

# CAWS

222 S. Hamilton St. / Madison, WI 53703 / 255-2473 / [www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org)

March/April 2010

## MAS Art Fair Just Weeks Away

Spring is right around the corner! So is Madison Audubon Society's 34th annual Art Fair. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and plan to attend the Art Fair at Warner Park Community Center, 1625 Northport Dr.

This festive event, just in time for Mother's Day, features more than 100 artists displaying fine arts and crafts. In addition, the fair offers a raffle, creative kid's activities, the MAS information booth, and the popular silent auction that grows larger each year. Food will be available on site.

More than 100 volunteers are needed to ensure the success of the event. Help is needed in many areas, including volunteer coordination, kids' activities, raffle, artist and volunteer check-in, artist set-up



Warner Park neighbors, including this Sandhill Crane, are ready to welcome visitors to the May 1 Art Fair.

and take down, plant sale, MAS information booth, and silent auction. Volunteers are needed the day of the fair, but also in the office weeks before the event. For more information, please check out the Art Fair link at [www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org), watch for more in the May CAWS, or e-mail Jennifer Larsen at [audubonartfair@hotmail.com](mailto:audubonartfair@hotmail.com), or call (608) 255-2473.

Brad Weisinger

## Art Fair

Saturday, May 1, 2010  
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Pretty Boys (Cedar Waxwings) by Audrey Christie

**Food ☞ Raffle ☞ Silent Auction**

Warner Park Community Center  
1625 Northport Drive, Madison

### APRIL PROGRAM

## North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

### Free Public Program

**Who:** Shane Mahoney

**What:** North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

**When:** Tuesday, April 20, 2010 Please check the MAS website ([www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org)) or call the office at (608) 255-2473 to confirm time and location.

**Where: Tentative Time & Location!**  
4:30 p.m., UW-Madison, Ebling Auditorium (Room 1220-First Floor), Microbial Sciences Building, 1550 Linden Dr.

In lieu of our standard April monthly meeting, Madison Audubon is cosponsoring the UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology's Leopold Lecture, entitled "Maintaining Public Trust in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: The Crucial Partnership between Hunter-Conservationists and Wildlife Professionals."

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the underlying theory behind management of wildlife in the U.S. and Canada. The model is over 100 years old and continues to evolve. Rather than

continued on page 2

### Inside This Issue

MAS Art Fair.....	1
April Program.....	1
Woody/Hoody Report.....	2
Wildland Easement.....	4
Memorial Day Camp.....	4
Spring Hearings.....	4
Education Committee.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	5
Big Birding Day.....	6
Rare Birds in Wis. ....	6
Faville Grove News.....	7-8
Classes at Olbrich.....	8
Spring Field Trips.....	9-10



### Madison Audubon Society

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

## April Program . . .

(continued from page 1)

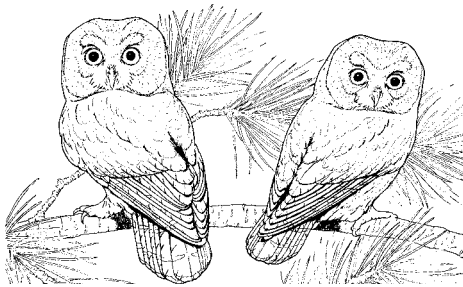
regarding wild birds and animals as a commodity, the model views wildlife as a public trust to be managed and conserved for all.

The Audubon Society was started to fight the trade in wild bird feathers. One of the key principles of the North American plan is elimination of markets in dead wildlife. Considering wildlife an international resource, another main principle, is central to migratory bird conservation efforts in the hemisphere. Understanding the model is a key to understanding Wisconsin and national wildlife policy debates.

Shane Mahoney, Executive Director of Science for Newfoundland and Labrador, is a recognized authority on the North American Conservation Model. He is an internationally known lecturer on environmental and resource conservation issues. He has authored more than 120 scientific and popular articles and frequently contributes to radio programs in Canada.

NOTE: Because the lecture is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m., there will be no get-together for dinner before the meeting this month.

Next meeting: September 21, 2010



## 2009 Wood Duck/ Hooded Merganser Nest Box Results

By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin

The 2009 goal for Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser hatchlings was to have 700 ducklings make the jump from nest box to the ground or water. Volunteer monitors found a total of **796 young** hatched (763 Wood Ducks and 33 Hooded Mergansers) from 172 boxes. The highlight of the nesting season occurred in our second year of monitoring nest boxes at Zeloski Marsh, in Jefferson County, where the number of young went from 16 to an impressive 178.

Hooded Merganser numbers are increasing in the Rio area. At our Wildland property, 3 Hooded Merganser nests had 29 young. At the Briggs property near Grassy Lake there was one successful merganser nest. Mark and Jenny McGinley found 7 of the 16 nest boxes at Otsego Marsh contained Hooded Merganser eggs.

The McGinleys checked 39 boxes and all but two contained nests. They found 245 egg membranes from hatched eggs and 514 eggs and 9 chicks that died in the box. The number of eggs laid per box averaged 20.7. The high count was a box at Otsego Marsh with 20 membranes and 19 eggs. Eight of the nests they checked contained 30 or more eggs and they found 8 boxes that had hatches ranging from 15 to 26.

