

The Badger BIRDER

July/August 2017 • #674



WISCONSIN
SOCIETY for
ORNITHOLOGY

Newsletter of the WISCONSIN SOCIETY for ORNITHOLOGY

WSO to celebrate Honey Creek acquisition on Sept. 30

The Gerhard and Rose Dischler Addition to the Harold and Carla Kruse Honey Creek Nature Preserve is officially **OURS!**

On June 8, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology took formal ownership of an additional 104+ acres adjacent to its Baraboo Hills land, and now it is time to celebrate and recognize those who made this acquisition possible.

Mary Korkor, WSO's Development Committee chair, is asking all members of WSO to save Saturday, Sept. 30 and plan to join the WSO Board, donors, and members of the Sauk County community and other friends of WSO as we thank, congratulate and recognize all those who made this half-million-dollar acquisition possible.

Enjoy food, hikes, music and the unveiling of a beautiful new sign. Watch for more information in the September edition of *The Badger*

Birder as well as on Facebook and the WSO website, wsobirds.org

Between now and then, WSO will have some work to do to get both its original property and the new addition ready for visitors after recent storms rendered trails impassable for a second time in two years.

WSO President Michael John Jaeger and members of the board's Honey Creek Committee, led by Chair Levi Wood and retired DNR biologist and Honey Creek neighbor Mike Mossman, are organizing the cleanup work. Jaeger filed this report from the site in mid-July:

"I stopped by Honey Creek this afternoon, and we've had more trees come down from storms. On the main trail, just past the

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Photo by Nancy Nabak

Honored at the 2017 WSO convention were Jeff Baughman, Tom Schultz, Nick Anich, Paul Jakoubek, Bob Howe, Karen Etter Hale and Tom Hauge. See Pages 10-11 for more pictures from the annual convention, held this year in Carter.

Awards, elections, atlassing highlight convention

The 78th annual WSO Convention was once again a great success, with Registrar Jeff Zimmerman reporting that 125 members signed up for the June 16-19 meeting in Wabeno.

Friday's opening event was a presentation on eBird geared toward enlisting more participation in the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, a five-year field research project strongly supported by WSO.

This was followed by the Member Appreciation Picnic held at American Legion Park in Wabeno. The annual Passenger Pigeon Awards ceremony was held that evening at the convention headquarters, the Potawatomi Carter Casino and Hotel.

Saturday morning field trips were led by Atlas experts and traditional WSO field trip leaders. The groups covered six unique locations around the Nicolet National Forest. A

soup and salad lunch at 11 a.m. was followed by the annual meeting and an afternoon of presentations on citizen science efforts in Wisconsin.

Saturday evening began with a social hour that concluded the annual silent auction, followed by a banquet dinner and a keynote presentation by Dr. Robert Howe from UW-

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WSO tropical birding tour returns to Costa Rica this winter!
Details on Pages 13-14



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Honor where honor was due

By CARL SCHWARTZ
Badger Birder Editor

For me, one of the highlights of the 2017 WSO convention was the tribute paid to the leaders of our Field Trips Committee.

Since taking over from Ed Peartree in January of 1987, Tom Schultz and Jeff Baughman have taken responsibility for what is a centerpiece of WSO's membership --satisfying activities, producing an annual calendar of field trips, and sharing many great outings and birds with WSO members and friends. Besides the thrill of finding many great birds, these events serve as an opportunity to renew friendships and share camaraderie with others in the birding community.

I joined WSO only a year or two after Tom and Jeff took over leading the field trips. And since the field trips were one of the major reasons I joined the Society, they became, for me at least, the face of the WSO; I seldom missed a trip in those early days, trying to learn from these two experts not only what to look for when birding but also where to look.

I was always amazed at how gracious and helpful they were and how they managed to keep the group together from spot to spot on the longer trips. I especially enjoyed the field trips where their local expertise played a special role. For Jeff, that was the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest where I depended on him to help make sure I not only got to hear a Hooded Warbler each June but also see one. For Tom, it was the White River



Photo by Nancy Nabak
Jeff Baughman (left) and Tom Schultz received special recognition at the 2017 WSO convention for their more than 30 years of service and leadership as Field Trip Committee co-chairs.

Marsh, still perhaps my favorite field trip.

Tom is all the more amazing because he regularly leads two trips with every outing – one for the folks actually present, and then again, for the folks who follow his reports on our web site and in *The Badger Birder*. His articles are a pleasure to edit: cleanly written, full of wonderful detail and illustrated with first-class photography.

It's easy to tell then why I was much honored to have followed in their footsteps as a president of WSO. Jeff led WSO from 2004 to 2006 and Tom from 2010 to 2012. And I look forward to following their lead on the birding trail as well.

KATE'S QUOTES

Naturalist Kate Redmond offers us a quote or two on nature, conservation and life around us:



"First, picture the forest. I want you to be its conscience, the eyes in the trees.

The trees are columns of slick, brindled bark like muscular animals overgrown beyond all reason. Every space is filled with life: delicate poisonous frogs war-painted like skeletons, clutched in copulation, secreting their poisonous eggs onto dripping leaves. Vines strangling their own kin in the everlasting struggle for sunlight.

The breathing of monkeys. A glide of snake belly on branch. A single file army of ants biting a mammoth tree into uniform grains and hauling it down to the dark for their ravenous queen.

And, in reply, a choir of seedlings arching their necks out of rotted tree stumps, sucking life out of death.

This forest eats itself and lives forever."

-- BARBARA KINGSOLVER in "The Poisonwood Bible"

2017 Great Wisconsin Birdathon sets record, raising \$90,000+ for bird protection

By **DIANE PACKETT**

Great Wisconsin Birdathon Coordinator

For the second year in a row, the Great Wisconsin Birdathon has smashed its fundraising goal. Forty-nine teams of birders, 796 donors from 35 states and 29 birding field trips together raised more than \$90,000 for the priority projects of the Bird Protection Fund.

Working with the statement “We believe that birds are valuable and need our help,” the Great Wisconsin Birdathon has now raised more than \$300,000 for bird protection in Wisconsin since 2012, all under the leadership of the Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) of Wisconsin.

Birders statewide found creative new ways to Birdathon. The eight sub-teams of River Raptors kayaked Wisconsin’s rivers from the Manitowish to the Lower Sugar and from the Kinnickinnic to the West Twin. The Goss Hawks of the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club “Walked the Wauk” along the Ice Age Trail in Waukesha County, the Noel J. Cutright Bird Club staged a “Walk in the Parks” of Ozaukee County, and the Presidential rEgrets and Peddling Pewees biked the roads and trails of Dane County.

Approximately 240 species were found this year, including Kirtland’s Warbler and Whooping Crane, and rarities including Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers, Greater Prairie Chicken, and all four state-endangered species of terns. The Up North Hammerheads found a Brewster’s Warbler, and the MuirLand Merlins spotted a Lark Bunting in Leola Marsh. Several teams saw Trumpeter Swans, whose population has recently recovered after being absent from Wisconsin. Many teams entered their sighting into eBird and also the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, contributing even more to conservation through citizen science.

Our six Signature Teams led the way in birding and fundraising, bringing in \$28,000 for the Bird Protection Fund. Organizations, schools and Bird Cities fielded two dozen teams to raise more than \$20,000, half of which will be returned to them for their own projects. This year 11 “independent” teams joined the Birdathon, raising nearly \$21,000 for the Bird Protection Fund. We’re pleased that many of these team members don’t consider themselves to be “serious birders” but wanted to contribute to the cause and enjoy a birding day, proving anew just what a difference even an average birder can make for conservation.

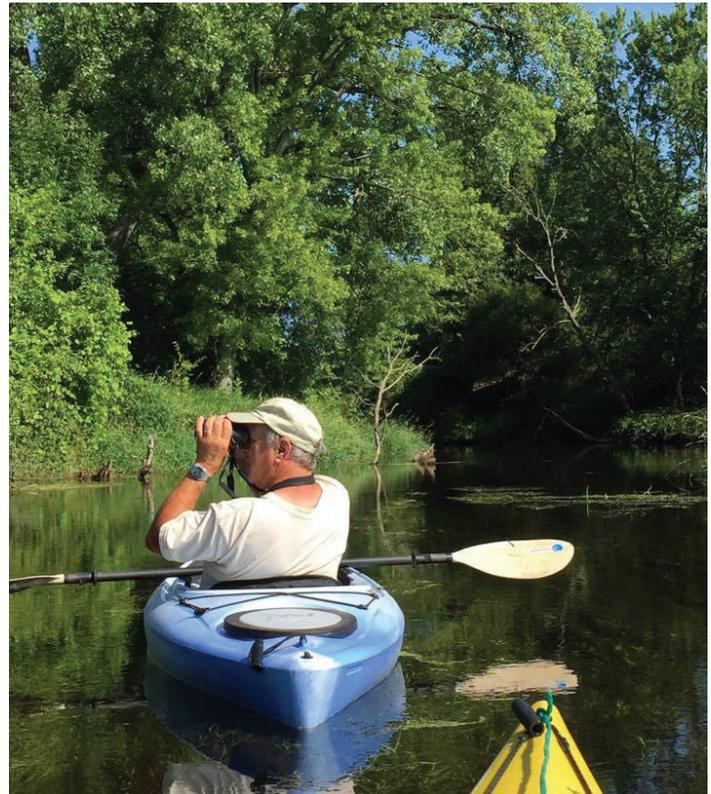
The NRF is excited to see so many new teams and organizations getting involved in the Birdathon, and is looking forward to next year, when it will debut a new website. We thank our partners in the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, including the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Bird City Wisconsin and the Madison Audubon Society, along with our sponsors We Energies Foundation, Eagle Optics, and Colby Construction.

Top 5 Fundraising Teams:

Cutright’s Old Coots	\$10,425
Indigo Girls & Guys	\$9,685
Lake Superior eBirders	\$6,407
Lower Wisconsin Scan da Avians	\$5,350
River Raptors	\$3,781

Top 5 Birding Teams

Secretary Birds	190 species
Lake Superior eBirders	171 species
MuirLand Merlins	170 species
Obi Gray & the Chewbacalacas	170 species
River Raptors	165 species



Successful birdathon teams employed diverse strategies. The Fox River Falcons (one of eight River Raptors subteams recruited by Sumner Matesson to bird rivers across the state) took to their kayaks, while Tom and Wendy Schultz led the Biking for Birds effort.

