

# THE TRUMPETER: WISCONSIN METRO AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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# Wisconsin Metro AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Upcoming Wisconsin Metro Audubon Programs

Wisconsin Metro Audubon presents in-person programs at Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Avenue. Join us at 7 pm. Zoom program available with registration. Send an email to [wimetrobird@gmail.com](mailto:wimetrobird@gmail.com)

### September 18, 2024 - Book & Magazine Swap / Nature by Moonlight: Native Gardens at Night

Join us for our first ever book and magazine swap! Bring your nature-oriented books and magazines to exchange. Doors open at 6:30. Afterwards, please stay for our 7:00 program Nature by Moonlight: Native Gardens at Night. Pat Fojut, the Vice President of WI Metro Audubon will present a program about what happens in my backyard after the sun goes down. Monitoring Butterflies and Moths as a WI Master Naturalist for 10 years, Pat has found exciting insects, sounds and nature in the 20 year old prairie in her backyard. Enjoy sharing summer nature happenings such as the 17 year Cicada field trip that happened in June, 2024 and if the weather cooperates we will have a Ultra-Violet light viewing party in the amphitheater to attract night time insects.



17,000 people--while managing 2.4 million gallons of stormwater every time it rains. [refloh2o.com](http://refloh2o.com)

### November 20, 2024 - Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station

The western shore of Lake Michigan has long been known to concentrate birds of prey during their annual southward migration each fall. To study this movement scientists established Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station (CGORS), the longest continuous raptor banding operation in North America, to band migrating raptors and track long-term avian migratory trends. Station banding director Danny Erickson will discuss the history of CGORS, Wisconsin raptor identification and banding, and the collaborative work the station does contributing to our knowledge of these charismatic birds and the conservation of raptor populations. Erickson is a field biologist from Milwaukee who studies raptor movement and population trends through banding. Since 2021, he oversees the count and banding operations at CGORS each fall. He is currently a Masters student at UW-Green Bay studying novel disease in migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks. [cgors.org](http://cgors.org)



### October 23, 2024 - REFLO

Refloh2o is a non-profit organization with a mission to catalyze sustainable water use, green infrastructure, and equitable water resource management to protect the Great Lakes. Justin Hegarty, P.E., LEED A.P., is an environmental engineer and executive director of the Milwaukee area nonprofit Reflo. Justin will share the great success for over 10 years at Reflo. Justin has guided Reflo from its 2013 inception and improved the daily lives of over



**IN ORDER TO SEE BIRDS,  
IT IS NECESSARY TO BECOME  
A PART OF THE SILENCE.  
-ROBERT LYND**



## WEHR BIRDERS

Wehr Birders meets: Sundays at 8:00 am through October at the Wehr Nature Center in Franklin

November through February, we switch to 9:00 am.

**NOTE:** We will not meet if there is excessive snow (or rain) or if temperatures fall below 0 with the wind chill. Otherwise, use your judgement. We typically walk 1 – 1.5 miles although if bird activity is good, we may go further! Open to birders of all experience levels. Most walks are 90 minutes – 2 hours, feel free to come and go as you need to!

## Find Us On Facebook



Wisconsin Metro  
Audubon Society  
@AudubonWMAS



### SPECIAL EVENT September 18: Book Swap!

We will open the doors at 6:30 pm.  
Bring your gently used nature-oriented books and magazines to swap with other attendees until our program starts. Please, no National Geographics!  
What doesn't get swapped you'll need to take back with you.