Large numbers of eggs are due to a practice known as "dump nesting" (where more than one female deposits her eggs in a box) and nest parasitism.

Nine boxes contained Hooded Merganser and Wood Duck eggs. It may be difficult for the nesting female to take care of a large number of eggs. Hooded Merganser eggs require about two more days of incubation than Wood Duck eggs and may end up not hatching.

We lost nests on land due to raccoons climbing PVC predator guards. We thought raccoons could not climb PVC guards but we were wrong. To solve this problem we will be placing 98 metal cones below nest boxes to keep raccoons at bay.

Our goal is to erect 18 additional boxes this winter with the 2010 goal being 1,000 ducklings. If you would like to join us and become one of the Wood Duck volunteers contact Mark or Sue at [goosep@chorus.net](mailto:goosep@chorus.net) or (608) 635-4160.

### Sites and Monitors

#### Columbia County:

Anderson Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) – 4 miles east of Goose Pond; Ostego Marsh (MAS) – 3 miles south of Rio; Schoeneberg Marsh (WPA) and Erstad Prairie (MAS) – 2.5 miles north-east of Goose Pond; Jenny and Mark McGinley; Grassy Lake – Jeanne & Gerry Briggs, 3 miles east of Rio; Mark Martin; Duck Creek, 2 miles east of Pardeeville; John Kaiser, Brendan & Pat Wherley Wildland - 3 miles north of Rio; Mark and Sue Foote-Martin; Wyona Park – 1 mile east of Wyocena; Mark Martin

#### Dane County:

Jackson WPA, 3 mi. southwest of Goose Pond–Jenny and Mark McGinley; Gov. Nelson State Park– Marianne Jensen; Stoughton Area Parks, including Viking County Park, and Lake Kegonsa State Park–Pat Ready.

Location	Boxes	Successful	# of young jumped
Anderson WPA	7	2	8
Briggs – Grassy Lake	2	2	10
Faville Grove (MAS)	30	23	178
Gov. Nelson State Park	3	2	23
Kaiser - Duck Creek Pardeeville	6	3	24
Jackson WPA	4	4	51
Misc. – Goose Pond/Pardeeville	4	1	5
Otsego Marsh (MAS)	16	8	117
Schoeneberg Marsh (WPA) Erstad Pr MAS	12	4	66
Stoughton Area Parks	6	3	28
Martin -Wildland/Duck Creek	19	11	99
Wyona Park – Wyocena	3	1	9
Lake Mills WA - Zeloski Marsh	60	19	178
<b>Totals</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>796</b>



Nest material inside a wood duck box.

### **Jefferson County:**

Faville Grove Sanctuary—Ohne Raasch;  
Lake Mills State Wildlife Area—Zeloski  
Marsh Unit—Jim Goodno.

### **Additional Data:**

- In 2006, 42 boxes produced 143 young; 50% nest success.
- In 2007, 48 boxes produced 300 young; 65% nest success; goal was 300.
- In 2008, 112 boxes produced 524 young; 47% nest success; goal was 500.
- In 2009, 172 boxes produced 796 young; 48% nest success; goal was 700.
- In 2010, 190 boxes with a goal of 1,000 young

(% nest success = # of successful nests / number of boxes)

## **Duck Creek - Wood Duck Project**

**By John Kaiser, Hayward**

Forty years ago in 1969 my father Fred and I purchased a 60 acre parcel east of Pardeeville containing wetlands, two ponds, grassy fields, and wooded uplands along Duck Creek. I wrote the following to friends last summer:

“... my son-in-law Pat Wherley and grandson Brendan’s Wood Duck house project is fledging... literally. Six new Wood Duck houses were installed around our Pardeeville property in April with the help of Pat, Brendan, and Mark Martin.

“All the houses had Wood Duck activity but one, and that, believe it or not, had a House Wren occupying it! One nest with several eggs was abandoned, another a raccoon got into and may have killed the hen, the others had varying success but 21



**John Kaiser, Brendan and Pat Wherley**

eggs hatched and Wood Duck ducklings fledged and left the nest. Another box had a hen sitting on eggs when they last checked it and there are potentially seven more fledglings possible! We also had several bluebird houses that produced Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows and three houses had House Wrens.

“We are looking forward to erecting another four boxes this spring and adding metal cones to eliminate raccoon predation. Thanks to Jerry Martin for providing cedar boards, to William Damm for cutting out and constructing five nest boxes, and to Mark Martin for his assistance. Brendan is eagerly looking forward to helping out this spring and seeing the Wood Ducks return to Duck Creek.”



**Brendan Wherley and Mark Martin count egg membranes from a wood duck nest.**

## **Volunteer for Bluebird and Tree Swallow Nest Box Trail Project**

**By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin**

Jerry Martin has been busy constructing another 130 bluebird / Tree Swallow nest boxes to add to the successful nest box program that MAS has been building over the past years. Jerry would probably agree that this is one housing market left unharmed by the current recession.

There is a strong demand by Eastern

Bluebirds and Tree Swallows for Jerry’s beautiful and functional nest boxes. Made of cedar and left free of paint or varnish finishes, the boxes age beautifully through the years and maintain their integrity.

