

CAWS



222 S. Hamilton St. / Madison, WI 53703 / 255-2473 / www.madisonaudubon.org

February 2009

MAS Banquet: Return of the Peregrine Falcon!

Want to hear a great story? When Bob Anderson presents at the March 18 banquet, you'll hear one that will inspire you to leap tall buildings, or maybe scale a cliff or two, as Bob does in his work with Peregrine Falcon restoration. His work with raptors fortunately has been captured on film. Most recently, he was seen on Nature's "The American Eagle," but he also helped produce Nature's "The Raptor Force," and another film for National Geographic. But let's return to the story.

Imagine this: in 1965, Peregrine Falcons were all but extinct in the Midwest. DDT had decimated the eastern and midwestern populations of these amazing "sky-diving" raptors who prey in flight. With level flying speeds of over 60 miles per



hour, and diving speeds of over 200 miles per hour, they were the fastest raptors on earth, but almost gone from the eastern half of the continent.

The next part gets particularly interesting.

In 1975, Anderson began captive breeding research. By the mid-80s he began providing falcons in quantity for release recovery efforts, following the lead of Dr. Tom Cade, who was at the time at Cornell University.

Anderson produced the first falcon to breed in Wisconsin, and in many other states. How? Peregrine Falcons need a high cliff environment where they have a good view of the skies around them and can spot birds in flight. "Twenty years ago," Anderson reports, "the only falcons around were a few breeding among tall

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FEBRUARY PUBLIC PROGRAM

From Rainforests to Polar Bears: Tackling Alaska's Conservation Challenges

Free Public Program

Who: Lauren Hierl

What: Protecting Alaska's Public Lands and Wildlife

When: Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
7:30 p.m. – Program

Where: UW Arboretum

Parking: free – by the building

Alaska contains our largest and most spectacular public lands, including national parks, national forests, and national wildlife refuges. Alaska is also home to incredibly diverse wildlife, from Bald Eagles, brown bears, and salmon in the south to polar bears, musk oxen, and Snowy Owls in the north.

These public lands face critical conservation threats ranging from oil drilling on important wildlife habitats in the North Slope to logging rare old-growth temperate rainforest in the Tongass National Forest.

Audubon is scientifically identifying and prioritizing the most important wildlife habitats in these threatened regions, and is working hard to protect priority areas from development.

Join us to learn what's being done to protect Alaska's public lands, and what you can do to help.

Lauren Hierl is the National Audubon Society's traveling ambassador for pro-

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Madison Audubon Society

Serving Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, Richland and Sauk Counties

MAS Banquet . . . (continued from page 1)

city buildings." So, Anderson started putting nest boxes on top of smokestacks along the Mississippi River. Then he started recruiting help, and the movement began.

"I published a manual on how to do this for power companies — how to put nest boxes on tall stacks near water. It's now a mutual program that works well for the power companies. It's a form of organic pigeon control for them, and the industry helps to increase the wild breeding population," Anderson explains.

By the way, Anderson didn't stop with power plant nest boxes. Ten years ago, he was convinced to return peregrines to the cliffs along the Mississippi, something few thought possible because of the predation from Great Horned Owls. "We had to do this because the current program was dependent on the good will of man. Peregrines have attacked people in

cities, and are dependent on the nest box being maintained, so it's not a self-sustaining population. I've been convinced they had to be returned to cliffs, free of air conditioners and window washers."

And so he and others began to reintroduce the birds to cliff sites. "Now we've got them back where they truly belong," says Anderson.

Check out his Raptor Resource Project at www.raptorresource.org. There you can trace the family trees of the falcons he's known. His falcon power plant program has produced 1,000 young.

If you want to hear the more dramatic twists and turns in the story, make your reservation for the March 18 Madison Audubon Society banquet. He'll talk about the history of Peregrine Falcons in relation to human culture—a story in itself. But expect to be inspired by this hopeful tale of the dedicated effort of many individuals on behalf of an amazing bird. Anderson says, "I see this as the conservation achievement of the century."

