



# The Lake Flyer

## Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

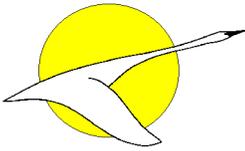
March-April 2014

All programs and activities are open to the public

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Editor: Janet Wissink, 7035 Mountain Rd., Pickett, WI 54964 • 920-589-2602 • wiss@centurytel.net

Check our website for up-to-date information: [www.winaudubon.org](http://www.winaudubon.org)



### You're Invited to our . . . *Spring Banquet* Saturday, April 5

Primo Restaurant - 2605 Jackson St., Oshkosh

**5:30 pm Social and Silent Auction**

**6:30 pm Dinner . . .** followed by a brief business meeting

Our program will be **"Whoopers at White River Marsh"**  
by Tom Schultz

*Make Your  
Reservation*

**\$25.00** per person - **RSVP by March 29** — *Make your reservations early, seating is limited.*

If you would like to donate an item to the **Silent Auction**  
please contact Janet at [wiss@centurytel.net](mailto:wiss@centurytel.net) or 920-589-2602.  
Come prepared to place your bids and support our chapter.

**To make your reservation** please complete the form below, enclose your check made payable to  
Winnebago Audubon, and mail to: Winnebago Audubon, PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

Your dinner order will be taken when we are seated at 6:30 pm.  
You will have a choice of several entrees from a special menu.

#### DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) of those attending:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed  
for Dinner:

\$25.00

x \_\_\_\_\_

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Hondo's Story

By Tim Kneeland



*Hondo (above) and Deborah over UW Oshkosh.*

Hondo is a Peregrine Falcon who became a local celebrity when he and his mate Deborah chose the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Gruenhagen Conference Center as a nesting area for their new home territory back in early 2011. The university promptly constructed and mounted a nest box equipped with a webcam to share their enthusiasm with the public. Fortunately, Hondo decided he liked the nest box, and Deborah agreed to “shack up” with him there. They had their first set of chicks that spring. In 2012, Hondo and Deborah returned to raise their second brood at the UW Oshkosh nest box.

Peregrine Falcons mirrored similar North American population declines of the mid-20th century that the Bald Eagles also suffered. Widespread DDT pesticide use in the 1950s and 60s, and until it was finally banned in 1972, is believed to have been a major contributor to their decline. The pesticide passed up through the food chain, affecting birds of prey. Their eggs became brittle from calcium loss, and many egg clutches never hatched.

Years after the DDT ban and other government protections, Peregrine populations have been rebounding well in many parts of North America, but here in Wisconsin they are still considered endangered. Although Peregrine Falcons had previously been spotted migrating here, it may have taken the nesting of a captive pair of Peregrines in 1988 to jumpstart Wisconsin's falcon repopulation. New nesting sites continue to grow throughout the state. In 2009, our Hondo was raised and banded at a Sheboygan site. Deborah was produced the same year further south in Evanston, Illinois.

In the summer of 2012, Hondo was believed to be out on a morning hunting run to feed his and Deborah's young when he collided with a vehicle along Highway 41 in Oshkosh. Luckily, a Good Samaritan found him and he was eventually transported to Aves Wildlife Alliance, a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility in Neenah. He had sustained injuries to his right wing and leg. Initially, the hope was that the injuries were not substantial, and that he could be released within a short period to help Deborah finish rearing their young, but x-rays revealed fractures in his shoulder and collar bone areas. Hondo was hospitalized for several months at Aves and then transferred to a falconer for flight conditioning and further

evaluation for an additional several months.

Falcons need to be able to tuck their wings in order to dive at high speeds (called “stoops”) that can exceed 200 mph, and from sometimes great heights of up to 3,000 ft. It is essential for them to be able hunt this way in order to survive in the wild. Hondo has a permanent reduced range of motion in his right shoulder, due to his injuries and lingering arthritis. He was deemed not releasable.

When a wild animal cannot successfully be released back into the wild, especially an adult of a highly excitable species like a Peregrine Falcon that has lived its life fearful humans, it can be a difficult transition or even an unethical decision to keep them in captivity. Sometimes humane euthanasia is considered over a painful life in captivity. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have guidelines that aid and often govern these important decisions.

Hondo's temperament has been encouraging, and the falconer and the staff of Aves Wildlife Alliance have made suitable progress towards his continued life in captivity. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed, and Aves Wildlife Alliance has recently been granted an educational bird permit for him. With continued training, we hope to present him as an ambassador of native wildlife in future educational programming.