Nest boxes are installed along hiking trails and need to be monitored on a weekly basis throughout the nesting season which is April through July in our area. A single trail typically has 15 boxes erected along the path. Currently, 20 volunteers monitor MAS established trails.

We are seeking additional volunteers to erect and help monitor boxes this summer on the northeast side of Madison and Marshall (Dane Co.), Faville Grove Sanctuary and Lake Mills (Jefferson Co.), and Goose Pond Sanctuary and Wyocena (Columbia Co.). Also, contact us if you have a potential area for a trail or would like to monitor a trail but need advice on where to establish one. We have volunteers for existing trails, but additional volunteers are needed to help monitor boxes if lead monitors are unavailable for a week or two. No experience is necessary and we will assist and train new volunteers.

David Laufenberg, a UW student majoring in Biological Aspects of Conservation and president of Students for Bird Conservation, is volunteering to assist with the project this spring. He will help establish new trails and mark locations of existing boxes with a GPS unit.

The goal this year is to have 2,500 songbirds fledge from the hundreds of boxes. Contact Mark or Sue at (608) 635-4160 or [goosep@chorus.net](mailto:goosep@chorus.net) if you would like to volunteer.



*Eastern Bluebirds/Patrick Ready*

## Martins' Wildland Easement Completed

Goose Pond Sanctuary resident managers Mark and Sue Foote-Martin completed their donation of a conservation easement on 120 acres called "Wildland" near Wyocena in Columbia County. Attorney David Billing and Cindy Draeger assisted the Martins in finalizing the easement. MAS President Brand Smith and Secretary Jon Bishop signed the documents for Madison Audubon Society.

The Martins are pleased that their property is permanently preserved for wildlife. Their donation to Madison Audubon Society triggers the release of \$69,000 of matching Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant funds that can be used by MAS to protect wildlife habitat through the purchase of additional land. A full story outlining the Martin's gift can be found in the December 2009 issue of the CAWS.



**Cindy Draeger, Sue Foote-Martin, Jon Bishop and Mark Martin.**

*Photo by David Billing.*



## Sign Up Now for Memorial Day Weekend Birding and Nature Camp

Would you like a great birding trip, but Costa Rica is out of reach? Do you miss going to summer camp as a kid? Come join other Audubon members, families and friends at our 31st annual Camp Lake Lucerne weekend just an hour or so north of Madison on a spring-fed lake. Enjoy Memorial Day weekend outdoors relaxing and having fun, and let someone else do the cooking!

Camp Lake Lucerne provides comfortable group cabins with indoor showers and separate bedrooms. Hot meals are served in a beautiful dining hall overlooking the lake. Canoes are provided for your use at the beach. You'll be surrounded by natural areas of marsh, forest, and prairie full of spring blossoms and birds. Enjoy

seeing and learning about turtles, herons, hawks, bluebirds, and woodland orchids. Highlights last year were watching some fox kits play near the cabins and spotting Pileated Woodpeckers. There are recreation areas for kids, gentle hiking and biking trails, and evening 's'mores' around the campfire. Also plenty of opportunity and lots of space for some personal quiet time.

Birders will love waking to nearby towhees, the midday melody of Ovenbirds, and nodding off to the distant hoots of Great Horned Owls and Whip-poor-wills calling across the lake. There's great birding right out the door each morning and shared rides are arranged to nearby sanctuaries led by birding experts in the group. There are also tree walks, Tai Chi, and other healthy and educational activities for both kids and adults. Indoor recreation with popcorn, games and puzzles are also provided.

Contact Paul Noeldner at [paul\\_noeldner@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_noeldner@hotmail.com) or (608) 698-0104 to make a tentative reservation today even if you're not yet certain you can come. Requests for 'family' cabins or 'quieter' cabins will be honored in the order received. See <http://madisonaudubon.org/audubon/lakelucerne> for more information and a slideshow about the camp, and to print the registration form to send in. See you there!



## Take a Stand for Loons and Swans! Attend Your Local Spring Hearing Monday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

**By Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary**

The best thing you can do to help loons and swans is to attend the Spring Hearing in your county on Monday, April 12, at 7 p.m. If you have limited time, stop for a moment to pick up a ballot and vote for Advisory Question #61 to phase out lead fishing tackle, then leave. All it takes is one lead sinker to kill a loon.

The DNR Spring Hearings on Fish and Wildlife Rules and the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress meetings will be held on April 12 in every county in Wisconsin. All citizens can attend and voice their opinions on each wildlife and environmental issue question. The first half of the evening will be the fish and wildlife rule changes proposed by the

DNR. The second portion consists of Conservation Congress advisory questions. Many of these become official DNR rule change questions the following year.

