



Photo by Beverly Paulan, WDNR

These adult eagles and eaglets were photographed on the nest last April at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.

## Record nesting suggests good eagle watching is ahead

By LISA GAUMNITZ  
WDNR

**Rhinelander** – Good news for Wisconsin’s Bald Eagle population and the people who love to watch them: 2016 surveys found a record high number of occupied nests in spring and an 87% increase in Bald Eagles observed in mid-winter.

The survey results continue to document the Bald Eagle’s comeback from the brink of extinction in the 1960s and 1970s, to removal from the state endangered list in 1997 and the federal list a decade later, to healthy and growing populations today.

The aerial surveys confirmed 1,504 occupied nests, 39 more nests than the previous year, according to the 2016 Bald Eagle and Osprey Survey Report recently released by the Department of Natural Resources.

“The recovery of Bald Eagles in Wisconsin is a great conservation success story and one that more Wisconsin residents are seeing up close as eagles expand into new territories,” says Drew Feldkirchner, who leads DNR’s Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) program.

The 2016 surveys marked the 44th consecutive year that the Bald Eagle occupancy survey has been completed in Wisconsin, which makes it one of the longest running of its kind in North America.

DNR pilots and staff from the NHC and Wildlife Management bureaus completed statewide aerial nesting surveys in March and April, according to Laura Jaskiewicz, the DNR research scientist who coordinates the survey from Rhinelander.

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## Honey Creek expansion: Signed, sealed and delivered!

By MICHAEL JOHN JAEGER  
WSO President

WSO’s Honey Creek family has an addition, a bouncing 60.6-acre parcel of pure joy, delivered by the land stork on Dec. 15. The accompanying map shows the new parcel, and if you follow the story inside this issue to Page 8 you can view the requisite baby picture.

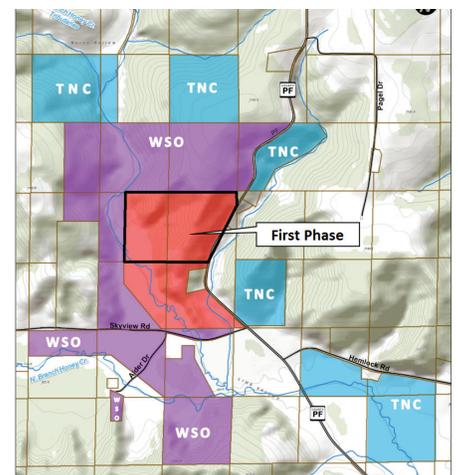
In more happy news, we’re expecting delivery of a 40-acre sibling sometime this spring when our Society closes the second half of a \$500,000 total transaction that will see our Sauk County preserve grow to more than 370 acres.

While the delivery was easy, we had to suffer through a long, drawn out period after the purchase plan’s initial conception.

Initial efforts aimed at securing a deal with the previous land owner began more than four years ago.

But the last seven months have been especially hectic, worrying not only about securing funding for the purchase, but making sure all the real estate legalities were covered. I can’t thank all our donors enough, all 200-plus of them.

We’ve topped our goal of \$550,000, which covered the purchase price along with closing costs, fundraising expenses and funds for garlic mustard control, removal of barbed wire and erosion control. Additional funds will allow WSO to expedite habitat restoration and land management for this beautiful and ecologically significant holding in the Baraboo Hills.



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**Complete 2017 WSO Field Trips schedule: Pages 15-19**

# The Badger BIRDER



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SOCIETY for  
ORNITHOLOGY

The newsletter of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is published 11 times per year. Contributions are welcome! E-mail your articles, photos, event dates and information, comments and suggestions to the editor.

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## Berger, Cedar Grove co-founder, dies at 85

Daniel D. Berger, the 85-year-old co-founder of the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, died on Dec. 27 at his home in South Pasadena, Calif.

The news was released simultaneously by Thomas Erdman, curator of the Richter Museum of Natural History at the University of Wisconsin –Green Bay, and by Rick Hill, one of the current leaders of the 67-year-old world-renowned banding station on Lake Michigan south of Sheboygan.

Berger, a Milwaukee native, had been receiving home hospice care in his battle with cancer for several months.

Berger and Helmut Mueller were responsible for creating CGORS after taking it over from the Milwaukee Museum in 1950. In 1994, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology named Berger one of the inaugural recipients of its Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award, given to those individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their local



Daniel D. Berger

communities or in the state to promote the field of ornithology.

Erdman said memorial plans are still being finalized and will occur sometime in 2017. Hill issued a statement on Dec. 27 saying:

“This morning at 5:50 a.m. our founder, friend and mentor Dan Berger passed

away. Dan has been in hospice care for the last few weeks and passed away in his sleep with no pain or discomfort. We already miss him and hope that everyone can take some solace in knowing that his last days were peaceful. Dan has asked that his ashes be spread at CGORS, and we will plan on doing so this spring.”

## Cedar Grove raptor banders report an outstanding fall

By RICK HILL

The Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station's 2016 raptor banding and migration count ran from Aug. 15 to Nov. 17. Interns Lisa Broulette and Spencer Parkinson were tested quickly as five Red-tailed Hawks were banded on their first day.

CGORS founders, Dan Berger and Helmut Mueller, were not able to be on hand this year due to health issues, so the banding was led by Tom Meyer, who holds the master banding permit for the station, with assistance from John Bowers and Rick Hill. The crew was helped immensely by an excellent team of volunteers that could be counted on during both busy and slow times.

Warm weather in November slowed the raptor migration considerably, but the station still was able to band 660 raptors, compared with 617 in 2015.

