

In the spring, Canada geese build large nests of grasses and downy feathers. Female geese then lay clutches of four to six eggs. The eggs are incubated for about 26 days. Soon after, the goslings hatch and the family searches for tender stems of marsh grass.



# Taking time to look around

A CAMERA TRIGGERS  
AN APPRECIATION FOR  
WISCONSIN WILDLIFE.

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*Story and photos by Larry Venus*

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As a young child who spent his first 18 years in Wisconsin, I never really paid attention to the natural beauty of America's Dairyland.

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As a child growing up in Milwaukee County, I don't ever recall seeing a bald eagle, hawk, or for that matter, a cardinal in the skies. I took for granted the beauty that was around me on a daily basis.

Even though I haven't called Wisconsin home since the mid-1970s, I travel



At one time, eagles in Wisconsin were in danger of becoming extinct. Due to the hard work of many citizens, professionals and agencies, including Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Conservation Program, eagles are making a comeback.

back to visit my parents who split their time between West Bend in Washington County and Townsend in Oconto County.

It wasn't until I took up photography several years ago that I came to discover that my home state has some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere in this great country. I've done some traveling over the last several years and call California home today, but I would put Wisconsin's beauty up against any other state — particularly with regard to the wildlife.

I was once told to “just look around”

and you will be surprised at what you might see. So that's what I've started to do with my camera in hand. What I've found is nothing short of spectacular — especially when it comes to photographing Wisconsin.

I spent some time in Wisconsin in late May and early June and while visiting my family took some of the best wildlife shots I've ever taken. I photographed at least five eagles — two adults and three juveniles that visit the Townsend reservoir in Oconto County. In addition to eagles, I found that by just sitting on

the porch you can enjoy the beauty of one of the smallest birds around — the ruby-throated hummingbird. Since it was spring, many birds were either nesting — like the common loon I photographed — or they were busy raising their young like the Canada geese.

No matter what the season, I would encourage everyone who lives in this scenic and wildlife rich state to take some time and “just look around.” 

*Larry Venus is a communications consultant for the California State Legislature.*



Feeders and flower gardens are great ways to attract ruby-throated hummingbirds. Enjoy them when they're around; by early fall they're bound for Central America, with many crossing the Gulf of Mexico in a single flight.



The common loon is native to Wisconsin and resides in the northern third of the state during the summer. Hear the call of the loons by going to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and searching keyword “loon.”