The most interesting advisory question this year (#61) advocates for phasing out lead fishing tackle less than one inch long and weighing less than one ounce for use in Wisconsin waters. If this passes the Spring Hearing, it could become a DNR rule the following year. It would go far in reducing the incidence of lead poisoning in waterbirds, especially Common Loons and Trumpeter Swans, and the secondary poisoning of raptors, such as eagles and ospreys. Lead toxicosis is very costly to treat, often exceeding \$1,000 per bird in medication alone. Many inexpensive non-lead alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs are already available, but sometimes only by asking. For more information, see the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Issues paper "Lead Poisoning of Wisconsin's Birds" at [www.wisconsin-birds.org/leadpoisoning.htm](http://www.wisconsin-birds.org/leadpoisoning.htm) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/sinkers.cfm#information](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/sinkers.cfm#information)

Other questions of interest include Questions #22 and #23 which would establish hunting seasons on new Glacial Heritage Area Conservation Parks, primarily in Jefferson County, and Advisory Question #76 which would allow the hunting of foxes and coyotes over bait.

Please attend your Spring Hearing if possible. While it is useful to hear and participate in the discussion, you can also fill in the ballot and leave if you have limited time. The hearing in Dane County will be at **Monona Grove High School** (a change from 2009); Columbia County at Portage Junior High School; Dodge County at Horicon City Hall; Iowa County at Dodgeville High School; Jefferson County at Jefferson County Fairgrounds; Richland County at Richland County Courthouse; and Sauk County at UW Baraboo Campus, Baraboo.

The entire Spring Hearing ballot, including the locations of each county meeting, can be seen on the DNR website: [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/) Look for the 2010 questionnaire under "Spring Hearings." For information, call Karen Etter Hale at the Madison Audubon office at (608) 255-BIRD (2473).

## MAS EDUCATION COMMITTEE **Sharing our sense of wonder with the next generation**

Environmentalist Rachel Carlson spoke for all of us when she wrote: "If I had influence with the good fairy . . . I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength."

As a member of MAS, you very likely experience our sanctuaries as a source of strength and inspiration. You may be one of our many members who enjoys a prairie, rain garden, or native garden in your yard. Chances are good that you maintain a bird feeder or feeders, and that you delight in observing our ever-interesting feathered friends. No matter how old or young we may be, the joy we receive from observing birds and other creatures in their natural habitat helps to keep our sense of wonder alive.

Children need and deserve the opportunity to develop a relationship with the natural world. For many children today, the outdoors is seen as a scary place. Well-meaning adults have cautioned children about biting bugs and stinging plants. For these children, a video game that simulates nature becomes a safe substitute for the real thing.

Think for a moment and ask yourself "How did I become fascinated with the world of nature?" Was it a grandparent, an aunt or uncle, a parent, or a family friend who took the time with you to get up close and personal with a wildflower or a grasshopper? Or did it have to do with going to a special place, a cottage, a farm, or a camping trip where you had the time to discover the wonders of nature on your own?

Shared amazement is a natural way of transferring our love of nature to the next generation.

In the spirit of Rachel Carlson, I invite you to share your own "Sense of Wonder" story. Please email, write, or call with your story of how you developed your sense of wonder with the natural world. With your permission, we will share your story in an upcoming issue of CAWS. Please send your story by March 31 to Nancy Hyllbert, [nhyllbert@yogaforhealth.net](mailto:nhyllbert@yogaforhealth.net), 2809 Hollyhock St., Fitchburg, WI 53711, or (608) 271-0956.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Friday, March 26: WI Bird Conservation Initiative Conference—The Power of Partnerships**

WBCI's annual meeting will be hosted by We Energies at their Public Service Building, 231 W. Michigan St. in downtown Milwaukee. All information, including the registration form and agenda are on the WBCI website at [www.wisconsinbirds.org/annualmeeting.htm](http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/annualmeeting.htm). All WBCI partners and the public are invited. We'll look 40 years into the future and learn how we can become involved today through programs such as Bird City Wisconsin, bird research and monitoring efforts, wintering grounds conservation, grassland bird conservation, and more. If you have questions, contact Karen Etter Hale, WBCI Chairperson, [masoffice@mailbag.com](mailto:masoffice@mailbag.com) or (608) 255-BIRD (2473).

**Saturday, April 24:  
Orioles and Ocelots—Wisconsin's  
Connection to Costa Rica**, a new international collaboration, will be unveiled by The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, in partnership with the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. Tropical ecologist and author Dr. Adrian Forsyth headlines an evening event at the Milwaukee County Zoo for Wisconsin's migratory bird conservation efforts on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, one of the most biologically dense places on earth. For more information: Craig Thompson, (608) 785-1277, [Craig.Thompson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Craig.Thompson@wisconsin.gov)

### **Saturday, May 8: Native Plant Sale, Friends of UW-Madison Arboretum**

Over 100 varieties of native woodland and prairie plants will be offered. Orders can be placed now through March 23 for garden mixes (including a rain garden, butterfly/hummingbird garden, savanna and prairie gardens) and native shrubs, vines and trees. All species are native to the area and are propagated plants, not dug from the wild. The pre-order brochure is available at [www.uwarboretum.org/foa](http://www.uwarboretum.org/foa) or phone (608) 263-7760.

## Come One, Come All! Join in MAS Big Birding Days Fundraiser – May 8 & 9

Big Birding Day has been a successful MAS fundraiser for about 10 years, with teams of birders scouring their county of choice for up to 11 hours, tallying up birds they see and hear. We get together at the end of the day for dinner, camaraderie and sharing of the day's adventures.

