

THE TRUMPETER: WISCONSIN METRO AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Diane Lembck
Vice President Pro Tem: Jim Cieslak
Treasurer: Pamela Shefchik
Secretary: Rita Flores Wiskowski

Members of the Board:

Mary Gease, Citizen Science
William Holton, Conservation Chairman
Tom Petri, Programs Chairman
Marsha Berenson, Trumpeter Editor



Wisconsin Metro AUDUBON SOCIETY

GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES AND BEES

■ By Pat Brust, Wild Ones President, and Jim Cieslak, WMAS Vice President Pro-Tem

We are excited to announce a new collaboration between Wisconsin Metro Audubon and Milwaukee Southwest/Wehr Wild Ones to encourage, educate and motivate WMAS members to plant native trees, shrubs and flowers in their home gardens in order to support a more diverse population of insects, pollinators and birds, both resident and migrant. This program is intended for the beginner native gardener and will provide the help you need to get started with native plants.

It is documented that yards planted with native plants supply the abundant food and shelter that birds need to nest, survive the winter, or stockpile energy for migration.

By committing to be part of this program, you will benefit from the experience of members of Wild Ones, one of the most widely recognized voices for native plants and the sustainable landscaping movement. The Wild Ones chapter at Wehr Nature Center has been advocating for native plants for over 30 years.

In addition to getting resources to help you plan, design, and install your own bird-friendly landscape, you can take advantage of a number of offers to program participants, including:



- a 25% discount on membership to Wild Ones, which in turn gives you a 40% discount on native trees, shrubs, and plants at Johnson's Nursery during the whole month of June!
- a copy of the new Wild Ones Garden Guide with sample gardens for inspiration
- a coupon for a free plant at the Wehr Native Plant sale
- recommended plant lists and reading lists
- access to instructional videos
- invitations to monthly Wild Ones Zoom meetings
- educational catalogs from Prairie Nursery, Prairie Moon Nursery, Prairie Future Seed Company, and Johnson's Nursery
- advice and encouragement from experienced native gardeners

If you are interested, please contact Jim Cieslak, WMAS Vice President Pro-Tem, at cieslakjames3@gmail.com or by phone at 262-666-0931. Jim will supply the details and requirements for participation. Once your application is received, you will receive program materials to help you plan, design, and choose plants and research sources so you will be ready for spring planting!

A \$10 fee is requested to help our chapters cover some of the cost of materials. You must be a current member of WMAS to qualify for this program. The number of participants may be limited due to funding, so don't wait: apply now and get planning!

Respond to the news of the steep declines in bird and pollinator populations in a positive and proactive way, and we will make a difference, one yard at a time!

Help nurture some new gardeners! We could use your help as this program grows, and ideally, we would like a buddy to pair up with each participant. You don't have to be Aldo Leopold, just be willing to share what you have learned. Contact Jim Cieslak for more information.

BACKYARD BIRDING

■ By Jim Cieslak

In December, I thought we would get off easy this winter – NOT. Snow and cold have been brutal for the last four weeks. Wading through hip-deep snow to the feeders and birdbath has not been fun. Fortunately, my usual feathered friends have stuck around and made the trips worthwhile. This winter, I added a constant supply of nut rolls to the bird buffet. It has paid off in bringing more woodpeckers in, and almost every type of seed-eating bird has taken some whacks at it.

It is still the middle of February as I write this, and I can add a new yard species for January and February: the Robin. Not only did I see them in my yard, but there were flocks of 20+ on a few occasions. The more you look, the more you will see, I guess.

Many of you will be reading this in early April, so I'm including my historic bird numbers for winter and



Photo courtesy of Madge Etlicher, Monches, WI

spring. You can see how the numbers changed with the seasons. Hope you can do better!

Jan. - 17, Feb. - 18, Mar. - 28, Apr - 51, May. - 91, June - 48

APRIL ELECTIONS

Our elections are usually held at our April program, but this year, with COVID-19 precautions, we'll be sending an email ballot. We hope reach as many of you as possible.

