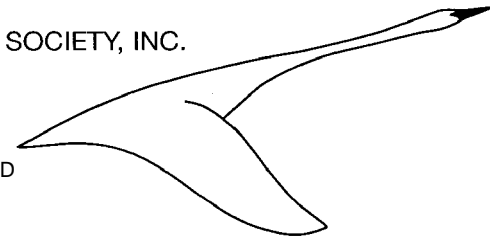


WINNEBAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 184  
OSHKOSH, WI 54903

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President: Janet Wissink, 589-2602  
Vice President: Pat Nichols, 426-0261  
Secretary: Zaiga Maassen, 233-5914  
Treasurer: Dave Moon, 235-4429

DIRECTORS:

Joanna McKasy  
Jan Moldenhauer  
Gil Roderick  
Jennifer Rothe  
Harmon Seaver  
Doris Thomas

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 and mailing it with your check. Thank you for helping us save on the cost of renewal reminders. If you are member of National Audubon, you will receive renewal notices from them.

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 \$15.00 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 four issues of *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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Z12 7XCH**

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

**BIRDATHON 2006 HAS A NEW LOOK!**

We're looking for team members to go birding with us. You don't have to be an expert birder to join in the fun. A competitive spirit might be an asset, however! Pat Nichols (426-0261 or jvnichols@earthlink.net), Joanna McKasy (303-1553 or mckasj96@uwosh.net), Janet Wissink (589-2602 or wiss@northnet.net) and Carla Hansen (233-1129 or carlajhansen@sbcglobal.net) have volunteered to be team leaders. Each leader will choose a 24-hour period between May 6 and May 21 to spend at their favorite birding spots to find as many different species of birds as they can. Winnebago Audubon will award prizes to the team that counts the most species, raises the most money; to the oldest and youngest counter, etc. We're still working out the details on this part.

We hope you will join one of our teams for a fun day outdoors enjoying the birds. Contact any of the team leaders for more information or to become a team member. If you are unable to go out with us, we would appreciate your financial support. You may pledge a specific amount of money or so much per bird species that we count. The money raised is used in our area for activities and programs.

# The Lake Flyer

Winnebago Audubon Society, Inc.

MARCH 2006

All Programs and Activities are Free and Open to the Public

VOL. 26, NO. 4

P.O. Box 184, Oshkosh, WI 54903 | Published eight times a year  
Editor: Janet Wissink, 7035 Mountain Rd., Pickett, WI 54964 | 920-589-2602 | wiss@northnet.net

Program:

## Members Show & Tell and Ice Cream Social

This is not a repeat! We had to cancel February's meeting because of the "Blizzard of 06"! Hope you can join us this time.

Thursday, March 16, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Oshkosh Senior Center, 200 N. Campbell Rd., Oshkosh



Our annual Ice Cream Social is always a fun get-together! Bring your favorite wildlife, nature, travel or scenic slides, photos, or video clips to share with fellow Audubon members and guests. You can bring one slide or a dozen. A slide projector and VCR will be available. Or you might have a story to tell or items to show us. Everyone is welcome. And the Audubon Board will treat you to ice cream and all the toppings!!! Please join us.

### Upcoming Audubon Activities

- April 6: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (see page 2 in this newsletter)  
Election of officers and 06-07 Budget Approval; 7:00 p.m.,  
CRANE COUNT ORIENTATION AND MATERIALS PICKUP, 6:00 p.m. (see page 2)  
Both will be at UWOClow Social Science Center, Rm. 207, park in Lot 7 (NW of Kolf Sports Center)
- April 11: TOUR OF THE UWOC HERBARIUM (see page 2 in this newsletter)
- April 22: ANNUAL SANDHILL CRANE COUNT (see page 2 in this newsletter)
- April 27: POTLUCK SUPPER and PROGRAM  
Mark your calendar for our annual potluck supper – a delicious potluck buffet of food to be enjoyed with friends. Our program this year features a variety of reptiles presented by Judi and David McClain from Brillion.
- May 6: WILDFLOWERS and BIRDS in SOUTH WOODS, Ripon (This date is tentative.)  
Enjoy a spring day in the woods with wildflowers blooming all around and warblers in the trees above.
- May 6-21: BIRDATHON (see page 4 of this newsletter)  
Every year members and friends join us in a Birdathon. You may participate by being a sponsor or by joining one of our teams for a little competitive bird watching!