Deborah has continued to return to the UW Oshkosh nest box. Last year, she produced a clutch of four eggs with her new mate, Talon. Talon is a product of another successful state Peregrine nesting site in Green Bay.

### Peregrine Falcon Facts:

- “Peregrine” means wanderer, and Peregrine Falcons can have one of the longest North American bird migrations. Adults will also hunt as much as 15 miles from their nest.
- Peregrine Falcons may be the world's fastest bird. They have a normal traveling flight of 25-35 mph, pursuit flight reaching 69 mph, and their hunting dive/stoop speed reaching as high as 240 mph!
- Peregrine Falcons were previously known as “Duck Hawks”, because they sometimes prey on waterfowl; however, they also have been found to prey on hummingbirds to cranes, and even bats. They prefer pigeons and other medium sized birds, and will often pummel them at high speeds to stun them in midair, before grabbing them.



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*Tim Kneeland is a fulltime certified veterinary technician and a volunteer state licensed wildlife rehabilitator. He and his family assist Aves Wildlife Alliance. Currently, and thanks in part to the Winnebago Audubon members, he is building an enclosure on his property to foster patients from home.*



## Spring Bird Watching Sessions

Oshkosh is a wonderful area for bird watching with its abundant water, marshes, woods, and grasslands. Winnebago Audubon is pleased to offer six beginning bird watching sessions under the leadership of naturalist, Anita Carpenter. They will be held on first Saturdays and second Tuesdays in March, April and May at 9:00 am. Rain or shine. The emphasis will be on beginning bird watching but any skill level is welcome to attend. You may come for one session or all six. We will meet at Shelter 1 in Menominee Park and either bird watch there or carpool to active areas within the city. The preferred field guide is National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America. Please bring binoculars if you have them. We will have some available to use.

So mark your calendars now:

Saturdays – March 1, April 5, and May 3  
(which will be Oshkosh Bird Fest)

Tuesdays – March 11, April 8, and May 13

## Bird City Wisconsin Summit

*Making Our Communities Healthier for Birds  
... And People*

**Friday-Saturday, March 21-22, 2014**

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, Oshkosh

Birds are valuable indicators of the health of our environment and add much to a community's quality of life. Bird City Wisconsin helps communities around the state take action to protect birds and their habitats and offers public recognition for their efforts. Attend to learn how to:  
1) enhance the environment for birds; 2) educate the public about the interaction between birds and people; and 3) Celebrate Birds!

Visit [www.birdcitywisconsin.org](http://www.birdcitywisconsin.org) or [www.wisconsinbirds.org](http://www.wisconsinbirds.org) for more information or to register. Only \$35.00  
Many interesting and informative sessions.

Join us for **Birds & Beers** at Becket's  
on Thurs., Mar. 20, 6:00-9:00 pm

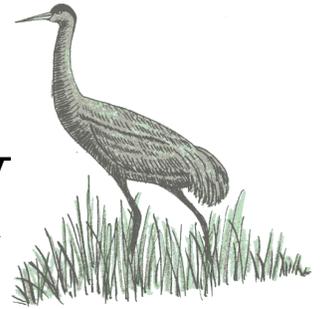
## Swan Hunt Being Considered

The state of Wisconsin is considering creation of a tundra swan hunt in our state, posing the question to attendees at the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring county meetings.

Here's part of the question: "Studies have shown tundra swan populations are currently rising, even with hunting allowed in other states. Each year tens of thousands of tundra swans migrate through Wisconsin with recent peak population counts on the Mississippi River of over 30,000 swans. Wisconsin could benefit from allowing a hunt unique to very few other states."

Are you in favor or opposed? Could they be confused with Trumpeter Swans, which have only recently been removed from the endangered species list? Attend the Winnebago County hearing on Mon., April 14, 6:30 pm at Webster Stanley Middle School, 915 Hazel St., Oshkosh.

## Secure Your Site Early! Count Cranes for ICF on April 12



**IMPORTANT NOTE to PAST COUNTERS:**

**Please confirm your site by April 1.**

**Sites available for new counters.**

The Annual Midwest Crane Count is Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Winnebago Audubon Society will again coordinate the Winnebago County sites with Evelyn Meuret as the Coordinator.