2009 Excellence Award Winners

Madison Audubon Society's Excellence Awards will honor a group of outstanding individuals and organizations. The awards will be presented during the "Wings Over Madison" banquet on March 18.

The **Cliff Germain Award for Excellence in Community-Based Restoration** will be presented to **Tom and Kathie Brock** of Madison. The Brocks purchased 140 acres near Black Earth in the 1980s and since then they have worked tirelessly to restore prairie, savanna, woodlands, and wetlands, including one of the highest quality savanna restorations in the Midwest. Their Pleasant Valley Conservancy is open to the public for hiking and nature study and has been dedicated as a state natural area. Tom and Kathie have also coordinated and funded much of the management of Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie State Natural Area.

The **Joseph Hickey Award for Excellence in Bird Conservation** will be awarded to **Kent Hall**, of Stevens Point, and the **Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW)**. When BRAW was organized in 1986 it was estimated that the Eastern Bluebird popu-

lation had declined by 90% during the preceding 50 years. BRAW's mission is to monitor and increase the production of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds through a coordinated statewide nest box construction and monitoring program. Kent Hall has been a tireless advocate and activist for bluebirds, and he serves on BRAW's board of directors. For the past decade, Kent has excited so much interest in bluebird trails statewide that in 2007 Wisconsin was the top producing state with over 28,000 bluebirds fledged..

The **Sam Robbins Award for Excellence in Citizen Science** will be given to **Mike Ayers** of Lake Mills. Mike has dedicated the past several years to an intense study of Sandhill Cranes at the Mud Lake State Wildlife Area in southwestern Dodge County. He has thoroughly studied all aspects of Mud Lake, including other wildlife and the ecology, geology, and cultural history of the site. Mike's weekly updates inform the International Crane Foundation and Madison Audubon Society. His informal chats with local farmers have helped them understand crane ecology and learn that even though the birds may eat tender young corn seedlings, they also like waste grain and harmful insects, such as beetle larvae, that can negatively impact yields.

2009 "Wings Over Madison" Banquet

Wednesday, March 18, 5 - 9 p.m.
UW-Madison Memorial Union
800 Langdon Street

Program

5:00 – Cash Bar

6:30 – Dinner

7:30 – Program

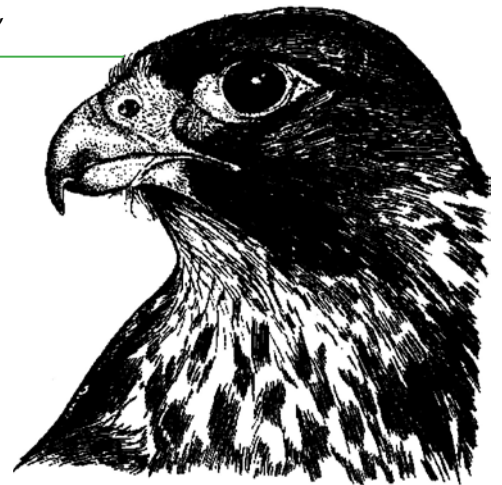
Scott Craven, Emcee

Featured speaker: Robert Anderson
with his live Peregrine Falcon

Madison Audubon Society Excellence
Awards

Tickets are \$50 per person, or \$75
special seating with Bob Anderson or
Scott Craven

Watch the mail for your banquet
invitation!



The **James Zimmerman Award for Excellence in Environmental Education and Communication** will go to **Bob Welch and Debra Martin** of Waupaca. The couple established the 170-acre Waupaca Field Station (WFS) in the mid-1980s to permanently protect and restore globally endangered oak barrens and sand prairie ecosystems with their associated endangered and rare species such as the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly, Wood and Blanding's Turtles, and several priority bird and rare plant species. Each year student interns, teachers, and local schools utilize the station. A science club based at WFS helps with environmental studies conducted by local university professors, grad students, and undergrads working as interns at the station.

February program . . . (continued from page 1)

tecting Alaska's natural riches. She has worked on conservation projects from Maine to southern California, and has published several journal articles on her work. She has hiked and backpacked in more than 50 national parks across North America and abroad, including recent stints in Kruger National Park, South Africa, and the Annapurna region of Nepal. She earned her bachelor's degree in environmental studies at Dartmouth College, and two Master's degrees from Duke University, in environmental management and public policy.