This year MAS would like to reach out to more bird lovers to join us on two Big Birding Days, Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9. We'd love participation of children, inexperienced birders, backyard birders, nature lovers, new team participants, and the curious.

Birds will be in spring migration and in full color. This is a magical time of the year and we'd like to share it with more people of all ages and experience levels. Choose your level of participation:

- (1) Form your own team, or join someone else's, to search one of the seven counties served by Madison Audubon;
- (2) Join one of our experienced field trip leaders for part or all of a day's adventure; or
- (3) Bird your own yard and not leave home.

Team competition (or just fun) will be on Saturday, May 8. Teams of 2 to 6 will scour one of seven counties (Dane, Jefferson, Richland, Columbia, Iowa, Dodge, or Sauk) between 4 a.m. and 5 p.m. We will meet afterward for our traditional banquet at Imperial Gardens in



Middleton, share stories and hand out prizes. The participation fee will be \$30 including the banquet, or \$20 without the banquet.

Participants are encouraged to solicit pledges for number of species seen. Please note that participation is free for birders under the age of 15.

We're also organizing field trips on Sunday to find the jewels in budding trees, wetlands and woods. The field trips, as usual for Madison Audubon, are free of charge. Donations, of course, are always welcome, and proceeds go directly to MAS.

You may also bird at home on one or both days. We're inviting backyard birders to tally up their birds and submit their lists to us for inclusion in eBird, the national bird tracking project. Again, there is no fee. Birders tallying the most birds at home will have their names posted in a subsequent issue of the CAWS.

Note also that everyone is invited to join us for the banquet on Saturday night, May 8, at the Imperial Gardens at 6 p.m. The cost of the banquet is \$10 for those who have paid the \$20 team participation fee and \$15 for all others who would like to join us. If

you plan on joining a field trip on Sunday, Saturday's event will give some idea of what birds can be found where.

For details, please check the MAS web page, [www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org). You may also email [quetzal65@gmail.com](mailto:quetzal65@gmail.com), or call Chuck at (608) 206-0324 or Delia at (608) 274-4043 for more specifics, or call Madison Audubon at (608) 255-2473. Rules and forms will be available by mid-March on the MAS webpage.

Please join us! Big Birding Day has always been a lot of fun, and this year should be better than ever!

## Rare Birds Sighted in Wisconsin this Winter



**Left: A Black-legged Kittiwake has been spending the winter in Port Washington harbor.** Pat Ready photos



Pat Ready photo



**Above: Several Varied Thrushes have been reported in the state. Above is one coming to the Merrill, Wis. yard of Richard Martin.**

**Left: Sherri Baldwin of Madison photographed a Varied Thrush in her back yard on the northeast side.**

## Progress in the Ledge

We have made great progress recently in the Lake Mills Ledge Savanna, a rare plant community and fascinating geological feature overlooking the floodplain of the Crawfish River. In addition to the help of sanctuary interns, staff and contractors, volunteers have contributed more than 450 hours of labor helping to cut, stack, and burn invasive trees and shrubs in the site.

With much of the invasive undergrowth now removed from the ledge north of Prairie Lane, and good progress being made south of the road, many large outcroppings of Baraboo quartzite are no longer concealed beneath a veil of brush. Visitors can now enjoy the sight of

bedrock and large boulders that make this site so unique.

Last fall, the north unit of the ledge also benefited from the restoration of lowland prairie to the east. With funding from the Wetland Reserve Program, a series of deep ditches, totaling about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in length along the eastern side of the ledge were filled, which will restore the natural flow of surface water and groundwater from the savanna and adjacent uplands to the lowland prairie restoration area. After the ditch filling, the area was planted with native grasses and forbs on Nov. 14, 2009 by a crew of 94 enthusiastic volunteers.

Last spring volunteers began conducting bird surveys in the ledge savanna, and throughout the sanctuary to track the impact of our restoration activities on the avian community. Surveys will continue

annually into the future as a way to guide restoration efforts. As brush and trees are removed to restore the degraded oak/hickory savanna, we expect to see an increase in certain bird species such as Red-headed Woodpecker and Field Sparrow that have suffered tremendously from habitat loss in the past.

Despite all of the hard work already contributed to restoring the ledge, there is much more to accomplish. In order to create true savanna habitat, we will continue our thinning of re-growth trees as we liberate the open-grown oaks dating back prior to European settlement and promote new generations of oak seedlings.

With the invasive brush now removed from the north unit, we have focused this winter's volunteer work parties on the invasive brush in the south unit. The crews have burned

**(continued on next page)**

**Freed from the stranglehold of woody invasives, white oaks greet the morning sun.**



## Faville . . .

(continued from page 7)

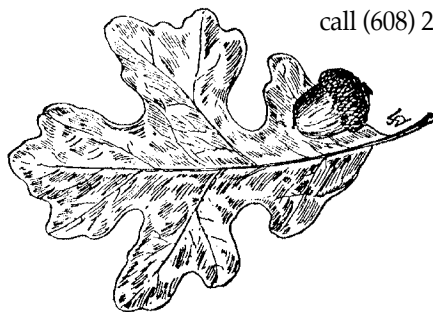


**This open-grown bur oak once again presides over an outcropping of Baraboo quartzite free of interference from invasive brush.**

large piles of brush comprised mostly of exotic honeysuckle, exposing extensive outcropping of quartzite bedrock and opening new vistas to the lowland springs and prairie restoration. Upcoming work parties each Wednesday (9:30 a.m. to noon) and the second and fourth Saturday of March (also 9:30 a.m. to noon) will focus on continuing to cut, stack, and burn brush in the south unit of the ledge savanna. By the time April hits and we shift gears to garlic mustard control and controlled burns, we hope to have routed most of the dense, jungle-like thickets of exotic brush, returning the area to the open habitat

characteristic of the savanna it once was.