Notable raptors this year were a Rough-legged Hawk, an immature Bald Eagle and 14 Peregrine Falcons.

The last previous Rough-legged was banded in 2007, so this one was quite a thrill for the team.

After catching the Bald Eagle, we noted that it was suffering from mouth and eye sores and turned it over to a rehab center for care; it later was released back into the wild.

One of the Peregrines was an adult; none of the 14 had previously been banded.

The station, in southern Sheboygan County, has long been known as a site to view spectacular raptor migrations and has been used as a trapping and banding location for nearly 80 years. CGORS is dedicated to studying the migration of falcons, hawks, harriers, eagles, vultures and owls. It has the longest sustained record of activity in North America for trapping and banding migratory raptors and operates throughout the three-month fall migration season, from late August into November.

Nearly 42,000 birds of prey of 24 species have been live-trapped, banded, measured and released from 1950 through 2016. The following birds were first spotted or banded in Wisconsin at the station: Gyrfalcon, Mississippi Kite, Gray Vireo, Anhinga and Harris's Hawk.

The station operates under license from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The trapping site is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which leases it to CGORS. Regular station personnel are all volunteers and consist of two to four individuals who remain full-time at the station during migration season, and one or two part-time assistants.

For updates and photos check out the CGORS Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/cgorstation>

Looking for Kate's Quotes? Try Page 5

# Dani Baumann joins board as treasurer

By **MICHAEL JOHN JAEGER**  
WSO President

I'm delighted to announce that the WSO Board of Directors has elected **DANI BAUMANN** of Saukville to fill the remainder of Mickey O'Connor's current one-year term as WSO treasurer. Mickey, who took over as treasurer in 2013 and has been a true asset to WSO, had asked to be replaced so she could have time to focus on other activities, including her expanding effort to band hummingbirds in Wisconsin.

I'm looking forward to working with Dani. Not only is she a talented accountant, I'm impressed with her enthusiasm and dedication to birding.

WSO has been blessed with three talented and dedicated treasurers over the last 25 years: Alex Kailing, Christine Reel and Mickey O'Connor. Dani has some big shoes to fill, but she's starting with a great set of records, practices and procedures.

I'll really miss Mickey, both for keeping WSO rolling along smoothly and for the knowledge and insight she's brought to our quarterly Board meetings. I hope she'll now have more time for hummingbird banding.

Dani says she was tricked into starting her birding career at 4:30 a.m. on May 6, 2011, in the middle of Wyalusing State Park while on a "No, we won't get up early" trip. Since that day her life has revolved around birds and numbers. Dani graduated in 2007 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration-Accounting and is currently working as a senior accountant at American Dental Partners, where she has worked for the last eight years.

A dedicated volunteer, when she isn't in her office, Dani can be found coordinating the Ozaukee County effort of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II or editing *The Timberdoodle News* (newsletter of the Noel J. Cutright Bird Club). You may also recognize her name from "Let's Go Birding," a regular feature in *The Badger Birder*.

Dani also finds time to bird the wonderful hotspots of her home county of Ozaukee. Outside of birding, you can often find her reading a good book with her two cats, Braun and Charlie, curled up in her lap.



*Dani Baumann at the harbor in Port Washington*

# WSO weighs in again as Sauk Prairie plan is approved

By **MICHAEL JOHN JAEGER**  
WSO President

I appeared before the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on Dec. 14 to comment on the draft master plan for the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area, which the board later that day approved.

We have been extremely interested in the development of this master plan, as this is a large new DNR property immediately south of Devil's Lake State Park that has incredible habitat potential for grassland and savannah birds. The DNR received this property, a portion of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, from the federal government.

Here are my comments:

*"I'm submitting these Draft Master Plan comments on behalf of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.*

*"WSO has long been active in the Sauk County area. We began purchasing land in the Baraboo Hills in 1960. Our property, the Harold and Carla Kruse Honey Creek Nature Preserve, was designated as a State Natural Area in 1971. And I'm pleased to say that tomorrow we'll be closing on an additional parcel for our preserve.*

*"Our mission is to promote the enjoyment, study and conservation of Wisconsin's birds. Birdwatching is an extremely popular activity in our state. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that more than 1.6 million Wisconsinites enjoy watching birds.*

*"The future use of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area is a significant enough bird conservation opportunity to warrant WSO's attention.*

*"We provided comments earlier in the master planning process in August 2013. These focused on the unique values of the Badger site to Wisconsin's birds, along with the exceptional opportunity to increase critical bird habitat.*

*"We also expressed concerns that some of the possible recreational uses of the site could significantly degrade this opportunity, which were ATV trails and a shooting range. We're pleased those potential activities are not in the draft master plan as it appears before you today.*

*"Other "high impact" potential uses that might be inappropriate from a bird conservation perspective, however, have found their way into the current draft. Dual purpose motorcycles and high-powered rocketry can be disruptive to birds and other wildlife. Concerns about these types of uses were included in our September 2015 comments on the*

*Please turn to Page 8*

# Deadline for 3 WSO grants is Jan. 31

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology sponsors three research grants, all of which have a Jan. 31 deadline to submit applications. The 2017 Small Grants Program includes these opportunities:

-- **STEENBOCK AWARD**, intended for beginners, amateurs, and independent researchers, has been used to fund a variety of independent bird-related projects. Graduate students and professionals in ornithology may apply for personal projects only. Applicants should include names and addresses of two references.

-- **CHARLES AND MARY NELSON AWARD**, established in a 1993 bequest from the Nelson family, is reserved for avian research involving wetlands. Applicants need not include recommendations or references.

-- **WSO GRANT**, usually awarded to provide additional support for research funded through a graduate program or in conjunction with another organization, partner or sponsor. Applicants should include names and addresses of two references.

