

**BENJAMIN F. GOSS
BIRD CLUB**

The Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club was founded to increase knowledge and appreciation of birds through education, research, preservation and conservation, and to provide public awareness of birds and their role in the environment - all of which remains our goal and purpose to this day.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held Retzer Nature Center, 514 W28167 Madison Street, Waukesha, WI 53188

Retzer Nature Center is located about 4 miles west of Waukesha, near the end of Madison Street.

**UP-COMING
EVENTS**

- **October 8**
BIG SIT
- **October 16**
Club Meeting

**For a full schedule, see
the second page of
the newsletter**

THE GOSS HAWK

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

Member "Pulse" Survey

Welcome back for the 89th year of the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club!

In our club's history of birding adventures in Waukesha and around Wisconsin, many great people have been members of this club, including many respected birders who have made significant contributions to the birds and the birding community. We've hosted hundreds of events and speakers, and no doubt thousands of birders have been involved with the club. The club has even hosted two statewide conventions for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in Waukesha in 1976 and 1988!

So what makes this club tick?

You do!

As a member you are this club's heart and soul. The club does not exist for itself, but for its members. So how do we continue progressing as a club? Participation and growth is our future.

Soon you will be invited to participate in a survey to help plan how to best be a club, and to

serve our members. We look forward to your answers to the prompted questions and any other information that you wish to share.

Your anonymous, candid responses to questions regarding meeting times, membership dues, featured presenters, and community involvement will establish a starting point for conversations to determine the direction we as a club would like to head.

The survey will be conducted via the internet, while paper copies are available for those who wish to submit their survey response in that manner.

Your recommendations and suggestions for improving the whole nature of the Goss Bird Club are dearly welcomed!



The Big Sit

October 8, 2016 - Retzer Nature Center

The Big Sit! is like a Big Day or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the area limitation from which you may observe.

Some people have called it a "tailgate party for birders." Find a good spot for bird

watching—preferably one with good views of a variety of habitats and lots of birds. Next, create a circle 17 feet in diameter and sit inside the circle for 24 hours, counting all the bird species you see or hear. That's it. Find a spot, sit in it, have fun. Then submit your findings.

Participants are allowed to come and go from the circle—

especially for the purpose of bringing food back into the circle—and the circle need not be occupied for the entire 24 hours. (BWD)

Our Big Sit will take place on Saturday 10/8 at Retzer NC on the hill, south of the main building. For our first annual Bit Sit we tallied 37 species and a great time was had by all. Please join us this year for the fun!

Wildlife In Need Center - Supply Drive 11/20

On November 20, Mandy Feavel from the Wildlife In Need Center located in Oconomowoc, will visit and tell us about their facility, their animals, and their mission to save as many of our wild furry, feathered and yes, slimy friends as they can.

In conjunction with this event, we will hold a Supply Drive to collect much needed supplies for the care center. WINC receives no financial assistance from public sources, so they are 100% reliant on donations from folks like us. They gladly

welcome cash donations as well as in-kind gifts of cleaning supplies, food items for wildlife, ground and maintenance equipment, among many other things. When Mandy visits, our goal is to collect so many supplies that Mandy needs help carrying them all to her vehicle! A list of needed seasonal supplies will be available at the 10/16 meeting.

The Wildlife In Need Center is dedicated to wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education. WINC rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife and releases

healthy animals back into their natural habitat.

WINC also delivers educational programming to area elementary schools and to residents of all ages including scout groups, civic groups and senior citizens. The overall message of the programs is to encourage an understanding and appreciation of Wisconsin wildlife and to provide practical, real life applications on the best way for humans to interact



News and Notes

- Check out our new website! The newly designed website is still in construction, but the basics are finished and up-to-date! www.gosbirdclub.org
- Mark your calendars for the Waukesha Christmas Bird Count conducted by the club. Tentative date is 12/17, to be confirmed at the September meeting.
- Tim is looking for a replacement as the club's Birds Seen List manager. Paula Stich has offered to take over these duties and has put together a great display. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist Paula, let her know. And don't forget to contact her with any submissions.
paulabirder@gmail.com
- Thank you for taking the time to read the debut issue of The Goss Hawk, the newsletter for our bird club. In the future, we would love to include member submitted articles and notes. If you would like to submit an item for inclusion, please contact Tim Hahn.
thahnbirder@gmail.com

"The Birds are where you find them."

— Bob Adams

2016 - 2017 Event Schedule

- September 25 - Cheryl White, Executive Director of the Waukesha County Land Conservancy
- October 8 - The BIG SIT! at Retzer Nature Center
- October 16 - Featured Presenter TBA
- November 20 - Mandy Feavel, Animal Care Manager Wildlife In Need Center
- December 17 - Christmas Bird Count
- January 8 - Tim Lizotte: WI DNR Public Lands Specialist
- February 19 - Jeff Bahls "A Boy Gone Fowl" - My Life Working with Cavity Nesters
- March 19 - Tom Schultz Bird Identification Tips
- April 16 - Daryl Christensen Update: Kirtland's Warbler in WI
- May 6 or 13 - May Count