

# The Lake Flyer

## Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

OCTOBER 2007

All programs and activities are open to the public

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

## The Art of Falconry

**Saturday, October 13 - 1:00 p.m.**

Falconry is an art or sport which involves the use of trained raptors (birds of prey) to hunt or pursue game for humans. On Saturday, October 13, we will accompany falconer Randy Stoeger into the field to witness his Harris hawks hunt for rabbits.



We will meet for a 45 minute orientation at 1:00 p.m. at Spring Road School which is located at the intersection of Hwy. 41 and County Road II (Winchester Road) - Exit 133 - Neenah. The school is on the southwest side of the interchange.

After the orientation we will drive about two miles to the hunting site where he will demonstrate the hunting ability of his birds of prey. This will also be a real hunt for rabbits so be forewarned. Appropriate for children from a hunting background or 10 years and older. We recommend wearing long pants, shoes and socks.

This event is free to Audubon members. The non-member fee is \$5 per adult and \$3 per child 17 years and under. Pre-registration is not required. Non-members may join at the event. For more information contact Dave Moon at 920-235-4429 or [djmoon@northnet.net](mailto:djmoon@northnet.net)

## Upcoming Audubon Events

Watch for more details in future newsletters

Thursday, November 15: Birds of Prey by bird rehabilitator and Audubon member, Ann Rosenberg. Ann will bring a great horned owl, a screech owl and a red-tailed hawk, three educational birds she cares for because they cannot be released into the wild. 7:00 pm at Evergreen Retirement Community.

February: Great Backyard Bird Count and Birdwatching Workshop

March: Bluebirds

April: Crane Count, White River Marsh and Woodcocks, Earth Day, Frogs

May: Birdathon, Birds and Wild Flowers at Waukau Creek

June: Turtles

July: Bats

August: Monarch Tagging





## Monarch Tagging was successfully fun!

The families had a great time tagging and releasing 153 monarch butterflies on a beautiful fall afternoon in Bud Marohn's alfalfa field. These butterflies will find their way to the mountains in central Mexico by early November. The tagging is part of a study being done by the University of Kansas ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)).

## Sullivan's Woods is Brimming with Students this Fall

Another exciting fall at Sullivan's Woods is starting with over 600 5th grade students experiencing the environment up close. From Sept. 20 through Oct. 19 classes will come out for an exciting and educational day. Winnebago Audubon members have for years volunteered their time and experience to guide student groups through Sullivan's Woods. Thanks to all those who are helping this year: Louise Coumbe, Zaiga Freivalds, Joanne and Mike McAleer, Frank Zuern, Jeanne Shiras, Pat Pensis, Barb Urbrock, Carolyn Blassingame, Lorraine Eberle, Lorna Edwards, Dave Moon, Pam and Larry Lang, Wendell Williams, Val Williams, Sarah Thompson, Karen Lohry and Judy Anderson.

### Audubon Calendars

Great stocking stuffer or hostess gift  
Pre-order - Pay later

u ORDER DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1

5 **NEW! Audubon Birding Trails:** 12 fantastic birding trails from all over the country. Each spread includes a map and detailed text. 12 x 12 \$11.00

5 **Walking America:** Get off the road and discover America's hidden-away hiking trails. From the Tongass National Forest in Alaska to the fiery sandstone of Zion National Park, it's an unforgettable year of wilderness beauty. Includes maps and commentary. 12 x 12 \$11.00

5 **Nature Calendar:** Panoramic vistas, drama, and astounding beauty—it's a year of North America's most spectacular natural wonders, up close and in vivid color. 12 x 12 \$11.00

5 **Wildflowers:** Flourishing in forests, mountain meadows, deserts, and ocean-side dunes, these vibrant North American wildflowers are hardy in spirit and a treasure to behold. 12 x 12 \$11.00

5 **365 Songbirds and Other Backyard Birds:** This picture a day wall calendar is packed with the world's most captivating birds. Each month features one species in depth with a large photo and detailed text. 12 x 14 \$12.00

Mark the quantity in the box in front of the calendar(s) that you would like to purchase. Then simply mail this form to: Winnebago Audubon, PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903. We'll let you know when and where they will be available for you to pick up.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## It's Easy to Sponsor Audubon Adventures for a 4th or 5th Grade

Do you have a child or grandchild in an area 4th or 5th grade classroom that would enjoy Audubon Adventures? You could sponsor this year's subscription for their whole class for only \$46.00. Just mail a check for \$46.00 made payable to Winnebago Audubon to PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903. Please specify that it is for Audubon Adventures and let us know if there is a specific school or classroom that you want to sponsor.

The classroom kit includes a teacher's resource manual and four sets of publications for each student. The title of this year's kit is "Back from the Brink - Success Stories from the Endangered Species Act." Students will learn about the successful recovery of the bald eagle, American alligator, grizzly bear, and grey whale and other species that have been brought back from the brink by the ESA. Each issue contains fun activities, high interest content, and hopeful messages. We are introducing new features like "Good News for Planet Earth," and "Heroes of the Planet," which profiles people who are working to protect wild creatures and places.

**ATTENTION TEACHERS:** If you are a 4th or 5th grade teacher in our area and would like to receive Audubon Adventures in your classroom **FREE** this school year, please contact Zaiga at 920-233-5914 or [zaigam@charter.net](mailto:zaigam@charter.net).

# Badger Tracks

by Anita Carpenter



## THREE CHERRIES, YOU WIN!

The wild cherry trees hung heavy with pea-sized, purplish black fruits. It was then I realized that I had never tasted a wild cherry. How could I have been so remiss? I plucked a cherry from a shrub and ate it. I was surprised to find a big seed and very little flesh with a tart flavor that caused me to make a face. I selected another cherry from a neighboring tree. This cherry wasn't quite so bitter. I then asked myself what species of cherry was this? Was it black cherry, choke cherry or pin cherry? And how could I tell the three species apart?