Hopeful signs reported for Whooping Cranes breeding in state

A history-making breeding season for Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Migratory Population that summers in Wisconsin has concluded, yielding for a while at least 18 fuzzy, cinnamon-colored chicks that are the latest and most hopeful signs yet for efforts to build a self-sustaining flock of Whoopers in eastern North America.

One of the chicks is a second-generation wild bird; the offspring of the first wild cranes hatched in Wisconsin after the start of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) restoration project in 2001. The project aims to establish a second migratory flock in North America to be a backstop to the other migratory population of Whooping Cranes that nest in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park and winters at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast.

"We're encouraged by the recent successes in the core project area and hope they are trends that continue in the future," said Leann Wilkins, acting refuge manager at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. The second-generation crane was hatched by the very first wild hatched chick in the flock. "These second-generation chicks are absolutely critical to helping build a self-sustaining population," Wilkins said.

Davin Lopez, a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conservation biologist, says another crane chick hatched this spring is significant for its parentage: its mother is the first to successfully nest from among those birds raised in captivity by adult cranes, not humans in crane costumes, before being released to the wild.

"The idea is that having cranes, not costumed caretakers, rear the chicks would produce cranes that would later be better, more vigilant parents themselves," Lopez says. "And now we have a chance to test the idea to see if parent-reared cranes are indeed better parents."

Reducing chick mortality is seen as a key to establishing a self-sustaining flock because wild Whooping Cranes have so few chicks to begin with, Lopez says. The cranes typically lay two eggs, and it is very common for only one to hatch and for one to none to survive to fledging.

Whooping crane chicks require 80 days to fledge (when they are able to fly and to escape predators themselves).



Photo by Beverly Paulan

The second-generation chick shown here is one reason the 2017 breeding season is one for the history books.

As of July 1, the maximum population size of the eastern flock was 97, not including 2017 wild-hatched chicks. The population is not yet considered to be self-sustaining. At least 84 Whooping Cranes have been confirmed in Wisconsin, 1 in Minnesota, 2 in North Dakota, 1 in Michigan and 1 in Kentucky.

This year, there were 37 confirmed nests by 26 pairs in Juneau, Adams, Marathon, St. Croix and Green Lake counties. Eighteen chicks hatched from four first nests and ten re-nests. However, only 6 wild-hatched chicks were still alive on July 1.

Seven additional birds are being raised in an enclosure at White River Marsh in Green Lake County for eventual release.

A record number of Whooping Cranes were found in Wood Buffalo National Park during the recent 2017 nesting survey run by Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada. This season's survey found a record 98 nests, an increase of 16 over the previous record of 82 in 2014. Another aerial survey will be run in August to determine the number of fledged colts, as the young cranes are called.

WCEP asks anyone who encounters a Whooping Crane in the wild to give them the respect and distance they need. Do not approach birds on foot within 200 yards; remain in your vehicle; do not approach in a vehicle any closer than 100 yards. Also, please remain concealed and do not speak loudly enough that the birds can hear you.

Report Whooping Crane sightings at <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane/sightings/sightingform.cfm>

Make your voice heard for cranes, wetlands and clean water!

By **RICH BEILFUSS**
International Crane Foundation President

Since January, we have faced a dizzying array of proposed policy changes and budget cuts at the national level. These include potential cutbacks to the Endangered Species Act, Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water Rule, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and reduced commitments to climate change agreements and our National Wildlife Refuge system.

Our members ask, what should I do? How can I help safeguard cranes, wetlands, and freshwater?

We are urging everyone to get involved in these issues and share your views. Here in Wisconsin, there is an important opportunity to make your voice heard. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress recently reignited

a state-wide debate by including a vote on a Sandhill Crane hunting season in their annual spring hearing. As expected, the congress (which nearly always votes strongly in favor of hunting proposals) approved the Sandhill hunting season – but this time, it was only by a very narrow margin. The close vote revealed what our members already know, that cranes are not just another game species – they evoke a strong emotional and spiritual connection for many people.

The vote was advisory only, but could be a first step in the process of potentially establishing a hunt in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin State Legislature will now decide whether it will pursue a Sandhill Crane hunting season and, if so, mandate the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to develop a hunt.

Please help us urge the legislature to abandon this pursuit. Here are two of the important reasons why:

Hunting is not a solution for Sandhill Crane crop damage – but we are actively involved in solving this problem. We are very concerned about the impact of increasing numbers of Sandhill Cranes on Wisconsin farmers and corn crops (the cranes may feed on the germinating corn seed after planting).

To solve this problem, we played a key role in developing an effective non-toxic chemical deterrent (Avipel) that offers a better alternative for reducing crop damage than hunting cranes. The total acreage treated by farmers has steadily grown each year since we first received permission to

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Breeding Peregrines return to Door County's cliffs

WISCONSIN DNR BUREAU OF NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

More good news for Wisconsin's Peregrine Falcons, a state endangered bird known for its beauty and diving speeds of over 200 m.p.h. On the brink of extinction in the 1970s, these raptors continue to grow in numbers and expand into new places.

Two young female Peregrines recently were banded in Door County, representing the product of the first known successful Peregrine Falcon nest in the Door Peninsula since the 1950s.

The DNR has prepared an online slide show that takes viewers to the eyrie -- a scrape dug in gravel on a cliff ledge -- where the birds were banded for future tracking and shares their story. See http://dnr.wi.gov/news/images/slide-shows/20170613_peregrine_falcons/index.html

Between 1940 and 1960, Peregrines were found in Door County, along the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River, the lower Wisconsin River and the St. Croix River.

At least 24 Peregrine eyries (nests) were active in Wisconsin until the mid-1950s. After World War II, however, the population began declining and the pesticide DDT was found to be the major reason. DDT interfered with egg shell production and hatching success. Peregrine Falcons were listed as a federally endangered species in 1970 and added to the state's endangered species list in 1975.

As DDT levels in the environment declined after the 1972 national ban on the pesticide, Wisconsin released more than 100 captive-produced Peregrines in Milwaukee, Racine, Pleasant Prairie, Madison and La Crosse between 1987 and 1992

Peregrine manager/researcher Greg Septon of Muskego led recovery efforts in eastern Wisconsin, raising funds for and coordinating releases as well as putting up nest boxes on suitable power plants, grain elevators and tall buildings along the western Lake Michigan shoreline.

DNR's endangered resources staff coordinated releases in Madison and La Crosse. More recently, the Raptor Resource Project has led monitoring and nest box efforts in western Wisconsin. DNR staff have consulted on the projects and provided some funding for monitoring.

Natural reproduction started occurring in the early 1990s and Wisconsin now has more than 35 pairs of breeding adults, including the pair nesting on this cliff.

Melody Walsh, a volunteer for the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA II) spied a single immature Peregrine in Door



Photo by Dale Bird

Raptor Biologist Eddie Feltes, formerly with the Peregrine Fund, rappelled down to the young birds, placed them in an animal crate, and then helped guide the crate to the top of the cliff where on June 7 Greg Septon, founder of the Wisconsin Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project, banded his career 1,017th and 1,018th Peregrines.



Photo by Melody Walsh

These young Peregrine Falcons that hatched this spring in Door County are part of Wisconsin's growing success in restoring these speedy birds to our skies. Melody Walsh and Randy Holm, who spotted the history-making nest, chose names for the young falcons from the Potawatomi language. The bird on the right is *k'wem* (sister), and on the left is *mlse'* (older sister). The birds' parents also have Potawatomi names: *Os* is father and *Ne'ni* the mother.

County in 2015 and the following year observed a pair of Peregrines at the same site, but the female proved too young to breed.

On April 18, 2017, Walsh and partner Randy Holm spotted a pair of Peregrines

nesting.

The couple and other volunteers gathered June 7 to repel down the cliff (whose location has been kept undisclosed) so that Septon could band the young falcons.

A summer of spectacular sightings -- and one-day-wonders

By **MARK KORDUCKI**

Summer can be a slow time for rare bird reports as many people put their binoculars away after spring migration. This is a mistake as the summer months can be a fantastic time for unusual sightings and of course is prime time to get out and atlas.

This summer had a few spectacular sightings but unfortunately these birds did not cooperate and hang around long enough to be chased. The bird of the year so far was found in Ozaukee County. A **BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD**, normally only found in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, spent a few hours visiting a hummingbird feeder. The homeowner took excellent photos and got the word out immediately after discovering this gem but unfortunately the bird made just a few visits that morning and disappeared by early afternoon. There are only a few records for this species outside of Texas so this was truly an amazing and unexpected find.

At the opposite end of the state, another vagrant from the southern U.S. was found. In the company of a **WESTERN KINGBIRD**, which is in itself a good bird for Wisconsin, was a kingbird that was either a **TROPICAL** or **COUCH'S**. The bird did not vocalize to confirm its identity. These birds hung out together for an evening in Bayfield County but were gone by the following morning. This is the third state record for this complex, one of which was positively identified as a **TROPICAL**. Earlier in the month, a pair of **WESTERN KINGBIRDS** also turned up in Bayfield but did not linger -- maddeningly typical for this species.

A **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** was found in Burnett County. This species has recently expanded its range and annual sightings have become the norm. The **CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW** returned for another summer at its haunts along the Jefferson/Walworth border. A **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** was seen at a feeder in Door County but was also a one day wonder.



Photo by Jeff Rusinow

This Buff-bellied Hummingbird proved to be a one-day wonder on June 17 at a home along Lake Michigan in Grafton. "Much larger than Ruby-throated, that red bill is very vibrant. rufous tail, buff belly, all green head."

It was a great spring for **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS** and this continued into June with multiple sightings across the state. Nesting was confirmed in Rock County. The **KING RAIL** pair in the Horicon Marsh also nested successfully and was seen with five chicks. Nesting also was confirmed at a few locations for **KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS** and **PIPING PLOVERS**. It's encouraging to see the recent nesting success of these two species.

