

222 S. Hamilton St. / Madison, WI 53703 / 255-2473/ www.madisonaudubon.org

October 2007

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Project

Free Public Program

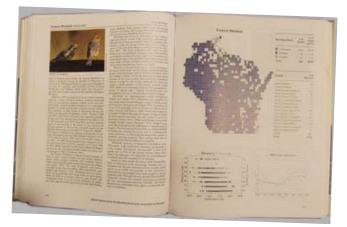
What: Noel Cutright talks about the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Project When: Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007 7:30 p.m. – Program Where: UW Arboretum Visitor's Center (this meeting only) Parking: free – by the building

The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin is a milestone in Wisconsin ornithology. The largest natural history survey ever conducted in Wisconsin, the Atlas Project utilized more than 160,000 valid bird records from 1995 through 2000 collected by 1,602 observers who spent almost 70,000 hours in the field and drove more than half-a-million miles. The result is an invaluable reference: a permanent record documenting abundance and distribution of bird species breeding throughout Wisconsin.

Join us at our public program on

Oct. 16 to hear Noel Cutright, one of the editors of the Atlas, describe the project. Why was it undertaken? What is the value of the information? Cutright will also talk about some of the things we have learned in the course of collecting the data. Which birds are in trouble?

Which ones are increasing? Cutright recently retired as a Senior Terrestrial Ecologist with We Energies and now has an emeritus scientist relationship with the company. He is a past-president and current historian of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and founder of the Riveredge Bird Club. He has previously talked to us about his breeding bird marathon, the Quad 30



Campaign (www.quad30campaign.org). You are invited to join our speaker, MAS board members and friends at the preprogram dinner at Paisan's Restaurant (131 W. Wilson St.) beginning at 5 p.m. Please call the office at (608) 255-2473 if you have questions.

Next meeting: Nov. 13, 2007, Carl Safina – Song for a Blue Ocean

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and Sauk Counties

Support MAS & Community Shares through Workplace Giving

Madison Audubon Society is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin, your local connection with 56 grassroots, nonprofit organizations that build social and economic equity and a healthy environment.

Community Shares of Wisconsin raises funds for its member agencies—including Madison Audubon Society—through workplace giving campaigns at over 100 private sector employers in the Greater Madison area. Public sector employees also can contribute to Community Shares and its member agencies through their Combined Campaign.

Please consider giving to Community Shares of Wisconsin through your employer's workplace giving campaign. There

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TIME TO RENEW?

Check your *Madison Audubon CAWS* address label to determine your renewal date. To avoid interruptions to your subscription, please renew two months before that date, so you won't fall behind on news and notices of events.

Tip: Renewing through the MAS office directs more of your donation to local activities and conservation projects.

Update: We are now sending a separate renewal notice once a year and in the future we plan to offer the option of renewing on the Madison Audubon website.

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

President: Stan Druckenmiller Vice-president: Debra Weitzel Goose Pond resident managers: Mark and Sue Martin Faville Grove Sanctuary managers: David Musolf, Roger Packard Editor: Michael Becker, caws.editor@gmail.com Graphic design: Patrick Ready readyworks@mac.com

CAWS publication: Roemer Printing

The mission of the Madison Audubon Society is to educate our members and the public about the natural world and the threats that natural systems are facing, to engage in advocacy to preserve and protect these systems, and to develop and maintain sanctuaries to save and restore natural habitat.

THE AUDUBON CAWS is published September through June by: Madison Audubon Society, 222 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703, (608) 255-2473. Birding hotline, 255-2476. www.madisonaudubon.org masoffice@mailbag.com E-mail services donated by Berbee

Workplace Giving conitnued from page 1

are two ways that you can support MAS through Community Shares. First, designate your gift to MAS, and we will receive 100% of your contribution. (No part of your gift is retained for administrative purposes!) Or, direct your gift to Community Shares and support MAS along with many other worthy nonprofits. Both types of gifts are needed and appreciated.

To learn more about Community Shares of Wisconsin's workplace giving program, or start a Community Shares campaign at your workplace, please visit www.communityshares.com. One more way you can help is to volunteer to help us meet our 50 hour volunteer contribution to Community Shares. If you can, please call Sarah Hole, our representative, directly at 608/241-3995.

