

CAWS

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

February 2012

Waterbirds of the Great Lakes

Free Public Program

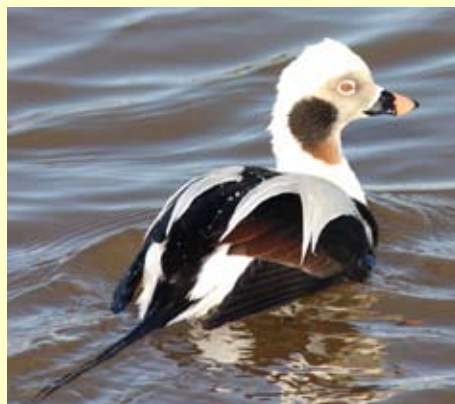
Who: Tom Prestby

What: Waterfowl Identification

When: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012
7:30 p.m. – Program

Where: Capitol Lakes Retirement Community
333 West Main St. (lower level), Madison

Parking: Free – ramp across the street. Enter off Washington Place (between W. Main St. and W. Washington Ave.). Push blue button to obtain ticket and park in spaces marked "Capitol Lakes Reserved." After the program, Capitol Lakes front desk will validate your ticket.



Long-tailed Duck, photo by Tom Prestby

It's been a good year to watch ducks and geese on Madison's lakes, but identification is always a challenge. The waterfowl frequently refuse to be right by the shore where you're standing.

In 2009, Tom Prestby was the fall

waterbird counter at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory on the shore of Lake Superior in the Michigan Upper Peninsula. His work included counting all migrating waterbirds every day for 8 hours from August 15 until November 15. Tom will share the experience he gained identifying these migrants where views were often quick and challenging, and where identification needed to be made in a matter of seconds.

He will focus on the basics of waterbird ID as well as the keys to making identification in challenging circumstances

with poor looks at the birds. In addition to identification, Tom will touch on the best places in Wisconsin to see migrant waterbirds and how to count large groups quickly. He will share some stories from his time at Whitefish Point.

Tom Prestby is a graduate of UW-Madison and currently works as a bird research technician for the Wisconsin DNR. He has enjoyed bird watching as a hobby since he was a young child watching Bald Eagles fly up and down the Mississippi River at his grandparents' house in La Crescent, MN. His curiosity about eagles escalated into becoming a fanatical birder and now, a biologist. Some of his current DNR projects include boreal bird, northern forest bird, marsh-bird, and grassland bird monitoring.

You are invited to join our speaker, MAS board members and friends at the pre-program dinner at Pisan's Restaurant (131 W. Wilson St.) beginning at 5:15 p.m. Please call the office at (608) 255-BIRD (255-2473) if you have questions.

Next meeting: March 20, 2012 – *The City Dark* documentary film

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Madison Audubon Society

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

Prairie Peacocks Migrate Home

By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin

On the afternoon of December 10, 2011 we were surprised to see the flock of seven "Prairie Peacocks" at the entrance of Prairie Lane preparing to migrate back to Prairie Du Sac. We had little notice of their arrival 11 years ago, so we understood that this is the typical behavior for the species.

The pond froze solid on December 8 and only Mallards, Canada Geese, and the eight-foot-tall, 700-pound metal Prairie Peacocks remained. Prairie Peacocks are tough and can withstand cold weather, deep snow, strong winds, and intense prairie fires. It took about three hours for the flock to become airborne and placed on a truck bed for their migration home.

The Prairie Peacocks, also called *Thenime Niamod* (eminent domain spelled back-

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Peacocks . . . continued from page 1

wards), arrived at Goose Pond in October 2000. Prior to that, the birds were stationed near the north gate of the Badger Ammunition Plant north of Prairie du Sac. In 2000, their creator, Dr. Evermor (Tom Every) personally saw to the placement of each bird on the prairie at the end of the sanctuary drive. The birds were positioned so that they overlooked the entire west pond and the oak savanna. They have delighted thousands of people who have driven by, many stopping to get a closer look or be photographed with the spectacular birds, which Dr. Evermor referred to as "Prairie Peacocks."

The Good Doctor, as Evermor is known by many, stated that each of the birds has a name given it by a Native American Shaman from South Dakota. The names were established long before the birds were hatched, or even in the egg. The first bird named Matomani means *opens gates that have been closed*. Second is Shangii or *opens doorways of grandfathers*. Third is Wanyeca which means *assists sacred paths*. Fourth is Istato or *sets eyes on creator*. Fifth

is Zizi or *golden road of health*. The sixth is Oyate, *the creative energy of manifesting*. Last is Mnisunka, *the one who heals emotional body and heart*.