Join us on Prairie Lane north of Lake Mills for one of our end-of-winter work parties and enjoy the spectacular new landscape. Contact Lars Higdon, [favillegrove@live.com](mailto:favillegrove@live.com) or (608) 220-9563, with questions.



## Classes at the Gardens

**By Sharon Schwarz, Master Gardener**  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison offers many classes and workshops on various outdoor living topics, some of which relate to the significant relationship between birds and plants. If you go I'm sure you will learn a lot and probably run into a fellow gardener or birder. Here are just a few classes that may be of interest to you. Registration is suggested and fees are required.

**Birdscaping in the Midwest:** Creating a 5-Star Bird Attraction in Your Yard. Saturday, March 27, 1-2:30 p.m. Register by March 18. Mariette Nowak, author of *Birdscaping in the Midwest* (great book), will be presenting.



### **Garden and Nature Journaling.**

UW-Madison Arboretum Horticulturist/Research Specialist Susan Kilmer will lead this 5-week class. Notebook and pencil needed for this one. Sundays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Register by March 25.



**Chip Carving—Birdhouse or Bowl.** Start with a gourd and end up with a finished product for your yard. Lynn Quinn, instructor. Saturday, April 10, 9-11 a.m. Register by April 1.

To register or check out the entire listing of winter and spring classes, visit the Olbrich website at [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org). Or call (608) 246-4550 for details.

## SPRING FIELD TRIPS

### **Saturday, March 20: Beginning Birding**

Each spring, MAS sponsors many birding field trips, and though the leaders attempt to help new birders, it is not always possible to answer all of their questions. Picnic Point will be the site for beginners to get their questions answered. This area, at the west end of the UW campus, offers varied habitats and a good opportunity to observe a variety of waterfowl and small birds. We will meet next to the bus shelter in the parking lot by the 1918 Marsh (across from the entrance to Picnic Point) at 7:30 a.m. Questions? Call Allen Holzhueter at (608) 238-0546. Also offered April 10 and April 24.



Eastern Bluebirds

### **Sunday, March 28: Spring Birding at Rose Lake**

Rose Lake State Natural Area is a hidden gem acquired by Jefferson County with assistance from Madison Audubon. For a description of Rose Lake and what we expect to see on this trip, click on Sanctuaries on the MAS web site. We hope to see many ducks, geese (including Greater White-fronted), cranes and shorebirds. In addition to the lake, we will tour woodlot and prairie habitats. Rose Lake is adjacent to Dorothy Carnes County Park, which is just west of Fort Atkinson off US Hwy. 12. The only entrance is well marked. Meet in the parking lot at 9 a.m. and stay as long as you like. If you have questions, contact Nolan Kollath at (920) 648-3842 or [nkollath@charter.net](mailto:nkollath@charter.net)

### **Saturday, April 3: Spring Birds of Columbia County**

Tony Kalenic and Carol Anderson will lead this car birding trip through northern Dane and southern Columbia counties to look for early spring migrants and late winter birds. We hope to see migrating

swans, geese and other water birds. Meet to carpool at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Copp's supermarket at 6800 Century Ave. in Middleton. You can also join the group at 9:30 a.m. at Goose Pond. Bring your binoculars, a scope if you have one, and a snack, as the trip may last to early afternoon. Call Tony and Carol at (608) 249-8836 for questions.

### **Saturday, April 10: Spring Migrants**

Spring has sprung! This field trip focuses on birding the Lake Farm County Park area and nearby open water. Lake Waubesa and Upper Mud Lake should have a variety of ducks. On the trails we may find Yellow-rumped Warblers, phoebes, thrushes and a variety of sparrows. Bring a scope for viewing the lake. This trip will be from 9 -11 a.m. Meet at the No. shelter parking lot. Take South Towne Rd. south from the Beltline to Moorland Rd. and turn left. Continue to Libby Rd. and turn left again. The shelter lot is a few blocks up on your left. Call Pat Ready at (608) 873-1703 for more info.

### **Saturday, April 10: Beginning Birding.**

Repeat of March 20 trip. See information from that write-up.

