

# The Lake Flyer

## Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

September 2015

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)

### UWO, Naturally

Saturday, August 29 10:00 am

Meet and park at UWO Alumni Welcome and Conference Center, Pearl Ave.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is an integral part of the Oshkosh community. If you haven't been on campus recently, it's now time for a visit because the 80 acre campus is more than big buildings, parking lots and lawns. UWO has embraced the mission of sustainability and of going green. It is recognized as one of the greenest campus' nationwide. To this end, UWO has converted lawns into beautiful natural prairie areas and spring woodland gardens. The focus of this field trip is to explore the natural areas looking at plants, insects, birds and whatever else we may discover. Find out why UWO is certified as Tree Campus USA and a Monarch Waystation. Led by Lisa Mick, Grounds Supervisor at UWO, and Anita Carpenter, naturalist and volunteer prairie keeper, this field trip will last one to two hours. Meet and park in the new Alumni Welcome and Conference Center at UWO located on the north end of the Wisconsin Street bridge and across from Mahoney's Restaurant. Entrance is on Pearl Avenue. Join Winnebago Audubon for a peaceful stroll about campus (about 1.5 miles).

### Calendar of Events

Visit our website or see details in this newsletter.

- Oct 10** Hands on Oshkosh — Sullivan's Woods Work Day, "Supervisors" needed to guide UWO students, 9:30-Noon. Contact Dave Moon, 235-4429/djmoon@northnet.net
- Oct 18** Potluck Supper, Presentation of Rill Award, and Program on John Muir
- Oct 24** Saw-whet Owl Banding at Linwood Springs Research Station
- Nov 19** Joint program with Wild Ones, "Banning DDT: How Citizen Activists in Wisconsin Led the Way" with author Bill Perry  
Details in next newsletter.

### Swift Night Out CANCELLED

For Tuesday, August 25

Unlike last year, the chimney swifts are already on their way to South America.



Catch, Tag, Release  
Migrating  
Monarchs

Saturday, Sept. 5  
1:00 pm

(Rain Date: Sun., Sept. 6)

Location: WILD Center

2285 W. Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah

Take I-41 north to Exit 136 (W. Prospect Ave., Menasha). Turn right onto Prospect, then right again onto Northern Rd. Stay on Northern Rd., then just over the RR tracks turn right on W. Butte des Beach Rd. The WILD Center is the first place on the left.

Families, friends, young and old alike, can participate in the autumn migration of monarch butterflies on Saturday, September 5 from 1:00-3:00 pm (Rain date: Sunday, September 6). There will be a short orientation and a demonstration of the tagging process. Then participants will spread out over the property to net monarchs. We will then assist you in attaching a numbered tag to the wing, record data, and release them as part of a nationwide research project by the University of Kansas called MonarchWatch ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)).

These amazing fliers will migrate 1800 miles to spend the winter in the mountains of central America.

This event is suitable for children four years and up. **We strongly recommend that children wear long pants, shoes and socks.** We have a limited number of butterfly nets available for use, so please bring your own if you have one.

**Fee:** Free to Winnebago Audubon members. The non-member fee is \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child 17 years and under. Pre-registration is not required. Non-members may join at the event for only \$20 for a one-year family membership.





## MYSTERY INSECT

An inch-long, fragile-looking brown insect lit upon my garage door. At rest, its many-veined, transparent wings were held tent-like over the body. The noticeably elongated prothorax (structure behind the head) was the attachment site for a pair of large, highly-modified, menacing-looking front legs called raptorial legs. A tiny triangular head with disproportionately large eyes nervously looked about. My first impression was that of a miniature praying mantis.

Having never seen this insect before, I used the appearance of the many-veined, membranous wings as my first clue for identification. These wings are characteristic of insects belonging to the insect order Neuroptera, the nerve-winged insects. Generally, neuropterans feature four, usually equal-sized, transparent wings highlighted with a network of many cross veins and branches. Wings at rest are held tent-like over the body. These soft-bodied insects have chewing mouthparts and long, many-segmented antennae. Insects in this order include the dobsonflies, alderflies, antlions, and lacewings.