A **CALIFORNIA GULL** was a good find in Sheboygan. **LAUGHING GULLS** were seen regularly in Manitowoc and Ozaukee Counties.

The fall shorebird migration is now underway, and there is a lot of good habitat due to recent heavier than normal rainfalls. Mid- to late summer also is a great time to check hummingbird feeders carefully for vagrants.

In addition to compiling this monthly report, **MARK KORDUCKI** coordinates Wisconsin's 92 Breeding Bird Survey routes.

An advertisement for Iron County, Wisconsin, featuring a background of white flowers. The text reads: "Iron County Wisconsin Perfect Birding habitat with a wealth of natural resources: 377,900 acres of woodlands, 214 lakes, streams, rivers, & bogs. Request our 'Active Lifestyle' Brochure: with Birding Hotspots & an Iron County Bird List! www.ironcountywi.com 715-561-2922".



Can better signage keep dogs on the leash?

Dogs allowed to run at large despite posted restrictions – even “nice” dogs -- are the bane of many birders' existence at nature preserves all over the state. At best they are a disruptive annoyance, but at worst they harass native species, interfere with breeding and even kill ground-nesting birds. The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust has installed these signs at its Forest Beach Migratory Preserve along Lake Michigan in Ozaukee County in the hope that more prominent and more graphic messages will improve compliance with its land use regulations.

Kingfishers, flycatchers put on fascinating behavioral show for atlaser



Part of the fun of atlasing is taking the time to watch the behavior of breeding birds. What are they using for materials? Who's doing the construction? How are they guarding their territory? Atlaser **RICK PERTILE** of Sawyer County has been documenting the activities of Great Crested Flycatchers and Belted Kingfishers in his Edgewater yard from nest building through fledging.

June 18:

The past few weeks I've had the pleasure of watching two species nest in my yard. I'm not certain which



Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

has been more entertaining, the flycatchers or the kingfishers.

The nest building of the flycatchers has been interesting for sure, especially observing all the different materials that the female has used during construction. It started with larger pieces of straw from an area of newly planted grass, followed by rootlets and dried oak leaves from last fall, then many trips of dried white pine needles. I also set out two large shed skins from garter snakes I had collected and bagged last summer, and it wasn't more than five minutes before she found them and hauled them in.

There must be a lot of snakes in the area

as I witnessed her bring in two more skins in over the next couple of days. The last bits of material she used seemed to be rabbit fur and golden retriever hair, both of which I had set out for nest building.

She is now incubating and the male spends a lot of time perched on top of the house patrolling their airspace. He seems to enjoy chasing off the Eastern Phoebes and Eastern Wood-pewees nesting out back as well.

The kingfishers started excavating earlier this spring and dug three different tunnels before finally deciding on which to use. They make their presence well known while digging, but during incubation (most if not all done by the female) they are quite quiet. I did see the male arrive once with a sunfish and perch down by the pond giving his continuous rattle. The female finally flew out and was fed, and then returned to the nest about an hour later to continue incubation. At one point I thought perhaps they lost the nest or something happened to one of the adults, as activity seemed to completely halt. Then the eggs hatched and that all changed. I was lucky enough to catch the female removing an eggshell one afternoon, and soon after that the male started delivering small minnows.

What amazed me the most about the Kingfishers was the increase in the size of

the fish delivered just a few days later.

July 2:

The kingfisher young should be fledged any day now. I could see at least one of the chicks today as it met the parents at the entrance of the tunnel to accept a fish. Then it would back up into the darkness of the tunnel and out of sight. They couldn't have nested in a more perfect spot, and I feel fortunate to have such a vantage point to view them.

The flycatcher nest hatched a few days ago, or at least that was the first day I saw the parent birds bringing in small, soft bodied insects and green caterpillars/worms. Since then the parents have exhibited even more aggressive behavior defending the nest site. They don't just chase off birds, I've seen them latch on to several woodpeckers and take them to the ground, with the woodpeckers squealing all the way down and also missing a few feathers after the fact. They also seem very agitated when chipmunks or squirrels come anywhere near the nest, including adjacent trees or on the ground, and aggressively chase them off as well. It's so cool to watch them defend their air space!

Here's a link to some of Rick's great photos of these two breeding species: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/149703662@N06/34551606734/in/dateposted-public/>

Speak out to support Sandhill Cranes

From Page 4

deploy the technique from the EPA in 2006. Because the cranes continue to feed on other food (such as insects) in Avipel-treated crops, this approach doesn't transfer the crane crop damage elsewhere as other deterrents might.

Accidental shooting of Whooping Cranes is a big risk. We have worked for 17 years to reintroduce the Whooping Crane to Wisconsin. The loss of any adult breeding birds in this young population would be devastating.

A Sandhill Crane hunting season would increase the risk of the accidental shooting of Whooping Cranes and require extensive effort to avoid these risks.

Since the establishment of the Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes in 2001, at least 10 Whooping Cranes have been shot, accounting for over 20% of the population's mortality.

Make your voice heard. With 44 years of conservation and research experience on behalf of cranes worldwide, the International Crane Foundation is a trusted source of information on Sandhill Cranes, and a strong advocate for the healthy landscapes they need.

You too CAN make a difference. We urge you to speak out for Sandhill Cranes, and against any threats to clean water, wetlands, and endangered species protections.

You can find contact information for your representatives at <http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

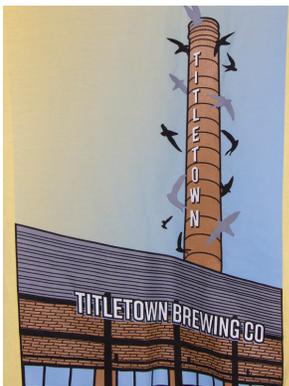
Titletown Brewing names an ale in honor of Chimney Swifts

By **NANCY NABAK**

Green Bay – What’s swifter than the wind? A Chimney Swift that flies non-stop during the day, eats and drinks on the wing, and finally rests in chimneys at dusk.

To help create more awareness around this unique and unfortunately declining bird species, Titletown Brewing will be creating a new beverage, “Swifts’ Night Ale,” which will be available at the end of July. The introduction will also help kick off the annual Swift Night Out campaign on Saturday, Aug. 5 in Green Bay, where volunteers will monitor chimneys, watching and counting swifts that enter.

Titletown is supporting the work of this group because they gather at Titletown regularly for “Birds and Beers” events and to discuss conservation issues, which the owner, Brent Weycker, also has an interest in. When approached about the beer



possibility, both Weycker and brew master Dave Oldenburg offered their support.

Oldenburg said his swift-themed libation is “a historic-style, Kentucky common ale, made partially with corn.” He said this combination is increasing in popularity and will lean toward an amber flavor.

A limited number of pint glasses and t-shirts also will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go toward bird conservation and education programs. Titletown also has created beers for the Snowy Owl and the endangered Piping Plover.

For more information about Swifts’ Night Ale, t-shirts or pint glasses, please contact Nancy Nabak at nnabak@sbcglobal.net. For more information about swifts and how you can help, please visit: <http://www.wisswifts.org/>

Spring Lake Michigan Waterbird Watch tallies

By **CHUCK HAGNER**

Port Washington -- No fewer than 175 bird species were spotted flying over the cold near-shore waters of Lake Michigan this spring.

The birds were tallied between March 1 and May 20 by an expert counter from the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory (WGLBBO), in Ozaukee County. The organization conducts a waterbird watch every spring and fall to determine how many birds migrate along the western shore of Lake Michigan and when they do so.

Working in a blind just south of the rocky point at Harrington Beach State Park, Observatory technician Calvin Brennan recorded a total of 176,136 individual birds, including 30,854 Bonaparte’s Gulls, 12,403 Common Terns, 11,705 Greater Scaup and 3,605 Long-tailed Ducks.

The accompanying chart lists the 10 most abundant species recorded during the watch. Most abundant was Red-breasted Merganser, a boldly marked diving duck with a long, thin bill. Brennan recorded it 41,274 times.

Red-breasted Mergansers typically start moving north along the Lake Michigan shore in mid-February, according to WGLBBO Director William Mueller. Their numbers build gradually into early March and peak in late April. The birds eat primarily fish, and nest across Canada.

The observatory <https://wglbbo.org/> is a research, education, and conservation

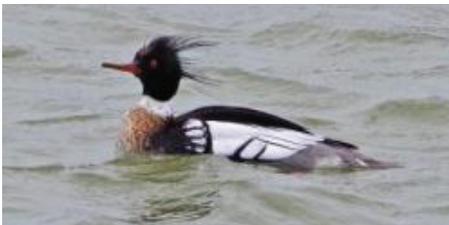


Photo by Kate Redmond
Red-breasted Merganser on Lake Michigan

advocacy organization, studying bird and bat populations in the Western Great Lakes Region, with the goal of supporting actions that sustain their long-term conservation.

Observatory experts are available to answer questions. To arrange an interview, contact Mueller at wpmueller1947@gmail.com or (262) 285-3374.

10 Most Abundant Waterbird Watch Species, Spring 2017

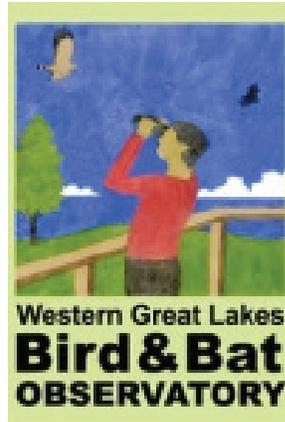
1. Red-breasted Merganser	41,274
2. Bonaparte’s Gull	30,854
3. Herring Gull	17,914
4. Ring-billed Gull	14,386
5. Common Tern	12,403
6. Greater Scaup	11,705
7. Double-crested Cormorant	11,183
8. Lesser Scaup	6,059
9. Caspian Tern	5,591
10. Long-tailed Duck	3,605

TOTAL (all species) 176,136

Presenters sought for November SE Wisconsin conservation summit

Port Washington - The Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory is calling for abstracts of presentations for the first-ever Southeastern Wisconsin Conservation Summit, to be held in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, November 3-4, 2017.

Designed to foster regional collaboration, the two-day summit will focus on past, current, and future research and monitoring, conservation advocacy, and ecological restoration in southeastern Wisconsin. Presentations on all taxa and conservation issues are welcome.



