

# Spring 2023

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*Green-Rock Audubon Society*

**G-RAS**



*Protecting Wildlife for Tomorrow*

Serving Lafayette, Green,  
& Rock Counties

***Purple Conflower***

Photo by Joni Denker

# THE NATURALIST

# Thank You!

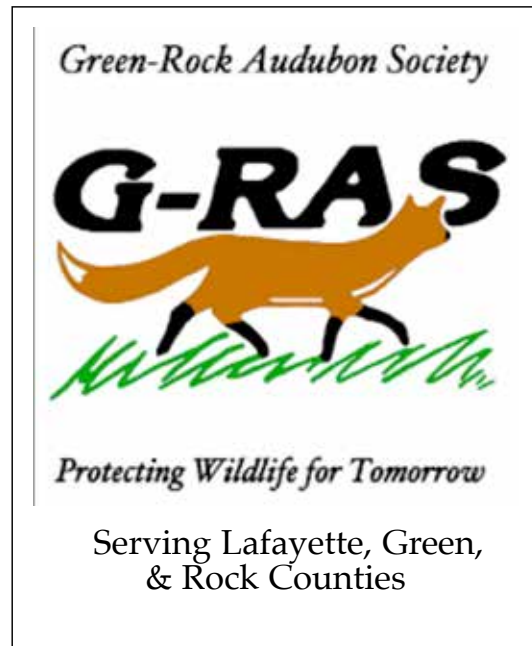
## THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We appreciate your financial contributions and your encouragement for our efforts to protect birds and the places they live.

### Memberships and Donations February 2023 through June 2023

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## Green-Rock Audubon Society Annual Picnic



This will be at Gabower-Reilly Reserve, East, August 20th from 1 PM to 4 PM. This is at fire # 6400 W Cleophas Rd. south of the intersection of Barnum and Cleophas Roads. Brats, hotdogs, and non alcoholic beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and a chair to sit on. See you there!

# G-RAS Lands Summer 2023

*Prepared by Victor Illichmann*

**Androne Woods** We have cut and burned the fallen trees in about ten acres here. We have torched garlic mustard in about ten acres here. The Solomon's plume is in full bloom. We have Virgin's Bower or wild clematis on the west side of section 4. It is a beautiful vine. We are still looking for someone to make a nature trail here.

**Cleophas Reserve** We have burned the whole 36 acres. We have sprayed the canary grass here. We are spot spraying parsnip. We will have a lot of color in the ten acres that has been seeded to a pollinator mix. Especially look for the swamp mallow and cardinal flower.

**Gabower-Reilly Reserve** We have sprayed the canary grass.



East of the creek has been burned. Wicking the brush is still in the works. Hopefully we'll be able to get the parsnip before it

seeds out. We found that a lot of what we planned to seed in the fall of 2024 is high quality sedge meadow. The golden alexander is starting to fade. We should be having good patches of foxglove penstemon coming along. Soon we'll have acres of yellow coneflower.



**Gabower-Reilly East** The canary grass has been sprayed. A lot of the west side has been burned.

**Spring Creek Reserve** We have sprayed the canary grass. Wicking the brush is in the works. Getting the parsnip before it seeds out could be a forlorn hope. The bee habitat has been seeded, but without a good rain, the seed will likely just sit there. If possible, we'll get this 7.5 acres in an EQIP contract. Ideally we should seed it this fall. We have some significant areas with a lot of color. Soon, we'll be able to see a lot of color from the road.

## Work day report

*Pete Lamar*

A quick follow up regarding this work day: we had to work to find the garlic mustard, which I consider good news; it appears to be somewhat under control. I did find a few patches of it which were quickly torched, but they weren't everywhere. I'd say I spent much more of my time searching for garlic mustard rather than burning it. All the work that went into the many previous burns has been effective.