You are invited to join our speaker, MAS board members and friends at the pre-program dinner at **Paisan's Restaurant (131 W. Wilson St.)** beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please call the office at 608/255-BIRD (255-2473) if you have questions.

Next meeting: March 18, 2009 – "Wings Over Madison" Banquet. The April 21, 2009 program topic is "Osprey in Southern Wisconsin" with Pat Ready.

Late Winter Field Trips

Saturday, Feb. 28: Live Butterflies at Milwaukee Public Museum

Mark your calendar! This field trip will be a fun way to butterfly-kiss winter goodbye and anticipate the colorful delights of warmer seasons! We will carpool and travel to the vast Milwaukee Public Museum to receive a special, behind-the-scenes guided tour of Bugs Alive! and the Puelicher Butterfly Garden, a two-story, glass-enclosed wing of the museum, which has live butterflies. The native and tropical butterflies (such as the giant electric-blue Morpho) often land on visitors! We are fortunate to have this special tour led by Susan Borkein, Director of the Puelicher Garden and Director of Research Support for the Museum. Surrounding the Garden are displays of more than 1,000 species of butterflies and moths from the museum collection. We will also get a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the Museum's extensive collections. After lunch you can attend any of the numerous other exhibits (Rain Forest, Titanic, Living Oceans, etc.) or enjoy the domed IMAX theatre or planetarium. The museum admission fee is \$11, senior \$10. This is a joint trip with the Southern Wis. Butterfly Assoc. **You must register for this trip by emailing Joan Braune at jbraune@sbcglobal.net or phone (608) 242-1168. She will provide you with more details, such as meeting time and place, and will be able to notify you of any changes.**



Saturday, Mar. 7: Early Spring Migrants

Steve Thiessen will lead this early morning field trip to Mud Lake in McFarland. Mud Lake is usually the first body of water to thaw in our area, so it attracts good concentrations of spring migrating waterfowl. We will meet at 7 a.m. at the south end of Lewis Lane in McFarland. Bring a scope if you have one. For more information call Steve at (608) 873-3323.

2009 Summer Internship Program: Orientation to Restoration Ecology Fieldwork

Overview: As an intern in this supervised practical experience, you will spend the summer in the field where you will learn by doing a number of tasks in broad-scale landscape restoration and management projects, including work in prairie, savanna, woodland, and wetland habitats. The primary focus of activities is the control of invasive species, but some time will be spent on seed collecting and endangered species monitoring. The internship will give you the opportunity to become familiar with both native and alien plants and to learn about their life cycles and ecological requirements; to observe what natural conditions and processes have been altered in a landscape; and to gain an understanding of restoration and management goals and objectives. Interns work in small groups at sites within 30 miles of Madison. Two teams will be hired for the summer of

2009: one to work at Madison Audubon's Faville Grove Sanctuary east of Madison, and one to work at several sites north and west of Madison including Goose Pond Sanctuary. Applicants will be considered for both teams but may express a preference.

Dates: This is a full-time summer commitment from May 26 through August 14, 2009.

Stipend: \$4,320 for the summer.

Eligibility: For some intern positions, applicants must be continuing students, or accepted for enrollment as undergraduates or special students at a University of Wisconsin System institution. Academic credit may be available for participation in this program; each intern is responsible for making academic credit arrangements with her/his university. Applicants must be able to perform sustained physical work outdoors.

Other: Interns are responsible for their travel, housing, and other living expenses, and are encouraged to carpool between home and worksites. Sturdy work boots, gloves and clothing, as well as sun, rain and insect protection are required. All tools will be provided.

How to Apply: Application deadline to ensure consideration is Friday, February 27, 2009. Later applications may be considered.

Apply by e-mail. Please include a cover letter describing your background and interests, plus a resume.

Madison Audubon Society, Inc.