All applicants should send name, address, phone number, occupation and a short proposal along with an itemized budget -- including amount requested and how it will be used and amounts and sources of other funding.

Applications may be made for a specific grant, or applicants can let the Grants Committee decide which grant would be most appropriate. In general, only projects conducted in Wisconsin will be considered for funding. Amounts awarded will range up to a maximum of \$500 per grant per year. Grants may be used for travel expenses, usable supplies and minor equipment. More costly equipment may be funded if ownership lands with an organization.

All award winners will need to submit a short project report by Oct. 1. Applications can be sent either electronically to grants@wsobirds.org or via snail mail to:

**Aaron Greene**  
**3901 Rockwell Dr.**  
**Madison, WI 53714**

# December brings a rare Townsend's Warbler, kittiwake and a blast of winter for CBCs

By **MARK KORDUCKI**

The mild fall weather continued into early December but then quickly disappeared with two significant snowstorms and sub-zero temperatures. Lakes and rivers froze rapidly and early Christmas counts were conducted with over a foot of fresh snow covering the ground. In spite of this harsh weather, some good birds were found.

The most exciting find of the month was a **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** that visited a feeder in Kewaunee. This western vagrant has been recorded less than 5 times in the state and was a welcome addition to the list of several Wisconsin birders. Although it visited the feeders of the gracious homeowners somewhat

infrequently, most visitors were rewarded for their patience with good views of this colorful visitor. An immature **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** remained for several days at the mouth of the Fox River in Green Bay. This bird was especially cooperative and allowed excellent views and prolonged study by many. Although it is fairly uncommon in the state, this is the third time in recent memory that a kittiwake has spent several days at this Brown County location.

It was a good month for **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** with reports from Kewaunee, Milwaukee and two birds in Sheboygan. Most reports of this species come from Lake Michigan so the Harlequin Duck in Outagamie County was most unusual. An **EARED GREBE** was found in Dane County and stayed long enough to make it into the count week for the Madison Christmas Bird Count. The long-staying **WESTERN GREBE** in Milwaukee also persisted into count week but disappeared the day before the count when the harbor froze over. It was relocated a week after the count when the harbor began to open back up with milder temperatures and a shift in the wind.

The **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** in Milwaukee County demonstrated how hardy this species is and also remained into count week. It survived several nights of single digit temperatures and snow before it disappeared two days before the count. Unusual but much more typical in winter were **VARIED THRUSHES** reported in Chippewa and Outagamie counties.

Unlike the last three winters, reports of **SNOWY OWLS** were few and far between. And only a few winter finches were found in the northern part of the state. So for now it appears to be a quiet start to the birding year but things can change quickly. Have a safe and happy holiday season and good birding in the New Year.

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

## A very slow year for Snowy Owls

According to the DNR's Ryan Brady, this season's first Snowy Owls arrived in Wisconsin on Nov. 15. As of Dec. 27, an estimated total of 22 had been found. Sightings favor agricultural fields and wetland complexes of eastern Wisconsin from Oconto south to Waukesha County.

Reports from North Dakota and Minnesota have been below average, while small numbers have been found east of Wisconsin to the Atlantic Coast as far south as Indianapolis and Long

Island, New York.

Our total of 22 on Dec. 27 compared with 110, 211 and 159 by that date in each of the last three winters.

Brady has been tallying Snowy Owls for the last four years using various sources such as Wisbirdn, Facebook groups, personal accounts and eBird.

Get the full update and other Snowy Owl info at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/snowyowls.html>



Photo by Jim Edlhuber

*This rare Townsend's Warbler was added to many state lists as it frequented a feeder in Kewaunee for an extended period last month.*



Photo by Michael Gray

*This cooperative juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake appeared last month at the mouth of the Fox River in Green Bay.*

## 2017 Bird Tours & Classes

### Nebraska Cranes, Chickens & Sandhills Birds March 19-25

WSO Sponsored with leaders Tom Schultz and Paul Regnier

### Birding Basics and More at The Clearing May 7-13

Instructor: Paul Regnier

Door County birding for beginners and beyond

### Experiencing the Northern Rockies of Glacier & Waterton Lakes Park Tour September 1-7

Natural Resources Foundation Of Wisconsin Sponsored  
Leaders Paul Regnier and Nora Simmons

#### For additional information contact:

Paul Regnier at [doorcountypaul@gmail.com](mailto:doorcountypaul@gmail.com)  
920-493-1572

#### Coming in 2018:

Hawaii Nature, Birds & Volcanoes  
Texas North Coast Birding  
Isle Royale National Park  
Glacier & Waterton Parks Tour  
Yellowstone in Winter

## CALL NOTES

# Wildlife in peril? 'Winter hummers' open up a can of worms for concerned birders

By **JIM KNICKELBINE**

I have never written an article about hummingbirds during the Christmas season before, but of course these are unusual times. A broader topic that *is* usual, and which gives rise to many calls to the Nature Center, involves what to do about wild animals that are perceived to be in danger. Such situations can be agonizing for the people involved, and my heart goes out to them as well as to the animals.



Jim Knickelbine

Not too long ago, a wonderful woman came in, concerned about a robin that had suffered an eye injury. The robin was accustomed to coming to her doorstep, where she put out raisins. The bird could fly well, and she couldn't catch it, but she was certain it would not survive. I explained that I was not a licensed rehabber, and gave her the number of local people who were. And when we got into a discussion about the fact that animals

do become injured and die and this has always been the case, well, it suffices to say she was very unhappy with me.