Thank you for your support of Madison Audubon Society and Community Shares of Wisconsin!

Event Organizers Needed

Do you like hosting dinners, entertaining your friends or putting on a good party for a great cause? Have you ever participated in coordinating community events before? Do you have a little time you can spare over the next few months? If you answered yes, or if you just have an interest in helping Madison Audubon Society, please consider sharing your time and talents with us. We are in the process of forming the committee to plan and implement our 2008 Spring Banquet.

With your help we can make this a fun and successful event!

For more information on getting involved, call the MAS office (608) 255-2473 or e-mail Mary at myoung.madison@gmail.com.

Madison Audubon Wishlist

Please take a moment to look over our wishlist. We greatly appreciate any donations, or leads to contributions, for the following items.

- Quality binoculars
- Digital (LCD) projector
- Used or new computer that can run Windows XP
- Mule utility vehicle

New Awards to Honor MAS Conservationists

Madison Audubon Society recently established a new awards program, replacing the Environmentalist of the Year awards, to recognize individuals or groups who have worked to achieve the Society's objectives. The awards are named in honor of four outstanding conservationists associated with MAS who dedicated their time, skills and efforts to preserve and restore wildlife habitat, conserve birds, engage in citizen science and educate others about natural systems. The new awards are as follows:

Cliff Germain Award for Excellence in Community-Based Restoration. In 1966, Cliff became the first full-time program coordinator for Wisconsin's scientific areas program, a forerunner of the State Natural Areas. He is a long-time MAS member and was also involved in land preservation with The Nature Conservancy. This award recognizes achievements in ecological restoration for habitat conservation and species preservation.

Joseph Hickey Award for Excellence in Bird Conservation. Recruited by Aldo Leopold to join the UW-Madison Department of Wildlife Management, Joseph Hickey (1907-1993) became department head in 1948 after Leopold's untimely death. One of Hickey's most important contributions was his research on the effects of DDT that helped to get the insecticide banned in Wisconsin and the U.S. Data from his 1930s survey of Peregrine Falcons in eastern North America proved invaluable in the 1960s as falcon populations were crashing. Hickey was active in MAS, served on the National Audubon Society Board, and received National's Distinguished Service Medal.

Sam Robbins Award for Excellence in Citizen Science. A minister by profession, Sam Robbins (1922-2000) was also a dedicated birder and authority on birds. His 1991 book *Wisconsin Birdlife, Population and Distribution, Past and Present,* was the culmination of 20 years of study, providing detailed accounts of nearly 400 species, with information on status, habitat, migration dates, breeding data and wintering presence. For 23 years he wrote a column "From the Robbins Nest" in the weekly newspaper *The Country Today*. Sam was active in both MAS and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

James Zimmerman Award for Excellence in Environmental Education and Communication. James Hall Zimmerman (1924-1992) was a brilliant naturalist and environmental educator. His communication skills enabled him to reach broad audiences. A University of Wisconsin-Madison professor of landscape architecture, Jim shared his love and knowledge of the environment through his weekly newspaper column in the *Wisconsin State Journal* and as a field trip leader for MAS, the Madison Vocational School and thousands of Madison area teachers.

Nominees for these awards must be from Wisconsin or have made a difference in Wisconsin in the award's subject area. Nominations are due Jan. 15, 2008. Complete information is available at www.madisonaudubon.org or through the MAS office. Awards will be presented at the spring banquet scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

Meet the MAS Board: Ann Freiwald, Treasurer

Ann Freiwald (Fry-wald) has been a project manager for 10 years with Schreiber Anderson Associates, an award winning community planning, landscape architecture and civil engineering firm in Madison. Her focus on parks and open space includes experience planning the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton and Korth Park in Lake Mills.

She enjoys being a member of MAS because of the exciting land restoration activities we are involved in and the great people. Ann was named 2007 "Volunteer of the Year"

for her generous service to MAS—as Treasurer since 2005 (re-elected for 2007-09) and as chair of the Seed Sale Committee, 1996-99.