I'm only at the properties a few times/year, so the improvements are very noticeable to me. The East Fork of Raccoon Creek looks better every time I see it. A lot of meanders have been restored (which leads to undercut banks-good habitat); the channel has narrowed and deepened with faster flow in a lot of places; there is more exposed gravel-spawning habitat-throughout the portions I could see. Standing on the Cleophas Rd. bridge and looking upstream onto Dave's property, there is gravel just about everywhere-prime real estate come November spawning time.

# The Advocacy Report

*By Susan Amber Johnson*

On April 26, 2023, I was among the more than 30 Audubon members and policy experts who met with more than 30 state legislators to attend the first ever Audubon Great Lakes Advocacy Day in Wisconsin. The day started at 9 AM with a speaker event with talks by Marnie Urso, Senior Policy Director, Audubon Great Lakes, Melissa Agard, State Senate Minority Leader, and Erin Giese, President, Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society. Urso told us we would be focusing our advocacy on policies protecting the state's wetlands during the day. Specifically, she described the Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Program in which grants would be provided for local governments in undertaking proactive strategies like wetlands restoration before flooding events occur. The bill is numbered SB 222 and AB 222. Mitch Greenberg has already informed us on May 17, 2023 at the most recent Great Lakes chapter meeting that SB 222 has passed its committee, and is progressing on forward to a vote.

Giese introduced Randy Cornelius, who is the Oneida Language and Culture Archivist at Oneida Cultural Heritage Department. He informed us about a provision in Governor Evers' budget for an annual investment of \$175,000 for five years for Oneida Nations' habitat restoration work, and bird monitoring project. Cornelius said, "As an Oneida Nation member, I've watched as our years-long restoration work has improved our water quality, and has led to the return of wildlife not seen for decades in Northeast Wisconsin." The Oneida Nation has restored over 3,000 acres of the reservation's wetlands, grasslands, prairie, and forest in northeastern Wisconsin. Audubon Great Lakes in partnership with the Oneida Nation, Northeastern Audubon Society, and the UW-Green Bay Cofrin Center of Biodiversity has begun a bird monitoring project on these restored lands. The funding would mean the continuation of bird monitoring.

I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Spreitzer and Representative Conley with a group led by Brian Vigue, Policy Director of Freshwater for Audubon Great Lakes and Oneida Tribal member. Both of my legislators will be supporting the measures recommended by Audubon Great Lakes. All in all, it was a great opportunity to advocate for our birds and their habits!

"Audubon members advocated for policies that will protect the state's wetlands, including the Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Program (SB 222 & AB 222), which will provide grant funding for local governments to undertaking proactive strategies, like wetlands restoration, before flooding events occur. Wisconsin has lost nearly 50 percent of its natural wetlands – important natural infrastructure that provides vital habitat for vulnerable birds and other wildlife while buffering communities against flooding. 2/3 of North American bird species are at risk of extinction due to climate change. In addition, Audubon Great Lakes lobbied to keep funding for Oneida Nations' habitat restoration projects into the budget! Governor Evers provided \$175,000 each for five years in this budget to monitor the three Oneida Restoration Projects; wetlands, woodlands, and prairie.



# Recovering America's Wildlife Act S-1149

By Susan Johnson

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico and Senator Tom Tillis of North Carolina reintroduced the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), S-1149 recently this session. It almost passed last year and it has strong bi-partisan support already with a total of 11 co-sponsors including Senators Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, Susan Collins of Maine, Tom Carpenter of Delaware, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Jacky Rosen of Nevada, Jerry Moran of Kansas, Jon Tester of Montana, John Boozman of Arkansas, Krysten Sinema of Arizona, and Ted Budd of North Carolina. "This legislation invests



in proactive, on-the-ground conservation work led by states, territories, and Tribal nations to support the long-term health of fish and wildlife and their habitats all across America."