### **Friday, April 16: Evening at Erstad Prairie - Schoeneberg Marsh**

Come join us for an evening birding tour at Erstad Prairie - Schoeneberg Marsh Waterfowl Production Area. Water conditions are still high from last year and water levels probably will increase with snowmelt. The high water should provide ideal habitat for wetland birds. If you have not visited the area lately you are in for a change. Harvey Road has been abandoned shortly after our parking lot and the Fish and Wildlife Service has established a hiking trail off Priem Road. We will hike the abandoned road and also hike the trail off Priem Rd. Meet at our parking lot on Harvey Rd. at 6:30 p.m. Directions: From the intersection



of Hwys. 22, 51, and 60 in North Leeds about 2 miles northeast of Goose Pond, go east on Hwy. 60 for one mile then turn left (north) on Harvey Rd. for 0.75 miles to the parking lot. To reach the parking lot for the Priem Rd. trail go left (north) on Harvey Rd. for 0.5 miles and turn left (west) on Priem Rd. for about 0.25 miles. If you have questions, contact Mark or Sue Foote-Martin at [goosep@chorus.net](mailto:goosep@chorus.net) or (608) 635-4160.



Grey Catbird

### **Saturday, April 17: Ice Age Trail (Once Around the Sink and Down the Drain)**

We'll look for returning waterfowl and grassland birds at Shoveler's Sink, stroll through the gorge cut by glacial meltwater at the Cross Plains Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, and search for pasque flowers on the bluffs above. This 3-mile walk traces the contrasting landscape of glaciated and unglaciated (Driftless Area) terrain along the route of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Wear sturdy boots; bring binoculars, water, and food; and dress for the weather. Meet at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Cleveland Rd. and Old Sauk Pass. This is about three-fourths of a mile south of U.S. Hwy. 14 in the Town of Cross Plains. Contact trip leader Gary Werner of the Dane County Chapter, Ice Age Trail Alliance, at (608) 249-7870 with questions.

### **Sunday, April 18: Faville Grove Sanctuary West**

Experience Madison Audubon Society's Faville Grove Sanctuary with sanctuary ecologist and land steward, Lars Higdon. Participants will hike through northwestern Jefferson County's recessional glacial terrain while viewing its attendant array of plant communities (wetland, prairie, sedge meadow, perched tamarack bog, fen, savanna, and woodland). We expect to see Sandhill Cranes, various migratory waterfowl and songbirds, hawks, grass-

## Field Trips . . . (continued from page 9)

land birds and other resident species. It is not unusual to see at least one flock of cormorants en route to Green Bay. The field trip will last 2-3 hours. Meet at the west unit of the sanctuary at 7:15 a.m. From Madison, travel east on I-94 to the Lake Mills/Waterloo exit, then go 3 miles north on Hwy. 89 to the old farmstead at N7710 Hwy. 89. If you have questions, call Lars at (608) 220-9563.

### Friday, April 23: Evening at Cherokee Marsh

We'll see cranes, observe the courtship flight of woodcock and snipe, and see several spring migrants. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Cherokee Marsh parking lot at the north end of Sherman Ave., on Madison's north side. Waterproof footwear is recommended. Trip leaders are Levi Wood and Tony Kalenic. For questions, call Levi at (608) 277-7959.

### Saturday, April 24: Beginning Birding

Repeat from the March 20 field trip.



### Sunday, April 25: Baraboo Hills Spring Wildflowers

Come visit the Carla and Harold Kruse Preserve in Honey Creek Valley of the Baraboo Hills. This is at the head of the WSO's and TNC's Honey Creek State Natural Area and includes the beautiful waterfall, a mesic stream gorge, dry bed-rock glade, a rich array of spring ephemerals, and many forest interior breeding birds. Come rain or shine. We'll look for flowers and early migrants, and discuss the ecology, history and management of the site and its surroundings. If you're willing to pick some garlic mustard, you may want to bring some light gloves. Bags generously provided. We'll meet at 8 a.m. at the Adams farmstead just off Hwy.

D. From Sauk City, drive 2 miles north on Hwy. 12. Turn left (west) on Hwy. PF and follow it 16 mi. Go left (north) on Hwy D 0.7 mi, and where the highway bends right, turn left onto the Adams driveway. Park along it, near the farmstead. We'll be back at the cars by 11:30, a bit later if you opt to pick GM. This is an easy hike but along poor trails that may be muddy, about 1 mile total. Questions? Call Mike Mossman at (608) 544-5501.

### Thursday, April 29: Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch

Join us for the first of MAS's early morning warbler walks. We will be looking for migrating warblers as well as vireos, thrushes, tanagers and whatever else flies by. Meet at 6 a.m. and park at the dead-end that leads up to Parisi Park near where Park Lawn St. meets Park St., Middleton. Mike McDowell (608) 831-9989 or [mike@birddigiscoper.com](mailto:mike@birddigiscoper.com).

### Jefferson/Dodge County Birdwalks

We will be starting the third season of the successful Jefferson and Dodge County Birdwalks as soon as April arrives. As previously, the walks are affiliated with the Madison Audubon Society and will be led by experienced birders, including Nolan Kollath, lifelong birder and former instructor at Madison Area Technical College, Watertown; Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary, Madison Audubon Society; and Brad and Royan Webb, members of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club.

Jefferson and Dodge counties have thousands of acres of prime bird watching habitat. We manage our walks under the rule "go where the birds are" so we choose walk sites close to the scheduled date. As we firm up the schedule, we will post the information on our website, <http://www.theropod.org/walks.html>. We will again be holding our walks on the third weekend of the month, April through September. You can join our mailing list at the website and be notified of all upcoming walks as soon as they are planned. We will not give out any information you provide and only use the list to keep people informed about the walks. We had a lot of fun with good birds, good company and pleasant walks last year, and we'd be happy to have you join us this year for more of the same. All experience levels are welcome.

