



BENJAMIN F. GOSS BIRD CLUB

# THE GOSS HAWK

October 21, 2018  
Volume 3, Issue 2

## Birders in Action - Getting Involved in Our Community

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

**S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53188**



## Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund

Last month our presenter Michael John Jaeger provided extensive information on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and explained why it is important.

Through DNR land acquisition, protecting environmentally sensitive lands, and creating recreation opportunities the KN Fund has protected over 500,000 acres of Wisconsin's most beautiful lands and waters since 1990.

Looking at the figures below, it seems like a lot of money, but when spread across the population of Wisconsin, debt service for Stewardship Program borrowing accounts for approximately **\$15 per resident per year.**

**TAKE ACTION:** Knowing these things, it is important for citizens to be involved. The bill that created and maintains the KN Fund requires re-authorization periodically, and the next time is during the upcoming legislative session. If it is not reau-

thorized, funding will dry up and land preservation will take a serious blow.

**What can we do?** Call, email, or visit your local representative. The state assembly and state senate will begin negotiating the biennial budget in 2019, and the KN Fund could be an easy target for "budget hawks" looking for programs to get the axe. If no one makes a point to include the KN Fund, it could very well go unmentioned on the legislative floor. It is up to us as citizens to remind our representatives how important the KN Fund is to our state.

If you're wondering who your representatives are, finding out is simple. Visit the below link and zoom in to find your home on the map. Click on your home, and a window will pop up showing your state senator and assembly representative including their contact information.



<https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

### Currently authorized at about \$33.5 million per year

- \$9 million for DNR acquisitions (2/3 of which must be allocated to conservation easement purchases)
- \$7 million for grants to nonprofit conservation organizations
- \$5 million for grants to county forests
- \$6 million for projects sponsored by local governments
- \$3.25 million for DNR property development
- \$2.5 million for recreational boating projects
- \$500,000 for motorized trail development

### Talking Points for support of the K-N Fund

- A June 2018 survey of Wisconsin voters conducted for The Nature Conservancy demonstrated overwhelming public support for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.
- Nine out of 10 voters support continued conservation funding in Wisconsin
- 93% of voters support reauthorization of the Stewardship Program
- 89% of Republicans, 90% of Independents, and 100% of Democrats want the program continued
- Residents in every region in the state show strong support
- 67% of voters say that they would have a more favorable impression of an elected official if they supported reauthorization

## **The Surprising Continuation of the Story of the Hoffman's "Bird Sanctuary."**

A Moment from the Archives  
with Jennifer Tyskiewicz

Last month, "A Moment from the Archives," featured the above-referenced article. When I decided to write about the Hoffman's and their land, my research included 2 articles taken from the Waukesha Freeman, one written in 1965 and the other, in 1969.

The exact address of the property was given in the newspaper accounts, and Mike and I decided to try to find the location, and perhaps, take a couple of road-view shots of the 2,000 planted trees.

After we confirmed the correct address on the roadside mailbox, we immediately noticed a "For Sale" sign on a post near the driveway. Because the driveway and property looked very secluded, and photos would be difficult to take by stopping on the somewhat narrow road, we decided to write down the name and 2 numbers of the realty company agent, and contact her first before proceeding.

I was very excited about the prospect of possibly getting to see the property, and obtaining some "on-the-land" photos to enhance my article. I wondered if the "small, stone house" would still be there, and maybe, remnants of the walking trails would still be visible. I was excited to share my historical knowledge of the land with the agent, who I was certain would appreciate knowing the significance, and passing along the information to would-be nature-loving buyers. What a great selling point it could be!

Maybe, I'm just too much of an optimist!

I called the agent immediately upon returning home from our ride in the country. Reaching her voicemail, I left a complete explanation of who I was, what I was doing, and who I was doing it for. I finished by requesting a brief meeting with her at the property, at her convenience, to take several shots of "habitat views" to use in my article, and to fill her in on my knowledge of the history of the acreage.

While waiting for the agent to return my call, we accessed the realtor's website and found the particulars about exactly what was for sale. The parcel now contained just 17 acres (reduced from 30 acres in the Hoffman's time); there were photos of a sprawling 6,216 square-foot home, with 6 bedrooms, 5 ½ baths, a 4 ½ car garage, an in-ground pool, tennis courts, a 19 x 19 "party lodge," and wooded walking trails! (The Hoffman's trails still existed!). The asking price was listed at \$759,900.

But, there was more! A small, stone house was attached via private or connected entrance to the sprawling 6,216 square-foot home, and advertised as an "adjacent in-law/guest suite that included a fireplace, family room, kitchen, and full bath."

And there it was in exterior and interior photos.....the seemingly unchanged small, stone house of Paul and Emma Hoffman, in all of its' 1950's glory!

I was totally historically-overwhelmed, and could hardly wait for the agent to call, imagining that I might actually be able to go into the small, stone house of the Hoffman's!

Several weeks later.....with the article deadline drawing near....I again called the agent.....and again, left my message of explanation and request.