The total national package includes 1.39 billion dollars/year. Of that amount, tribes would get up to 97.5 million dollars/year. All nature's creatures and plants are included in this package, which means it would include support for wild rice. This would be the first time in our nation's history the federal government allocated any money to tribes for restoring and protecting the natural ecosystems on reservation lands.

We already know what it means to offer support for our wildlife. Because of money allocated to protecting birds, we have seen the increase of 15 million raptors since 1970. As Debbie Stabenow of Michigan stated, "We have such beautiful wildlife and wildlife habitats in Michigan. For us, it's a no-brainer to invest in conservation, so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the wilderness we have today for generations to come." I encourage you all to write our U.S. Senators and encourage them to co-sponsor and/or vote for RAWA, S-1149 when it comes up for a vote. I have already done so.



## Your Articles are needed!

Your articles for the Autumn issue will be needed soon. If you could, please, get them to me as soon as possible, I would appreciate it.

Thank you very much.  
Carol Herzig, Editor



# Theodore ‘Ted’ Odell’s legacy

## February 27, 2023

### Former Basics Co-op Owner Theodore Odell of Brodhead, WI Helps Preserve Former Family Land as Three Waters Reserve

*From Basics webpage*

Long time Basics Co-op Owner, Theodore ‘Ted’ Odell, who passed away in 2021, left behind much more than a cult-favorite cookie recipe. The creator of the legendary “Guerilla Cookie” – sold at local food co-ops and ubiquitous among UW-Madison students in the 1960s and 70s – also left behind a legacy of conservation.



In April of 2018, along with a group of local philanthropists from the Brodhead area, Odell helped purchase the former Decatur Lake Golf Course – a 57-acre plot of land once owned by his grandfather, Matthew Putnam, before selling it to develop a nine-hole golf course in 1927.

After nearly a century of golf course operations, mowing, and heavy fertilizer and pesticide use, Odell and the new owners (Southern Wisconsin Land Conservancy) converted the land to a restored conservation area with public walking trails called Three Waters Reserve.

The land has since been granted a conservation easement to protect its original oak savanna, and the restored prairie and wetland habitats that resemble the early 19th century landscape along this picturesque reach of the Sugar River.



The recent restoration is only the beginning of a long and storied past for the Putnam-Odell property.

With the 1927 sale of the larger farm, Putnam retained a 14-acre parcel which would eventually be inherited by his grandchildren. For Ted Odell and his sister Mary, the open wild landscape along the Sugar River was a refuge. The rustic cabin on the property, nestled amongst the white oaks, is where Odell would create the very first batch of his wholesome, protein-packed snack in the 1960s. Little did he know that the Guerilla Cookie, named for the anti-war movement of the time, would become his livelihood. Odell and his bakery, aptly named Quercus Alba or ‘white oak’ in English, would operate for the next thirty years.

Since their production ceased in 1991, a quick internet search reveals the col-

\*See TED, Page 7

# Ted

Continued from page 6

lective intrigue and mystique surrounding Odell's Guerilla Cookie, with articles turning up everywhere from [UW Madison's Alumni Association blog](#) to [the Chicago Tribune](#). Many nostalgic alumni have tried to recreate Odell's recipe. However, attempts to convince him to share it were vehemently denied and met with the promise that the recipe – which no longer existed in written form – would die with him.

After his passing in 2021, Odell left his beloved cabin and remaining 7 acres – along with his vigilantly-guarded Guerilla Cookie recipe – to Three Waters Reserve's new owner, Southern Wisconsin Land Conservancy, where it remains today. Three Waters Reserve is one of several properties now with conservation easements that Odell and members of the Conservancy have helped southern Wisconsin landowners protect.

Though still under wraps, plans to put Odell's secret recipe to good use are underway.



Though the golf course years are remembered fondly by the community, today's visitors to Three Waters Reserve enjoy the property for new reasons.