The flock migrated back to the "Forevertron" to join other creations of Dr. Evermor. The Good Doctor's family is assembling many of these large metal art works at the Forevertron so they can be viewed by the public. If you would like to see these birds and other of Evermor's creations check out the Forevertron, located behind Delaney's Surplus, across the highway from the Badger Army Ammunition Factory on State Highway 12, seven miles



The first of the Prairie Peacocks to become airborne.

south of Baraboo, Wisconsin, and seven miles north of Prairie du Sac. Call (608) 219-7830 to make sure the Forevertron is open.

Thanks to Dr. Evermor for the loan of the flock that graced Goose Pond Sanctuary for many years.

Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 17-20

By Joe Friesen

Make good on your resolution to do more birding this Feb. 17-20 with the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). This is a great opportunity to shake off those mid-winter blues and do some birding while actively contributing to one of the largest and most important citizen science projects in North America.

Scientists nationwide use GBBC data to solve some of the birding world's most perplexing questions like why some common bird species are in decline. The data also helps assess the impacts of an increasingly urban and warming climate on migratory patterns. The annual State of the Birds report, which relies on data from the GBBC, can be accessed at: www.stateofthebirds.org

Unlike the similar Christmas Bird Count, participants in the GBBC do not have to commit to an entire day of counting. All data has value. Even if you can spend just 15 minutes looking out a window during your lunch break, you can provide scientists important information.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an accessible event for birders of all ages and abilities. Capitalize on this occasion to introduce your child or grandchild to the joy of bird watching. Whether you're indoors with a morning cup of coffee, reporting the activity at a feeder or tromping out in the bush with five layers on, every report contributes.

If you have any questions about the procedure or uploading data, visit www.birdcount.org for clear instructional videos. Also, feel free to call the MAS office at (608) 255-BIRD (2473) for more details. Happy birding!

2012 Summer Internships

Madison Audubon Society, along with the Prairie Partners (Friends of Pheasant Branch, Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and Natural Heritage Land Trust) is seeking interns to work during the summer of 2012.

Two teams will be hired: one to work at four separate sites (Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary and the Prairie Partners) and another to work at other sites including Madison Audubon's Faville Grove Sanctuary east of Madison. This highly successful program provides an outstanding opportunity for students interested in restoration ecology to learn while working with experienced individuals.

Applications are due by February 24, 2012; more information and how to apply can be found at the Madison Audubon web site, <http://madisonaudubon.org/audubon/>

2012 Hog Island Audubon Camp

Registration is open for the 6-day residential birding and environmental education programs at the historic Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. Programs are for adult birders, teens, families, educators, and chapter leaders. All summer programs include field trips to nearby Eastern Egg Rock, with a restored island colony of Atlantic Puffins, and Roseate, Arctic and Common Terns.

Participants live in restored wooden buildings dating back to the early 1900's and are treated to three fabulous meals each day. Scholarships available. For details, visit <http://hogisland.audubon.org> or contact the camp registrar, Erica Marx (VanEtten), at evanetten@audubon.org or (607) 257-7308 ext 14.

New Residents at Faville Grove

By Jim Shurts,
Sanctuaries Committee Chair

We are pleased to announce two new residents at the Faville Grove Sanctuary house. They are Sam Jonas and Natalie Ullenberg who moved in during December.

While living at the Prairie Lane house, Sam is going to help Madison Audubon with some activities such as monitoring and recording Faville Grove sanctuary wildlife; assisting with prescribed burns, prairie plantings, and seed collection; and coordinating volunteer activities.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Sam earned his B.S. in wildlife ecology research and management with a minor in biology. He currently works as a wildlife technician for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Sam has a passion for ornithology, and was the lead nest monitor in Adams County for the Wisconsin Kirtland's Warbler Project last summer. Always appreciating a challenge, he loves to hunt and spend time birding.

2011 Goose Pond Christmas Bird Count

By Mark Martin

Jim Hess, Bill Walters, and I had the pleasure of surveying birds around Goose Pond as part of the Poynette Christmas Bird Count on December 26. We counted birds on about 2.5 square miles (1,600 acres). This year the ground was a snowless brown and we had high winds. This was a change from the past two years when we used snowshoes to maneuver over the deep snow. We spent much of the morning counting in another area and were going to walk the food plots and prairie restorations with seven high school students after lunch. Unfortunately the students cancelled at noon so we did not cover as much habitat as we had planned.