Watch for more details on these events and more in future newsletters!!!

## UWO HERBARIUM TOUR IS APRIL 11

Come join us for a tour of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Herbarium. It covers as many plant groups as the University of Wisconsin Madison and is the third largest in the state. Our tour by Dr. Thomas Lammers, Curator, will focus on the perpetuation of the specimens and the progress of the collection donated by Katherine D. Rill, charter member of Winnebago Audubon Society.

The herbarium is located in the Halsey Science Center basement. The tour will be Tuesday, April 11th at 3:00 p.m. Use the Halsey doors on Elmwood Ave. and Scott St. Take the stairs to the basement, through the doors. The herbarium will be the doors on the left side, Halsey 01.

## SANDHILL CRANE COUNT IN SEARCH OF COUNTERS!

The Annual Midwest Crane Count will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 5:30-7:30 a.m. The Winnebago Audubon Society will sponsor the Winnebago County portion of this citizen science tradition.

Orientation and materials pick up will be hosted by Winnebago Audubon and UWO Environmental Club on April 6 at 6:00 p.m. on campus at Clow Social Science Center, Rm. 207. Free parking is available in Lot 7, NW of Kolf Sports Center.

On the day of the count you are encouraged to turn in your observation sheets and enjoy breakfast (Dutch Treat) at the Fin 'n Feather in Winneconne from 7:30-10:00 a.m.

Come and share your stories with other counters.

The April 22 Crane Count is an UW Oshkosh Earth Week Event! Visit the website for more events taking place during the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>-22nd:

[www.uwosh.edu/enviro\\_studies/activities/calendar](http://www.uwosh.edu/enviro_studies/activities/calendar).

For more information, or if you are unable to attend the April 6 meeting, please contact Joanna McKasy at 920-303-1553 or [mckasj96@uwosh.edu](mailto:mckasj96@uwosh.edu).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We'd like to welcome new National Audubon Society and Winnebago Audubon Society members this month: They are: Jeannine Hart, Mrs. Shirley Mattox, Adeline Peterson, Lisa Wesner, and Jean Davidson. In addition, we'd like to welcome new chapter only members: Dexter Schaub and Jeanne Shiras. We encourage you to participate with us in promoting sound environmental decisions for our community and the world. You are welcome at any of our programs, field trips, and other events.

## PICNIC POINT TO BE SOLD???

It has come to the attention of Winnebago Audubon that the State of Wisconsin is considering the sale of about 117 acres commonly known as Picnic Point. This property has 3700 feet of undeveloped natural shoreline on Lake Winnebago and is adjacent to a 56-acre prairie and wetland wildlife preserve and the "Carp Pond." We are trying to find out more information, so stay tuned.

## AUDUBON ANNUAL MEETING – PLAN TO ATTEND APRIL 6

The Winnebago Audubon Society will hold its annual meeting for the election of officers and board members and to approve the proposed budget for 2006-07. All members are encouraged to attend to cast your vote.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. at Clow Social Science Center, Rm. 207, on the UWO Campus. Free parking is available in Lot 7 (NW of Kolf Sports Center).

The board presents the following 2006-07 slate of officers:

Vice President: Pat Nichols  
Secretary: OPEN  
Treasurer: OPEN

Board of Directors: Zaiga Maassen, Dave Moon

Janet Wissink will continue as President in the second year of a two-year term. Board members Harmon Seaver, Doris Thomas, Joanna McKasy, and Jennifer Rothe will be continuing to serve out the second year of a two-year term.

If you would like to nominate someone, or know of someone who might be interested in serving on the board as Secretary, Treasurer, or a board member, please contact Pat Nichols at 426-0261 or [jvnichols@earthlink.net](mailto:jvnichols@earthlink.net). Pat will also be calling members.

The following budget has been approved by the WAS Board.

Please take this opportunity to review it. If you have any questions, please call Dave Moon, 235-4429, prior to the April 6 annual business meeting. The membership will be asked to approve this budget at the meeting.