Oral presentations will last 15 minutes. Conference organizers will group presentations by theme into sessions that will include time for questions.

Posters will be displayed during a 120-minute poster session during which authors can discuss their work.

Abstracts of oral and poster presentations should be 300 words or less. Send abstracts to William Mueller, director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, at wmueller@wglbbo.org. Abstracts are due by August 1, 2017.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Conservation Summit will be held at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, in Port Washington.

The preserve is a property of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and the headquarters of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, the host of the summit.

The observatory is a research, education, and conservation advocacy organization focused on both birds and bats. |

The observatory studies bird and bat populations in the Western Great Lakes Region, with the goal of supporting actions that sustain their long-term conservation.

For more information, contact observatory director William Mueller

Email: wpmueller1947@gmail.com

Phone: (262) 285-3374

Web: <https://wglbbo.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wglbbo>

Next year's convention will be held in Green Lake in May

From Page 1

Green Bay on the 30 year Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey.

Highlights of the all-day field trips on Sunday and Monday were an Olive-sided Flycatcher, 16 warbler species and the beautiful songs of the Winter Wren and Veery.

Green Lake will be site of 2018 convention; May 18-21 likely

WSO members voted at the annual meeting to hold the 2018 convention in Green Lake. A specific date and location are being negotiated, although the betting is on May 18-21 at the Green Lake Hotel Conference Center.

New vice president, treasurer

Members found two new names on the ballot at the Society's 78th Annual Meeting on June 17. The Nominating Committee brought forward **MYLES HURLBURT**, from Rib Mountain in Marathon County, for the position of vice president, filling a vacancy left by Andy Cassini's decision not to seek a second term. **DANI BAUMANN**, from Saukville in Ozaukee County, who the Board of Directors approved in January to replace Michelene (Mickey) O'Connor as treasurer, was nominated to succeed her.

The committee also nominated for re-election as WSO officers for 2017-'18 **MICHAEL JOHN JAEGER**, president since 2016, and **JENNY WENZEL**, secretary since 2013.

All four officers were elected by acclamation.

The annual meeting also endorsed proposed increases and restructuring of the Society's annual dues structure. (*See related story on Page 15.*)

O'Connor stepped down after serving four years as treasurer in order to devote more time to her duties as an avian zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo and her expanding efforts as one of the state's two licensed hummingbird banders. Cassini will continue on the WSO Board as chair of its Conservation Committee.

Jaeger, who was elected president in 2016 after serving two years as vice president, retired in 2014 from the staff of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. He also has chaired WSO's Scholarship and Grants Committee.

In his first term as president, Jaeger led a successful half-million-dollar drive to expand WSO's Honey Creek Preserve and has worked to increase WSO's public profile as a force for bird conservation, traveling widely to forge contacts with other conser-



Becca Sher captured this image of the wandering Chukar partridge that was the unofficial mascot of the convention.

vation groups, local bird clubs and Audubon chapters in the state.

Hurlburt grew up in Durand and has lived his entire life in Wisconsin. A participant in many WSO field trips and leader of the annual April trip to the Mead Wildlife Area, Hurlburt is a member of the Wausau Bird Club, where he has donated his talent as a woodworker on several local projects, including a Chimney Swift tower, Purple Martin house repair and blue bird boxes for a new trail on the east side of Wausau.

Hurlburt works for Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point and has a B.S. in Business Administration from Cardinal Stritch University and an associate degree in computer science from Chippewa Valley Technical College. At Sentry, he is part of the information technology organization.

Passenger Pigeon Awards

These awards were presented at the convention:

The Golden Passenger Pigeon to Dr. ROBERT W. HOWE, who led the longest running volunteer bird monitoring program in our national forests. Initiated in 1939, the award recognizes published research, major book efforts or other such work in ornithology, conveys life WSO membership and is limited to 15 living members at any time.

The Silver Passenger Pigeon Award, for distinguished service to WSO, to web administrator **PAUL JAKOUBEK**, of Madison, who spearheaded the modernization and expansion of WSO's web site and has overseen the transition to online registration for its convention as well as statewide meetings like those for the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative and the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas.

The Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award, presented to individuals who have made

outstanding contributions in their local communities or in the state to promote the field of ornithology, to **NICHOLAS ANICH**, DNR conservation biologist and lead coordinator of the atlas. Anich was nominated as much for his role in making Wisconsin eBird a widely adopted tool for the state's birders as for his work on WBBA II, although the two are intertwined. Anich also was lauded for his scientific acumen and leadership with Kirtland's Warblers.

The Noel J. Cutright Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to bird conservation in Wisconsin, jointly to **TOM HAUGE** and **KAREN ETTER HALE**, both of whom played a pivotal role in establishing the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative in 2002. WBCI is considered a national model for constituent engagement and has a shared vision of "keeping common birds common" and restoring imperiled bird populations.

Hauge resigned last October after serving as director of the Wisconsin DNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management for 24 years.

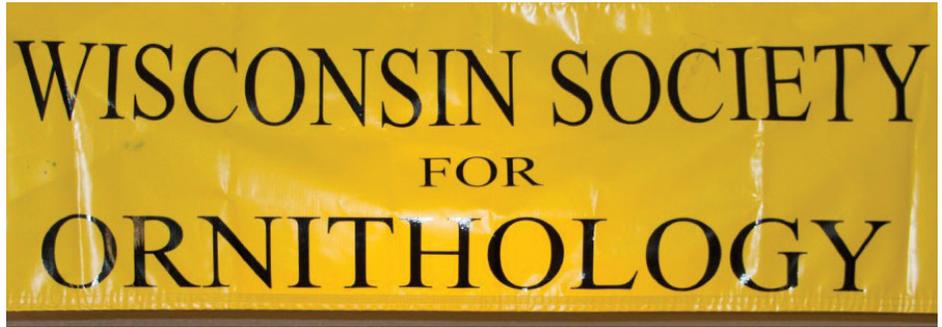
Etter Hale, winner of the Bronze Passenger Pigeon in 2004, has chaired WBCI since its inception. She currently serves as director of community relations for the Wisconsin Audubon Council and for many years was executive secretary of Madison Audubon and an active conservation lobbyist. She has been a member of the Bird City Wisconsin Steering Committee since the program was launched in 2009 and serves on the steering committee for the Great Wisconsin Birdathon and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Bird Protection Fund.

Silent Auction raises \$1,500

Silent auction chair **JANET SPETH** extended a special thank you to all of the WSO members and supporters who donated to the Silent Auction at this year's convention – both those who donated items and those who purchased them. Together, they raised more than \$1,500 that will be divided between WSO's Honey Creek fund and the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II.

Janet also is looking for a successor, saying: "I am hoping to see folks bidding on Silent Auction items next year at Green Lake, but next year I, too, will be among the bidders lurking to pounce at the last possible minute. This is my last year as Silent Auction chair and if there is anyone out there interested,

" have all of the auction form templates developed by Barbara Dembski Schwartz, and quite a few auction items already collected to get you off to a good start. If you are interested, please email me at janet.speth@gmail.com



Scenes from the convention (clockwise): Pat Brust's selfie reveals the desired headgear for a mosquito-drenched field trip; the official sign; hiking in the Barrens; a rainbow signals the end of a storm; Andy Cassini discusses citizen science. Photos by Nancy Nabak, Michael John Jaeger, Dar Tiede, Pat Brust.



More 2017 WSO convention scenes (clockwise): Atlasing in Wabeno; an informal Birds 'n Beers at the casino; enjoying the welcoming picnic; perusing the popular Silent Auction; President Jaeger at the well-organized registration table.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Eastern Meadowlark: *Sturnella magna*

By **DIANA HIERLMEIER**

No bird is more representative of farmland and open country throughout eastern North America than the Eastern Meadowlark. This species can be identified as a stocky medium-sized bird with a long bill, short tail, strong legs and pointed tail feathers. Its bill is gray, legs are dull pink and it has dark eyes.

These birds are pale brown marked with black, have bright yellow underparts and a bold, black V across the chest. Its tail is brown with blackish barring and the outer tail feathers are white and conspicuous during flight. Length ranges from 7.5 to 10.2 inches, wingspan from 13.5 to 15.7 inches and weight from 3.2 to 5.3 ounces.



Diana Hierlmeier

Its flight is a distinctive sequence of rapid fluttering and short glides, usually close to the ground.

The Eastern Meadowlark is not in the lark family, but rather a member of the blackbird family, which also includes cowbirds and orioles. Although Eastern and Western Meadowlarks are nearly identical, the two species hybridize rarely. Mixed pairs usually occur at the edge of their ranges where few mates are available.

This species is found most commonly in native grasslands and prairies, but also occurs in pastures, hayfields, agricultural fields, airports and other grassy areas.

Because larger swaths of grassland are hard to find in many parts of eastern North America, Eastern Meadowlarks will breed in many kinds of grassy areas as long as they can find 20 acres to establish a territory.

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Surveys have shown a significant decline since the 1960s, do doubt due to the intensification of agricultural practices and lack of large scale native prairies.

It is a permanent resident throughout most of its range, although most northern birds migrate southward in winter.

When suitable habitat is found, nesting begins. The female is the sole constructor of the nest, which can take four to eight days to complete. Typically it is a cup nest woven on the ground with dead grass, plant stems and strips of bark.

Some nests are quite elaborate with overhead roofs and tunnel entrances made



of grasses. Average clutch size is two to seven eggs with incubation lasting 13 to 16 days. Nestling period lasts 10 to 12 days and the young leave the nest after 11 to 12 days when still unable to fly; they are tended to by their parents for at least another two weeks. The Eastern Meadowlark can have one to two broods per year.

This species feeds predominately on insects -- including crickets, grasshoppers, caterpillars and grubs. During winter they also eat weed seeds, spilled corn and wild fruits. They get their food by walking on the ground and probing with their bill. They push their closed bill into the ground and open their mandibles to disturb the soil and expose grubs and worms.

The male Eastern Meadowlark sings beautiful, flute-like songs from exposed perches, particularly fence posts. He often sings late in the day and the song can be described as pure melancholy whistles.

