

President: Diane Lembck
Vice President: Jennifer Ambrose
Treasurer: Pam Shefchik
Secretary: Rita Wiskowski
Wehr Birders: Jim Cieslak
Program Development: Tom Petri
Conservation: William Holton
Publicity: Dean Rockstad
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Wisconsin Metro AUDUBON SOCIETY

Wisconsin Metro Audubon has a new look! It's a work in progress as we attempt to use less paper and focus more on our new website. Please "Like" our Facebook page for the latest action alerts and links to stories on our webpage! Questions, suggestions or concerns? Contact Diane Lembck at lembck6492@wi.rr.com or (414) 425 9616 or Jennifer Ambrose at jenthreat@gmail.com or (414) 467-6137. Also email Jennifer if you'd like to receive the Digital version of The Trumpeter via email!



HUMMINGBIRD BANDING

It's happening again in Whitewater, WI. Open to all!

This year's banding will occur on Saturday, September 7 from 7:30 - 10:30 AM. Mickey O'Conner from the Milwaukee County Zoo starts banding the birds at 7:30 AM. The banding will end around 10:30am or whenever birds stop arriving. You may want to bring a folding chair for comfort. After the banding is done, the Scheunemanns will lead a tour of their lovely gardens. **The address is 11703 E. Berg Road, Whitewater, WI 53190.**



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: BIRDING IN COLOMBIA

Dennis Foye, a Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society member, will discuss his experience for us on **September 18th, 2019, at 7:00 at the Wehr Nature Center**, located at 9701 W. College Ave in Franklin. Dennis traveled to Colombia in 2017. Colombia is an incredible country for birdwatchers. It boasts a list of 77 endemics (birds found in no other country) and is home to well over 1930 bird species, which is around 20 percent of the world's total bird count! Dennis will share information about some of the amazing birds that he saw.



KNOWLES-NELSON FUND

ACTION ALERT!

Wisconsin's natural places are an important part of our state's heritage. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has been critical to the preservation of places that are important for birds, wildlife and people. Take action with Audubon to urge your legislators to support a ten-year reauthorization of the program and maintain annual funding of at least \$33 million per year, consistent with past funding levels. **Go to: <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/ZQd9tDQhIkWiUXObLwI8Qg2> to sign the petition!**

BIRDING AT WEHR, BIRDING BUDDIES, AND BIRDING HORICON MARSH BY BOARD MEMBER JIM CIESLAK

Wondering at Wehr

We continue to see new people joining the Sunday walks, and we are all learning from each other. A special thanks to Diane and Colleen who led the walks while I was away. Wehr remains one of the top spots for bird watching in the county. According to e-bird, we are only about 10 species short (155 so far this year) of any of the lakeshore hotspots, and that is due to all the water and shorebirds found near the lake. Some of the most unusual sightings in the last few months have been: Northern Mockingbird and European Goldfinch, and a Red-headed Woodpecker that may be here for the summer. If you have trouble getting around but like birding, consider trying the deck at Wehr. I normally see at least 20 species within an hour. All of the chipmunks will keep you entertained, too.

Birding Buddies Reminder

If you want some help taking your game to the next level, this could be it. If you are willing to start being a mentor to a new birder, this could be it, too. Everyone on the Sunday walks agrees that you see more when you are not alone. Either way, all you have to do is e-mail me and I will do my best to be of help.

Horicon Marsh Visits

The Audubon National Convention is almost here and I am still taking trips to the area. The hiking trails on the north end are closed for construction, as are a few roads, but there is still plenty to see. I would love to have anyone who is interested join me on these scouting trips. These are likely to be all-day trips, as I will return to Milwaukee in late afternoon. I can accommodate three people comfortably. If you and any of your friends would like to join me, please contact me and I will send out dates to anyone interested at least 48 hours ahead of time. If you can tell me when you are available, I will do my best to accommodate your preferences. I expect to be going there right up to the convention dates. According to the folks at the National Refuge HQ, there are Whooping Cranes nesting up there now, a truly rare sight.

Contact Jim at wisbirdingbuddies@gmail.com



Whooping Cranes seen at Horicon Marsh June 2019

SAY **NO TO PESTICIDES!**

Do you have unwanted bugs or weeds in your yard? It's tempting to use a quick herbicide or pesticide spray to kill them. *Please do NOT use such sprays!*

Using any poisonous product has sometimes overlooked, negative and even deadly consequences.

For instance, songbirds that eat a poisoned insect **will die.**

Owls that eat a poisoned squirrel or mouse **will die.**

However, there are easy and cost effective ways to rid your yard of weeds or other pests.

To kill weeds, simply cover them with cardboard boxes for a few days or weeks, dependent upon the land size. You can also use vinegar, which won't harm wildlife or pets.

To ward off pests, trap them or use boric acid.

Simply perform a web search for "kill bugs pests without insecticides" for more solutions.

PELICANS, OH PELICANS! MANY SEEN ALONG LAKE MICHIGAN



Photo by Rita Wiskowski



Photo by Todd Leech

American White Pelicans have been attracting attention along Lake Michigan from birders and passersby since late spring. These birds are normally found in a few noted locations such as Horicon Marsh and the Bay of Green Bay and they have been popping up on larger inland rivers and other water bodies during the past several years. However, they are not regularly seen in places like Milwaukee or Port Washington, but many people have seen them flying in flocks along the lakeshore. At least 120 were counted from Port's Coal Dock Park in early June, and good numbers were present in Sheboygan near the harbor as well.

These pelicans are much fun watch due to their feeding antics and group interactions.

Their wings measure about nine feet in length, making them larger than the Bald Eagle. They might more quirky than regal, but they're equally delightful to encounter.