The former clubhouse and golf pro shop have been converted to an event center and scientific field station used for watershed research, nature education, meetings, boutique weddings, workshops, and more. Most recently, an immersive three-part foraging workshop series was offered. In this series, participants learned to ethically harvest and prepare Wisconsin's wild edible plants and enjoy the fruits of their labor at a Wild Harvest Chef's Table event led by

former SSM Health Executive Chef, John Marks.

The generosity of Odell and colleagues provides a new place for Basics Co-op Owners and other nature lovers to explore.

Public hiking [trails are open year-round](#), and the area is a favored local birding hotspot where visitors can enjoy seasonal visits from white pelicans, bluebirds, red-headed woodpeckers and more. A toboggan and sledding hill has been preserved for the neighborhood children's winter fun, continuing this tradition that many old timers remember from their childhood.

The event center is now available through online scheduling (see [www.threewatersreserve.com](http://www.threewatersreserve.com)), with all proceeds from venue rentals going toward continued conservation efforts at Three Waters Reserve and other southern Wisconsin wild and working landscapes.

## Rock River is still a hot spot for pelicans and eagles



Kurt Buggs, photo

**Pelicans on the Rock River**

The pelican numbers at Monterey Park in Janesville have waxed and waned, but on July 9 at 7:30 p.m. there were around 75 with a raft of 30 fishing with the current. It's fun to see them every year since the dam has been removed. The eagles at Spring Brook (across from Marling Lumber) have experienced more drama this year. Their nest partially collapsed again (!! ) and one of the two eaglets had to be rescued by Dianne Moller of Hoo's Woods. A week later the young eagle was returned to the area. As of this writing all four of the eagles are soaring around the river. We expect that the juveniles will soon be learning how to fish. As for the next nest, we can hope that Mom & Dad will choose a more solid place for the 2024 season.

Neil Deupree



Neil Deupree, photo

**The eagles before their nest colapse this past June.**



# The 2023 Audubon Photography Awards: The Top 100

Revel in the staggering beauty and surprising behaviors featured in this gallery of our favorite images. Also check out the story behind each shot. Shown here are a sampling of the photos, more can be found at: <https://www.audubon.org/news/2023-audubon-photography-awards-top-100?ms=digital-eng>

**Category:** Amateur

**Location:** Bolsa Chica State Beach, Orange County, California

**Camera:** Canon EOS 7D Mark II with a Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM lens and a Canon Extender EF 1.4x; 1/1000 second at f/8.0; ISO 200

**Behind the Shot:** I was sitting on the beach, occasionally glancing at some striking Heermann's Gulls and a mixed flock of Elegant and Royal Terns. Suddenly, a male Elegant Tern started a courtship display with his characteristic proud pose—an erect crest and drooping wings—while offering a small eel to a potential mate. At that same moment, two birds were walking and flying in the background, giving a composite feel to a single image. The terns' bright orange bills added the necessary color to an otherwise monochrome scene. Many photographers ignore bird colonies due to the difficulty of isolating a bird with a clean background, but with patience, flock photos can accentuate the natural behavior of social species.



5. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher by Lorraine Snipper



**Category:** Amateur

**Location:** Mullet Key, Fort De Soto Park, Florida

**Camera:** Canon EOS R5 with a Canon RF100-500mm F/4.5-7.1 L IS USM at 400mm lens; 1/3200 second at f/8; ISO 800

**Behind the Shot:** A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen, rather unusually, at a county park near me in Central Florida. Off I went the very next morning, determined to see the bird. After several attempts, I noticed a light-colored bird hopping around in the grass. I had trouble keeping it in focus, so I increased my shutter speed and hoped it would fly. Much to my delight, it flew up into a tree with a large katydid. With seconds to spare, I positioned myself for the best light and view. The bird tossed its katydid into the air for

a big gulp. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect the flycatcher to provide such a fantastic display with its tail feathers!