## Donations Received in January

### HALF-ACRE MAKER

In Honor of Phil Miles

*Charles Miles*

*Elizabeth Miles*

*Christopher Rutland and Katherine Duren*

*Arthur and Sarah Schiller*

### MY OWN VISION

*Edward Baker*

*Frederick and Juanita Ehrke*

*Georgia Gomez-Ibanez*

*Dorothy Gosting*

*David and Anna Marie Huset*

*Paula Isenhardt*

*Marilyn Meade*

*Elizabeth Middleton*

*Robert and Peg Ridgely*

*Dietrich and Cherine Schaff*

*Laura Smail*

*Bhavani Sridharan*

*Donald and Joanna Thompson*

*West Side Garden Club*

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF A PERSON

In Memory of Evelyn Batchelor

*Mary Babula*

In Memory of Susan Connell-Magee

*Kevin Magee*

In Memory of George F. Hartman

*Allen Holzhueter*

In Memory of Agnes Marks

*Francis and Mary Ann Michel*

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF A PERSON

In Honor of Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin

*Sally Martin*

34<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Madison Audubon Society**  
**Art Fair**  
Saturday, May 1, 2010  
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Food ☿ Raffle ☿ Silent Auction**  
Warner Park Community Center  
1625 Northport Drive, Madison  
Free Parking and Admission  
[www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org)

## 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

Madison Audubon Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Madison Audubon's financial statement is available upon request.

**MY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
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State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Day phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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### YES! I want to

\_\_\_ **Join Madison Audubon Society**

\_\_\_ **Give a gift membership to:**

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\_\_\_ **Renew/upgrade my membership**

\_\_\_ **Make a donation**

[ ] In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send notification of this gift to:

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[ ] Please do not acknowledge my Gift in Madison Audubon CAWS.

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

#### New membership

[ ] \$25 New or Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Renewal

[ ] \$25 Student/senior

[ ] \$60 Family

[ ] \$40 Renewal

[ ] \$20 CAWS newsletter Only (non-member)

#### Over and Above Member

[ ] Patron \$1,000

[ ] Benefactor \$500

[ ] Partner \$250

[ ] Contributor \$100

#### Donation

[ ] 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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Vice-president: Debra Weitzel  
Goose Pond resident managers:  
Mark and Sue Martin  
Faville Grove Sanctuary managers:  
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CAWS printer: Roemer Printing

**Submissions for the May CAWS are due March 15.**

### THE AUDUBON CAWS is published

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masoffice@mailbag.com

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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

- Quality binoculars
- Digital (LCD) projector
- Mule utility vehicle
- Rider mower / snow blower in working condition
- Energy efficient washing machine



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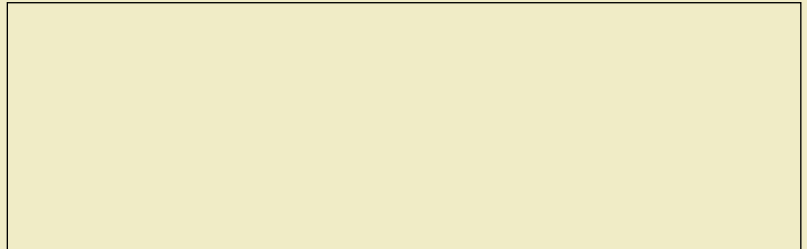


**Is it time to renew your membership?  
 See form on page 11 and help MAS.**

**Note: This is a combined March/  
 April issue of the CAWS newslet-  
 ter. The May CAWS is scheduled  
 to be mailed on April 17.**

Return Service Requested

3&4/10



**HORICON MARSH**  
 - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE -  
 Tuesday, March 30, 2010  
 "WINGS OVER MADISON"  
 Madison Audubon Society Spring Banquet  
 featuring: **Bill Volkert**, *Horicon Marsh naturalist*

- RESERVATION DEADLINE: MARCH 19, 2010 -  
 For more information, call John Minnich at (608) 327-0129

## From the President

By Brand Smith

I am writing with a challenge to get out and enjoy Madison Audubon's Big Birding Day on Saturday, May 8. It's one day of the year that I truly look forward to, and I have participated in this activity since it began about 10 years ago. The number of participants has varied slightly each year, but the one thing that I have noticed is that there are very few, if any, beginners.

My challenge to all Madison Audubon Society members is to take time with your family or friends to enjoy the outdoors and participate in a good day of birding. Do this even if you are a beginner.

To help get you into the outdoors on the "Big Day" I will lead a "spend some time birding with the president" activity. All you need to do is register with Chuck and Delia (please see the related article in this newsletter). I will customize a day of birding depending on the size and preferences of the group. The dinner, which is held after the day of birding, is optional.

Please give this some serious consideration. If you are not able to participate in Big Birding Day, there are many high-quality Madison Audubon field trips available.



**Team Sustain Crane (l-r, Dave Drapac, Matt Krueger, Paul Noeldner, Caleb Pourchot) not only saved the most fossil fuel, but this team has won the prize for most funds raised.**