All three cherries call Wisconsin home. Taxonomically, they belong to the rose family, Rosaceae, and are in the genus *Prunus*. All three are shade-intolerant, thus preferring to grow in sunny spots. All will germinate from seed but will also resprout after injury caused by cutting, fire or browsing. Their look-alike, delicate, five-petaled white flowers bloom in spring, are insect pollinated and produce ripe fruit in late summer. At first glance, all cherry leaves look similar. Yet there are subtle clues to help differentiate the three species.

Seeming to be the most widespread, black cherry, *Prunus serotina*, may be found in openings in oak-hickory woods, in fencerows and along wood margins. The smooth bark of a young black cherry is uniquely patterned with many short, conspicuous, horizontal gray lines called lenticels. Older bark is shaggy with thick, rough black irregular plates sometimes compared to burnt potato chips. Black cherry is the longest lived of the three cherries and can grow into a medium-sized 100-foot tree. It is valued for its wood.

Black cherry leaves are three to four inches long, somewhat oval and have a finely serrated or toothed leaf margin. Using a hand lens, one can see tiny, regularly-spaced incurved teeth—a helpful clue for separating cherry species. The small, fragrant flowers bloom May into June and hang in slender, four to six inch long, grape-like clusters called racemes which arise along the branch ends. Each purplish-black fruit called a drupe (defined as a fleshy fruit that permanently encloses a solitary seed) matures in August. It's flavor is slightly bitter but edible.

*Prunus virginiana*, choke cherry, may be confused with a young black cherry. A large, mature choke cherry is a small 30-foot tall tree often with a twisted trunk. Usually, though, it is a large shrub with many shoots. Horizontal lenticels decorate its smooth dark brown bark but are not

very noticeable. Choke cherry leaves are more oval than black cherry leaves, being broadest at the middle. Its finely serrated edge shows minute sharp teeth pointing away from the leaf. Choke cherry flowers also grow in long slender racemes along branch ends. The flower cluster seems tighter and fruits are more closely compacted around the stem than black cherries but perhaps this is a subjective observation.

Pin cherry, *Prunus pensylvanica*, sometimes called fire cherry, is a fast-growing, fast-dying tree. It quickly resprouts after injury, especially from fire. A mature pin cherry may be 30 feet tall with a straight, slender trunk. Its light reddish-brown bark is highlighted by obvious orange lenticels. Pin cherry's three to four-inch narrow leaves taper to a sharp point and the finely serrated leaf margin shows unevenly-spaced incurved teeth. Pin cherry's flower cluster differs from the other two. Each white blossom arises from the same point on the twig forming a flower cluster called an umbrel (not a raceme). Maturing in August, the drupes are red.



Umbrel



Raceme

Back to my taste test. I w a s n ' t sampling pin c h e r r y because the fruits were not red and not growing in umbrels.

So was I tasting black cherry or choke cherry or both? I looked at the height and shape of the tree, for the presence of lenticels, and leaf shape and toothed edges. My conclusion: although cherry number one came from a shrub and cherry number two came from a tree, both were black cherries. I'll need to keep searching for choke and pin cherries for a taste test.

This was a good year for black cherries and the woods were full of them. However, I decided I'll let the birds, deer, bears and chipmunks eat the cherries. Making black cherry jam would take buckets of fruit and even more sugar. Instead, I'll appreciate the cherries for their fragrance, for the burst of white on a greening spring landscape, for their bountiful fruit supply for the critters, for their resilience from injury or fire and for the challenge they present on identification.



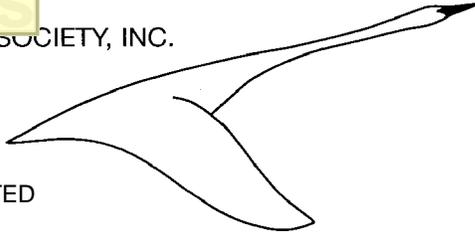
FOR SALE: Sturdy, Cedar Leopold Benches

Assembled: \$75.00 or Kits: \$65.00

(Pre-drilled, hardware & instructions included.)

To purchase your bench, just contact Dave at 920-235-4429 or djmoon@northnet.net

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**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, you will receive renewal notices from National or you may renew by using the form below.

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**

**YES**, I want to become a member at the **chapter level** and receive the Winnebago Audubon newsletter. I've enclosed a \$20.00 check payable to Winnebago Audubon.

**YES**, I want to become a member of the National Audubon Society, and the Winnebago Audubon Chapter. My membership dues entitle me to *Audubon* magazine, and all chapter benefits. I am enclosing a \$20.00 check payable to National Audubon Society.

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

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

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

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

Chapter Code: Z12 7XCH

Mail this form with payment to:  
Pat Nichols, Membership Chair  
P.O. Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

*Welcome New Audubon Members*

Gordon Bradley  
Janet & Laura Carlson  
Viona Ginnow  
Jacob Gonia  
Orville Matulle  
Marilyn McKenzie  
Dan Omitt  
Dan & Kelli Omitt  
James Rudolph  
Jackie Van Asten  
Craig Whitney

Be sure to take part in the Winnebago Audubon Society events that appeal to you. As a member of National Audubon you receive membership in the local chapter. We are happy to have you and hope that you find new opportunities for supporting the environment through your membership. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding membership or interest in becoming more involved with the chapter.

Pat Nichols, VP, Membership Chair  
(email me at: jvnichols@earthlink.net)