Board members and staff agree: Ann has a great sense of humor, and her attention to our finances greatly benefits MAS. Ann is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with an M.S. (1996) in landscape architecture. She is a member



Ann Feiwald has been MAS treasurer since 2005.

of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals.



MAS Travel Reminder

To Costa Rica

Our Costa Rica trip is filling, but we have a few places left for anyone interested. Travel dates are Jan. 19-28, 2008 an excellent time to take a break from the northern winter. And to Belize!

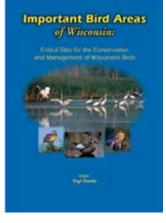
There will be space for a few more on this safari, which is scheduled for Feb. 2-10, 2008.

For more information about either trip, check out the Sept. CAWS or the MAS website, or contact Dietrich Schaaf, MAS Development Director, at (608) 327-0129, or Debbie Sturdivant, Holbrook Travel, toll free at (866) 748-6146.

Important Bird Areas of Wisconsin Book Published

The Wisconsin Important Bird Areas Program announced the publication of a

recently completed book, *Important Bird Areas of Wisconsin: Critical Sites for the Conservation and Management of Wisconsin's Birds*, edited by IBA Coordinator Yoyi Steele. It describes 86 sites around



Wisconsin that have been identified as IBAs. An Important Bird Area is a site that provides critical habitat for one or more species of bird during any stage of its life cycle (breeding, migration, or wintering). The 86 sites described in the book were selected through a nomination and evaluation process that involved the compilation of data and other information and scientific review by a panel of bird and habitat experts. Sites had to meet strict criteria in order to be selected.

Wisconsin's IBA Program is part of a global effort to identify the most critical habitats for birds and to protect and manage those habitats through voluntary, collaborative means. *Important Bird Areas of Wisconsin* features sites in nearly every county in the state and covers all of Wisconsin's natural landscapes and habitats. One site familiar to Madison Audubon members is the Northern Empire Prairie Wetlands, which includes Goose Pond.

The book describes each of the 86 sites in detail, including sections on habitats, importance to birds, and an overview of management and conservation issues. Each site account also contains a table with estimated population sizes for priority species. The book provides an overview of the IBA Program and an explanation of the process used to select sites, and features many color photographs of birds and habitats.

Copies of *Important Bird Areas of Wisconsin* are available from the IBA Program. All proceeds from sales of the book will directly support the program. To purchase a copy, visit www.wisconsinbirds.org/iba/IBA-book.htm.

Turtle project needs your help

By Greg Geller

For the past year, Madison Audubon Society has supported my volunteer efforts to increase nest success of freshwater turtles. Why turtles? MAS members understand that many wild creatures today are in serious trouble, including the ancient and generally well-liked turtles.

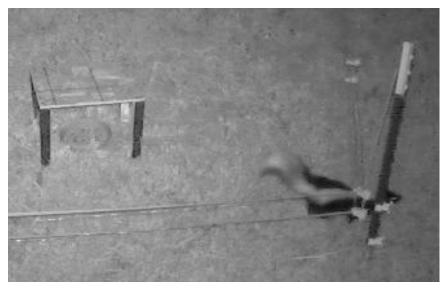
Turtles typically experience low levels of nest-stage survivorship, partly due to mammalian predation. Humans have induced habitat changes and eliminated large predators. As a result, increased numbers of medium-sized predators like raccoons and skunks have contributed to recent declines of many turtle populations.

My research seeks to develop an easily implemented, efficient and low-cost method to increase turtle nest survival by reducing mammalian predation via non-lethal means. A successful approach would substantially reduce the time, labor and attentiveness demands inherent in current management techniques.

This year I tested various fencing schemes and ways to exclude predators. Using digital game cameras, including two donated by MAS, I monitored foodbaited plots around the clock. Camera-generated data will guide next year's work on actual turtle nesting areas.

I am currently searching for reliable nesting sites that support good numbers of nesting turtles, preferably on private lands, where the research equipment will be safe from disturbance. Typical nesting areas are relatively free of vegetation and have abundant exposure to sunlight, often, although not always, near water.