E-mail: johnmaudubon@yahoo.com

Phone: (608) 327-0129

2008 Christmas Bird Counts

Results below are for six Madison-area Christmas Bird Counts for 2008. Areas reported are Madison (MAD), Mt. Horeb (MTH), Poynette (POY), Sauk City (SC), Baraboo (BOO), and Cookville (COO). Species labeled count week (cw) were spotted in the area three days before or after, but not on, the count day. **Madison Audubon Society** provided funding for the Madison and Poynette counts so that the results could be included in the National Audubon report. See <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> for additional count information.

SPECIES	MAD	MTH	POY	SC	BOO	COO	SPECIES	MAD	MTH	POY	SC	BOO	COO
Greater White-fronted Goose	1						Pileated Woodpecker	2	13	3	15	23	1
Canada Goose	2,813	11	581	705	16	969	Northern Shrike	2		1	7	4	2
Cackling Goose	54						Blue Jay	151	304	243	246	269	60
Mute Swan	15						American Crow	1,179	679	854	1,151	629	231
Trumpeter Swan	3						Horned Lark	20	133	33	34	52	49
Tundra Swan	10		1				Black-capped Chickadee	1,220	613	380	465	477	128
Pied-billed grebe						cw	Tufted Titmouse	9	80	60	49	59	7
Gadwall	35		2	2		15	Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	4	7	6	20	3
American Black Duck	2			2		8	White-breasted Nuthatch	317	204	100	135	153	48
Mallard	1,157	25	154	585	37	630	Brown Creeper	99	2	7	34	14	5
Northern Shoveler	220						Carolina Wren	1					1
Green-winged Teal			1				Winter Wren	6		1			cw
Ring-necked Duck	3		1				Golden-crowned Kinglet	20		3	1	3	1
Lesser Scaup	2						Eastern Bluebird	12	11	81	58	20	4
White-winged Scoter	1						Townsend's Solitaire						1
Common Goldeneye	22		28	57	48	16	Hermit Thrush	2					
Hooded Merganser	43			1			American Robin	117	9	425	490	33	4
Common Merganser	44		102	233	12	22	Gray Catbird	1					
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	12	147	5	1	1	European Starling	2,029	891	384	1,038	567	1,150
Ruffed Grouse		1					Cedar Waxwing	189	2	28	227	143	12
Wild Turkey	155	338	229	249	193	225	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		1	3	4	
Double-crested Cormorant				2			Eastern Towhee				1		
Northern Bobwhite					3		American Tree Sparrow	781	457	557	439	373	613
Great Blue Heron	2	1	4	2			Chipping Sparrow	1					
Turkey Vulture					cw		Fox Sparrow	5	2	1	1	4	
Bald Eagle	14	8	15	39	20	4	Song Sparrow	61	6	12	23		13
Northern Harrier			1				Lincoln's Sparrow	1					1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	cw	1	3		1	Swamp Sparrow	17		1	2		
Cooper's Hawk	23	8	7	10	5	3	White-throated Sparrow	43	12			2	cw
Red-shouldered Hawk			1	1	1	cw	White-crowned Sparrow		1	2	2	cw	3
Red-tailed Hawk	95	81	77	74	56	33	Dark-eyed Junco	1,572	1,455	1,181	1,581	1,724	342
Rough-legged Hawk	8	9	11	15	13	6	Lapland Longspur	2			20		
Golden Eagle				1			Snow Bunting	10	69	6	33	75	
American Kestrel	3		1	4	3	3	Northern Cardinal	785	292	202	240	212	111
King Rail			1				Red-winged Blackbird	1		1	1	10	65
Virginia Rail	2		3				Rusty Blackbird						1
American Coot	16		5				Common Grackle	85	18				
Wilson's Snipe	1		3	1	cw		Brown-headed Cowbird	4	22			1	2
Ring-billed Gull	3		1	2			Purple Finch	5	6	37	36	42	7
Herring Gull	4						House Finch	890	125	183	209	93	131
Rock Pigeon	347	601	403	660	342	135	Red Crossbill	6					
Mourning Dove	655	232	548	385	189	180	White-winged Crossbill	29					
Eastern Screech-Owl	22			1	6	9	Common Redpoll	6				22	1
Great Horned Owl	17	1	3	5	5	8	Pine Siskin	690	27	17	73	99	58
Barred Owl	3	2		2	4		American Goldfinch	1,192	738	473	393	613	256
Long-eared Owl					1		House Sparrow	1,744	562	576	690	404	432
N. Saw-whet Owl	1				3	1	Count Day Species	83	47	63	64	61	54
Belted Kingfisher	10	cw	1	5	cw	2	Individual Birds	19,798	8,393	8,427	11,045	7,436	6,152
Red-headed Woodpecker		2			1		Field Observers	83	47	26	24	16	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	187	109	66	89	111	19	Parties	23	21	12	14	8	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3			4	4	1	Feeder Observers	11	25	19	6	15	1
Downy Woodpecker	345	160	115	143	119	60	Date	12/20	12/28	12/28	12/28	12/30	1/3
Hairy Woodpecker	112	51	45	47	39	12							
Northern Flicker	28	4	9	7	11								