As always, you need to be assigned a Winnebago County site prior to the count date. Many of our counters have been participating for years and like to count on the same site each year. **All previous counters should contact Evelyn by April 1 to secure their site.** New counters should contact Evelyn to be assigned a site. *Evelyn Meuret, Winnebago County Coordinator*  
[evelynmeuret57@att.net](mailto:evelynmeuret57@att.net) or 920-573-7828

## Word of the Day:

### Irruption

An irregular migration, often a spectacular mass movement southward in fall and winter of birds that normally live year round far to the north of us. This winter has been an irruptive year for snowy owls.

Quiz Answer: Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*

## Calendar of Events

Visit our website or see updates in future newsletters.

- Mar. 21-22** Bird City Wisconsin Summit in Oshkosh ([www.birdcitywisconsin.org](http://www.birdcitywisconsin.org))
- Mar 27** Bluebird Trail at Utica, Wild Ones program by Dave Misterek. 6:30 pm, Evergreen Retirement Community, 1130 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh
- Apr 5** Spring Banquet at Primo Restaurant. Whoopers at White River Marsh with Tom Schultz.. See page 1 and make your reservation.
- Apr 12** Annual Midwest Crane Count, see p. 3
- May** Birdathon Month Join a team, be a sponsor
- May 3** Oshkosh Bird Fest, 6am-2pm at Menominee Park; 6pm-9pm at Gallery Walk ([www.oshkoshbirdfest.com](http://www.oshkoshbirdfest.com))
- May 10** Frog Night Hike with Randy Korb
- May 17** We'll be at Sheldon Nature Day
- June 23** Bluebirds at Utica, visit our bluebird nest box trail with Dave Misterek
- July 23** It's all about Chimney Swifts

The field adventures of 2013 brought Mike Huebschen a number of firsts in retinal contact with native and migratory avi-fauna. Among them were a Great Gray Owl in southern Juneau County and young Upland Sandpipers at the Buena Vista grasslands. See the Winnebago Audubon website ([www.winaudubon.org](http://www.winaudubon.org)) for the full account.

## Upland Sandpiper Reproduction and Other Delights at Buena Vista Grasslands In 2013

By Michael Huebschen

The Upland Sandpipers at Buena Vista grasslands intersected with my visits there on a number of occasions in 2013. Not only was I fortunate in capturing on memory card the poses of an adult perched on a beautifully weathered wooden fence post, but was also treated to their power line ballet on several occasions. On 11 July I got to watch three juveniles picking up gravel on the road bed. They allowed a small number of hurried photos before scurrying back into the field from whence they had emerged. Their slightly gangly, fuzzy forms brought that tingling sensation to the perception center.

Savannah Sparrows allowed some decent photos at a number of locales. The ever hyper-kinetic Bobolinks were a challenge to photograph. The native Meadowlarks there

were just as big a challenge to approach for photos. My limited successes left plenty of room for future improvements. The effervescent Dickcissels were there again in 2013, although probably in lesser numbers than in 2012, as seemed to be the case in the rest of the state.

A number of sightings of Orchard Orioles sparked hopes for future contact and photographs. Clay-colored and Henslow's Sparrows are also on that list.

On a nearby dairy farm in Portage County, I took in the "eleventh hour" displays of Greater Prairie Chickens on two cold (one very frosty) early May mornings. On both occasions, I noted a Peregrine Falcon buzzing the birds and flushing them from the booming ground.

### 2014-15 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND PROPOSED BUDGET

The Winnebago Audubon Society will hold its annual meeting for the election of officers and board members and to approve the proposed budget for 2014-15 on April 5 at the Spring Banquet.

The board presents the following **slate of officers** for 2014-15:

*President:* OPEN  
*Vice President:* OPEN  
*Secretary:* Chris Binder  
*Treasurer:* Evelyn Meuret  
*Board of Directors:* Dave Hanke  
 Dave Moon

Anita Carpenter, Zaiga Freivalds, and Pat Nichols have another year to serve of their two year term as Directors.

If you would like to nominate someone, or know of someone who might be interested in serving on the board, please contact Janet at [wiss@centurytel.net](mailto:wiss@centurytel.net) or 920-589-2602. We would very much like to have more members take an active role in our chapter.

The following budget has been approved by the WAS Board. Please take this opportunity to review it. If you have any questions, please call Carla Hansen, 233-1129, PRIOR to the April 5 annual meeting at the Spring Banquet. The membership will be asked to approve this budget at the meeting.