If you, or others you know, have areas like this on your property where you know of or suspect turtle nesting activity, I would greatly appreciate your contacting me at (608) 544-2082 or gellers4@netscape.com. As an independent project, this work is unfunded by formal means and all contributions are welcome.



To test turtle nest protection schemes, Greg Geller monitored food-baited plots with non-lethal barriers to predators. This skunk managed to reach the food in spite of the fence.



Bluebirds doing well in Dane Co.

By Patrick Ready

Last April the bluebirds got an early start to the nesting season. Then on April 11 the southeast part of the state got hit by a 12-inch, late spring snow storm – just when the bluebirds were about to start laying eggs. All nest activity ceased for a week or so. With the delay many bluebirds found that Tree Swallows were now ready to claim their nest boxes and competition became fierce. Several of the nests the bluebirds had built before the snow were abandoned or taken over by Tree Swallows.

In one box on my Lake Kegonsa State Park trail a box that had a bluebird nest was taken over by a pair of chickadees that built a nest on top of the bluebird's nest. Then a Tree Swallow kicked out the chickadees and put grass on top of their nest. A week later when I was monitoring the trail I expected to find the Tree Swallow and perhaps an egg or 2 laid. To my surprise when I opened the side, there was the female bluebird sitting on 3 eggs. She hatched and fledged all three chicks.

The rest of the nesting season was pretty much normal even with the dry month of July. My only other surprise was that on all 5 of my trails, bluebirds nested later than usual, constructing nests in late July and even early August. Many fledged right around Labor Day, the latest I've ever recorded them doing so. Perhaps the snow storm set them back but they just extended the nesting season!

Here are the results from the five trails I manage for the Madison Audubon Society. These results are filed with the Bluebird Restoration Assoc. of WI (BRAW).

Lake Kegonsa State Park = 104 bluebirds MATC (new trail) = 4 bluebirds Lake Farm Co. Park = 16 bluebirds Cam-rock Co. Park = 44 bluebirds Gibbs Lake Co. Park = 21 bluebirds

That comes to a total of 189 Eastern Bluebirds fledged for the 2007 nesting season. Over the winter I will make needed improvements on these trails, with the hope of getting more than 200 bluebirds fledged next year. Happy bluebirding!



Occasionally Eastern Bluebirds, like robins, will tough it out through a Wisconsin winter. This male tried to get warm in the waning sunlight of a late January afternoon. Daytime temps were only in the single digits and well below zero at night.









The upper left photo shows bluebirds fighting over nest boxes at LKSP.

The "wing wave" is a common activity by males, possibly mating behavior or defense threat.

A successful pair tend to feeding their chicks.

Fantastic Fall Field Trips

Saturday, Oct. 20: Ice Age Trail

Dane County Ice Age Trail expert Gary Werner will lead this joint trip with the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Foundation to the Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area. He will show us a variety of biological communities including wetlands, woodlands, oak savannas and hilltop prairies. Gary will point out evidence of dramatically sculptured glacial landscapes which are the basis for much of the delightful biological diversity found in southern Wisconsin. Although not primarily a birding trip, there will be opportunities to see resident and migrating waterfowl, fall woodland and grassland birds.

Meet to carpool at 8 a.m., in the parking lot of the former Copps grocery store in Middleton at the intersection of Allen Blvd. and Century Ave. You can also meet the trip at 9 a.m. at the Ice Age Trail parking lot in Lodi Marsh. Bring binoculars, hiking shoes, water, rain gear and dress appropriately for the weather. The trip includes about five miles of walking, including steep hills. The trip will last three to four hours and, if you wish, you can bring lunch for an optional picnic at the end of the trip. If you have questions, call Gary at (608) 249-7870.



Sunday, Oct. 28: Scope Day at Goose Pond Join us for scope viewing at Goose Pond during the late fall migration when swans are most likely to be present. Spotting scopes will be set up along Prairie Lane for visitor

use on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. Members will be on hand to help visitors locate and identify waterfowl on the pond. If the weather is inclement, the scopes will not be set up. Check the website for a map to Goose Pond. If you have questions, call Dorothy Haines at (608) 221-1948 or the MAS office.