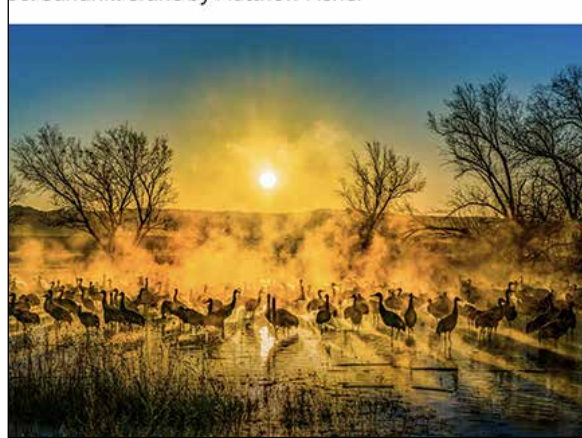
**Category:** Amateur

**Location:** Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex, Bernardo, New Mexico

**Camera:** Nikon Z7ii with an AF-S NIKKOR 24-70mm f/2.8E ED VR; 1/8000 second at f/14; ISO 100

**Behind the Shot:** On an early February morning, I drove 45 miles south of my home to photograph wintering birds in the Middle Rio Grande Basin wetlands. I arrived at sunrise to find the marshes full of roosting Sandhill Cranes surrounded by a thick fog rising from the water. I positioned my camera facing the recently risen sun to silhouette the birds and accentuate the fog in the warm yellow and orange sunlight. The sun's position created elongated shadows of the birds that stretched to the bottom of the frame. I had to wade into the muddy marsh to get the composition I wanted—close enough to show the size of the cranes and far enough to show their number.

98. Sandhill Crane by Matthew Fisher



# The 2023 Audubon Photography Awards: Winners and Honorable Mentions

We pored through thousands of entries for this year's contest. The best images show birds going about their business in the most glorious ways. As with the other photos, this is just a sampling. The complete group, information and judges take can be found at:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/2023-audubon-photography-awards-winners-and-honorable-mentions>



## Grand Prize

**Category:** Professional

**Species:** Rock Pigeon

**Location:** White Rock, British Columbia, Canada

**Camera:** Canon EOS R5 with a Canon EF 100–400mm f/4.5–5.6L IS II USM @400mm lens; 1/1600 second at f/5.6; ISO 2500

**Story Behind the Shot:** They may be common and non-native across most of the globe, but Rock Pigeons are amazing birds. They thrive in a wide variety of habitats, including where few other species can: a city center. I rarely point my lens toward pigeons, but I couldn't resist as this pair, perched under a pier, carefully groomed each other's feathers. Purposefully exposing for the brighter parts of the image, I used the shadowy environment to create a studio-like black back-

ground for these remarkable iridescent birds. I hadn't planned on photographing pigeons that day, but I'm glad that this couple's beauty captured my attention.

**Bird Lore:** Many people tend to ignore pigeons, but admirers of these adaptable, fast-flying birds abound throughout history and include Charles Darwin. Originally native to parts of Europe, northern Africa, and southern Asia, Rock Pigeons have been domesticated for thousands of years, and escaped birds have established feral populations the world over. Pairs of Rock Pigeons stay together during all seasons and generally mate for life, with both sexes taking a full share of incubating their eggs and caring for their young.

## Amateur Award Winner

**Species:** Chinstrap Penguin

**Location:** Cierva Cove, Antarctica

**Camera:** Canon EOS R5 with a RF 70–200mm f/2.8 L IS USM @200mm lens; 1/4000 second at f/8; ISO 1000

**Story Behind the Shot:** On a stormy, snowy day, I was in a Zodiac touring an iceberg-filled cove. The rough water tossed the little rubber boat around. As I watched Gentoo Penguins leap onto the rocky shore and march to their nesting colony, I spotted a Chinstrap Penguin standing alone on a blue iceberg capped with fresh snow. It peered over the edge, and I knew it was going to jump. I adjusted my settings, keeping in mind the pitching boat, moving iceberg, and penguin that would soon be in midair. The bird jumped directly in front of me, diving straight into the water. I caught it just before it slipped beneath the waves and got both eyes and its perfect shape. I had captured a "perfect 10" of a dive. Wow!