### 2014-15 PROPOSED BUDGET

#### INCOME:

Banquet.....	1,200.00
Birdathon.....	1,100.00
Chapter Memberships.....	500.00
Donations.....	1,600.00
Grants.....	1,000.00
Interest.....	2.00
Merchandise.....	200.00
National Dues Share.....	771.00
Membership Donations.....	400.00
National New Memberships.....	300.00
Program Admissions.....	200.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$ 7,273.00</b>

#### EXPENSE:

Activities.....	\$ 2,750.00
Annual Report.....	10.00
Banquet.....	1,250.00
Donations.....	500.00
Dues and Memberships.....	150.00
Fundraisers-Annual Appeal.....	150.00
Liability Insurance.....	279.00
Merchandise.....	100.00
Newsletter.....	450.00
Printing.....	150.00
Postage.....	300.00
P.O. Box Rental.....	120.00
Program Expense.....	714.00
Rent.....	150.00
Supplies/Mileage.....	100.00
Website.....	100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE.....</b>	<b>\$ 7,273.00</b>



## A Trip to Paradise

Another sub-zero morning greets me in this frigid winter but that doesn't stop me from enjoying my morning walk. Although I like winter, I sometimes find myself reminiscing about warmer adventures.

I'm in Paradise, Washington on the southern flank of Mt. Rainier. It's a lovely warm early September day. I'm with my best friend from pharmacy school and we're spending a few days exploring and camping in this gorgeous national park. Today we are hiking through an alpine meadow up to Panorama Point, an elevation gain of 1500 feet (up to 6800') for a closer experience with this 14,410 foot mountain.

An inscription carved into granite steps leading to the trailhead reads: "The most luxuriant and the most extravagantly beautiful of all the alpine gardens I ever beheld in all my mountain-top wanderings. John Muir, conservationist 1889." No truer words were ever written. In most locales, vegetation is fading in September but not here. It's still spring into summer and the alpine meadow is an exquisite carpet of lavenders, pinks, purples, blues, magentas, yellows and whites. The biologist in me wants to identify all these flowers but the number of new-to-me species makes the task impossible. So I'll try to just enjoy the beauty of lavender asters, yellow mountain dandelions, magenta paintbrush and mountain huckleberry. The majority of plants are ground huggers including subalpine lupine and deep blue two-inch tall mountain bog gentian. I like the shaggy two-inch tall seed heads of pasque flower which remind me of the tall hats that Buckingham Palace guards wear.

A western white butterfly drifts by. Wind and snow-sculpted subalpine fir trees dot the landscape, a stark reminder of the struggle to survive in this cold, harsh, wind-swept environment. A few remnant snowfields remain in depressions protected from the sun. The fattest hoary marmot waddles past us and disappears into its burrow under a rock. Two other marmots stretch out on sun-warmed rocks to bask in the September warmth, oblivious to our presence. Soon they'll be underground for winter's duration.

While strolling through the meadow, it's hard not to keep gazing at this massive snow-covered and glacier-clad mountain. I see crevasses in the light turquoise glacial ice

but from this distance, I can't get any perspective on their width or depth. I observe evidence of prior avalanches. I see several more-intrepid mountain climbers than us, appearing like slow-moving ants, as they pursue their challenge to summit this 14,000 foot giant. In the quiet beauty and solitude of this magnificent place and moment, an exhilarating feeling envelops me. I raise my arms to the heavens and proclaim what a glorious day to be on this mountain.

Then in a quick ten seconds, it all changes. Without warning, we are engulfed in the thickest fog with visibility less than 10 feet. My friend, who greatly respects this mountain and its weather said, "it's times like this that you quickly reevaluate your goal. The mountain is not be trifled with". Although we are just short of our destination, we stop, turn around and retreat. Fortunately we are on a trail, because the landscape has lost its definition. Everything looks the same. The marmots have disappeared. My hair quickly collects dew drops. The temperature drops. Soon a few sprinkles fall. Secretly I plead, please don't rain. We hurry on, as fast as conditions allow, descending about 200 feet. Then just like that, we are back to full sun. I turn to glance at where we have been. Mt. Rainier is, once again, visible in all its majestic glory. The cloud/fog is gone. We slow our pace, enjoying the sun's warmth, the beauty of the flowers, the tastiness of huckleberries and the companionship of two friends who haven't seen each other in 40 years.