Fourteen species (23 species in 2010) were found on the count day. The highlight of the "Goose Pond Count" was seeing 200 Sandhill Cranes migrating south on Christmas Day. We recorded the cranes as seen during the count week (cw) and the cranes were the first for the Goose Pond Christmas Bird Count.

Species and numbers compared to last year's "Goose Pond Count" (2011-2010) are Canada Goose (21-0); Cooper's Hawk (1-cw); American Kestrel (1-2); Rock Pigeon (39-72); Mourning Dove (105-119); Great Horned Owl

SPECIES	2011 Area Christmas Bird Count Results							Totals
	MAS	BOO	COO	PAR	POY	WAT	MTH	
Greater White-fronted Goose	1							1
Snow Goose	3					cw		3
Canada Goose	12,751	4,243	7,710	1,465	2,564	2,058	158	30,949
Cackling Goose	65	10	360	30		33		498
Mute Swan	3	cw			3			6
Tundra Swan	745					19		764
Gadwall	333		12					345
American Wigeon	2		2			cw		4
American Black Duck	1		33		2	1		37
Mallard	1,925	333	2,743	11	145	199	49	5,405
Northern Shoveler	650				2			652
Northern Pintail	7		2					9
Green-winged Teal	8							8
Canvasback	503		1			50		554
Redhead	24		1			cw		25
Ring-necked Duck	34					64		98
Lesser Scaup	339			1		3		343
Scaup species unknown						2		2
Long-tailed Duck	2							2
Bufflehead	415					1		416
Common Goldeneye	726	35	17	18	20	443		1,259
Hooded Merganser	73	3				8		84
Common Merganser	510	8	23		24	5		570
Red-breasted Merganser	16					1		17
Ruddy Duck	50					11		61
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	1	cw		cw	9	3	15
Wild Turkey	282	47	81	330	196	156	188	1,280
Common Loon	12					1		13
Red-necked Grebe	1					1		2
Horned Grebe	10							10
Great Blue Heron	1							1
Turkey Vulture		2						2
Bald Eagle	19	66	2	13	28	1	10	139
Northern Harrier	3	2	3		1	3	5	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	4		1	1	2	1	17
Cooper's Hawk	28	4	2		2	4	3	43
Accipiter species unknown					1			1
Red-shouldered Hawk		cw						cw
Red-tailed Hawk	156	44	32	35	47	37	41	392
Rough-legged Hawk	3	6		1	2	1	6	19
Golden Eagle		2						2
American Kestrel	9	5	12	5	4	10	4	49
Merlin	1	1	1					3
Virginia Rail					2			2
American Coot	4,670					3,225		7,895
Sandhill Crane	77	5,000	35	6	76			5,194
Ring-billed Gull	1,484		2	27	17	31		1,561
Herring Gull	844	2	9			2		857
Gull species unknown					17	260		277
Iceland Gull	1							1
Glaucous Gull	cw							cw
Rock Pigeon	919	244	215	125	282	262	252	2,299
Eurasian Collared-dove					14			14
Mourning Dove	959	131	131	67	184	306	78	1,856
Eastern Screech-Owl	23	5	2		1	1		32
Great Horned Owl	16	7	3		4	1	cw	31
Snowy Owl	cw							cw
Barred Owl	7	2	1	1		1	3	15
Long-eared Owl	1	1						2
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	3						4