Current Officers:

- President - Diane Lembck
- Vice President Pro-Tem - Jim Cieslak
- Treasurer - Pamela Shefchik
- Secretary - Rita Flores-Wiskowski

Current Directors:

- Newsletter - Marsha Berenson
- Citizen Science - Mary Gease
- Conservation - Bill Holton
- Programs - Tom Petri
- Mentoring New Birders - Colleen Resendiz

Your help is needed! Our Programs Chair Tom Petri will retire from that position. He has done an excellent job contacting speakers and helping connect them with Carol Howard, who hosts our Zoom programs through Wehr Nature Center. If you would enjoy having a voice in the programs we have, please consider volunteering for that position. We have a lot of resources for programs, so don't worry that you wouldn't have enough ideas. Just basic computer communication skills are needed. Contact Diane Lembck at 414 425-9616 or lembck6492@wi.rr.com, if you'd like to help.

It's Easy to Renew!

Is it time for you to renew your Audubon membership?

Your renewal date is now printed on this newsletter above your address and on the magazine label of the National Audubon magazine. Consider renewing through WMAS: more of your donation will support local activities and conservation projects. Use the form in our newsletter or on our website, wisconsinmetroaudubonsociety.org

Save a Tree! Email distribution of *The Trumpeter* in lieu of print is available. Send your full name, postal address, and email address to marshasb@wi.rr.com.

BIRD COUNT RESULTS

2020 Hales Corners/ Wehr Christmas Bird Count

Total Individuals	9195
Total Species	64

2021 Great Backyard Bird Count

US Species	663
Global Species	6352



Oconomowoc Wildlife Biologist Conducting Raptor Banding Project

Greetings Friends,



I am conducting an educational research project that is also exciting and fun for not only birders, but also wildlife enthusiasts and even the general public. I will be banding and color-coding approximately 150 Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, and Osprey nestlings in the Milwaukee area over the next several years. With the help of birders, wildlife enthusiasts, naturalists, and the general public, we will watch for these color banded birds nesting in the Milwaukee area over the next several (probably many) years. I will be documenting the locations and determining natal dispersal. Natal dispersal is the distance and direction birds move from the location where they hatch to where they breed. I will also be documenting these locations with GPS computer technology.

The color coded leg bands look like the red leg band on the Cooper's Hawk leg that you see (Red 42/A). These leg bands are very expensive as they cost from \$11.00 to \$15.00, depending on the size (band cost is approx. \$8000.00). If possible, I will be using a GPS data logging device to document the locations and doing the data analysis (data logging device cost is approx. \$6000.00). If you can contribute funds for this project I would greatly appreciate it. Equally important, please share with everyone that you can. If you know of an organization that is interested in wildlife ecology, perhaps encourage them to contribute what they can.



Additionally, I need your help, the help of birders, birding photographers, photography birders, wildlife lovers, hawk and owl enthusiasts, and the general public to look for these color marked species and to document their locations in the metropolitan Milwaukee area over the next 10+ years. Together, we will collect the novel information we need to generate a better understanding of how these species adapt in human-influenced landscapes and how we coexist with these species in urban environments.

Our results will have important conservation and management implications for urban wildlife ecology. Results will be of interest to urban dwellers, wildlife ecologists, naturalists, birders and wildlife enthusiasts throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Results may be of interest to urban wildlife ecologists on an international scale.

(For more information on my research please see:
researchgate.net/profile/William_Stout2/research.)

(Note: The banding is conducted through federal permits.)

"I need your help, the help of birders, birding photographers, photography birders, wildlife lovers, hawk and owl enthusiasts, and the general public to look for these color marked species and to document their locations in the metropolitan Milwaukee area over the next 10+ years."

Contact Information:

William E. Stout
W2364 Heather Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-9577
stoutw@hotmail.com
920-988-7320

Photos courtesy of Bill Stout

Attracting Birds with Native Shrubs and Vines

■ By Marsha Berenson

Gardening with native plants is not that much different from gardening with non-native plants. We need to know our yard's frost zone and soil, moisture and light conditions. This information is readily available online, in gardening books, and at local garden centers. But what plants should we choose to attract birds? A garden plan to attract birds starts with knowing what the birds need: food, cover, nesting sites, and water. And although familiar shrubs like Burning Bush provide branches for nests and berries for food, there's much more to consider!