Songs from one male analyzed using a spectrogram showed the bird sang more than 100 different patterns of its song. The call of the Eastern Meadowlark can be described as a buzzy *dzert*. Both sexes utter a chatter vocalization that is higher pitched than the rattle of the Western Meadowlark. The flight note for this species is a sweet whistled "weeet." Its typical song can be described as three to five or more, loud, sliding, descending whistles lasting approximately 1.5 seconds.

The Eastern Meadowlark is a target of nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird. Other causes of mortality include eating poisoned grain set out for rodent or insect control. Adults are taken by various hawk species.

Eggs and nestlings are often abandoned due to human activity (irrigation, mow-

ing) trampled by livestock and preyed on by foxes, domestic cats and dogs, coyotes, snakes, skunks, raccoons and other small mammals.

Numbers of this species were thought to have increased during the 1700s and 1800s due to the clearing of forests in eastern North America. Eastern Meadowlark numbers are now decreasing due to the decline of suitable, quality habitat. In Wisconsin, this species has a conservation status as a "Species of Special Concern."

SOME FUN FACTS:

-- The Eastern Meadowlark was first described by Linnaeus in his 1758 *Systema natura*.

---Taxonomists recognize up to 17 subspecies, including one isolated population in the Southwest known as Lillian's Meadowlark.

--- A group of meadowlarks is collectively known as a "pod."

--- The oldest known wild Eastern Meadowlark was at least eight years and eight months old after being banded in Pennsylvania in 1926 and shot in North Carolina in 1935.

--- The Eastern Meadowlark has been known to visit backyard feeders and feed on cracked corn and hulled sunflower seeds.

TO DIG MORE DEEPLY:

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National Audubon Society, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* (illustrated by David Sibley), Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N.Y., 2001.

Terres, John K. *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N.Y., 1980.

Welty, Joseph Carl, *The Life of Birds*, Saunders College Publishing, New York, N.Y., 1982.

Diana Hierlmeier, her husband, two dogs and an indoor cat enjoy an acre of farmland in Random Lake that is a certified Wildlife Habitat and an Advanced Bird Habitat



Costa Rica



A Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Tropical Birding Tour February 25 – March 10, 2018

Costa Rica! The land of lush, tropical forests, colorful and exotic birds, howler monkeys, and Central American charm. This is your opportunity to visit one of tropical America's most popular birding destinations. Our 14-day tour will take us to a diverse cross-section of habitats and landscapes, from the densely forested coastal lowlands to the treeless mountain páramo at 10,000 feet. The rich variety of birds we encounter will be as exotic as their names – and the locations we visit may enable us to find 450 or more species. We will also have plenty of time to appreciate the variety of plant, animal, and insect life we observe during our tour – the diversity is truly stunning!

Feb 25: Departure from cold Wisconsin and arrival to warm Costa Rica

Following our arrival at the airport in San Jose in the afternoon, we will load up our coaster bus and drive about 1 1/2 hours southwest to Hotel Villa Lapas – just down the highway from Carara National Park.

Feb 26: Full day of birding in and around Carara National Park

You'll be truly impressed with the variety of birds as we wake up and wander around the grounds. The dawn calls of toucans, parakeets, motmots, antbirds, euphonias and many others will encourage us to get out for our early morning walk. Following breakfast at our hotel, we will depart for a day of birding at Carara National Park. Carara has an amazing diversity of birds and a nice trail system on which to explore the park. Several species of antbirds can be found here, including Black-hooded Antshrike, Dot-winged Antwren, Chestnut-backed Antbird, and the Black-faced Antthrush. Other possibilities include White-whiskered Puffbird, Baird's Trogon, Streak-chested Antpitta, Long-billed Gnatwren, as well as a variety of woodcreepers, wrens, flycatchers, tanagers and others. Special treats here may include Orange-collared Manakins on their display lek while at the bathing pools in the afternoon we hope to see Red-capped and Blue-crowned Manakin come to splash about. 2nd night at Villa Lapas.

Feb 27: Morning birding the Guanacaste & mangroves, then an afternoon boat ride on the Rio Tarcoles

After breakfast we will depart to bird along the Guacalillo road for a chance to view not only some of the Guanacaste dry country species but also the mangrove specialties of this region. In the dry country, expectations include Double-striped Thick-Knee, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Nutting's Flycatcher, Long-tailed Manakin, White-throated Magpie-Jay, White-lored Gnatcatcher, and Stripe-headed Sparrow while in the mangroves are main target species is the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird. In the afternoon we will board a tour boat for a ride on the Rio Tarcoles. A variety of waterbirds will be viewed from our boat including Boat-billed Heron, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Common "Mangrove" Black-Hawk, along with various terns, shorebirds, etc. Along the mangrove lined canal watch for mangrove specialties such as Panama Flycatcher, Mangrove Vireo, and the amazing "Mangrove" Yellow Warbler. Another highlight is the Central American Crocodiles which are usually conspicuous along the river bank. One of these evenings we will go owling where we hope to find Striped Owl. 3rd night at Villa Lapas.

Feb 28: Transfer via San Isidro and Toluco Lodge to Savegre Mt Lodge

We will begin with some early morning birding on the trail at the hotel before heading south down the coast. We will have spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean along the way. Once we get to Dominical we will head inland to San Isidro. Here we will do some birding for the specialties of this Pacific SW foothill zone. Possibilities here include Smooth-billed Ani, the electric Turquoise Cotinga, and Pale-breasted Spinetail. Our next stop will be at a higher altitude where we will drop in at Toluco Lodge to watch there hummingbird and fruit feeders. Here we hope to see Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, the localized White-tailed Emerald, Red-headed Barbet, Speckled and Cherrie's Tanagers, and White-naped Brushfinch to name a few. The mistletoe berries here are good for Elegant Euphonia and Golden-browed Chlorophonia as well. We will continue our ascent of Cerro de la Muerte, eventually reaching the highest point of the Pan American Highway in Central America at 10,400 ft. Further up on a side road we will look for the range-restricted Timberline Wren and Volcano Junco here at an altitude of 11,400 ft. Late afternoon will have us descending the scenic Savegre Valley and time permitting we will begin birding this area adding many new species to our list. Remember to always keep an eye out for Resplendent Quetzal which is fairly common here. 2 nights at Savegre Mountain Lodge.

Mar 1: Full Day of Birding at Savegre Mountain Lodge

The Savegre Valley is the best location to see what is considered to be the most beautiful bird in the New World, the Resplendent Quetzal. It is also the best location to see the many specialties of these highlands. Our day will be spent birding the gardens, hummingbird feeders, river, orchards and oak dominated forests of this beautiful valley. While always on the lookout for Resplendent Quetzal we hope to see Spotted Wood-Quail, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, White-throated Mountain-gem, the tiny Scintillant Hummingbird, the rare Ochraceous Pewee, both Ruddy-capped and Black-billed Nightingale-Thrushes, the gorgeous Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, both Flame-colored and Spangle-cheeked Tanagers, and both Yellow-thighed and Large-footed Finches to name a few. On the forest trails we will be especially alert for mixed flocks which may include Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Ruddy Treerunner, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ochraceous Wren, Yellow-winged Vireo, Collared Redstart, and both Flame-throated and Black-cheeked Warblers among many others. An excursion after nightfall could yield Dusky Nightjar. 2nd night at Savegre Mt Lodge.

Mar 2: Paraiso Quetzal and then drive to Caribbean lowlands and La Quinta Country Inn

After an early morning outing and breakfast we will bird our way out of the Savegre Valley before stopping in at a hummingbird site known as Paraiso Quetzal. This is the best site to actually see the fiery throat of the Fiery-throated Hummingbird as the angle has to be just right. Other notables possible here include Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher and Golden-browed Chlorophonia. After a delicious lunch, which might very well include trout, we will get back on the bus for the transfer, seemingly all downhill, to the warm Caribbean lowlands of the Sarapiquí region. Time permitting we will make birding stops along the way before arriving to our comfortable lodge. Fruit feeders at the lodge support a host of gaudy tanagers and honeycreepers while at night one can often hear the resident Spectacled Owl in the gardens. 1st night at La Quinta Country Inn.

Mar 3: Full Day at La Selva Research Station

This morning we will be visiting the world-renowned research station at La Selva – the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). We will bird along the trails among the huge trees, lush vegetation and ascending vines that comprise this tropical rainforest. Some of the birds we hope to encounter here are 3 "Greats" in Great Tinamou, Great Curassow and Great Green Macaw. Other notables include Crested Guan, Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans, Chestnut-colored and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, Fasciated Antshrike, Snowy Cotinga, Long-tailed Tyrant, and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. Tropical creatures of interest we may find in this area include poison-dart frogs, White-fronted Capuchin, Central American Spider Monkey, Mantled Howler, both Two-toed and Three-toed Sloths, Collared Peccary and Central American Agouti. The afternoon will find us back at La Selva adding more birds to our growing list. We will stay till just after dusk giving us a chance to see Vermiculated Screech-Owl and Short-tailed Nighthawk. 2nd night at La Quinta Country Inn.

Mar 4: Full Day in Guapiles area, as well as visits to the Old Butterfly Garden and Cope's Feeders

Our first stop will be along a rushing river where we can usually find Fasciated Tiger-Heron fishing from the rocks. Sunbittern is more difficult but can sometimes be found along the edges. Further along we will stop at an old butterfly garden with planted Verbain. This attracts hummingbirds of this life zone including Black-crested Coquette and the adorable Snowcap. After lunch we will visit Cope's place to see what is coming to his hummingbird and fruit feeders. Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, both Long-billed and Stripe-throated Hermits, and Crowned

Woodnymphs are regular while the unusual White-tipped Sicklebill could always make an appearance. Russet-naped Wood-Rails stroll by the pond while honeycreepers and oropendolas come to the bananas and papaya he sets out. We will go with Cope to nearby sites in search of roosting owls with Spectacled Owl being regular while Crested Owl can be off and on. In 2017, Cope was feeding a Thicket Antpitta and everyone who visited had phenomenal looks at this mega-skulker. Other highlights might include Great Potoo on a day roost, White-collared Manakin males dancing at their lek, and hopefully he knows where there is a group of Honduran White Bats nestled under their heliconia leaf made into a tent. It will be a wonderful day of fascinating sightings in the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica. 3rd night at La Quinta Country Inn.

