

Green Bay Philatelic Society Newsletter

GREEN BAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY 2214 Allouez Ave., Green Bay, WI 54311

President: Mark Schroeder 920-337-9616 Vol. 39 No. 6 June 2019
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JUNE MEETING – Summer is here!

**WHERE: BROWN COUNTY AGING AND DISABILITY CENTER
300 S. Adams St., Green Bay, WI 54301**

WHEN: June 20, 2019 (third Thursday of every month)

TIME: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, No Business Meeting in June, July, and August

PROGRAM: Philatelic Phellowship and Silent Auction

*Reminder: We need volunteer members to pick up a key from the Senior Center by 4:00 pm on the day of the meeting. June and July volunteer is **Dave Burrows**.*

May Meeting

The meeting was called to order by president, Mark Schroeder.

Visitors: There were no visitors this month.

Reminder: This is the last newsletter until September. There will be post card reminders each month. We will still meet through the summer, but there will be no business meeting in June, July, and August. There will be a silent auction in June and July along with traditional camaraderie and fellowship. August will be our annual picnic. More on that later.

Secretary, Ray Perry read the minutes from the April meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer, Kirk Becker presented the Treasurer's reports for April and May. Both were approved. Nice to see you back Kirk.

Committee Reports

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Dave Burrows agreed to pick up the key for both the June and July meetings – thanks Dave.

Election

President, Mark Schroeder declared all offices vacant. Mark requested a report from the Nominating Committee. Dave Carney, speaking for the Nominating Committee announced that all officers were willing to serve another one-year term. Mark called for nominations from the floor. There were none. It was moved and seconded that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. That motion carried. Officers for the 2019/20 year are:

President: Mark Schroeder
Vice President: Dave Carney
Treasurer: Kirk Becker
Secretary: Ray Perry
Immediate Past Pres. Dave Burrows

Thanks to all those individuals willing to serve as an officer of the club.

May Program

The May program was basically the election of officers and the usual silent auction.

June, July, and August Programs

June: Silent auction and informal philatelic discussion/conversation.

July: Silent auction and informal philatelic discussion/conversation.

August: Annual picnic. The picnic will be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at the Dave and Sandy Burrows residence (3136 Term Court, Green Bay). Dave says, feel free to show up anytime after 4:30 p.m., food will be served at 5:00 p.m. and the picnic will end when the mosquitoes run us off. For all the details, including what to bring, how to RSVP, and so on please see the ½ page enclosure. Remember the picnic is on a Wednesday, not Thursday. My mouth is already watering.

Summer Stamp Shows

I want to take just a line of two here to pitch several upcoming stamp shows. Many times we take a hiatus from our philatelic endeavors during the summer months. It doesn't have to be that way. The Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Club sponsors their show in Escanaba on July 13 (see details in the Stamp Show box at the end of the newsletter). The Woodruff Stamp and Coin Club sponsors their summer show in Woodruff on July 27 (again, details are in the Stamp Show box at the end of the newsletter). The Outagamie Philatelic Society will sponsor OUTAPEX on September 21. Finally, MILCOPEX will be held in Milwaukee from September 20-22. Those two "up north" shows would make for great summer get-aways to combine a little philately with fishing, hiking, or whatever. OUTAPEX is a nice opportunity to support one of our local NE Wisconsin clubs and MILCOPEX is the largest show in the state

(details on these shows are also in the Stamp Show box at the end of the newsletter).

Ray's Ramblings

Last month we took a look at the Great Americans series of U.S. definitive stamps. That was an enjoyable series of stamps to write about. Its companion set issued at about the same time is the Transportation Coils set of U.S. definitives. We will cover that in some future issue. This month we will switch from a history-based subject to a biological-based subject. More specifically, one of an ornithological nature. Most of you are probably aware that ornithology is the study of birds. Said a little differently ornithology is to bird-watching as philately is to stamp-collecting.

A quick check of the American Topical Association's (ATA) bird checklist indicates that there are some 4,267 bird related stamps. That is a massive topic.

I thoroughly enjoy watching birds. We have bird feeders, houses, and bird friendly plantings around our house. Collecting birds on stamps has long interested me, but how could it be narrowed down to something more manageable? One could collect bird stamps from a specific country or geographic region. One could collect birds of a given species or genus. I decided to focus on the latter and the genus I chose was *Gavia*, or loons. Only 47 loon stamps, a much more manageable number. I know a lot of you are thinking that fits our "loony" editor perfectly.

Moving right along, there are five species of loons; *Gavia stellata* (red-throated loon), *Gavia arctica* (black-throated or arctic loon), *Gavia pacifica* (Pacific loon), *Gavia adamsii* (yellow-billed loon), and *Gavia immer* (common loon). The common loon is what we most often see in Wisconsin.

The common loon is a migrating bird as are all loons. It overwinters along the southeastern and southern coasts of the U.S. It loses its characteristic black and white summer plumage for the winter. Its winter plumage is more of a

gray with a white throat. Shown below are stamps of four of the five different species of loons. Missing is the yellow-billed loon and I am not aware of any stamps depicting that particular species.