I admire people who rehabilitate injured wildlife. The expertise needed is incredible, as well as the self-sacrifice. They give a lot of themselves, and I'm sure don't get the thanks they deserve. However, making the determination as to whether an animal needs help is, I think, potentially very difficult. Young birds that jump out of a nest are certainly vulnerable to predation, but they also may be nearly able to fly and might continue to be fed by their parents. Young deer and rabbits might appear to be abandoned while their mothers are away feeding, but are in fact not.

Birds that are wildly out of their range or season concern us, because we know they shouldn't be here. A few years ago a Yellow-throated Warbler was seen in our preserve in January, visiting neighboring bird feeders to dine on crumbs of suet. The bird should have been in the tropics, but appeared healthy and active. After a couple of weeks, when colder weather set in, it was no longer seen.

Should we have tried to catch that bird and shelter it for the winter? Fly it to the tropics? Or let things be, as we did? The bird did



Photo by Cynthia Bridge

not appear to be in trouble, and I wonder if it was either particularly clever, or lucky, in choosing to dine on suet, or if it was a warbler of exceptional stamina.

Birders seem to be more and more astute at finding and identifying unusual individuals, and the internet and social media certainly help. The daily rare bird updates, and discussion surrounding them on listserves and social media make it easier to record and share observations, and opinions about them. Among this year's jewels was the Anna's Hummingbird that found a suitable yard in late October and stayed there for 49 days til mid- December.

Like our Yellow-throated Warbler, the bird appeared healthy, was provided for by a person who was willing to serve heated nectar, and was well observed and beautifully photographed. The same debate came to light: Should the bird have been captured and taken to a safe place? In the end, it was allowed to move on under its own will. Whether or not the bird had a plan for its migration, or didn't have a clue what it was doing I'm afraid we'll never know. Birds have been around for millions of years, and can be resilient if given half a chance. There is so much we don't know wdespite all our research, but what we don't know makes them all the more wonderful.

Are these birds in peril, or superbirds? There's no easy conclusion to issues like these without more research, but there is a strong call for us to be thoughtful in our encounters with wildlife. I've never seen an Anna's in Wisconsin, but I'm hoping that this one is finding its way south to join its brethren - and perhaps the species' gene pool will be all the stronger because of it.

**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.

## KATE'S QUOTES

*Naturalist Kate Redmond offers us a monthly selection of quotes on birds, nature, conservation and life around us. Her early interest in birds kicked off a career as an environmental educator.*

"The truth of the matter is, the birds could very well live without us, but many -- perhaps all -- of us would find life incomplete, indeed almost intolerable, without the birds."

-- **ROGER TORY PETERSON**, American naturalist

"It is good morning exercise for a scientist to discard a pet hypothesis every day before breakfast.

It keeps him young."

-- **KONRAD LORENZ**, Austrian zoologist, ethologist and ornithologist

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# Atlas organizing team sets 4 focus areas as the project approaches its midpoint

With 2017 marking the midpoint of the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas' five-year field survey, Atlas organizers have identified four focus areas that all birders can commit to in the coming year to help ensure the project stays on track.

## 1. Recruit more atlasers

The Atlas is a massive volunteer effort that now boasts more than 1,100 birders, but there is always room for more. With 1,200 blocks to cover, many located in remote corners of the state, there is enough work for double the current volunteer base.

## 2. Increase nocturnal efforts

After two years, many blocks are nearly complete, but lack the nocturnal birding hours needed to give a true picture of the block's diversity. If atlasers make a concentrated effort to commit a few hours of night birding in their blocks, the number of completed blocks will increase dramatically.

## 3. Complete blocks and start new ones

With so many blocks poised for completion with just a few hours of night effort, organizers are encouraging people to choose new blocks and start atlasing there at the start of the season. Whenever possible, it is strongly encouraged that atlasers look for blocks outside of densely populated areas where many blocks already have good coverage.

## 4. Atlas sparsely populated areas

It makes sense that Wisconsin's urban centers are showing high effort hours. On the other hand, sparsely populated areas have very low coverage, and through concerted efforts – such as group trips, “blockbluster” events and encouraging local birders in these areas to sign up to help, organizers would like to see big increases in effort hours in outlying parts of the state.

## REGIONAL KICKOFF DETAILS COMING SOON

The snow may be flying, but birders are already looking ahead to spring and a series of three regional one-day Atlas kickoff events. These free training events will feature field trips, a look at Season 2 results, a look-ahead to Season 3, basic and advanced training for new and returning atlasers, a chance to meet county coordinators and more!

Tom Prestby, Training & Support Committee chair, urged the state's birders to mark their calendars with these dates and keep watch for registration details in the next issue of *The Badger Birder*.



## Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

-- **Southwest:** Kickapoo Valley Preserve/Vernon County – Feb. 25

-- **Northwest:** Rice Lake Public Library/Barron County - April 1

-- **Southeast:** Kenosha Public Library/Kenosha County - April 29

Note that the following counties are in or adjacent to a mini-kick-off: Barron, Burnett, Crawford, Chippewa, Dunn, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Monroe, Polk, Racine, Richland, Rusk, Sauk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Vernon, Walworth and Washburn.

If you are one of these county coordinators for the Atlas, these one-day sessions are an excellent opportunity to engage people from your local area. “Please prioritize being present at the one near you and expect to hear directly from me early in the new year about planning for these events,” Prestby added. “Everyone else, please feel free to help with or attend the one closest to you!”

Atlas coordinator Nick Anich is encouraging county coordinators to start thinking about a possible field trip or two that they can lead in their area in 2017 and especially to think about areas and logistics of an April nocturnal trip to fit in with the Atlas' nocturnal opening week April 21-30.