**Bird Lore:** Contrary to their public image as birds of Antarctica, most of the 18 penguin species live in the south temperate zone. The Chinstrap Penguin is among the few true denizens of the zone of pack ice. Like many penguins, Chinstraps feed primarily on the small shrimplike crustaceans called krill, often pursuing them more than 50 feet below the sea surface. The long tail of this species, noticeable in this photo, probably helps it maneuver when swimming underwater.





# Join Green-Rock Audubon Society

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Would you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically? \_\_\_\_

## Two Ways to Join

\_\_\_ I wish to join Green-Rock Audubon Society, I understand that I will not receive the Audubon Magazine, but all dues will go to G-RAS.

Dues:  \$10 Senior or Student,  \$15 Single Membership,  \$20 Couple

• To pay by mail, make checks payable to G-RAS, and mail this form along with the check to this address:

Green-Rock Audubon  
 Attn: Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 1986  
 Janesville, WI 53547-1986

• To pay online visit <https://www.greenrockaudubon.org/donate>

\_\_\_ I wish to join the National Audubon Society's normal membership of \$35 per year which includes the Audubon Magazine. (Please visit <http://audubon.org/> to complete this membership.)

\_\_\_ I wish to donate an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support GRAS's conservation efforts.

## Volunteering Interests I would like to volunteer for...

- Whatever is Needed
- Burning
- Brushing
- Spraying
- Seed Collecting
- Planting

## I can volunteer at:

- Whenever is Needed
- Androne Woods
- Cleophas Reserve
- Spring Creek Reserve
- Gabower-Reilly Reserve
- The Pond (Janesville)

## Donate Beyond Membership I would like to donate to...

- Whatever is Needed
- Purchasing Herbicides
- Purchasing Spray Equipment

## I want my donation to support G-RAS's efforts to manage or maintain...

- Androne Woods
- Cleophas Reserve
- Spring Creek Reserve
- Gabower-Reilly Reserve

## Times I can usually volunteer:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

## Volunteer Coordinator:

Victor Illichmann  
 viccarol@sbcglobal.net  
 608.752.8342

(Please mail checks according to the directions above or visit our website.)

# Membership Form Inside

Green-Rock Audubon Society (G-RAS) membership for one year with quarterly newsletter Green-Rock Naturalist from Green-Rock Audubon Society (all dues go to G-RAS).

- Senior or Student membership \$10
- Single person membership \$15
- Couples membership \$20



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## 2023 Audubon Photography Winners and Honorable Mentions



Category: Amateur

Species: Tree Swallow

Location: Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, Louisiana

Camera: Canon EOS-1D X Mark III with Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 IS @140mm lens and a Canon Extender EF 1.4x III; 1/800 second at f/8; ISO 1250

Story Behind the Shot: I was enjoying the quiet of a secluded sunrise in my kayak when I heard a loud hum. I couldn't imagine what could make such a persistent sound. My ears guided me to the source: thousands of Tree Swallows hunting insects on the wing and water surface. Their collective wing-beating generated the noise. As I got closer, I had a second wondrous realization: The swallows that were not actively hunting rested on bare, old-growth bald cypress trees; the birds crowded together so tightly that the branches looked as if they had leaves. I let my kayak drift and began to

shoot, experimenting with focal lengths and angles until the flock burst up as one and departed.

Bird Lore: Aerial insectivores like swallows and swifts forage in flight, nabbing insects in midair as they sweep gracefully over open fields or water. Unlike swifts, which may stay on the wing continuously, swallows rest on convenient perches when they can. These stately bald cypress, iconic trees of southeastern swamps, give the Tree Swallows access to a prime feeding area: a wide-open bayou, where insect swarms often gather low over the water's surface.