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SPECIES	MAS	BOO	COO	PAR	POY	WAT	MTH	Totals
Belted Kingfisher	11	4	4	1	1	2	1	24
Red-headed Woodpecker			1				3	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	181	69	8	39	42	46	51	436
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	2					1	4
Downy Woodpecker	289	121	32	55	78	59	92	726
Hairy Woodpecker	91	42	6	17	27	10	26	219
Northern Flicker	25	20	4	6		7	4	66
Pileated Woodpecker		13		2	2		9	26
Northern Shrike	7	6	1	1	3		1	19
Blue Jay	262	209	18	97	137	133	101	957
American Crow	1,159	1,015	239	1,155	621	332	880	5,401
Common Raven		1						1
Homed Lark	11	2	174		35	1	46	269
Black-capped Chickadee	1,289	751	68	230	308	346	366	3,358
Tufted Titmouse	46	77	1	33	38	9	53	257
Red-breasted Nuthatch	15	11		1	8	8	5	48
White-breasted Nuthatch	307	192	27	72	96	63	96	853
Brown Creeper	87	8		3	4	6	2	110
Carolina Wren	4							4
Winter Wren	2	cw						2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	1		2	1	4		21
Eastern Bluebird	13	42		23	56	6	4	144
Townsend's Solitaire	1	2						3
Hermit Thrush	3							3
American Robin	391	72	1	20	59	12	7	562
Gray Catbird	1							1
European Starling	1,838	1,070	1,693	820	1,137	1,987	942	9,487
Cedar Waxwing	121	238		113	7	104		583
Eastern Towhee	cw							cw
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	1		5				8
American Tree Sparrow	747	90	38	68	157	400	184	1,684
Chipping Sparrow		1						1
Fox Sparrow	1							1
Song Sparrow	36		cw		3	4	1	44
Swamp Sparrow	16				1	1	1	19
White-throated Sparrow	20							20
White-crowned Sparrow	6							6
Dark-eyed Junco	1,015	662	179	356	588	510	627	3,937
Lapland Longspur			1		50			51
Snow Bunting			3	1	3			7
Northern Cardinal	747	235	55	78	105	119	112	1,451
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					cw		1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	64		1		3			65
Blackbird species unknown						5		5
Meadowlark species unknown						1		1
Common Grackle	1	200	3			1		205
Brown-headed Cowbird			223		3			226
Purple Finch	2	28		12	7	2	24	75
House Finch	1,067	297	134	105	174	238	163	2,178
White-winged Crossbill					2			2
Red Crossbill	1							1
Common Redpoll	1	1			19		1	22
Pine Siskin	161	12	8	cw	9	16	54	260
American Goldfinch	1,130	497	221	275	256	356	384	3,119
House Sparrow	2,557	535	257	368	340	856	405	5,318
Count Day	Dec. 17	Dec. 27	Jan. 1	Dec. 15	Dec. 26	Dec. 14	Jan. 1	Totals
Count Day Species	93	62	53	44	58	63	46	107
Individual Birds	42,465	16,738	14,835	6,094	8,019	12,856	5,448	106,455
Field Observers	97	28	12	17	22	20	35	231
Feeder Observers	14	27	0	12	17	6	14	90

(1-2); American Crow (2-10); Black-capped Chickadee (4-9); European Starling (133-300); American Tree Sparrow (63-109); Dark-eyed Junco (6-36); House Finch (45-8); American Goldfinch (10-26); and House Sparrow (15-55).

Birds were counted at two houses (our residence at Kampen Rd. and Bill Grogan/Judi Benade's residence on Kampen Rd.) with bird feeders. At our residence we had 15 Rock Pigeons (living in the silos), 105 Mourning Doves, 6 Dark-eyed Juncos, 25 House Finch, 10 American Goldfinch, and 15 House Sparrows. The high numbers of species such as Mourning Doves and House Finches are due to the combination of having bird feeders near a large amount of habitat. We usually have large numbers of Tree Sparrows at the house but with no snow they mostly were found in the weedy cover north of the pond. Thanks to customers of Mounds Pet Food Warehouse, who purchased through the Mounds program called "Buy a bag of bird seed for Goose Pond Sanctuary" and keep our feeders brimming with seed.

For the first time no Ring-necked Pheasants were found at Goose Pond. Pheasant numbers are low but they are using our four food plots. Pheasants are difficult to flush with no snow cover and we were unsuccessful in seeing or hearing any.

2011 Area Christmas Bird Counts

By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin

Counts reported and coordinators are Madison (MAD) Aaron Stutz; Baraboo (BOO) Scott and Ann Swengel; Cooksville (COO) David and Anna Marie Huset; Pardeeville (PAR) Paul and Glenna Schwalbe; Poynette (POY) Mark and Sue Martin; Waterloo (WAT) Karen Etter Hale; and Mount Horeb (MTH) Kerry Beheler. Sauk City data were not available by CAWS deadline. The compilers would like to thank all of the participants who contributed their time and effort to make the counts successful, especially those who participated on multiple counts.

Weather conditions greatly impacted bird numbers with above normal temperatures, no snow, and high winds except for the Madison and Waterloo counts.