## WHO DO I CONTACT?

### MEMBERSHIP

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### PROGRAMS

Pat Fojut | PHONE 414-839-0987  
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### WEHR BIRDERS

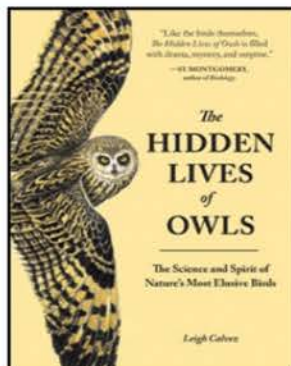
Colleen Resendiz | PHONE 414-379-6741  
EMAIL [Colleenresendiz@gmail.com](mailto:Colleenresendiz@gmail.com)



BY ROBIN LANGENBACH

### "THE HIDDEN LIVES OF OWLS" THE SCIENCE AND SPIRIT OF NATURE'S MOST ELUSIVE BIRDS

By Leigh Calvez



Why are we humans so captivated by owls? Naturalist Leigh Calvez seeks to answer this question as she takes us on an adventure into the fascinating and mysterious world of owls. And what an adventure it is! Along her journey, she joins owl experts and conservationists to pursue 11 species of owls in the Pacific Northwest. She travels deep into the woods in the dark night

to band Saw-Whet owls and Flammulated Owls during their mating season. Her next stop is the frozen Arctic to observe the nomadic Snowy Owls as their search for food takes them around the Arctic Circle. Another trip takes her to an abandoned Army Chemical Depot to help with managing the underground man-made burrows that the Burrowing Owls use as nests. Calvez also details how the opportunistic Barred Owls threaten the very existence of Spotted Owls. With each species we are presented with facts about owl migration (or not), hunting techniques, flight, nests and nesting, and family dynamics. There can be a lot of owl drama!

This book is also about the spirit of the owl. It is her personal account of how she made connections with these amazing birds. When she experienced making eye contact with a Short-eared Owl, she immediately understood what makes owls the topic of fantasy, superstition and mythology. As an example of the owl's resilience and transformation, she shares a riveting account of a female Great Gray Owl whose mate is carried off by a Great Horned Owl. Calvez describes the heaviness of the owl's grief, as she cannot provide for her chicks since the males are the sole providers.

Pick up the book to learn the remarkable ending to the owl's story! You will come away with a special insight into the world of owls.



**IF MEN HAD WINGS AND BORE BLACK FEATHERS, FEW OF THEM WOULD BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO BE CROWS.**  
- HENRY WARD BEECHER





Photos & text by  
Heidi Meier  
August 15, 2024

## : Bird Brief :

### ***Mourning Dove* (*Zenaida macroura*)**

**ORDER:** Columbiformes (2 Families)

**FAMILY:** Columbidae (353 Species)

A few years ago, a flower box on my deck was chosen by a breeding pair of Mourning Doves. They had two clutches and returned the following year to have another clutch. Learning about them during their courtship, nesting, and parenting was a real joy. Mourning Doves are creatures of habit, devoted to each other, and are excellent parents.

I had never had a nesting pair of birds on my deck before. So, I was excited to see a frequently returning Mourning Dove perched on my balcony. I started to pay more attention to see if a breeding pair was looking for a nesting site. Then I noticed a male performing his courtship routine of aerial displays, head bobbing, and of course, cooing his mournful song around a female nearby. After a few days, the pair began inspecting nesting sites and determined my flower box was the best. I knew this because the male brought little twigs for the female to make a loosely woven nest. The male even jumped on her back while she organized the twigs. Once the nest was finished, the female returned that night to lay her first egg. The following morning, she laid her final egg.

I noticed a dove on the nest constantly, all day and night, and wondered if there was ever a time the nesting parent left the nest. Since Mourning Doves are barely sexually dimorphic, I couldn't tell if one or both parents incubated the eggs. Additionally, I knew that Mourning Doves can store abundant food in their crop, but enough for days on end? Then, one mid-morning, I heard the characteristic call, "hoo-WOO-hoo, hoo, hoo," from the male perched on the rooftop of the building next door. He sang for several minutes then flew to my balcony. I saw the male wait patiently for the female to leave the nest and he quickly moved onto the eggs to continue incubating. Another day during the nesting, I was making dinner and spotted a Mourning Dove on the same rooftop where I had seen the male perched singing. After watching for several minutes, this dove flew to my balcony. This time, the female waited for the male to leave the nest. I had no idea that the female incubated during the night and the male returned in the morning for the day shift. How



**July 25, 2019**  
Egg Size: 22 x 28 mm



**July 27, 2019**





August 3, 2019



August 5, 2019



August 8, 2019

fascinating! After observing the pair, I learned that the male performed the cooing, had a longer tail, and grayer head and the female was smaller, had a shorter tail, and had a more cinnamon colored head.