Income:	
Audubon Adventures Sponsors.....	\$1,000.00
Audubon Membership Shares.....	771.00
New Member Dues.....	\$50.00
Birdathon Pledges.....	\$700.00
Donations.....	13.00
Fundraisers.....	1,000.00
Interest.....	6.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$3,540.00</b>

Expenses:	
Annual Report.....	\$ 10.00
Audubon Adventures Classrooms.....	1,000.00
Sullivan's Woods.....	200.00
Dues.....	105.00
Donations.....	100.00
Fundraisers.....	600.00
Newsletter Postage.....	260.00
Newsletter Paper.....	75.00
P.O. Box Rental.....	80.00
Programs.....	200.00
Rental (Meeting Place).....	200.00
Scholarship/Activities.....	600.00
Website.....	110.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>\$3,540.00</b>



## BREECHES AND CORN

So many flowers have fanciful and intriguing names. Who can't smile at colorful names like Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn, which identify two of Wisconsin's early-blooming wildflowers? I wonder if these two names capture the essence of these two native species?

Fleeting in their appearance, Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn color the warming, thawing forest floor, sharing space with trilliums, bloodroot, trout lilies, Jack-in-the-pulpits, spring beauties, hepaticas and violets. Called spring ephemerals, they all must bloom before the trees sprout their leaves, thus blocking sunlight from reaching the ground-hugging plants. While the other spring ephemerals are fairly common, the eight to ten-inch tall Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn are harder to find. If they are present, though, their lacy, fernlike leaves make them stand out from their flowering associates.

Although their names, with references to clothing and vegetables, seem to have nothing in common, Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn are very closely related botanically. Consequently, they share look-alike leaves. If no flowers are open, separating the two species may be difficult although the leaves of Dutchman's breeches may be more yellow-green as compared to squirrel corn's blue-green leaves. Each broadly triangular leaf sprouts from an underground rhizome and divides into three primary leaflets. Each primary leaflet subdivides into three secondary leaflets, which have deeply cut lobes. Each plant gives the impression of having multiple leaves but generally Dutchman's breeches produces two leaves per flowering stem while squirrel corn sends up only one leaflet.

The real joy of these two plants is the tiny, 3/4 inch flowers, which hang delicately upside down from the leafless stem. If looking at these flowers reminds you of cultivated bleeding hearts, they should, for they all belong to the same plant family, Fumariaceae (known as the bleeding heart family) and genus *Dicentra*. Each flower is "bilaterally symmetrical", having four petals in two different sizes and shapes. The larger outer petals form little sacs and are joined at the base ("top" of bloom) while the two inner petals are less obvious. The shape of the sac-like petals easily separates the two native species.

In Dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*, the two outer white petals are elongated and somewhat pointed, referred to as "spurred". (*Dicentra* from Greek means two-spurred.) Two smaller, pale yellow inner petals form the base ("bottom") of the flower with small upturned wings.

Overall, the flowers do look like little bloomers hung out to dry. I can imagine how this plant received its common name so many years ago but breeches (pronounced britches) as a substitute for pantaloons or bloomers seems a bit coarse for such a delicate plant.

The flowers of squirrel corn, *Dicentra canadensis*, look more like the traditional bleeding hearts. The outer whitish petals, tinged with minute magenta lines are rounder, lacking the extended spurs. The rest of the flower is similar to Dutchman's breeches. To discover how squirrel corn possibly received its common name, we need to look at the character of its life-giving bulbets on the underground rhizomes. In Dutchman's breeches, each plant sprouts from a mass of tightly compacted tiny bulbets – each smaller than a sesame seed. In squirrel corn, the tiny bulbets are replaced by fewer but larger, pea-sized bulbets which are yellow. An active imagination could visualize these as corn kernels. Since squirrels and chipmunks dig up these yellow bulbets for food, observant early naturalists could connect squirrels and corn and, with a touch of whimsy, call the plant squirrel corn.

Both Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn are perennials. Spreading underground rhizomes send up new shoots and the lacy forest carpet expands. Both species may occur in the same woodland with Dutchman's breeches tending to bloom a week or so earlier than

its cousin, though the flowering periods may overlap. Dutchman's breeches is odorless while squirrel corn offers a pleasant fragrance. Bumblebees are the primary pollinators, hanging deftly upside down to extract nectar and pollen. Thereafter, elongated 1-1/2-inch long pods, tapered to a point at each end, develop. The seed capsules eventually split and release the few seeds. By early summer, both species have bloomed, set seeds, stored food for next year, shriveled and disappeared from the landscape. Only the warmth of the following spring rekindles life and the two springtime flowers with the delightful and yes, appropriate, name reappear.