2008 Goose Pond Christmas Bird Count

By Mark Martin

I had the pleasure of surveying the local area around Goose Pond on the Dec. 28, 2008 Poynette Christmas Bird Count with Brand Smith and Jim and Marci Hess. Warm weather and rain a day before the count reduced snow levels, however we needed to use snowshoes and ended up walking about four miles in 4.25 hours.

Eighteen species and 696 individuals were found including: Canada Goose (2); Ring-necked Pheasant (143); Northern Harrier (Count Week - CW); Cooper's Hawk (2); Red-tailed Hawk (2); Rough-legged Hawk (1); American Kestrel (CW); Rock Pigeon (37); Mourning Dove (213); Blue Jay (2); American Crow (2); Horned Lark (14); Black-capped Chickadee (4); European Starling (60); American Tree Sparrow (137); Dark-eyed Junco (45); Snow Bunting (1); Northern Cardinal (2); American Goldfinch (1); and House Sparrow (28).

We counted birds at the two Audubon residences and at feeders at three other houses including those at the home of Bill Grogan and Judy Benade. One hundred seventy-five Mourning Doves were at our residence feeding heavily on the seed provided by Mounds Pet Food Warehouse customers who buy a bag of food for us when buying for themselves. We have also been observing a Cooper's Hawk in our yard hunting. The Stiemke farmyard produced a Snow Bunting and Horned Larks in addition to 23 pheasants.

Most of the pheasants were found in or near corn food plots. The two Canada Geese (both can fly) were also found at a food plot. Deer normally leave Goose Pond for wooded cover in the winter but this year we found a yearling buck and doe near a food plot.

Walking the prairie restorations we found many more rabbit tracks than usual and saw more rabbits than usual. In the Browne Prairie, I located an old badger hole that the rabbits were living in. Seventy-five tree sparrows were also found in the Browne Prairie feeding on annual weeds.

The variety and amount of prey helps explain finding five species of raptors during the count week. One set of coyote tracks and a couple sets of mink tracks were also observed.

Correction: In the January issue of the CAWS the Ezzie crane story had Elsie Lapinski and Lois Kitze-Smithies names mixed up. We regret the error.



William Damm's wildlife camera captured this buck that we call "Spike" entering a food plot west of Goose Pond in November. This was the only time this buck was seen this fall. Spike bucks are uncommon in most years but the deep snow last year affected antler development due to lack of food.



Sunrise at Faville Grove Sanctuary.

Winter Wetland Wonderland at Faville Grove Sanctuary

Jan. 1, 2009 – A clearing in the otherwise dense cloud cover provided a splash of crimson just before sunrise as a group of 11 early-risers, bundled against the cold south wind, made its way to greet the New Year at Faville Marsh. As always, the winter marsh was stunning with its many delicate textures and subtle colors set against the snow and ice. Tamarack, sphagnum, bog birch, poison sumac, leatherleaf, steeplebush, winterberry (our only native holly), marsh shield-fern, greater water-dock, wool grass and cotton grass (both sedges), wire-grass sedge, blue joint grass (a grass!), to name only a few, were in their dormant-season glory. Muskrat lodges dotted the marsh, recently constructed of cattail and sphagnum and a smattering of sedges. Tracks of mice, shrews, coyotes, weasels and deer provided evidence of abundant other animal life as well.