The pair diligently incubated the eggs for around 2 weeks until the babies, or squabs, hatched. Their eyes were closed and they were sparsely covered in downy feathers. The squabs quickly learned to place their heads inside the parent's mouth to receive food. Mourning Doves are unique in that they can suck up fluids instead of cupping fluids in their bill. This allows the dove to drink more fluids and drink faster. A Mourning Dove can drink up to 15% body weight which may be necessary if they forage more for drier seeds. However, if they forage for more fruits, less fluid is required. At any rate, the squabs were fed **crop milk**, produced from the sloughed lining of the adults crop, several times daily for the first week. This specialized milk is high in fat, protein, immune-boosting components, and antioxidants. The parents started diminishing the frequency of feeding and began introducing seeds mixed with the crop milk by the second week. The development of the squabs feathers was also interesting to watch. The downy feathers transitioned into what looked like featherless shafts before changing to short, dark gray, bronze-tipped feathers by two weeks of age. When they fledged, they flew or glided down six floors to the alleyway. Their short tail prevented them from a graceful first flight. The parents were constantly around over the next couple of weeks to protect them and periodically feed them. It was a delight to watch this Mourning Dove pair have clutches of babies.

Hoo, WOO, Hoo, Hoo, Hoo  
I coo for the one I love  
And that would be you

Haiku



#### References:

1. The Birder's Handbook. A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds. Paul R. Ehrlich, D. S. Dobkin, D. Wheye. 1988. Simon and Schuster Inc., New York, NY.
2. Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior. 2020. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, New York, NY.
3. The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior. David Allen Sibley. 2001. Andrew Stewart Publishing, Inc., NY and Toronto.
4. Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America. Nathan Pieplow. 2017. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, New York, NY.
5. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Handbook of Bird Biology, 3rd Edition. Irby J. Lovett and John W. Fitzpatrick. 2016. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ.
6. Into the Nest. Laura Erickson & Marie Read. 2015. Storey Publishing, North Adams, MA.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2024



### Big Sit at Wehr Nature Center Saturday Oct 12, 7am - 11am

To celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and inspire a curiosity for birding, Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society (WMAS) is partnering with Wehr Nature Center to host a "Big Sit." Meet other birders and enjoy a morning of listening and observing birds by both sight and sound all from the convenience of one stationary location. Birders of all ages, abilities, and levels are welcome to discover birds during migration at the South Pier (not the white one). Binoculars will be on hand for visitors to try. No experience necessary. We will share an on-going list of the birds observed and post results on eBird.org as well as [www.bigsit.org](http://www.bigsit.org).

**Questions: Please contact Pat Fojut at [ptfojut@gmail.com](mailto:ptfojut@gmail.com)**



World Migratory Bird Day

## MIGRATION PREPARATION

### Make your windows bird-strike proof!

WMAS donated funds to Milwaukee County Parks to add "bird dots" to the main Park building at Holler Park. Parks staff had reported that these windows had many bird strikes and they were constantly picking up dead birds at this location. If you have windows that get a lot of bird strikes, migration is a great time to take action and mitigate the damage. Bird tape (Collidescape), dots such as these (Feather Friendly), strings (see acopian bird savers) and even washable paint can be used! It's typically just a few windows that are the trouble spots. Up to a billion birds are killed in window strikes each year.



### IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP?

**Your renewal date is now printed on the back of the newsletter above your address.** Renew directly through WMAS by using the form! More of your membership funds will support local activities and conservation projects. In 2023, WMAS made donations to BIPOC birding club, Kids in the Park, a scholarship for Wehr's Day Camp, and the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. Membership dues and donations also help to fund this newsletter, keep our 6 annual programs free, and maintain our website.

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## MEMBERSHIP OR GIFT FORM

Refer to mailing address for your renewal date



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