Remembering that I had jotted down a second phone number from the "For Sale" sign that day, and thinking that it might yield better results, I reached an office manager at the realtor's Mukwonago location. "Was it better to use this number to get in contact with the agent, as I've not seemed to make a connection by using the first number?" I asked. "No, that first number is the best number to reach her. She'll call back; perhaps she was with a client when you called." (Yes, but for two weeks? Did they go to Hawaii?...I didn't actually ask that!).

I didn't have to keep trying the agent's number, because within

minutes, the very angry agent was shouting at me over the phone. In a seemingly loud, aggressive manner, she informed me that there was no way that the sellers wanted me on the land taking photos, (we wouldn't have gone on the property without meeting the agent there anyway), and that the sellers did not want me using any photos from the realtor's website for my article!

The whole conversation lasted less than 1 minute and was totally one-sided, with me making stuttering noises, trying to get a word in-edgewise. I never did accomplish one word, as the agent abruptly hung up. I was left standing staring at my phone, and having a hard time believing what I had just heard....and feeling verbally assaulted!

Oh.....did I mention that I was writing a historical article for a newsletter for a 50-member bird club in Waukesha....and not some personal expose' for the New York Times?!

I could not understand the agent's angry and dramatic reaction to my request! I would have liked to be told "no" with a bit more respect and diplomacy.

I wrote a letter of complaint to the realty's district office in Brookfield, explaining exactly what I have told you in this article. But, guess what? .....I haven't heard a thing from them!

Further research on the property online soon showed that the realty company had changed from the one that I contacted, and all of the photos were removed from the site, the original link now being inaccessible.

Was the property sold? Were there some other issues in the works? We'll never know, and I feel deprived that I was not able to show you interesting photos of the Hoffman's land and home.

Who knew that being the Goss Bird Club Historian could be so contentious?!

# WSO Code of Ethics

*WSO encourages birders to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others through the following guidelines.*

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## **1. When birding, we should act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds and other wildlife.**

### **We should:**

- Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds. Even though it may be unintentional on your part, the outcome may be harassment.
- Observe birds from a safe distance by using binoculars and spotting scopes. If the animal shows signs of stress, then you are too close and should back away.
- Use appropriate lenses to photograph, such as telephoto lenses or digiscoping. If an animal shows stress, move back and use a longer lens.
- Learn to recognize signs of stress. This will vary between species but may include agitated flapping, alarm calls or frequent vocalizations, cessation of normal activities, aggression, or flushing. Owls will frequently “slim down” (i.e., look skinny or branch-like) when stressed.
- Limit use of recordings and similar methods of attracting birds, especially in heavily birded areas or known locations of rare birds.
- Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger.
- Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.



## **2. Birders should take special considerations when observing or photographing raptors, owls, and rare birds. We should:**

- Evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area before advertising the presence of a rare bird. Proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
- Minimize cumulative impacts on an individual bird. Remember that you are unlikely to be the only observer of this animal. If the animal shows signs of stress, back away.
- Refrain from providing mice or in any way baiting raptors or owls. Baiting may transmit disease to the bird, or cause the bird to approach roadsides when people come nearby.
- Be a steward of an owl roost and take precaution in publicly advertising its location. Supply data to eBird after the roost is abandoned.

## **3. Birders should act in ways that minimize adverse effects to the environment.**

### **We should:**

- Stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitats.
- Leave all habitats in as good a condition as we found them or better.

#### **4. Birders should respect the rights of others. We should:**

- Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Behave in a manner that will generate goodwill with birders and non- birders alike.
- Obtain permission to enter private property, whether posted or not.
- Follow posted rules on public and private properties.
- Observe all laws, rules, and regulations for public and private birding areas (including paying applicable fees), and report violations to the appropriate authorities.
- Leave gates and fences as found and rights-of-way unblocked.
- Limit requests for permission or information to reasonable times of the day.
- Read Landowners and Birders at [wsobirds.org/?page\\_id=1934](http://wsobirds.org/?page_id=1934)

#### **5. Birders in groups have special responsibilities. As group members, we should:**

- Act in consideration of the group's interest as well as our own.
- Use care when gathering in groups near roadsides. Do not block the road with your vehicles, minimize door slamming and other loud noises, and watch for oncoming traffic.
- Support the leader of the group. As group leaders, we should:
  - Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
  - Limit group size so as not to threaten the environment.
  - Teach others birding ethics by word and example.

#### **6. Birders recognize the importance of research projects to further our knowledge about birds.**

##### **We should:**

- Encourage field researchers to conduct their work in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds and that minimize adverse effects to the environment.
- Not knowingly interfere with research projects.

#### **7. Birders should alert the proper authorities of any illegal activities involving wild birds.**

- The **Endangered Species Act** (ESA) protects all species that are federally listed as endangered or threatened. It is illegal to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any listed animal.
- The **Migratory Bird Treaty Act** makes it illegal for anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, or the parts, nests or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations.
- Violators of either Act should be reported to:
  - **Wisconsin DNR violation hotline:** 800-847-9367;  
[le.hotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:le.hotline@wisconsin.gov)
  - **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3:** 612-713-5436;  
[permitsR3MB@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3MB@fws.gov)