

LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



The Chat



January 2024

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, January 23

7:00 PM

Lions Field House - 270 Elkhorn Road (Hwy 67), Williams Bay, WI

Free and open to the public!

Wintering Raptors of Wisconsin and Illinois

By Vic Berardi

Vic Berardi, founder of the all volunteer Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch and well known raptor photographer, will discuss wintering raptors of Wisconsin and neighboring Illinois. Emphasis will be raptor descriptions and possible locations to find these birds in the winter months. Vic spends a great deal of time in the winter searching for raptors and photographing them. His photographs have been used by several conservation organizations and in raptor field guides. He is also the Chair of the Winter Raptor Survey program for the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and has been conducting a survey the past few winters in southeastern Wisconsin.

About the Speaker

Vic Berardi is the founder of the all-volunteer Illinois Beach State Park Hawk Watch which has conducted twenty-four complete seasons of full time hawk migration monitoring which began in the fall of the year 2000. In 2013, he and a few others conducted several spot counts at a new hawkwatch site at the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve on the shore of Lake Michigan in Highland Park, IL. The Fort Sheridan Hawkwatch has now completed seven seasons of hawk watching and is now close to having full time coverage.

Vic is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), a position he previously held several years ago. He also serves on several HMANA Committees including being the Chair of the Winter Raptor Survey Committee. He also served for several years as the Central Continental Flyway Editor for Hawk Migration Studies which is HMANA's biannual publication. In 2014 he was the recipient of HMANA's Appreciation Award for his outstanding service to further hawk migration studies and conservation. In 2009 he was awarded the Service to Chicago Area Birders by the Chicago Audubon Society. And in 2007 he was awarded the Grassroots Conservation Leadership Award for his leadership in raptor education and research.



Continued on next page.

In addition to Vic's dedication to the hawk watches in northeastern Illinois and HMANA, he also finds time to write articles on hawk watching, give hawk identification seminars and raptor conservation related talks. Vic is also an accomplished photographer and many of his photos are published in several magazines, including several cover photos for Hawk Migration Studies and Bird Watching Magazine and Outdoor Illinois.

His book contributions include, "Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America" by Donald & Lillian Stokes, "Hawks From Every Angle" and "Hawks At A Distance" by Jerry Liguori, "Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, and Vultures of North America" by Pete Dunne with Kevin Carlson, "The Crossley Guide: Raptors" by Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan and the "Pembina Valley Raptor Field Guide." Most recently he has contributed many photos for the new HawkWatch International, HWI Raptor ID app co-authored by Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan and has made contributions to the latest raptor book by Brian Wheeler, "Birds of Prey of the East: A Field Guide." He also regularly donates his photos for use in raptor conservation efforts.

Vic is also a member of the Raptor Research Foundation, HawkWatch International and several other birding organizations including the Illinois Ornithological Society in which he served as a Board member for 4 years and Field Trip Chair for 3 years.

2023/2024 Federal Duck Stamps

Program continues to generate major funding for wildlife conservation.

Have you purchased "Duck Stamps" for this year? If not, we (Lakeland Audubon) encourage you to support wildlife conservation by getting the stamps. It doesn't matter if you're a waterfowl hunter, stamp collector or birder, because anyone can buy them. Known as one of the most successful fundraisers for the protection of wildlife habitat, more than six million acres of wetlands have been conserved since the program's inception, nearly ninety years ago. A big part of the program's success is its efficiency, as ninety-eight percent of every dollar spent goes directly toward protecting waterfowl habitat.

The Junior Duck Stamp, which supports wildlife conservation education for our nation's youth, is also a worthwhile cause that we birders should consider supporting. To learn more about the stamps (including where to buy) along with the programs and conservation efforts that they fund, click on the links below.

<https://www.fws.gov/program/federal-duck-stamp>

<https://www.fws.gov/program/junior-duck-stamp>



2023/2024 Federal Duck Stamp



2023/2024 Junior Duck Stamp

2024 Audubon Photography Awards

Tenth annual contest is now accepting entries.

Audubon invites photographers and videographers to enter the 2024 [Audubon Photography Awards](#), now open from January 10, 2024, until February 28, 2024, at 12 p.m. (noon) ET. Judges will award nine prizes, including the new Birds in Landscapes Prize, which will go to the top image depicting the relationship between birds and the places they need.

The contest's new Birds in Landscapes Prize aims to highlight how birds connect with their broader surroundings. Birds do not need to be close up for the photograph to be successful. The setting can be wild, urban, or suburban, and the relationship can be symbiotic or can reflect a specific challenge birds face. Other prizes include the Grand Prize, Professional Prize, Amateur Prize, Youth Prize, Plants for Birds Prize, Fisher Prize, Female Bird Prize, and Video Prize.

Winners and honorable mentions will be featured in the Summer 2024 issue of Audubon magazine. Select photos and videos will also be featured in digital galleries promoted on Audubon's website and social channels throughout the year.

Winners and honorable mentions will be featured in the Summer 2024 issue of Audubon magazine. Select photos and videos will also be featured in digital galleries promoted on Audubon's website and social channels throughout the year. For inspiration, see the [2023 Audubon Photography Awards winners!](#)

Prizes include:

Grand Prize: \$5,000 USD

Professional Prize: \$2,500 USD

Amateur Prize: \$2,500 USD

Plants for Birds Prize: \$2,500 USD

Video Prize: \$2,500 USD

Female Bird Prize: \$1,000 USD

Birds in Landscapes Prize: \$1,000 USD

Fisher Prize: \$1,000 USD

Youth Prize: Six days at Audubon's Hog Island Audubon Camp for Teens during the 2025 season

For more information about the prizes and the various categories for entries, click on the link below.