This year, 107 species were found over all the counts, compared with 105 in 2010. Four additional species were found during the count weeks (cw). Some absences include:

Ruffed Grouse, Northern Bobwhite, Wilson's Snipe, and Short-eared Owl. High numbers of two species found on most of the counts included Sandhill Cranes (5,194 total) and Eastern Bluebirds (144 total).

With all the open water the early Madison and Waterloo counts were exceptional for the numbers of waterbirds, especially geese and American Coots. In most years, Rock Lake within the Waterloo Count is ice covered. A record 31,447 Canada and Cackling Geese were observed on the seven counts.

With the lack of snow low numbers of open country birds were found including Rough-legged Hawks, Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings. Over 100 Snowy Owls were reported in Wisconsin during December, however the only Snowy Owl reported within the CBC survey areas tallied here was during the count week in Madison. Very few Ring-necked Pheasants were found.

Species found on the Madison count with impressive numbers included 12,751 Canada Geese, 4,670 American Coots, 745 Tundra Swans, 503 Canvasbacks, 282 Wild Turkeys, 77 Sandhill Cranes, 12 Common Loons, 10 Horned Grebes and 87 Brown Creepers.

Species of interest on the Baraboo count included 66 Bald Eagles, 5,000 Sandhill Cranes, 1 Common Raven, and 200 Common Grackles. The Cooksville count found the only Red-headed Woodpecker and 223 Brown-headed Cowbirds.

The Pardeeville count had 330 Wild Turkeys and 5 Yellow-rumped Warblers. The only two Virginia Rails were found on the Poynette count. Also found at Poynette were 14 Eurasian Collared-doves, a record for the Poynette count, and a flock of 116 Wild Turkeys. A feeder watcher also had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Christmas.

Species of note on the Waterloo count included 1 Red-necked Grebe, 3,225 American Coots, and 1 meadowlark species. The Mount Horeb count had all the possible woodpecker species including 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers, the only count day Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 5 Northern Harriers, and 6 Rough-legged Hawks.

CBC = Copious Bird Count?

By Joe Friesen

Former Madison Audubon Society president Brand Smith agreed to show me the ropes this year as I participated in the Madison Area Christmas Bird Count. I was prepared to drive around Madison's east side for 7 hours and find some scattered birds. However, I was not particularly ready for what came next.

Our day got off to an auspicious start at our first stop. We pulled off on a hill overlooking a field with an open pond. We stopped for the congregated geese but after a quick scan of the field with our binoculars we noticed a small rafter of Wild Turkeys (yes that's what a group of turkeys is called). With the aid of a better vantage point up the hill and a spotting scope, we noticed that there were not 14 turkeys as we originally thought, but a gobbling throng of 80! While these birds are common now, it was only 35 short years ago that Wisconsin started to actively reintroduce the Wild Turkey after it had been wiped out of the state. By day's end we saw 99 turkeys.

If our first stop represented the best of what human management has to offer, well, I'm not sure what our second stop represented. As we closed in on the Dane County Sanitary Landfill, the gray shimmering haze flitting over the dump crystallized into a hoard of hungry gulls. Once we drove to the top of the landfill, the enormity of the flying mass set in. With each scrape of the bulldozer or dump of fresh refuse, the gulls pulsed in the air with a palpable frenzy.

We retooled our counting methods. Putting our scopes and binoculars aside, we tried our best to count by groups of 50. After squinting, muttering to ourselves and implementing gestures which looked like picking invisible apples in front of our faces, we would calculate our best conjectures. I came up with 850 while Brand had 1,150. We settled on a still mathematical 1,000 gulls, two-thirds Ring-billed with the remaining being Herring Gulls.

After a couple more hours of driving through cul-de-sacs and parking lots we reached a small gravel road. As we turned the corner, we overlooked a field and slowly brought the car to a stop. With bemused wonderment, I stammered to Brand, "Where do we start?" Brand chuckled and responded, "Just start counting."

Coming straight toward us and stretching across the entire horizon was an expansive

animated ribbon of Canada Geese. As the line organically marched toward us, we started counting in earnest. The soft thumping of their wing beats belied the magnitude of the spectacle. Counting by groups of 100, we came up with approximately 1,500 geese, far and away more geese than I've ever seen in flight before.

By day's end, after 77 miles in the car we had tallied a respectable 21 species and 4,711 individual birds. By comparison, at last year's Christmas Bird Count at Faville Grove Sanctuary with former Sanctuary Manager Lars Higdon, I trudged through a foot of snow all day and encountered maybe 300 individual birds. If anything, this year's CBC has taught me to expect new experiences and enjoy the ride. I'm already looking forward to next year.