My mystery insect was none of these but it was a neuropteran called a mantidfly which belongs to the insect family, mantispidae. What a perfect insect family name as its members do resemble praying mantids. However,

praying mantids are in a different insect order, Mantodea, and are no longer grouped with the grasshoppers, katydids, and crickets in the order Orthoptera.

Mantidflies are uncommon to rare insects. As with many neuropterans, mantidflies are generally active at night which increases the difficulty of finding them. Mantidflies are predaceous, using their raptorial front legs to capture smaller insects. As interesting as the adults are, their larval

stage is even more intriguing as the larvae are parasitic on the egg sacs of spiders.

First, eggs must be laid but not in a spider's egg case. Each egg is deposited on the end of a thin .05 to 2mm stalk. The eggs are often found in a large cluster under a leaf. Eggs hatch in 11 to 30 days. Another unusual mantidfly feature is that the larvae undergo hypermetamorphosis which is defined as a type of complete metamorphosis in which two or more larval stages look different. (In complete metamorphosis, the different larval stages called instars are usually similar in form but differ in size.) In mantidflies, the first instar larva is active and said to be campodeiform. The elongated larva is flattened with 3 pairs of functional, well-developed legs and antennae. During this stage the larva actively seeks a spider. The larva may crawl about or it may stand vertically on the tip of this abdomen waiting for a spider to walk by. If the larva finds a female spider, it hops on her back and rides along and waits until she spins her egg sac. If the larva find a male, it rides along until the spiders mate and then it transfers to the female spider. Once the female spins her egg case, the larva leaves the spider and bores into the egg sac. Once inside, the larva changes into a sluggish, grub-like individual whose form is called scarabaeiform. The grub feeds on and sucks the spider's eggs dry. Finally the larva pupates inside the egg sac within a whitish spherical cocoon. The insect emerges as an adult mantidfly.

I've now seen the adult mantidfly and would like to observe a grub and its pupal case but I'm reluctant to examine and, most likely, destroy a spider's egg sac to do so. Instead, each time I find a spider's egg case, I'll wonder if a mantidfly is hidden inside.

I'm grateful that my garage door presented to me this opportunity to study a new mystery insect. Over the years my garage door has yielded many surprises! I wonder what tomorrow will bring.

## Potluck Supper, Rill Award and John Muir

**Sunday, Oct. 18**

**4:30 pm Social; 5:00 pm Potluck**

The Gathering Grounds, **First English Lutheran Church**  
1013 Minnesota St., Oshkosh  
(enter from parking lot on west side off of 10th Ave.)

**Limited seating. Please make reservations by Oct. 12 to Janet at 920-216-1172 or wiss@centurytel.net.**

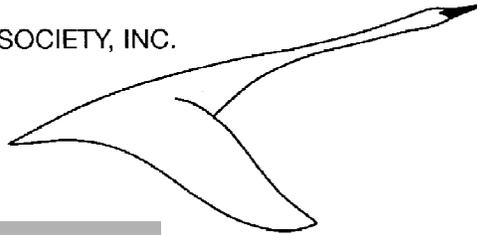
*Please bring a dish to pass. We will provide plates, silverware, napkins, glasses/cups and beverages.*

You are invited to join us for a Potluck Supper which will be followed by the presentation of the Katherine D. Rill Environmental Award to Frank Zuern. We will conclude

this special evening with "John Muir--He Speaks To Us Yet", a presentation of wonderful antique glass lantern slides of three of our nation's great "backyards": The Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks. The slides are accompanied by readings from John Muir related to the three parks and the wonders of nature in general. You won't want to miss this special presentation by Wisconsin native, historian and collector Tom Sutter of Appleton.



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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: **C5ZZ120Z**

Mail this form with payment to:

Pat Nichols, Membership, PO Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903

Quiz Answer: Common Green Darner, *Anax junius*

*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.

Mindy & Ryan Beach  
Michelle Bogden Muetzel  
Joan Bruendl  
Denise Clark  
Lawrence Clark  
Stacy Clark  
Roxanne Crowe  
Linda Denell  
Lil Jungwirth

Sharon Koyen  
Lloyd Novitske  
S. Teresinski  
Joe Tondy  
Cathy Weisnicht  
Mike Wicinsky  
Butterfly Gardens  
of Wisconsin

*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)