High water levels, which this past year were so extreme and damaging in the Crawfish River floodplain, were more moderate in Faville Marsh with its small (about 600-acre) and relatively undisturbed drainage basin, and the effects seem to have been largely beneficial. A drainage ditch dug through the marsh in the late 19th century never succeeded in draining it completely, but did artificially lower the water level. As a result of that disturbance, common buckthorn, an aggressive alien shrub, had taken over a large section of the marsh.

Without routine maintenance, the ditch has filled in substantially over time, and water levels have increased noticeably in recent years, with this year's unusually high precipitation bumping the water up to a level higher than anyone now living remembers. And the invader buckthorn appears to be the big loser. None of the standing buckthorn is alive, while native shrubs that have been holding on in its midst, including leatherleaf, winterberry and bog birch, look fine. We will watch eagerly to see whether the buckthorn rebounds, or as we hope with water levels now at more natural levels, the natives will once again gain the upper hand. One more change to look forward to in 2009! A Happy New Year, indeed!

BOOK REVIEW

Birdwatcher - The Life of Roger Tory Peterson

What birder doesn't know the name Roger Tory Peterson? Most of us discovered him when we decided it was time to get a field guide to help us identify what birds we were seeing. The Peterson Guides are the best.

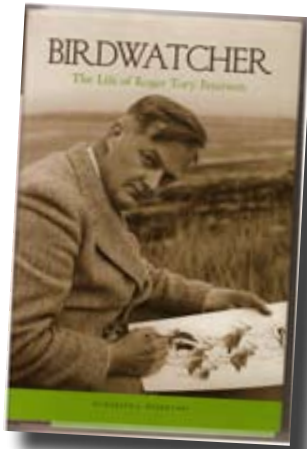
But who really was Roger Tory Peterson? In a new book titled "Birdwatcher - The Life of Roger Tory Peterson" by Elizabeth Rosenthal, we learn who the man was and whom he influenced in the conservation movement.

The little bit I knew about RTP was that he was an artist and developed the identification method popularized by his field guide. What I didn't know was his involvement with organizations such as the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation and the World Wildlife Fund. The conservation movement was in its infancy when Peterson gained notoriety as a renowned birder and naturalist. He traveled the world and made important contacts, using his influence to help natural areas receive protection for birds and other wildlife. He used his clout to obtain research money designated for biologists working to preserve endangered species.

In her book, Rosenthal writes about the many people (including the late Joe Hickey of Madison) that surround this key player in the world of birding. His second wife, Barbara, was not only the mother of his two children but also his personal business manager for 33 years. This book covers her important role in Peterson's legacy.

We knew him as the artist but he was also an accomplished photographer and a naturalist guide who traveled the world in search of birds. I enjoyed reading about his adventures, the people he influenced, his family life, his work ethic and most of all his love for the environment. This is truly an enjoyable read on these cold winter nights.

– Pat Ready, CAWS Editor



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Patrick and Debra Ready

In Honor of Karen Etter Hale

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In Honor of Mark and Sue Martin

Tim and Linda Eisele

In Honor of Dan Phelps and Linda Welch

Sarah Hole

Membership, Renewal and Donation Form

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Join Madison Audubon Society, or give a gift membership.

TIME TO RENEW?

Check your Madison Audubon CAWS address label to determine your renewal date. Please renew two months before that date to keep your membership current and avoid missing any issues of the CAWS.

Tip: Renewing through the MAS office directs more of your donation to local activities and conservation projects.

Update: We now send an annual renewal notice. In the future we plan to offer a renewal option via the MAS website.

MAKE A DONATION

Help make Madison Audubon's vision a reality. We offer education about the natural world, opportunities to advocate for the environment, and two wildlife sanctuaries with natural habitat where you can learn about the beauty and value of nature.