Mar 5: Morning at La Virgen and La Paz Waterfall Gardens, transfer to Caño Negro Natural Lodge

After an early breakfast we'll head up the road to the foothills at La Virgen del Socorro. We will descend down into this beautiful tropical valley to sample its rich abundance of birdlife. Here we hope to encounter hummingbirds such as the Purple-crowned Fairy, Zeledon's "Immaculate" Antbird, woodcreepers, flycatchers such as Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, colorful tanagers, and tropical warblers. The rushing waters of the Sarapiquí River, at the bottom of the valley, give us another opportunity for Torrent Tyrannulet and American Dipper. As it warms up a variety of raptors begin to soar over the valley including Barred and White Hawks and the acrobatic Swallow-tailed Kites. Our next stop is just up the road at a site with hummingbird and banana feeders. Here we hope to have up close and personal encounters with attending Emerald Toucanet, both Prong-billed and Red-headed Barbets, Silver-throated and Passerini's Tanagers, and Common Chlorospingus not to mention many species of hummingbirds. We will arrive to the famed La Paz Waterfall Gardens in time for a delicious buffet lunch. Afterwards we will concentrate on the many hummingbird species attending the feeders which can include Green Hermit, Green Thorntail, the enormous Violet Sabrewing – for a hummingbird, the localized Magenta-throated Woodstar, Purple-throated Mountain-Gem, and Black-bellied Hummingbird. The waterfall trail is one of the most scenic in all of Costa Rica. Here, forest flocks may include Red-faced Spinetail, Spotted Barbtail, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, and the localized Sooty-faced Finch. In the afternoon we will transfer to the Caribbean lowlands of Caño Negro. Time permitting we will make birding stops along the way. 2 NTS Caño Negro Natural Lodge.

Mar 6: Morning and afternoon Boat Rides on Lake Caño Negro

This morning we will visit the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge which is a large native wetland habitat close to the border of Nicaragua. After an early morning session in search of specialties such as Gray-headed Dove, Olivaceous Piculet, and Spot-breasted Wren we will board our boat which will take us slowly along the edges of this wetland. Here we hope to find Jabiru, Black-collared Hawk, Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Sungrebe, many species of herons including Boat-billed, Mangrove Cuckoo, ALL 6 species of New World kingfisher; Ringed, Belted, Amazon, Green-and-rufous, Green and American Pygmy, the localized Nicaraguan Grackle and much more. After lunch and siesta we will return for another boat tour, this time in a different direction of the river. Forest birds are more prevalent here with chances for more kingfishers, more woodpeckers, more Spectacled Caimans and Green Basilisk Lizards, and even Royal Flycatcher. The Caño Negro area is excellent for nocturnal birds so after dinner we will conduct a night drive in search of such highly prized species as Pacific Screech-, Black-and-white, and Striped Owls, both Great and Common Potoos along with the ubiquitous Common Pauraque. 2nd NT at Caño Negro Natural Lodge.

Mar 7: Morning Boat Ride on Medio Queso, and then drive to Arenal Observatory Lodge

We will our way out of Caño Negro, concentrating on the rice fields for seedeaters such as the amazing and localized Nicaraguan Seed-Finch, Red-breasted Meadowlark, and various raptors. Soon after we will board our boat to explore the channel at Medio Queso. This is the best site in Costa Rica, maybe anywhere, for Pinnated Bittern and we hope to get excellent views of this tropical bittern. Other highlights may include Sungrebe, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Mangrove Cuckoo, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Canebrake Wren, and more Nicaraguan Grackles. Medio Queso has also been one of the best sites for Yellow-breasted Crane, a mega-skulker of the grassy edges of the channel. By late morning we will be transferring to La Fortuna where we will have lunch followed by a visit to a fairly new reserve just on the edge of town. Fruit feeders here attract Gray-headed Chachalaca, tanagers, honeycreepers, saltators and euphonias while the small man-made pond encourages White-throated Crakes to actually come out into the open. A walk on the trails may yield Olivaceous Piculet, Barred Antshrike, migrant warblers, both Two-toed and Three-toed Sloths, both Common and Green Basilisk Lizards, the iconic Red-eyed Leaf-Frog and the dainty Strawberry Poison-Dart Frog. We will loop around the ominous Arenal Volcano to arrive at our lovely lodge for a wonderful dinner and a refreshing night's sleep. 2 nights at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

Mar 8: A full day of birding in the area near Arenal Volcano

We will want to awake early to check out the birds on the grounds of the lodge which are plentiful and include Great Curassow, Crested Guan, up to 4 species of toucans, Green, Shining and Red-legged Honeycreepers, Crimson-collared and Emerald Tanagers, Montezuma and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas, and many more. Vervain flowers in the garden attract a multitude of colorful hummingbirds including Violet-headed Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin, and the dazzling Black-crested Coquette. Forest trails and side roads can produce a host of other species including Broad-billed, Rufous and Keel-billed Motmots, Spotted, Bicolored and Ocellated Antbirds, up to nine species of wrens, and even more colorful tanagers. Two rare species sometimes seen near the lodge include Lovely Cotinga and Bare-necked Umbrellabird. As night approaches we will try to find the resident Black-and-white Owl as well as the more reliable Common Pauraque. 2nd night at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

Mar 9: Morning at Arenal Hanging Bridges then travel to Hotel Robledal for final night

Another early morning outing in the gardens followed by breakfast and off we go for a walk in the Canopy. Arenal Hanging Bridges is a private reserve with suspension bridges over deep forested valleys. Here you can not only get eye-level with canopy species but also have great access to the skulkers as we make our way from bridge to bridge on terra firma. Finding a mixed species flock just at the right spot can be incredibly rewarding. Woodcreepers, Russet Antshrike, flycatchers, manakins, and tanagers foraging as group is an truly memorable experience. Other less social species here include raptors such as Ornate Hawk-Eagle and White Hawk, toucans, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Song Wren and many others. The hanging bridges alone are worth the visit but combined with the birding prospects it should be one of the highlights of your time in Costa Rica. After lunch in La Fortuna we will make the somewhat longish but very scenic transfer back to San Jose. 1 night at Hotel Robledal.

Mar 10: Short transfer to SJO Airport in time for our International departure flight.

Picked up in time for short transfer to the San Jose Airport in time for international departure.

* * * * *

Leaders: Your tour leader for this excursion will be **W.S.O. Field Trips co-chair Tom Schultz**, who is widely recognized for his skills of bird illustration – as in the National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, the Peterson Series guide to *Warblers*, and other books. He has birded extensively in the tropics, and led previous W.S.O. tours to Venezuela, Costa Rica and other destinations.

Our Costa Rican guide will be **Kevin Easley**, one of the most experienced and respected tour leaders in Costa Rica, and the owner of **Costa Rica Gateway** tour company. His considerable field experience and knowledge of the Costa Rican birdlife, fauna, and local customs – as well as his wonderful sense of humor – will help to make your tropical adventure truly memorable. His website is www.costaricagateway.com

If you have questions, or would like additional information about this tropical birding adventure, please contact Tom Schultz at 920-294-3021 or 920-960-1796 (cell) - or send an e-mail to trschultz@centurytel.net. This 2018 tour already has a number of participants tentatively interested, and the available spaces will likely fill rapidly - so if you are interested in participating, please contact Tom as soon as possible!

WSO implementing Web-based membership software

By **KIM KREITINGER**
WSO Membership Chair

WSO is in the process of upgrading to a web-based membership software system.

Why should we upgrade, you might ask?

The new system, known as Wild Apricot, allows us to integrate membership, development communications and event management in a single database. Currently, we have four different Excel spreadsheets for each of these items.

The new system also provides more data security because of automated backups rather than relying on the user to remember to execute a backup.

Finally, it will allow more flexibility for our members to join or renew online, update their own contact information, view a membership directory and read publications online.

That's right; this software will allow us to provide an online version of our *Passenger Pigeon* journal for those who no longer wish to receive a printed version by mail!

Another great bonus of this system is its ability to track renewal dates and send automated renewal notices. This means that we will be able to transition to a 365-day renewal schedule rather than the current calendar year-based system. If you join in June, you won't be due to renew until the following June.

In the coming months, we will be testing this system and incorporating the new membership payment levels, which were approved at the June 17 annual meeting during the convention in Wabeno. We will be sending out an email soon that contains login instructions. Stay tuned!

We'd like to have a few members help us test the system before

we bring it out to the entire membership. If you have previous experience at testing software systems and are willing to spend several hours helping with the testing, please let us know at wamanager@wsobirds.org

Beginning Aug. 1, these updated membership rates will take effect for new members. Current members will renew at these rates during the 2018 membership drive, beginning Nov. 1.

STUDENT: \$25
SENIOR: \$25 (no Passenger Pigeon)
HOUSEHOLD: \$40
SUSTAINING: \$100
CONSERVATION ADVOCATE: \$200

In addition to these changes, we will be instituting a \$10 annual surcharge for all members that subscribe to the paper version of *The Badger Birder*. (This was approved at the annual meeting.)

If you currently receive the paper *Badger Birder* by mail and do not wish to pay the additional surcharge, contact me at membership@wsobirds.org to switch to the electronic version.

If you use email but still are getting the snail mail version of *The Badger Birder* you are missing out on a lot. The *eBirder* has added many color photos and graphics along with the increased content. In addition, it goes out to members almost as soon as it is assembled, while the snail mail version reaches folks at least a week and sometimes two later by the time it's printed and mailed.

I would like to give a special thanks to Paul Jakoubek, who has been working tirelessly over the last few months to learn this new system and import our membership data.

WSO faces cleanup at Honey Creek

From Page 1

entrance signs, the trail is completely blocked. There was not an easy way around this blockage. These may be related to the big wind damage last year as they are just on the north end of where last year's trees came down. This will involve some significant log-cutting to remove.

"I also walked up through the fields and the "logging" road in the north part of the Dischler addition. There were two places where the pathway was significantly blocked by downed trees, close to the northern parcel boundary. Without significant walk-a-rounds, you can't get to the oak ridge/goat prairie area. The nature center looked fine; no obvious tree falls; the lawn was recently mowed."