Why Native Shrubs and Vines?

The birds that visit our yards eat a variety of foods: insects, seeds, nuts and berries. Native insects must have *native plants* for sustenance. For example, Monarch Butterfly larvae eat *only* Milkweed leaves. Insects are important in birds' diets for the critical nutrients they provide. In *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy,

Non-native Shrubs Hurt Birds

- Reduce plant biodiversity
- Reduce insects
 - o Inappropriate food sources
 - o Buckthorn reduces leaf litter habitat of insects
- Bear fruits with inadequate nutrients
 - o Non-natives have less fat and protein
 - o Buckthorn has a laxative effect - dehydration
- Lower fledgling production
- Lower bird survival rates

(see page 7) the author explains that insect protein and fat is necessary to make eggs, to keep up birds' stamina while feeding nestlings, and to feed to the nestlings. A February 2021 webinar on invasive shrubs by the

American Bird Conservancy listed several other problems presented by non-native shrubs and vines, as shown in the sidebar to the lower left.

Your Garden Plan

Whichever types of birds you wish to attract and support in your yard, planting native shrubs and vines can help. This is where the assistance of experienced natural landscapers like our friends the Wild Ones can help. Also, the books *Birdscaping in the Midwest* and *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin* (see page 7) have been invaluable for my research.

My own yard is not very bird-friendly; in fact, it looks more like an example of "what's wrong with this picture?" Instead of planting coniferous cultivar Mr. Bowling Ball™ as foundation plantings, I should have used native Common Juniper, which provides nutritious berry-like cones loved by many songbirds. Instead of using two Rose of Sharon shrubs to hide our neighbor's shed, I should have used High Bush Cranberries with lacy white flowers that form clusters of red berries in the fall. Dreaming of Cedar Waxwings? Plant High Bush Cranberries, *Viburnum trilobum*!

Special Garden Habitats

Attracting Hummingbirds

You may already have attracted these nectar-loving birds with feeders plus colorful annuals and perennials. However, native plants produce more nectar than cultivars (plants produced by selective breeding). A native vine, Yellow Honeysuckle, grows very well in our area and provides nectar for hummingbirds as well as berries for other bird species. Pussy Willows, a native woody shrub, attract insects that hummingbirds eat and provide "fuzz" used to line nests.

Attracting Prairie Birds

Grasslands and prairies are characterized by grasses and wildflowers, but they do include bird-friendly shrubs. Seed-eaters like dickcissels and bobolinks value Leadplant for its seeds and cover. Grouse, pheasants, and Meadowlarks enjoy the hips of native roses Smooth Rose (*Rosa blanda*) and Pasture Rose (*Rosa carolina*).

There's an App for That!
"Better Homes & Gardens" magazine offers a free app to help create your garden plan. Upload a photo of your yard and drag and drop trees, shrubs, plants, and hardscaping like pathways and gazebos. Many native shrubs and plants are included. Try it at tinyurl.com/7nu4m4m5

Creating a Savanna

A savanna is a grassland with scattered trees and shrubs where American Kestrels, Wild Turkeys, and Orchard Orioles thrive. Typical trees and shrubs include Oak, Black Cherry, Serviceberry, Dogwood, Red Cedar, and Sumac. Vines include grape and Bittersweet. WARNING! Plant only American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*); non-native Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is one of the most invasive non-native plants in Wisconsin!

Attracting Birds Year-round

This takes especially careful planning and a detailed understanding of the habits of the birds and the bloom-to-fruit cycle of the shrubs and vines you choose. A plan like this can provide nutrition year-round for a variety of birds and insects:

Continued on next page



©2020 Marsha Berenson

American Bittersweet



©2020 Marsha Berenson

Oriental Bittersweet

October through February

Dried Nannyberries, Highbush Cranberries, rose hips; seed pods of Buttonbush, Leadplant, Ninebark; Cones of Alder, Red Cedar

March through June

Dried berries, seeds, cones; nectar from blooming Alder, Hazelnut, Nannyberry, Ninebark, Highbush Cranberry

June through August

Fresh Gooseberry, Nannyberry; nectar from blooming Buttonbush, roses; new cones from Alder, Red Cedar; new Leadplant seed pods

September

Hazelnuts; Buttonbush seed pods; fresh Highbush Cranberry – and so on as the cycle repeats.