Common Loon (Iceland Scott 388)

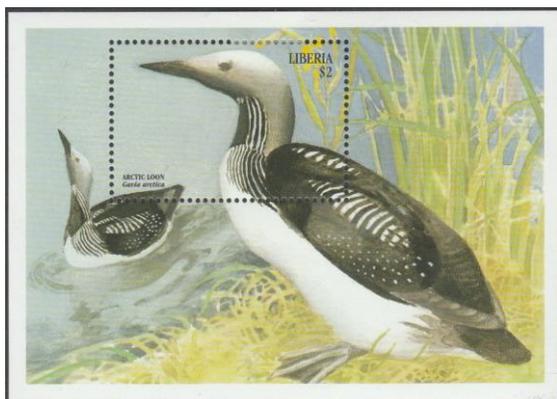


Red-throated Loon (Mongolia Scott 1026) Common Loon (Canada 369)

The above stamp from Mongolia was issued to promote CAPEX '75. In addition to featuring a red-throated loon, it also has a stamp on stamp featuring Canada 369 on the left side of the stamp. The Canadian stamp shows a common loon and is pictured next to the Mongolian stamp.



Pacific Loon (Canada Scott 1841)



Black-throated or Arctic Loon (Liberia 1466)

Since we are most familiar with the common loon, that is the species we will focus on. It used to be thought that common loons mated for life. More recent thinking is that they will readily find a new mate if the previous mate does not return to the nesting site or is replaced during the breeding season.

Loons typically build their nests on or very close to the water. It might be on a mat of floating grass or a log. While loons are excellent swimmers, they are very awkward on land. Their legs are positioned way back on their bodies making walking on land almost impossible because they are so front-heavy. This same characteristic helps to make them excellent swimmers. They are divers and almost look like a torpedo going through the water while swimming below the surface.

Unlike many birds in which the female and male plumage differs, male and female loons have the same plumage. We have already discussed how the common loon's plumage changes from the black and white we are all familiar with to a kind of dull gray with a white throat in the winter. In addition, our friends to the south do not get to hear the distinguished calls with which we are familiar, during the winter months.

The common loon has four different types of calls. They serve different purposes. The first is called the yodel, this call is used by the male to establish his territory. The second is called the tremolo and sounds like a maniacal laugh. This call is used to alarm other loons to some perceived danger. The third call is the wail and is used to maintain location with other loons. It is the lonely call we associate with the Northwoods. The fourth and final call is the hoot and is used to help maintain contact mostly between an adult and its chicks. These are soft and almost inaudible one note calls.

Loons are among the first birds back in the spring oftentimes showing up within a day or two of when the ice goes off the lake. They are also among the last to leave in the fall of the year.

Loons will usually lay one to two eggs per year in the May/June timeframe. Incubation period is just under a month. Chicks can swim right away, but sometimes will hitch a ride on its parent's back. I personally, get a big kick out of observing this.

The common loon is the state bird of our neighbor state of Minnesota and is featured along with the showy lady slipper on the Minnesota state bird and flower stamp for that state (shown below).



Minnesota state bird and flower stamp,
U.S. Scott 1975

The above stamp is perf 10 ½ x 11. There was another printing of this stamp that was perf 11, the loon stamp of that sheet is Scott 1975a. It is the exact same design as Scott 1975, the only difference is the perforations.

While loons are not ducks or geese and are not hunted like ducks or geese, the state of New York did issue a state duck stamp in 1996 featuring a beautiful picture of a loon. That stamp is shown below.



Scott NY12

I hope that you have learned a little about loons with this journey through loons on stamps. I have just one more stamp I want to include here. Canada is certainly known as loon country and I

believe that all five species can be found within its borders. The stamp below is a Canadian stamp featuring a loon sitting on its nest in the Canadian wilderness. My personal opinion is that this is a gorgeous stamp and does an excellent job of portraying the beauty of the lakes, streams, forests, and wildness of the loon's habitat. And isn't that what we really associate with loons.



Common Loon (Canada Scott 1687)

I hope you have enjoyed our quick review of loons on stamps. Every time I think of loons, I can't help but imagine I'm hearing their calls across some secluded lake and I long for the north woods.

Stamp Shows

- May 4-5** WISCOPEX '19, Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, 517 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI
- May 31 – June 2** COMPEX 2019, Chicago Area Philatelic Societies, Guerin College Prep., 8001 W. Belmont Ave., River Grove, IL
- July 6-7** MSDA Milwaukee Show, Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI
- July 13** Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Show, Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Club, 2000 N. 30th St., Joseph Heirman Bldg., Rm. 952 (accessed from Danforth Rd.), Escanaba, MI
- July 27** 14th Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club Summer Show, Woodruff Town Hall, Hwy. 47E, Woodruff, WI
- Sept. 21** OUTAPEX '19, Outagamie Philatelic Society, Fox Valley Lutheran High School, 5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, WI
- Sept. 20-22** MILCOPEX '19, Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI

Schedule of Events

- Shown below is the program schedule for the current year:
- | | |
|--------|--|
| June | Silent Auction (no business mtg.) |
| July | Silent Auction (no business meeting) |
| August | Picnic at the Burrows residence (no business meeting) on Wednesday, August 14. |

Note: There will be a silent auction each month except at the picnic.