“We'll be publishing several nocturnal eBird Atlas stories that will help you plan further details. Think about any other trips you are interested in to boost interest in your area, including another opening weekend effort in early June similar to last years. We encourage you to team up with neighboring County Coordinators, let us know if you need help getting in touch with someone.

“When you have a trip planned, please let me know so we can get it onto the calendar.

“And please remember to contact the people who are done or almost done with blocks in your county.”

## Sponsor a wetland species and support the Atlas

It can be hard to fathom the number of species that ultimately will benefit from a comprehensive five-year field survey documenting the distribution and abundance of every bird breeding in our state.

Take wetland species alone.

The second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas ultimately will allow us to see changes in the populations of many priority species like **YELLOW RAIL**, **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**, **AMERICAN BLACK DUCK**, **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** and **LECONTE'S SPARROW**.

These insights will help identify their conservation needs and allow government agencies, conservation organizations, landowners and citizens to make better-informed decisions for years to come.

Although the Atlas is primarily a massive volunteer effort -- approaching its third year in 2017 with an ever-growing group of more than 1,100 birders -- it is vitally important to also enlist professionals to ensure statewide coverage.

Funding generated from the Atlas Sponsor-a-Species campaign is used to hire seasonal ornithologists to survey remote and hard-to-access priority blocks — like many of our cherished wetlands — where there are few volunteers. The cost of these seasonal hires will approach \$85,000 in 2017 alone!

Through Sponsor-a-Species, you can sponsor one or more birds of your choice for one to five years.

The cost is as little as \$100 per year! If

you choose to sponsor a species for the entire five-year period (starting at \$500), your name, or the name of someone you wish to honor, will be associated with that species in all forthcoming Atlas publications and in the final print and web-based versions of the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas.

There are still many wetland species yet to be sponsored, including ducks (**CANVASBACK**, **GADWALL**, **MALLARD**, and **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**), **HORNED GREBE** and **WESTERN GREBE**, **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**, **KING RAIL** and **YELLOW RAIL**, **WHITE PELICAN**, **BANK SWALLOW**, **CASPIAN TERN** and others.

Learn how you can sponsor a species today at <http://wsobirds.org/sponsor-a-species>

# Big upgrade for Atlas II: point counts... lots of them!

By **NICHOLAS ANICH**  
**WBBA II Coordinator**

If you are a volunteer for the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, or at least have been reading about the project or supporting it financially, then you may have heard that this time around we are also running point count surveys.

Here's an explanation of why we are gathering this critical information and some preliminary results from 2016.

## What is a point count?

Point counts are bird surveys conducted

Northern Forest Species	2016 Detections
Pine Warbler	397
Golden-winged Warbler	199
Blackburnian Warbler	106
Golden-crowned Kinglet	67
Northern Parula	61
Canada Warbler	57
Magnolia Warbler	53
Blue-headed Vireo	50
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	47
Northern Waterthrush	43
Lincoln's Sparrow	20
Black-throated Blue Warbler	20
Palm Warbler	16
Cape May Warbler	7
Red Crossbill	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3
Evening Grosbeak	2
Swainson's Thrush	2
Connecticut Warbler	1
Gray Jay	1
Southern Forest Species	
Acadian Flycatcher	10
Cerulean Warbler	3
Hooded Warbler	3
Louisiana Waterthrush	1

American Robin	6099
Red-winged Blackbird	4319
Song Sparrow	4237
Red-eyed Vireo	4110
American Crow	3194
Ovenbird	3059
Chipping Sparrow	3053
Common Yellowthroat	2816
Mourning Dove	2603
House Wren	2284

Here is the list of our targeted forest species, showing how many we found this year on point counts (including the regular and 138 special forest points). And here are the top 10 species detected on point counts, and the number that we detected.

at a single stationary location. Observers stand in one spot for a fixed period of time (in our case, 10 minutes), and record all the birds they detect.

Counts are typically aimed at songbirds and conducted in early morning during the breeding season, so the majority of birds are detected by ear.

## Why do point counts?

The atlas is already doing an excellent job filling out maps showing where a species occurs in the state, which is the primary goal of most atlas projects. But what this aspect of an atlas doesn't do as well is determine where within that distribution a species is most or least abundant.

Adding information on relative abundance atop the information collected by general atlasing gives us the strongest picture we've ever had about our state's breeding birds. We also can obtain population size estimates for many breeding species, an important component to assessing their status.

One downside of point counts is that if a species is not very detectable during a 10-minute roadside count, it does not get well sampled.

So for the most part, we will get very good information on many songbirds, but other birds will often get missed, such as species that don't call much during daylight (Great Horned Owl, Eastern Whip-poor-will), don't call much at all (Spruce Grouse, Virginia Rail), are uncommon breeders (Le Conte's Sparrow, Cape May Warbler), or often occur far from roads (Lincoln's Sparrow, Acadian Flycatcher).

These species will be better sampled through traditional atlasing methods that allow for more time in the field, and more off-road coverage.