No matter what habitat you wish to create, using bird-friendly, native shrubs and vines will help you attract the birds you love to your own yards. Happy gardening and happy birding!

WMAS PROGRAMS SPRING 2021

Programs are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Avenue unless otherwise noted ** If you need more information, contact WMAS President Diane Lembck at 414-425-9616 or email lembck6492@wi.rr.com **NOTE: Currently, our programs will be offered at the scheduled time **via Zoom**. To receive an invitation and Zoom access information, be sure we have your current email address.

APRIL 21, 2021 7:00 PM ZOOM PROGRAM: WHOOPING CRANE CONSERVATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION



Lizzie Condon

Speaker: Lizzie Condon,
Outreach Coordinator
International Crane
Foundation

In this talk Lizzie Condon will give a brief overview of the history of Whooping Crane populations and human efforts to bring this species back from the brink of extinction. This will include an update on the Eastern Migratory Population reintroduction project, the International Crane Foundation's ongoing research efforts, and how the International Crane Foundation applies scientific knowledge to provide working conservation solutions.

Special note: The International Crane Foundation has been temporarily closed, but on May 1, 2021 will begin a phased-in reopening that requires reservations.



©Ted Thousand

MAY 8, 2021 8:00 - 10:00 AM IN-PERSON GUIDED TOUR INTERNATIONAL BIRD MIGRATION DAY SEMINARY WOODS WALK

Walk with us and enjoy spring flowers and migrating and resident birds. Plan to arrive 15 minutes early. Park behind the Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, 3501 South Lake Drive, Saint Francis. Group sizes will be small. Plan to take necessary COVID-19 transmission precautions. All participants will be asked to sign a Hold Harmless/Indemnity Agreement for Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. For more information, text, call or email Bill Holton, 414-333-5316, WHolton@wi.rr.com.

AUDUBON AND OTHER SPRING EVENTS

Many events are virtual and require fees and preregistration

APRIL 1 -21, 2021

Annual Mother's Day

Native Plant Sale

Wehr Nature Center

Order forms online at friendsofwehr.org. Order and pay online or via mail before April 21. All orders to be picked up curbside by appointment at Wehr Nature Center. Information at friendsofwehr.org or call 414-425-8550.

APRIL 7, 2021 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Free Webinar: Small Plants, Big Impact

Attractive native plant species that provide essential habitat for wildlife in the urban environment. Preregistration required. Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory (WGLBBO) wglbbo.org/ or birdcitywisconsin.org/events/ or call (262) 235-2570

APRIL 17, 2021 5:30 AM – 7:30 AM

In-person participation.

International Crane Foundation's Annual Crane Count

Annual international survey of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes. To participate in the Crane Count contact:

- In Milwaukee County: Lee Arhelger 24lee@337lee.com 414-453-5243
- In Waukesha County: Brien Lee brienplee@yahoo.com 262-527-2752

- Other Counties: I.C.F. Crane Count Coordinator: cranecount@savingcranes.org 608-356-9462

APRIL 21, 2021 7:00 PM

ZOOM: The Downward Insect Spiral: Insect Declines and Why They Matter

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Preregistration required. aldoleopoldaubudon.org

APRIL 21, 2021 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Free Webinar: Questions and Answers about Native Plant Gardening

Experienced Ozaukee County gardeners lead a Q&A session. Preregistration required. WGLBBO

MAY 1, 2021 10:00 AM - NOON

In-person participation:

Franklin's 22nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration

City of Franklin and Franklin Environmental Commission distribute saplings of bird-friendly, native trees and shrubs (Balsam Fir, Red Maple, American Black Elderberry, and White Cedar). Available on first-come, first-served basis to Franklin residents at Franklin Public Library. Visit tinyurl.com/4tb83pc4 or call 414-425-7500.