MAIL TO:

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite #1
Madison, WI 53703

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[] Acre-Maker, \$2,500 or more can purchase and restore one acre of land _____
[] Half-Acre-Maker, \$1,250-\$2,499 _____
[] Quarter-Acre-Maker, \$625-\$1,249 _____
[] Adopt-an-Acre, \$100 a year for three years (\$300 total). Here is my first installment. _____
[] Nest Egg, \$50 a year for three years (\$150 total). Here is my first installment. _____
[] My Own Vision _____

Total enclosed/charged \$ _____
Please make check payable to Madison Audubon Society,
OR please charge my
[] VISA [] Master Card

Name on card _____
Card # _____
Expiration date ____/____/____
Signature _____

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The mission of the Madison Audubon Society is to educate our members and the public about the natural world and the threats that natural systems are facing, to engage in advocacy to preserve and protect these systems, and to develop and maintain sanctuaries to save and restore natural habitat.

Madison Audubon Wishlist

We greatly appreciate any donations, or contributions, for the following items.

- Quality binoculars
- Digital (LCD) projector
- Mule utility vehicle
- Rider mower / snow blower in working condition
- Energy efficient washing machine
- Household / deck furniture
- Small, custom-routed, wood signs





Madison Audubon Society, Inc.
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**Is it time to renew your membership?
 See form on page 7 and help MAS.**



Tackling Alaska's Conservation Challenges

see page 1



On my way home after the Poynette CBC I spotted this Coopers Hawk trying to flush pheasants from the prairie on Kampen Rd. east of Goose Pond Rd. I first saw it fly down to the field and chase up 3-4 pheasants, then he landed in the prairie. Then a hen flew up and across the road to the farm with all the tires in the barnyard. It hid behind the hay stacks. He flew in pursuit. The Coop gave up and flew back toward me and I got one flight shot. Interesting to watch him hunt such large prey. — Pat Ready

EVENTS

MAS at Garden Expo

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 13, 14, 15

Don't miss Madison Audubon's booth at this year's Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions about birds and birding.

Free Garden Expo seminars:

- Friday, at 7:00 p.m., Mike & Kathi Rock present "Gardening for Hummingbirds." Also Sat., at noon and Sun. at 11 a.m.
- Saturday at 11 a.m., Kent Hall of Aldo Leopold Audubon (Stevens Pt.) and BRAW, "Learning to Think Like a Bluebird"
- Saturday at 1 p.m., Pat Ready presents "Landscape Features to Attract Songbirds to Your Yard."
- Sunday at 1 p.m. Pat represents the Bluebird Restoration Assn. of WI (BRAW) for a talk on "Attracting Bluebirds and Cavity Nesters to Your Yard".

Dates and times are current as of CAWS publication date; for details, check with Garden Expo at (608) 262-5256 or visit www.wpt.org/gardenexpo/

To volunteer for the MAS booth, please call the MAS office at (608) 255-2473

Conservation Lobby Day Is Wednesday, Feb. 25

Be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, Feb. 25, the five-year anniversary of Conservation Lobby Day!

Each year, more and more Wisconsin citizens have joined together to let legislators know which issues mean the most to us. To sign up for Conservation Lobby Day (it's free), go to www.wisconsinvoters.org. Hope to see you there!



White-winged Crossbill/Jack Bartholmai

Plan now to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 13-16. If you visit the UW Arboretum you might see White-winged Crossbills. The species is usually rare in Wisconsin, but this winter record numbers have been seen throughout the state. They spend most of their time in the top five feet of 30- to 40-foot high White Spruces, but they also visit feeders, especially the sock-type with thistle seed. For more on the Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, visit www.birdcount.org

Endangered Resources Income Tax Checkoff

Look for the loon on your Wisconsin income tax checkoff form and give generously to the Endangered Resources Program. Your donation will be matched by state funds, making your gift twice as important! With the delisting of the Bald Eagle recently accomplished, the next two species under consideration are the Trumpeter Swan and Osprey. Be part of this success story with your gift to the Endangered Resources program.