## How did we do it?

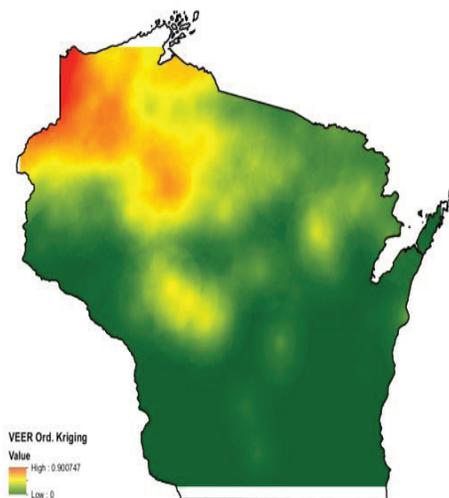
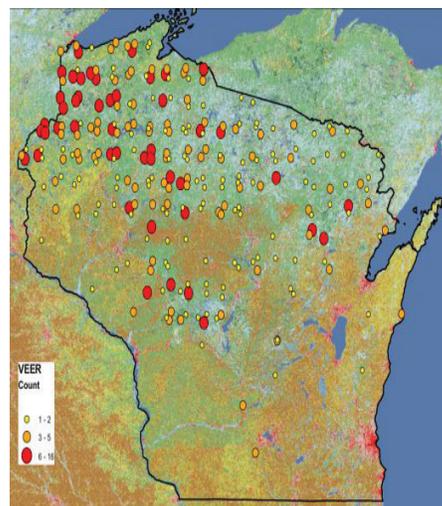
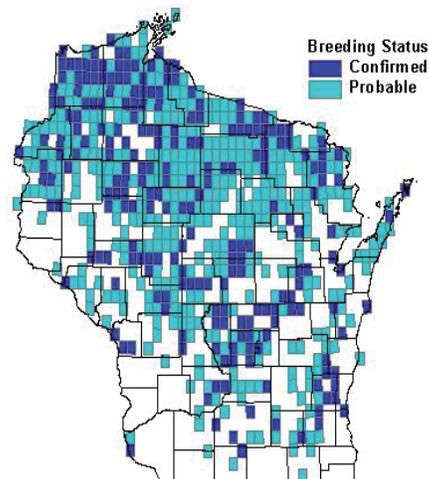
We determined we needed to survey 5 roadside points per block in every other block across the state. That works out to more than 16,000 points in more than 500 atlas blocks.

And given our project timeline, we had to do it in just four years, meaning we'd need to survey 4000+ points per year!

Within each block to be surveyed, the five points were drawn randomly and moved to the nearest road, with backup points drawn in case the initial points were inaccessible. The overall plan was fairly similar to methodology used in past second bird atlases in Ontario, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

So in 2016, we assembled a team of 26 trained and certified surveyors (10 expert volunteers, 9 Wisconsin DNR employees, 7 hired hot-shot technicians) and got to work.

We followed a regionally-standardized monitoring protocol (Knutson et al. 2008, Landbird Monitoring Protocol for the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service, Midwest and



**Top:** A map of Veery from the first atlas makes it appear that it occurs across almost the entire state. But is it equally abundant everywhere within that distribution? **Middle:** A graphic showing the number of Veery at each point count block in 2016, with bigger, redder circles indicating more Veery. **Bottom:** And finally a map (often called a "thunderstorm map" for its resemblance to weather radar) showing the relative abundance of Veery within that distribution. Clearly Veery is **NOT** equally abundant across the state but is much more common in the northwest.

Please turn to Page 8

# Volunteer needed soon to lead Honey Creek Birdathon

Are you one of the many WSO members who love our Honey Creek Nature Preserve in the Baraboo Hills? And have you been looking for a way to lend your volunteer services to a project that requires only a modest amount of time but yields a big return on your investment?

The Board of Directors and its Development Committee chair, Mary Korkor, are looking for someone to join that committee specifically to lead the annual Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon, now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year. This is a seasonal job, with an arc that runs from February to July. But the work curve shows just a dribble at both ends, with most of the effort concentrated from late April to early June to collect donations and pledges, help lead the mid-May event and then write up a report and send out bills to those who pledged.

This job has taken on increased importance with the recent purchase of 105 additional acres at Honey Creek and the ensuing need to financially support the property's maintenance. You'd be just the fourth leader of the birdathon, launched by the late Noel Cutright who led it for 19 years before handing over the reins to Carl Schwartz for a decade and who in turn recruited Jesse Peterson to take over in 2014.

You would be working closely with Korkor and with Treasurer Emeritus Christine Reel, who handles the Birdathon's accounting and acknowledges all the donations.

If this challenge sounds appealing, we need to hear from you by Jan. 15.

You can contact Korkor directly at [marekor@aol.com](mailto:marekor@aol.com) or if you have additional questions about the work you can contact Peterson at [peterjon.jesse@tds.net](mailto:peterjon.jesse@tds.net) or

Schwartz at [cschwartz3@wi.rr.com](mailto:cschwartz3@wi.rr.com)

## WSO needs someone who's social media savvy

WSO also is recruiting a new Communications Committee chair.

We are looking for someone with the ability to assemble a team to distribute eAlerts and our eBadger Birder newsletter via MailChimp, update WSO's web site and populate Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Interested individuals should contact WSO President Michael John Jaeger at [president@wsobirds.org](mailto:president@wsobirds.org) by Jan. 15.

Many thanks to Erin Parker, who has chaired WSO's Communications Committee and served on its Board of Directors for the last two years. We wish her luck at her new job with the Pascagoula River Audubon Center in Mississippi.

## Completion of preserve expansion due this spring

*From Page 1*

If you still wish to make a donation to help maintain this property, go to <http://wsobirds.org/support/donate>

Like our existing property, the new addition includes high quality hemlock and pine relicts, oak savanna, and diverse woodlands that support several bird species of statewide conservation concern, including nesting Cerulean Warblers, Hooded Warblers and Acadian Flycatchers. The second parcel is more a mix of upland and lowland habitats, including a large block of stream terrace.

More than 50 years ago, Harold Kruse and other WSO members had the foresight to protect a parcel of land within the Baraboo Range, providing critical habitat for a wide variety of specialty bird species. We've continued that legacy and secured an important addition to Honey Creek. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this possible.