Field Trips

Saturday, Feb. 25: Winter Birds of the Arboretum

The UW Arboretum is noted for its diversity of birds in winter. Along with winter birds, such as chickadees, cardinals, finches and sparrows, there may be robins, hawks, owls or unexpected birds. Explore the edge of Curtis Prairie and wander through some woods to look and listen for bird activity. Trip leader Levi Wood guides tours of the Arboretum and has participated in the Madison Audubon bird count here for years.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Visitor Center parking lot on the side toward Curtis Prairie. If you drive in from Mills Street, park near the Visitor Center and walk through to the south part of the parking lot. We will be out for two to three hours depending upon the weather and the birds we find. It can still be cold the last weekend in February and might be snowy or icy, so dress warmly and wear appropriate foot gear. Any questions, call Levi at (608) 277-7959.

Saturday, Mar. 10: Early Spring Migrants

Steve Thiessen and Max Witynski 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.

Thank you for the many generous donations made in December 2011.

ACRE MAKER

Curt and Arlys Caslavka
Jerry Martin
Margaret Van Alstyne
In Memory of E. Weston and Jane H. Wood, and Amy Wood
Tom Wolfe and Pat Powers

HALF-ACRE MAKER

Jim and Marci Hess
Dorothy Klinefelter
Don Schmidt

QUARTER-ACRE MAKER

Roger and Ann Avery
Peter and Marsha Cannon
Doug and Sherry Caves
Robert Greenler
Ron and Earlene Persche

MY OWN VISION

Loraine and William Adkins
Brian Alme
George and Shirley Austin
Valerie Bailey-Rihn
Helen Baldwin
Judi Benade
Dale Beske and Dorothy Gertsch
David Billing
Marshall Brinkman
Theodore and Christine Bunck
Dan and Mary Caulfield
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Johanna Fabke
Harold and Martha Fager
Patrick and Patricia Farrell
Janet Flynn
Elizabeth Frautschi
Brian Frey
Craig Gibbs
Kennedy Gilchrist

Daniel Gomez-Ibanez and Mary Swisher
Robert and Georgia Graves
Janet Hogan
Terrie Howe
John and Karen Icke
Gordon Janney
Lee and Rosemary Jones
Madeline Kanner
Joyce Clark Knutson
Cheri Lang
Julia Langenberg
Arthur and Sue Lloyd
Melanie Maas
Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin
James Mays
Edgar and Patricia McDonald
Mark McGinley
Kate McMahan
Tom and Maureen Meyer
Elizabeth Middleton
John and Barbara Mitchell
Bill and Ginny Nelson
James Nelson
Robyn O'Rourke
Wayne and Jackie Pauly
Margaret and David Peterson
Lori Pike
Pamela Porter
Elizabeth and Robert Ragotzkie
Patrick and Debra Ready
Tom Record
Ron Redell
Carole Regutti
Bernard Saley
Kathy and Jim Shurts
Brand and Sharon Smith
Charles Smith
Galen Smith
Florian and Louise Smoczynski
Mary Sobol
Robert Stanley
Jeane Stites
John Stott
Nancy Sugden and Robert Newbery
Kristy Thalacker
Charles and Carolyn Thomas
Susan Trudell
Jane Wagner
Jim and Rita Weiland
Vicki and Chris Wendorf
Kathleen Wessels
Lisa West
Florence Wetzel
Tripp and Nancy Widder
Robert Wilson
Eugene and Marlene Woehler
Nancy Worcester

Eli Woyke
Carla Wright
Kenneth and Bernice Wurst

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF A PERSON

In Memory of Sylvia Druckenmiller
Peter and Marsha Cannon
Milt and Jacki Friend
In Memory of Colleen Germain
Cliff Germain
In Memory of Dick Keyel
Kathie and Tom Brock
In Memory of Phil Miles
Judith Craig
Christina Finet
Claire Rider
Arthur and Sarah Schiller
Elizabeth Shapland and Mark Box
In Memory of Cliff and Susan Reynolds
Stanley Solheim and Jo Reynolds
In Memory of Harold Snively
Karla Snively
In Memory of Andrew Wallen
Robert Wallen

GIFTS IN HONOR OF A PERSON

In Honor of Karen Etter Hale
Curtis and Helen Mansfield
In Honor of Bradley Jackson, Douglas Clark, Brian Potts, and Sarah Slack
Brenda Allen-Johnson
In Honor of Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin
Caroline Beckett
Tim and Linda Eisele
John and Marlen Kaiser
In Honor of Roger Packard and David Musolf
Caroline Beckett

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND

In Memory of Eeekie Girl
Laura Chorba

Sometimes We Need a Little Re-awakening (Even in Winter)

By Sharon Schwarz

It's winter and I'm in the curl-up-with-a-book-under-my-afghan mode (some might call it hibernation). I bought myself a Christmas present, a book titled *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, and shame on me for waiting all these years to read it.