Photo by Michael John Jaeger

With new land comes more work maintaining it after summer storms down trees on main route to the oak ridge.



Welcome to the new members of WSO

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology would like to welcome those new members who joined the organization between April 1 and June 30, 2017.

Benjamin Bomkamp, Friendship
Laura Coglán, Blue River
Ellen Connor, Oregon
Rich Diemer Ripon
Mary Dumke, Porterfield
Beverly Engstrom, Rhinelander
Anita Flantz, Manitowish Waters
Kris Gallagher, Sparta

Melissa Gibson, Madison
Charles Harmon & Rebecca Gilman, Argyle
Greg & Beth Goetzman, Peshtigo
Margaret Gompper, White Lake
Norleen Hoover, Owen
Sue Kartman, Fifiel
Amy Kasper, Madison
Dan Kozlovski, Hillpoint
Donald Kufirin, Sister Bay
Michael & Diane Lasceski, Rock Springs
Brenna Marsicek, Madison
David McCarville, Belleville
Roy Mercer, Twin Lakes
Joanne Morey, Mount Horeb

Elsa Moritz, Middleton
Barbara Neuser, Madison
Kurt Piernot Green Lake
Kristie Pinnow, Phelps
Barbara Rice, Sparta
Margaret & Gerald Roth, Prairie du Sac
Jaye Rykuny, Reedsburg
Hiroko & Robert Sanders, Wausau
Nicole Shutt, Lakewood
Norma Stetzel, Middleton
Paul Sullivan, McMinnville, OR
Traci Tousey, Campbellsport
Karen Weiss, Montello
Donna Whalen, Mukwonago

Federal Duck Stamps = Big Win for Conservation!

Buy them from The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.

What is a Federal Duck Stamp?

A Federal Duck Stamp, formally known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, is a **revenue stamp** that hunters 16 years of age and older must purchase each year and carry with them to hunt waterfowl. It is also a **conservation stamp** because proceeds from stamp sales help purchase and protect wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.



2017-2018 Duck Stamp Art – Trio of Canada Geese

Why Buy Federal Duck Stamps?

Conservationists buy Federal Duck Stamps because they know that the stamp is, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments they can make in the future of America’s wetlands. Some 98 percent of the proceeds go to secure wetland and grassland habitat within the system. **Birders and other outdoor enthusiasts** annually buy Duck Stamps to gain free admission to national wildlife refuges. The stamp is valid from **July 1 to June 30**.

How Much Land Has Been Purchased?

Federal Duck Stamp sales have raised over \$800 million since the program began in 1934, and they have helped acquire and protect more than six million acres of wetlands within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Wisconsin refuges funded in part by Federal Duck Stamp sales include:

- Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
- Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
- Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
- Wisconsin Waterfowl Production Areas, which preserve small natural wetlands and their associated uplands

How Can You Display Your Support for Conservation?

By using WSO’s holder to display a Duck Stamp you can demonstrate that birders contribute voluntarily to habitat preservation.

To learn more, visit the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website: www.fws.gov/duckstamps

WSO’s Program

Stamps are available from WSO beginning late in June and ending December 25. **NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN DECEMBER 25 AND MAY 31.** In a consignment program, WSO purchases Duck Stamps and sells them at the price offered by other outlets (WSO does not make a profit on these sales).

WSO also offers a reusable clear-plastic key-ring-type holder for the Duck Stamp (shown at right) that you can attach to your binocular strap, pack, etc., so everyone can see that you support this worthwhile conservation effort. Stamps and holders are available from WSO on a prepaid basis only.



- If you want **only stamps**, send a check for **\$25 for each stamp**, plus **one self-addressed stamped envelope**, to the address below.
OR
- If you want **stamps and reusable plastic holders**, send a check for **\$28 for each stamp and holder**, plus **the form below**.

Make checks payable to WSO and send your request to: WSO Duck Stamps
c/o Christine Zimmerman
2708 Eisner Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Questions: 920.980.8083 or
jeff.chris@att.net

If you are ordering stamps and holders, include your name and address on the following form – this form will be taped to a mailing envelope; **if you are ordering stamps only, do not use this form.**

Name _____

Address _____

ABC names its conservation officer to succeed founder George Fenwick

Michael J. Parr is the new president of American Bird Conservancy (ABC), succeeding George Fenwick, who had led ABC since its founding in 1994. Parr previously served as ABC's chief conservation officer and began his new duties June 1.

"I am thrilled that Mike will be ABC's next leader. His passion, vision, and courage are just what we need to continue and build on the outstanding work that ABC is doing," said Larry Selzer, chairman of ABC's board of directors. "No other bird conservation organization does as much, and no other leader is positioned as well to do the hard work of preventing bird extinctions, conserving their critical habitats, and building the capacity of local partners. The board was unanimous, enthusiastic, and very optimistic."

"It is an enormous honor for me to take on this important role," said Parr. "Bird conservation is my personal mission in life. I have had a wonderful 20 years working with the great staff and board at ABC already, and I am looking forward to helping lead the next chapter in the history of this remarkable organization. I'm grateful for the opportunity to build on the tremendous bird conservation legacy of ABC leaders George and Rita Fenwick."

Parr joined ABC in 1996 after graduating from the University of East Anglia and working for BirdLife International. He is an author and an avid birder who lives in Washington, D.C., with his family.



Photo by Tacha Coleman Parr
Michael J. Parr has taken the helm of the American Bird Conservancy.

Memorial Fund established to honor the legendary Chan Robbins

A "Celebration of Life" was held for American ornithological visionary Chan Robbins on June 23 at Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland. About 160 friends and family attended this joyous and humbling occasion. Robbins, whose contributions to the field included co-authorship of an influential field guide to birds, as well as organizing the North American Breeding Bird Survey, died in March at age 98. The research center at Patuxent is dedicating a section of its website to Robbins: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/robbins/>

At the same time, there will be a fund established in his memory to foster environmental education and his lifelong love of birds. The fund will be held and managed by the Friends of Patuxent. Contributions may be made to Friends of Patuxent (for the Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment), 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708



Volkert offering tours to Nicaragua in 2018

Wisconsin naturalist Bill Volkert, author of "Where to Watch Birds in Nicaragua," is offering two tours to the country in February 2018.

His Cultural and Natural History

Tour is an 8-day trip (Feb. 4-11) designed for those interested in exploring the historic sites and natural areas of Nicaragua, visiting several of the premier nature reserves in the country and observ-

ing wildlife without a focus strictly on birding. Trip is limited to 14 people.

The Birding Nicaragua Tour (Feb. 18-27) will focus on observing and photographing the bird life of Nicaragua. Volkert has been offering this tour since 2014 and will visit several of the same sites as the previous tour with an emphasis on birding. This trip is limited to 10 people.

Cultural and Natural History Tour

\$2050 from Managua (+ \$450 single supplement)

Birding Nicaragua Tour

\$2350 from Managua (+ \$450 single supplement)

A detailed itinerary is available at www.billvolkert.com For more information contact naturalist@billvolkert.com or call 920-904-1925.

Women in Conservation series launches with Laura Erickson

BirdCallsRadio & Podcast has launched a new series called "Women in Conservation" and its first guest was Wisconsin's Laura Erickson, the first and only woman recipient of the American Birding Association's prestigious Roger Tory Peterson Award. Erickson has been talking about birds since she memorized the "Bird" entry in her family's encyclopedia when she was a preschooler.

BCR Host, Mardi Dickinson says future guests will include birders, artists, educators, authors, scientists and organizations recorded in a new state-of-the-art digital broadcasting studio that enables location reporting from birding and conservation hot spots. New guests, as before, will include key players with interests in bird identification, conservation, equipment, gardening, nature tours, and ornithology. People can listen by streaming directly <http://birdcallsradio.com/> or through free podcasts in iTunes or Stitcher on all Mac, PC and Android platforms through subscriptions.



Laura Erickson lives in Duluth where she produces "For the Birds," a radio spot airing on independent public and community radio stations.

ABC asks Congress to aid Hawaiian birds

Washington, D.C. -- To tackle the worst bird extinction crisis in America, several conservation groups are asking Congress to support a new conservation effort in Hawai'i that would provide \$20 million in funding over the next four years.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and conservation partners in Hawai'i have sent a letter to the four members of the state's congressional delegation, asking for their support and leadership to enact an aggressive attack on invasive species and avian malaria that are devastating the birds of Hawai'i. Among the hardest-hit species are 'Akeke'e and 'Akikiki, forest-dwelling honeycreepers.

Hawai'i hosts an incredible diversity of endemic plants and wildlife, with 90% of its species found nowhere else in the world. But since humans arrived, more than 90 Hawaiian bird species have become extinct, making it the bird extinction capital of the world.

The majority of those that survive are in serious trouble. More than a quarter of all bird species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act are native to Hawai'i and found nowhere else in the world.

CALL NOTES

Traffic 'jam' at Jim's feeders illuminates our relationship with nature

By JIM KNICKELBINE

I'm sure the key to happiness is in learning to find joy in small things. One is never guaranteed wealth, and attaching one's happiness to costly possessions, while fun, can be a great source of disappointment if circumstances change.



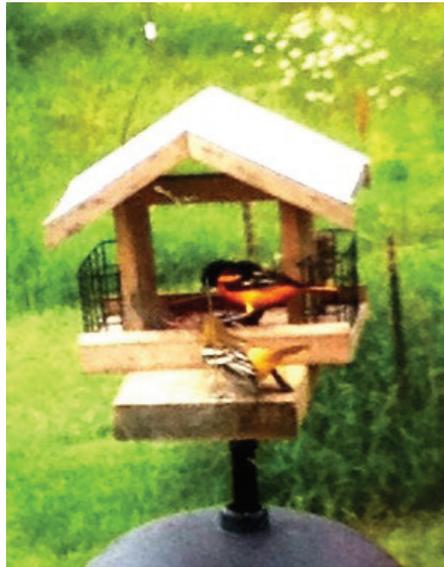
Jim Knickelbine

People know this deep down, and have always known it -- it's not some New Age concept. The notion of being "down to earth" certainly has a lot more meaning to me now than when I was younger.