Questions? Email me at [president@wsobirds.org](mailto:president@wsobirds.org) or call me 608-335-2546.



*The new addition features diverse woodlands that support several bird species of statewide conservation concern.*

*From Page 7*

Northeast Regions) and recorded the distance band and minute of first detection for each individual bird.

### What did we find?

We conducted 4,037 point counts statewide between May 24 and July 7, and detected 90,838 individual birds of 192 species (not all of them breeders).

During the planning process, we identified that certain songbirds were poorly sampled by existing surveys like the federal Breeding Bird Survey, specifically species inhabiting northern coniferous forest, and southern interior forest.

For this reason, we randomly scattered

an additional 138 points into northern and southern forest habitats to try to get better information on this group of species.

While results were mixed, we did boost the numbers for a few species, which should improve our understanding of their breeding abundance in the state.

It will be months before we have all of the data checked and preliminary models run. Rest assured after these data are checked and compiled, they will also be dumped into atlas eBird to help fill block totals.

With three more years — and 12,000 points — to go, we at Atlas Central are excited to see the results of this project, which will undoubtedly shed new light on the state of Wisconsin's breeding birds.

*What point counts reveal tells us more about bird distribution*

# Horicon bird club draws on the riches of the marsh

*Drawn in part from an interview with Kin-dra Goehler, who handles the marketing and website for the Horicon Marsh Bird Festival:*

## Tell us about the history of your club.

The Horicon Marsh Bird Club was organized in August 1994 by DNR naturalist Bill

Volkert and volunteer Larry Michael for the purpose of studying and sharing with others the rich bird life of the Horicon Marsh and Eastern Wisconsin.



## The club is widely associated with the

### state's oldest birding festival, right?

In 1997 the Horicon Marsh Bird Festival was hatched when Michael, the club's first president, working with Volkert, decided that it was time for the Horicon Marsh, the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States, to show off some of its best assets – namely, the numerous species of birds that inhabit the marsh.

## Who leads the club today?

Jeff Bahls. A lifelong resident of Dodge County, Jeff has been an avid waterfowler for nearly 40 years. He has vast knowledge of the Horicon Marsh where he works part-time for the DNR. Jeff has been a club member for more than 15 years and is the current president. He sits on the board of the Wood Duck Society, a nationwide organization devoted to the placement and care of wood duck boxes and wood duck habitat. Jeff was a member of the 2007 Cornell Lab of Ornithology search team for the Ivory Billed Woodpecker in Arkansas.

## Why would you encourage someone to join your club?

We welcome all levels of birders. From backyard bird watchers to field ornithologists and researchers, club activities are available for novice and expert birders alike. We encourage families and youth to join us in observing and studying Wisconsin birds and we have one of the premier birding spots right in our own backyard.

## What events, field trips or other opportunities exist for club members?

The Horicon Marsh Bird Festival is a four day event held every May over Mother's Day weekend. Club members are also given the opportunity to attend about 10 field trips a year, and the club stages a nest box seminar every March. Programs and meetings are held from September to May on the third Thursday at 7 p.m. at a wonderful facility, THE BADGER BIRDER



*The Horicon Marsh Bird Club offers a range of activities in all seasons. Kids of all ages dissect owl pellets during the annual Owl prowl event. During a field trip, folks gather around spotting scopes to look at a Bald Eagle nest.*

the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, N7725 Highway 28 just north of the city of Horicon.

## Anything scheduled soon?

We plan a two-part Owl Prowl on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 3 to 8 p.m. It's free and you don't need to be a member of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club to join us for monthly meetings, presentations or field trips.

## If folks are interested in attending meetings, how do they learn more?

Go to the club website: [horiconmarshbirdclub.com](http://horiconmarshbirdclub.com) where you can find an events calendar, bird checklist and information for visitors about lodging, the Bird Festival schedule, upcoming field trips and meetings.

## Anything else you'd like birders to know about your club?

Members develop a better understanding and deeper appreciation of the diversity of birds and their important habitats. Although the club is primarily focused on education and the observation of birds, members are offered the opportunity to become involved

in conservation projects and important wildlife surveys, which help monitor the status of our birds and aid in managing their populations and habitats.

## Let us hear about your club

This is the second in a series of articles that will highlight the state's many bird clubs and other bird related organizations. The goal is to raise awareness of groups that help connect people with the joys of Wisconsin birding. By the time we're done, no matter where you live, we should have called attention to an organization near enough for you to get involved.

The success of this series relies entirely on organizations contacting *The Badger Birder* at [badgerbirder@wsobirds.org](mailto:badgerbirder@wsobirds.org) and sending in an article that roughly follows the format used here and includes a few photos in the bargain. I encourage every birding club and organization in Wisconsin to help get the word out about what they offer.

-- Carl Schwartz, Editor

## Coming in February:

Lafayette County Bluebird Society

JANUARY 2017

## BIRD OF THE MONTH

# Orchard Oriole: *Icterus spurius*

By **DIANA HIERLMEIER**

The Orchard Oriole is one species about which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas should tell us a lot. Twenty years ago, it was considered an uncommon summer resident within its Wisconsin range, but the species was showing impressive gains across a wide northern front.



*Diana Hierlmeier*

The Orchard Oriole is the smallest North American oriole. Its body is 6.3 inches long, with a wing span of 9.8 inches and a weight of 0.71 ounces. Its bill is pointed and black with some blue-gray at the base of the lower mandible. The male has chestnut underparts, shoulder and rump with the rest of the plumage black. It has a rounded black head and throat. The adult female and juvenile birds have olive-green on the upper parts and yellowish on the breast and belly. All adults have white wing bars. These

birds are considered adults after their second year and one-year old males are yellow-greenish with a black bib.