[Contest Prizes](#)

Additional Details & Rules:

The contest is open to all legal residents of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, and Canada (excluding Quebec), who are 13 years of age or older as of the date of the submission. Audubon encourages ethical bird photography and videography. Photos and videos that do not adhere to [Audubon's Guide to Ethical Bird Photography and Videography](#) will be disqualified.

Entry fees are \$15 per image or video. No payment is required for submissions to the Youth division or to the Plants for Birds or Video divisions for entrants who are 13 to 17 years of age.

Visit the website for [official contest rules](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

To enter the contest, click on the following link: [ENTER HERE](#)

Audubon's Climate Watch

Community Science project is now in it's ninth year.

Grab your binoculars—Birds need your help!

What's even better than watching birds? Knowing you've done something meaningful to protect them. Sign up now for Climate Watch, and you'll be doing both.

As the impacts of climate change continue to unfold, nearly two-thirds of all North American bird species could struggle to adapt. When you participate in Audubon's newest community science project, you'll give Audubon scientists vital data on how birds are faring now—which guides our most effective conservation work to help them adapt.

Join the current survey, January 15 - February 15, 2024 or this Spring, May 15 - June 15 2024. Get ready to count the bluebirds, nuthatches, goldfinches or towhees you see. And know that you're an important part of protecting birds and the places they need. To learn more about this community science project, visit the website by clicking on the following link: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>

Contact Kevin Dickey for more information on how to participate in Climate Watch with the Lakeland Audubon Society by clicking the following link: <https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact/>



Leucitic Northern Cardinal (Female) - Delavan, WI.
Photo by Albert Llanas

Join Climate Watch.

Become a part of Audubon's newest community science program that explores how birds are responding to climate change. Use your bird knowledge to survey target species in your area.

Learn more:
Audubon.org/ClimateWatch
Contact us:
climatewatch@audubon.org

Great Backyard Bird Count

Annual four day event is just around the corner.

Count birds in your backyard or anywhere you would like next month and make a contribution to science in the process. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology will be running it's annual winter bird census from Friday, February 16th through Monday February 19th. You can count birds for as much or as little as you would like over the four days. Any amount of participation is a valuable contribution to the project, as there is no substitute for actual observations in the field. Checklists need to be submitted online through the project's website or through ebird. If you happen to have either the ebird or Merlin apps on your mobile device, then entering your checklists will be a snap, as using them as you normally would, is all that is needed.

Participants need to submit a separate checklist for each location and for each time period at each location. For example, if a person were to count birds at their feeders in their backyard on one of the four days during the count, but did so both in the morning and the afternoon, then they would need to submit two separate checklists (one for the morning and one for the afternoon). Again, using either the ebird or Merlin apps will make things easier. Equally important, is that the proper protocol is followed when doing a traveling vs. a stationary count. A traveling count is when a counter or counters if more then one person is involved, walks or drives through an area. In this case, each bird that is seen or heard should be recorded. With a stationary count, only the maximum number of each species of bird seen at one time is recorded.

For more information about the count, please visit the project's website: birdcount.org



Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.
birdcount.org
Ruby-crowned Kinglet / *Corthylio calendula*
Photo: Mason Maron/Macaulay Library

Great Backyard Bird Count

27th Annual • Feb 16-19, 2024

GBBC at Kishwauketoe

Friday, February 16, 2024

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy
251 Elkhorn Road, Williams Bay, WI

Join members of our chapter as we participate in the 27th annual Great Backyard Bird Count at the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy. We will hike the trails and count birds to provide data that will help scientists who work in the field of bird conservation.

Weather permitting, we'll enjoy a morning of birding being outside at the beautiful KNC. Meet at the pavilion on the west side of the property, which is located just across the street (Hwy 67) from the Lions Field House.

Please contact us if you would like to attend this outing. lakelandaudubon.com/contact/



Field Trip

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

2:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Richard Bong State Recreation Area – 26313 Burlington Road. Kansasville, WI

Open to the public! (State Park Sticker Required)

Join us for an afternoon of birding at [Bong SRA](#). We will do some hiking and also some stationary scanning for birds at one of the top bird watching locations in the state. Situated in the northwest corner of Kenosha County, the property has an interesting history and is a major destination for outdoor recreation. It also has been officially recognized as an IBA (Important Bird Area) by both Audubon and the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership. For more information about this, visit the following website: [Wisconsinbirds/IBA](#)

Meet at the Molinaro Visitor Center parking lot. From there, we will proceed to various birding hotspots throughout the property. Please contact us and let us know if you are interested in attending this field trip. <https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact> Call or Text: +1 (262) 729-9702

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Field Trips

(Volunteer Needed)

Publicity

(Volunteer Needed)

Bird Walks

Saturdays

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Big Foot Beach State Park

N1550 S Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva, WI

Meet in the main parking area to the right of the entrance station a little before 11:00 AM. A state park sticker (\$28, \$13 if age 65 or older) or daily pass (\$8, \$3 if age 65 or older) is required to enter Big Foot Beach State Park.

Sundays

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

White River County Park

6503 Sheridan Springs Road, Lyons, WI

Get out and enjoy one of the best parks Walworth County has to offer. We'll walk the trails and be on the lookout for birds and other critters. We'll also watch for plant blooms and other interesting elements of nature. Meet at the kiosk by the parking lot a little before 11:00 AM.

Please contact us to let us know you are interested in attending a walk.

<https://lakelandaudubon.com/contact>

Call or Text: +1 (262) 729-9702

The Chat is the newsletter of the Lakeland Audubon Chapter of the National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 473, Elkhorn, WI 53121. Subscription is \$15 per year for printed copies sent by US mail.