Saturday, Nov. 3: Lake Michigan Birding

Join us as we bird Lake Michigan and its shoreline. This trip is timed to coincide with the migration of hawks and waterfowl through Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties. We will be scoping the lake for specialties like Surf, Black and White-Winged Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Harlequin Duck and Red-Throated Loon. If the weather cooperates we will have excellent views of migrant hawks from some of the lakeside bluffs. Unusual raptors seen from the hawk watch in past years include: Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Rough-Legged Hawk and Goshawk. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring a scope if you have one. A high ratio of scopes to people will make this trip more enjoyable for everyone.

We will meet to carpool in the middle of the parking lot of the east side Cub Foods at 6:30 a.m. From Hwy 30 take Hwy 51 (Stoughton Road) North to Nakoosa Tr., turn right and proceed east to Cub Foods. We will return to Cub Foods between 4:30 and 6 p.m. If you have questions, contact Aaron at (608) 294-9618 or agstutz@sbcglobal.net.

August at Goose Pond

By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin

July was dry and everyone was looking for rain. In fact, it was the leading topic of discussion with family and friends. Then came August. At Goose Pond, we accumulated 12.75 inches of rain for the month—the wettest August on record.

The ground soaked up much of the rain, though by the third week runoff water was entering the pond. Runoff water filled Audubon's eleven-acre wetland restoration and the 4-acre wetland restoration north of Kampen Road. The four-acre wetland was designed and constructed by Jeff Nania, Executive Director of Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, who had the difficult job of placing stop boards in the water control structure. With the stop boards in holding back the water, the wetland basin filled to the brim. Overflow from the basin flowed through a ditch, went under Kampen Rd. and rushed into Goose Pond.

The water level in Goose Pond is high but not overflowing the basin by much. Over the past 28 years, we have witnessed the pond flood its banks to the north to Kampen Rd. on a few occasions and have seen wave action push water over Goose Pond Rd. An additional four inches of rain narrowly missed us to the south. The additional water could have flooded out the emergent arrowhead plants, which contain many nutritious tubers that Tundra Swans feast on in the fall. Hopefully water levels will not be too high when the swans return at the end of October, as they cannot reach the arrowhead tubers in years of high water. (See photo on p. 7)

North of Goose Pond and south of Kampen Rd. lies a 10-acre wildlife food plot of sunflowers, sorghum, corn, buckwheat and an abundant crop of foxtail (weeds) that will provide ideal feeding conditions this fall and winter for wildlife. At the end of August, 175 Dickcissels were found using the area. Volunteer Brand Smith is helping us with weekly bird counts to document wildlife use in the food plot. The food plot was made possible through a partnership with the Columbia County chapter of Pheasants Forever.

As the fall approaches, our work turns to collecting prairie seed for our winter planting of the 55-acre Browne Prairie.



Jeff Nania of Wisconsin Waterfowl Association inserts stop boards at the 4 acre wetland north of Kampen Rd.



Dorothy Haines holds an Arrowhead plant to show the plant's height, blossom, and tuberous root system. *Photo by Rich Armstrong*

Fall 2007 Seed Collecting Work Parties

Support Madison Audubon Society's habitat restoration activities by volunteering to collect seeds at Faville Grove and/or Goose Pond sanctuaries. Many hands are needed throughout the fall to gather the variety and quantity of seed necessary to ensure successful plantings. This is a wonderful opportunity to bask in the tranquility of the prairie or enjoy the prairie camaraderie while helping the environment. Long pants and insect repellant are recommended. Bring work gloves and clippers if you have them. Bring a friend, too!

Goose Pond Sanctuary — Seed will be collected at Goose Pond Sanctuary every Saturday from Sept. 8 though Nov. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4. Meet at the new residence (W7503 Kampen Rd) which is the farm buildings northwest of the west pond. We are trying to line up a day during the week for seed collecting and also trying to line up service organizations and other groups such as Scouts to assist with seed collecting. This is an excellent team building outing. Contact Heisley Lewison at (608) 347-2452 or HeisleyLewison@gmail.com for more information on seed collecting at Goose Pond.