At the moment, I'm contemplating the entertainment value of a small dish of grape jam. In front of me as I write are three bird feeders -- one with sunflower seed, one with nyjer and one with jam. The first two are being visited by the usual suspects, chickadees and finches, grosbeaks and woodpeckers, and cardinals. One never knows what will show up to dine at the latter, however.

At our previous place I never had much luck putting out jelly. The orioles would stop briefly on their way north, gorge for a couple of days, and then either move on or ignore sweets after that. Now, I live where there are more mature trees in the area, and the river, and this year the orioles, both Baltimore and Orchard, are nesting, multiple families, and continuing to visit.

I've gotten used to the unusual, Indigo-Bunting-like song of the Orchards as two males sing back and forth, challenging each



other, since May. Now, families of both species are visiting, young birds squawking and vibrating their wings to entice their parents to share mouthfuls of sweet goo. The adults don't seem too enthusiastic at this point, and the youngsters quickly learn the source of the treat and get their own. Of course, lots of ants also are attracted to the jelly dish, and sometimes they are the birds' target rather than the jam itself.

It's not only orioles that crave the sweet. House Finches, Gray Catbirds, cardinals, chickadees all visit the jam. Catbirds like it as much as orioles. Even the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks take a bit now and then, but they go back to sunflower.

I feed jam because I think it contains more of the whole grape. Both jam and jelly have a lot more sugar in them than the original fruit

does, leading to some concern about how this might affect the health of the birds.

That's a reasonable concern, so I limit the amount of jam I put out to one spoon in the morning, and some days another after work. With all the birds that visit, the jam is gone in an hour or two, and the rest of the day the birds have to find their own food, or at least find someone else's jam.

Orioles and other birds naturally seek out a variety of foods -- fruit, nectar, insects, seeds, and most I'm sure have a varied and healthy diet as long as they have good habitat around them. Just now, one oriole decided to visit the other feeder and try a sunflower seed, which I've not seen before. Wait -- there's an adult and a begging young bird.... let me try to get a photo with my phone....

I think the fact that when I visit the grocery this time of year there is often an empty shelf where the bargain brand jelly used to be reflects at least in part how many people feed it to birds. I wonder how much money the sale of jelly, and oranges of course, generates for farmers, manufacturers and retailers. All because people simply like to see colorful birds in their yards.

With little thought, and following our natural tendency to like birds, a relationship has developed that benefits not only nature but a lot of people as well. Let's hope we keep looking for those opportunities.

Jim Knickelbine is education co-chair for WSO. A native of Manitowoc, he is executive director of Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve and a licensed bird bander. He also leads WSO's Wisconsin Oriole Count.

Young Birders Club enjoys a record field trip

By RYAN TREVES

On May 27, the Wisconsin Young Birders Club held its first ever collaboration field trip with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Local expert Tom Schultz led the group through the White River Marsh State Wildlife Area visiting cattail, forest edge and prairie habitats. Wendy Schultz and Jeff Baughman joined the group as well.

The trip began at 7a.m. on White River Rd. Immediately a pair of Whooping Cranes serenaded the group from across the marsh. Sora, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren and Willow Flycatcher were all observed in the first few minutes. While learning about the history of the White River Marsh, we were wowed by singing Sedge Wrens and Yellow Warblers. Alder Flycatchers as well as both cuckoo species sang from a wooded edge as we discussed the rules of thumb for bird call playback.

A small grove nicknamed the "Oak Island" yielded Yellow-throated Vireo, singing Blackpoll Warbler, two beautiful Scarlet Tanagers and

a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

As the weather warmed up, we decided to explore a new habitat along the edges of White River Marsh: grassy fields. There we were treated to displaying Bobolinks, Eastern Kingbirds and singing Eastern Meadowlarks, though Henslow's Sparrows were nowhere to be found.

The trip concluded at Dead End Rd., where Grasshopper Sparrow, Orchard Oriole and American Kestrel were the last birds of the day.

Though the group was slightly smaller than normal, we all had a good time, seeing a total of 77 species — a new day record for a WYBC field trip!



This Yellow-throated Vireo was a trip highlight

FIELD TRIP

Kettle Moraine trip dodges storms to find lots of birds

By **JEFF BAUGHMAN**
WSO Field Trips Co-chair

On June 3 at 6 a.m. 21 people gathered at Mauthe Lake Recreation Area for WSO's Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit field trip. The weather started fine with temps in the low 60s and no wind. But checking the local radar we knew conditions were going to change within the hour; nevertheless, we set out for a morning of birding.

Our planned route for the day included Mauthe Lake Recreation Area, Haskell Noyes Memorial Forest, Haushalter Lane (north-east of New Prospect), Jersey Flats (a prairie restoration project), the KMSF-Ice Age Center, the Dundee baseball field, Spruce Lake Bog and this year an extension to Parnell Tower Recreation Area.

After everyone arrived, we birded around Mauthe Lake and soon found our target birds, Yellow-throated Vireo, Cerulean and Pine Warblers, all in the picnic area. Fortunately, both warblers afforded us pretty good looks as they sang high in the trees. Other birds of note were Veery (with several singing), Black-and-White and Chestnut-sided Warblers. With the recent rain, the road and trail to the boat landing were under water so we missed a few species but Mauthe still produced 52 species seen/heard.

After Mauthe, we made a couple minute stop along CTH GGG, at the Haskell Noyes Memorial Forest, where we heard Acadian Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager and a few other more common birds. The Winter Wren had been there for two-weeks and was at a new location for me. Haushalter Lane was next, but thick dark clouds were building and we knew were going to get wet. Our target bird here was Hooded Warbler and we had one singing. Unfortunately, we never had a look at it before the heavy rains started.

Looking at the radar, we were in for heavy rains for at least 45 minutes so we decide to wait it out at the Zillmer Trail ski/hiking shelter. After that wait, we headed back to Haushalter Lane., where we continued to the end and hiked a short way on the trails that lead east and north. The east trail produced Nashville, Blue-winged, Black-and-White and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Least, Alder and Great Crested Flycatchers, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee and a calling Pileated Woodpecker. The trail north afforded us good looks at Alder Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Swamp Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, plus several other common birds.

On the drive back out we added Black-throated Green Warbler and Ovenbird but looks at a Hooded still eluded us. Where

THE BADGER BIRDER



Photos by Kerry Sehloff

Jeff Baughman led the field trip into the Spruce Lake Bog. This Acadian Flycatcher seen on Haushalter Lane was one of the trip's target species.

Haushalter Lane and CTH SS intersect, I often have Morning Warbler. Well, we were not disappointed. A male put on a nice 5 minute show for us here. Our split stop on Haushalter Lane resulted in 56 species.

Our next stop was about 0.3 miles north of the intersection of CTH SS & G at Jersey Flats. From here we could hear three or four Henslow's Sparrows singing and eventually had one in the scope. While people were taking turns at the scope, I heard my first Grasshopper Sparrow of the year from this location. With a little searching, we had this bird in the scope as well. We also had Clay-colored, Song, Savannah, Chipping and Field Sparrow from this stop -- 7 species of sparrows! We also had Eastern Meadowlark and a Northern Harrier cruise by too. The grasslands and the surrounding area produced 40 species.

One of the traditions for this trip is to stop near Dundee to view Ospreys on their nest site. I am fairly certain this is the 19th year a pair of Ospreys has used this site to raise their young. And this year, while watching an adult on the nest, its mate came in from the south carrying a stick. And to our delight, the mate readily accepted it.

From here we drove a short distance north to Spruce Lake Bog. On the way, we added Red-tailed Hawk and a couple of cars had a Red-shouldered Hawk fly over them. We did have Veery, Nashville Warbler, and Alder Flycatcher singing, but the White-throated Sparrow I usually get here were not to be found. We had Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Barn and Bank Swallows as we got back to our cars. As always, a bonus at



Spruce Lake Bog is all the Pink Lady-slippers and Pitcher Plants in full bloom.

Because we hadn't gotten to see a Hooded Warbler, I decided to extend the trip to another reliable site for this species; Parnell Tower Recreation Area. Our drive to this area passes by several pretty birdy areas. At the intersection of CTH V and Scenic Drive, there is a nice fallow field where we added Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Then, along Shamrock Rd. a few of us saw Great Egret and Pied-billed Grebe.

Once at Parnell Tower Recreation Area we began our search for the Hooded. With a little coaxing, we did get a bird to respond but he wouldn't come in and went deeper into the poison-ivy infested trail. A couple minutes later I heard another bird a little south of the restrooms and it seemed to closer to the brushy edge. Well, about 5-minutes later we were all looking at a splendid male Hooded Warbler singing only 20 feet away. Everyone was super excited that our search had been successful.

Our day netted 88 species, a somewhat lower total than I had hoped for, but we did hear or see 12 species of warblers, 8 species of sparrows, and 7 species of flycatchers. Thanks to everyone who attended. I sure enjoyed spending the morning with you all.

JULY/AUGUST 2017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.
P.O. Box 3024
Madison, WI 53704-3024

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE

WSO CALENDAR

Field Trips

Aug. 13 (Sunday) Horicon Marsh

-- Meet at 7 a.m. along Highway 49 on the north end of Horicon Marsh. We'll bird areas around the marsh that harbor some of the best birds or have the most variety of birds during this time of year.

We expect to find a variety of shorebirds and water birds, as well as resident and early migrant passerines.

Sept. 9 (Saturday) Bay Beach Fall

Warblers -- Meet at 7 a.m. at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay. It can be reached off I-43, Exit-187 (Webster Ave.) to

East Shore Drive. *Use the first parking area on the right, just after entering the sanctuary.* Wear good walking shoes because there will be some hiking, though leisurely. We may tour other nearby areas, including Cat Island if arrangements can be made.

Questions? Contact Tom Schultz (920-960-1796) or Jeff Baughman (920 960-4732).

WSO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

Student/\$25
Senior/\$25 (No Passenger Pigeon)
Household/\$40
Sustaining/\$100
Conservation Advocate/\$200

(Include a \$10 surcharge in all categories if you want mail delivery of The Badger Birder)

Make check payable to WSO and send with form to: **WSO Membership / P.O. Box 3024 / Madison, WI 53704-3024**