I've seen documentaries on Rachel Carson, used quotes from the book in newsletters, and know the important role she played in opening everyone's eyes, the world's eyes, to mankind's unawareness (well sometimes, anyway) that we were slowly destroying our earth and everything in it. Which begs the question and the answer I've never understood. Why do we, as a human race, have to experience death and decimation before we wake up and make a change? Maybe I am being overly critical of mankind, but it sure seems that's the way things work.

Despite being published in 1962, the writings hold many similarities to our environmental struggles of today (one that comes to mind is global warming). Ms. Carson based *Silent Spring* on massive amounts of research and expertise, but still the scientific findings were met with controversy, skepticism, and naysayers. She listed 52 pages of principal resources in the book's index, with what seems like experts from every university and all the leading entomologists, toxicologists, biologists, and chemists of the times.

Because of Ms. Carson and her *Silent Spring*, and other environmentalists like her, our society has made much progress in recognizing our past mistakes, righting some wrongs, and then moving toward ecological awareness and sustaining our environment. It's a good thing that back then we figured out what damage to wildlife was being done and why, for I can't imagine spring without the robin's chorus or heading out through the woods and not hearing the thrushes greet us with their melodic tunes, or experiencing the

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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 Society, Inc.
Peter Cannon, President
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Madison, WI 53703



Waterbirds of the Great Lakes – page 1

MAS Calendar At a Glance

EVENTS

Tues. Feb. 21: Monthly Program
Fri.-Mon. Feb. 17-20 Great Backyard
Bird Count

FIELD TRIPS

**SAT. FEB 25: WINTER BIRDS OF
THE ARBORETUM**

**SAT. MAR. 10: EARLY SPRING
MIGRANTS**

Madison Audubon Society
Art Fair

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 5, 2012
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Over 100 Artists
plus Food & Silent Auction
Warner Park Community Center
1625 Northport Dr., Madison

Re-awakening . . . continued from page 6

spectacular migration that we see each spring and fall.

Well, I need to get back to my book, but I'll leave you with an excerpt from Chapter 8, titled, *And No Birds Sing*.

"In 1958, from the town of Hinsdale, Illinois, a housewife wrote in despair to Robert Cushman Murphy, Curator Emeritus of Birds at the American Museum of Natural History and one of the world's leading ornithologists of that time. Her letter is as follows:

Here in our village the elm trees have been sprayed for several years. When we moved here six years ago, there was a wealth of bird life; I put up a feeder and had a steady stream of cardinals, chickadees, downies and nuthatches all winter. . . after several years of DDT spray, the town is almost devoid of robins and starlings; chickadees have not been on my shelf for two years, and this year the cardinals are gone too. It's hard to explain to the children that the birds have been killed off, when they have learned in school that a Federal law protects the birds from killing or capture. "Will they ever come back?" they ask, and I do not have the answer. The elms are still dying, and so are the birds. Is anything being done? Can anything be done? Can I do anything?

Well . . . we know things ended up not so gloom and doom as was the case in the early 60s, but we must always remember that we CAN do something. Look what Rachel Carson accomplished. Every individual can make a difference. What can YOU do?

Keep informed with what's going on environmentally in your state and community. Don't hesitate to contact elected officials if you see something that doesn't seem right and give your opinion. Provide a backyard habitat. Sign up at the Arboretum, Olbrich or UW-Extension for horticulture classes to keep in-the-know. Participate in Christmas bird counts (in *Silent Spring*, bird counts were very important in proving that bird species were declining in great numbers). Volunteer in whatever way you can to help keep our wild areas favorable to our birds and wildlife. Support environmental groups and agencies. Reduce your carbon footprint, teach a young person about nature. Give someone a book on the importance of keeping the balance between man and nature, e.g., *Silent Spring*, *Sand County Almanac*, or your favorite.