This experience was a very good lesson for me. Weather conditions are so fickle/changeable/unpredictable on a mountain, especially Mt. Rainier which, because of its height, often creates its own weather. One could easily and quite unexpectedly become disoriented and lost. It's a mountain that must be respected. Personal safety is priority one.

As I reminisce about this wonderful warm day, I realize that Paradise is now in the midst of receiving its average of 680 inches of snow per winter—that's more than 50 feet! Our thirty inches here at home seem so paltry in comparison. But deep down inside, I must confess, this winter lover would love to witness Mt. Rainier in all its winter splendor—if only I could do it safely.

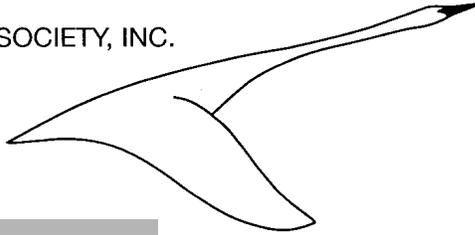
## From the Quiz Master:

I am the earliest flowering native plant, appearing in March. Look for me in shady, low wet places. I can produce heat to melt the snow around me. I also produce foul-smelling substances which attract pollinators. I share a name with a white-striped mammal. What am I?  
(The answer can be found in this newsletter, if you look *closely*.)

*Winnebago Audubon Society*  
*extends a sincere **thank you** for your support*  
*which allows us to continue to provide*  
*positive experiences in nature for our community.*

Bob Gluth  
Pam & Larry Lang  
Bill Zimar & Sue Neitzel

WINNEBAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 184  
OSHKOSH, WI 54903



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**Important Note: TEMPORARILY AWAY?** Please notify us if you will be temporarily away. The post office will not forward your newsletter. If your newsletter is returned to us, we remove you from our mailing list. Please contact Pat Nichols at patnichols@earthlink.net or 920-426-0261 with any questions.

**RENEWALS:** Your mailing label includes your membership expiration date above your name. If you are a "Chapter Only" member the word CHAPTER will appear after the expiration date. Please renew your chapter membership by filling out the application form below. Thank you for helping us save on the cost of renewal reminders.  
If you are a member of National Audubon, NATL will appear after the expiration date. You will receive renewal notices from National or you may renew by using the form below.  
If you are receiving a complimentary newsletter, COMP will appear with an expiration date. Please consider joining our chapter by using the application below.

**GO GREEN** by opting to receive your newsletter via e-mail. Contact Pat Nichols at patnichols@earthlink.net

**Winnebago Audubon Society Mission Statement:** Advance the mission of the National Audubon Society to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity through grassroots efforts of community outreach and advocacy.

**AUDUBON SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Chapter Only Membership:** Your \$20.00 stays in our chapter and you receive the Winnebago Audubon chapter newsletter and all chapter benefits. Make \$20.00 check payable to **Winnebago Audubon**.

**OR**

**National Audubon Membership:** Your \$20.00 includes chapter membership and all chapter benefits, PLUS *Audubon* magazine and all national benefits. Make \$20.00 check payable to **National Audubon Society**.

I do not wish to receive solicitations from National Audubon Society.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Code: **C3ZZ120Z**

Mail this form with payment to:  
Pat Nichols, Membership, PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

**Share your talent . . .**

on our Board of Directors, such as coordinating programs, working on our newsletter or website, handling membership . . . There are a variety of opportunities. Don't be intimidated, we're friendly, down-to-earth folks who share a passion for our environment. Questions? Send me an e-mail at wiss@centurytel.net or give me a call at 920-589-2602. - Janet

*Welcome to Winnebago Audubon*

A special thank you to all those who are renewing again this year as well. You are invited to participate in activities of your local Winnebago Audubon chapter. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to enjoy what nature has to offer.

Todd & Betty Berens  
Kirsten Buckstaff  
Clifford Eichman  
Sonya Fraleigh  
Sarah Funk  
George A. Haszel  
Kristina Hauk  
Terry Keller

Larry Kind  
Allan Martin  
Mary Ochalla  
Leroy & Joyce Petit  
Joanne Robson  
Henry Roesler  
Carol Rosenberg

If you are a new member of National or the Chapter and haven't seen your name here in the last couple of issues, please contact **Pat Nichols, Membership Chair** (email me at: patnichols@earthlink.net)