Faville Grove Sanctuary — We plan to restore the upper 34 acres of the 80-acre Deppe tract this fall. We will collect seed on Saturdays, Sept. 8 through Oct. 27, 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4. We also will try to schedule a weekday collecting party, so let us know if a weekday works better for you. From Madison, take I-94 east toward Milwaukee. Take the Lake Mills/Waterloo exit (Highway 89), go north approximately 1.75 miles and turn right onto County G. After approximately 1.5 miles, turn right onto Prairie Lane and drive approximately 1.5 miles and meet along the road. Contact sanctuary manager David Musolf at musolf@ bascom.wisc.edu or (608) 265-4562 with questions.

Donations made in August

MY OWN VISION

Gerald Gunderson Madison Community Foundation Paul Schwalbe Robert J. and Vera Wilson

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF A PERSON

In Memory of Quentin Braun Stan and Jean Druckenmiller In Memory of Emily Lapinski Philip and Barbara Kitze Marilyn Roznowski In Memory of Ben McKay Friends of Kelly McKay In Memory of Doreen Riley Geralyn Hawkins In Memory of Daisy Ochoa Unson Paul and Wendy Munyon

GIFTS IN HONOR OF A PERSON

Wishing a Happy Birthday to Ann Fagan *Gloria Berman*

SPECIAL GIFTS

I wish to help make Madison Audubon's vision a reality. Here is my contribution to the Wildlife Sanctuaries Campaign:

- [] Acre-Maker, \$2,500 or more to purchase and restore one acre of land
- [] Half-Acre-Maker, \$1,250-\$2,499
- [] Quarter-Acre-Maker, \$625-\$1,249
- [] Adopt-an-Acre, \$100 a year for three years (\$300 total). Here is my first installment.
- [] Nest Egg, \$50 a year for three years (\$150 total). Here is my first installment.
- [] My Own Vision, a donation of \$

Please direct my gift to:

- [] Where it will help the most
- [] Endowment fund to restore and maintain the sanctuaries
- [] Land acquisition at Faville Grove, Jefferson County
- [] Land acquisition at Goose Pond Columbia County

OR here is my contribution for MAS education and newsletter support

[] My Gift to Learning, \$ ____

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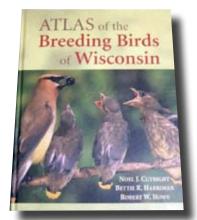
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City			
State	ZIP		

Contributions will be acknowledged near the Information Board at Goose Pond Sanctuary: \$1,250 or more, name to appear on permanent plaque; \$250-\$1,249, name to appear on engraved paving brick.

[] Please do not acknowledge my gift in Madison Audubon CAWS

Please make checks payable to: Madison Audubon Society Mail to: Madison Audubon Society, 222 S. Hamilton Street, Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Madison Audubon Society's financial statement is available upon request. Madison Audubon Society, Inc. Stan Druckenmiller, President 222 S. Hamilton St. Suite #1 Madison, WI 53703



Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Project see page 1



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10/07

Is it time to renew your membership? See form on page 2 and help MAS.

Return Service Requested

MAS Calendar At a Glance

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Noel Cutright talks about the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Project at UW Arboretum Visitor's Center (this meeting only)

FIELD TRIPS Saturday, Oct. 20 Ice Age Trail

Sunday, Oct. 28 Scope Day at Goose Pond

Saturday, Nov. 3 Lake Michigan Birding





Birds In Art

The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau is the most unconventional birding hot spot on the Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail—and one that's not to be missed. Each fall, new bird art is featured from early September through Nov. 11. This year, among many other special events, Susan Foote-Martin will discuss how five statewide self-directed auto tours are linking Wisconsin's wildlifeviewing public with the natural resources they love. Her talk will be Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

This year's "Birds in Art" features 122 original contemporary works—paintings, woodcuts, graphite drawings and sculptures—by 113 artists, seven of whom call Wisconsin home. Each piece offers a unique opportunity to appreciate the beauty of birds and habitats originating from the United States, Canada and twelve other nations.



John Brasaemle, Bring It On

Admission to the museum, at Franklin and 12th Streets in Wausau, is always free. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday during "Birds in Art," 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m. (closed Monday and Holidays). See www.lywam.org for more information.