MAY 5, 2021 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Free Webinar: The Match Game –Wisconsin Native Plants to Incorporate In Your Yard

Lisa Oddis, Wild Ones- Menominee Falls Chapter discusses native plants, trees, and shrubs that support pollinators and biodiversity. Preregistration required. WGLBBO

MAY 19, 2021 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Free Webinar: Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds

Presenter Chuck Hagner, author of *American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of Wisconsin* and director of Bird City Wisconsin. Preregistration required. WGLBBO

MAY 19, 2021 7:00 PM

ZOOM: When Things Happen: A Guide to Natural Events in Wisconsin

Speaker is ecologist Randy Hoffman, author of *When Things Happen: a Guide to Natural Events in Wisconsin*.

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Preregistration required. aldoleopoldaubudon.org

CONSERVATION. IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!

Volunteers are needed to help Milwaukee Audubon Society restore Buffalo Speaks Reserve.

It's a special place that looks down from the Niagara escarpment upon the vast expanse of the Horicon Marsh -- where the Prairie meets the Eastern woodlands and where the Savannah and the northern Hardwoods converge. Closer to home, help is needed to maintain the native gardens at the Stahl/Conrad Homestead in Hales Corners and to manage the Purple Martin structure at Warniment Park overlooking Lake Michigan. Contact our Conservation Chairman Bill Holton if you can help.

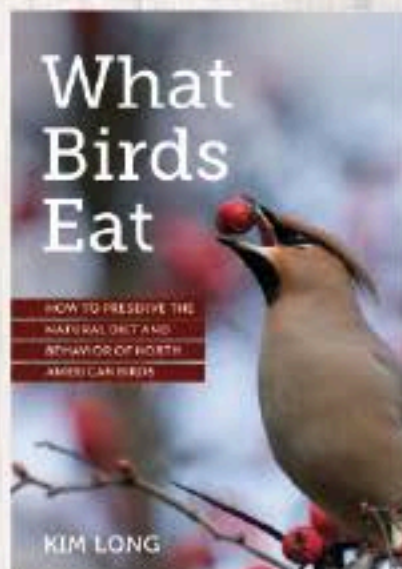
Email Bill at WHolton@wi.rr.com or call him at 414-333-5316.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

By Marsha Berenson, Editor

The following books are available through The Milwaukee County Federated Library System via msfls.org or call 414-286-3210 for assistance. They are also available to purchase through local or online booksellers.

- *Birdscaping in the Midwest: a Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds*, Author Mariette Nowak
The author's focus is definitely on the birds and specific bird habitats: hummingbird gardens; bluebird gardens; prairie, woodland, and several more. Exceptionally helpful sections of charts and lists of native plants of all types.
- *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, Author Douglas W. Tallamy
This author focuses on the insects needed to sustain birds, and the plants needed to sustain the insects. Included are many photos of moths and butterflies and the plants they need.
- *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin*, Author Lynn M. Steiner
This author's focus is on Wisconsin's plants. The book includes 123 pages of field-guide-quality photos with information about the native plants that will survive and thrive in Wisconsin.
- *Mending the Earth in Milwaukee*, Author Ney Tait Fraser
The book is dedicated to Wild One Lorrie Otto, a Milwaukee-area pioneer in natural landscaping. With essays and photos the author describes the history of over a dozen Milwaukee-area yards and how they were transformed from lawns to natural habitats.



Cover photo courtesy
Mountaineers Books

- *What Birds Eat: How to Preserve the Natural Diet and Behavior of North American Birds*, Author Kim Long
The author explains bird physiology and natural diets, including detailed profiles of their food preferences.
Note: This book was just released in August 2020 and is not available at MSFLS.

Read any good books lately?

Our editor welcomes
your suggestions at
marshasb@wi.rr.com

Wisconsin Metro Audubon
Society
6492 S. 121st St
Franklin, WI 53132

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 1275

WMAS thanks Haber M&M Printing
and D.G. Marketing for their help with
printing and mailing!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Refer to mailing address for your renewal date



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone # (Optional): _____

Join as: Business (\$50,) Chapter Supporter (\$20) or
National and Chapter Supporter--Receive Audubon
Magazine (\$40). Please circle ONE.