The Orchard Oriole prefers to dwell in semi-open areas with deciduous trees along river edges, in pastures with scattered trees, in parks and orchards as well as along lakeshores, open shrublands and farms. In exceptional habitat, this species will nest in groups with multiple nests in a single tree. In less-favorable areas, they nest singly. This species is known to nest in close proximity to other oriole species, kingbirds, robins and Chipping Sparrows. It is thought that the aggressive kingbirds are an aid in deflecting Brown-headed Cowbirds from parasitizing the oriole nests. These birds are monogamous within each breeding season, but find new mates each year. Both sexes give breeding displays that include bows, seesawing motions and begging. They are relatively un-territorial, but males may defend foraging territories by chasing off females and immature males.

The female does most of the nest building, completing the project in about six days. The nest is usually in maple, ash, cottonwood, elm, white pine, spruce, oak, and magnolia or pecan trees located most commonly from 10 to 20 feet above the ground. Suspended from a forked twig, the nest is woven from long blades of grass that turn yellow as they dry. It is usually lined with fine grasses, plant down, catkins, cotton, animal wool and bits of yarn and feathers. The outside measurements of the nest are 4 inches across and 3 inches deep. The inside of the cup is 2.5 inches across and 2 inches deep.

Nests collected in the late 1800s, before the age of the automobile, were made almost exclusively of horsehair. A standard clutch ranges from four to six eggs and one brood a year is usual. Incubation lasts about 12 days and the young birds fledge in 11 to 14 days after hatching. Both parents feed the young and the male may feed the female during incubation. The fledglings may remain with one or both parents for several weeks.

Unlike many insect eating birds, the Orchard Oriole will consume spiny or hairy caterpillars, including such pest species as fall webworms, tent caterpillars and gypsy moths.

Their diet also includes spiders, wasps, ants, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles and mayflies. The birds glean insects from foliage. Later in the season, their diet shifts to ripe fruit and nectar before fall migration. They are known to visit hummingbird feeders for oranges or jelly.

Males sing a whistled, chattering song to distract females and the voice text is: "Look here, what cheer, wee yo, what cheer, whip yo, what where," "chuck" and "chuh-huh-huh-huh."

Migration can begin as early as mid-July, which accounts for pairs



rearing only one brood. Flocks of southbound birds will often stop and gorge themselves on ripe mulberries, chokecherries and other berries. Orchard Orioles winter in thickets, tropical forest edges, plantations, shady pastures and lightly wooded areas in Central America at a range of elevation up to a mile or more. In winter, this species is an important pollinator for tropical plants; as it feeds, its head gets dusted with pollen, and this then gets transferred from flower to flower.

According to North American Breeding Bird Survey estimates, Orchard Oriole populations have dropped 1% per year between 1966 and 2014.

Certain areas experienced habitat change that resulted in unsuitable or unfavorable breeding grounds, and birds in Louisiana and the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas have been heavily parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird. Populations have shown declines in response to grazing, which destroys shrub vegetation and increases access to nests and changes the water flow of riverside habitats.

Currently, the Orchard Oriole has a Conservation Status of "Least Concern." The oldest Orchard Oriole ever recaptured in the wild lived nine years and three months. A group is known as a "harvest" of orioles.

### **TO DIG MORE DEEPLY:**

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**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 through the National Wildlife Federation.

## FOUND IN OUR ARCHIVES

# Convention chronology a curious thing

**WSO Historian NANCY NABAK** maintains the Society's archives, housed at the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and offers us a frequent look at something **Found in Our Archives**.

It's one of those things that catch your eye and then you can't stop thinking about it. It's like noticing a smiling child with a missing tooth – you just have to take a second look!

That's how I felt when I was working in the WSO Archives and came across a series of convention programs.

At first, I was just trying to put them in chronological order, but then noticed a couple of idiosyncrasies that peaked my curiosity.

Our first five conventions were held in Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, Green Bay and Milwaukee again, respectively. These all happened in the years from 1939 to 1943.

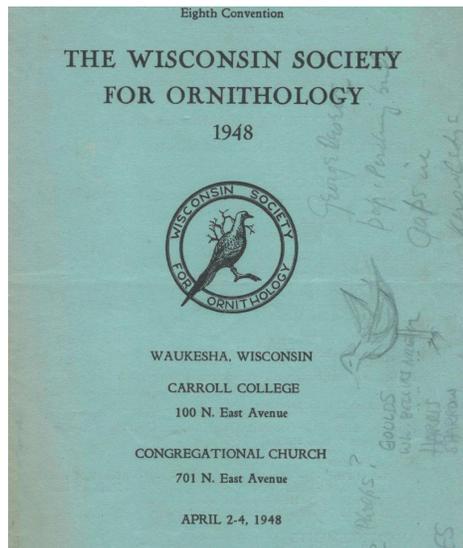
Then we notice a skip – the missing tooth. The next printed program is from the Appleton convention in 1946 with a cover that reads: **"Sixth Annual Convention."**

So what happened to 1944 and 1945?

I researched our *Passenger Pigeon* archives (Vol. IV, #2) and found that on April 22, 1944, there indeed was a convention in Milwaukee, held at the Milwaukee Gas Light Co. In the report from Mrs. A.P. Balsom, WSO secretary, it was labeled as the Society's sixth annual convention.

A paper was presented by Robert McCabe on the nesting behavior of the Alder Flycatcher. Miles D. Pirnie, director of the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary in Michigan, presented movies on "Nesting Ducks of Wisconsin & Michigan."

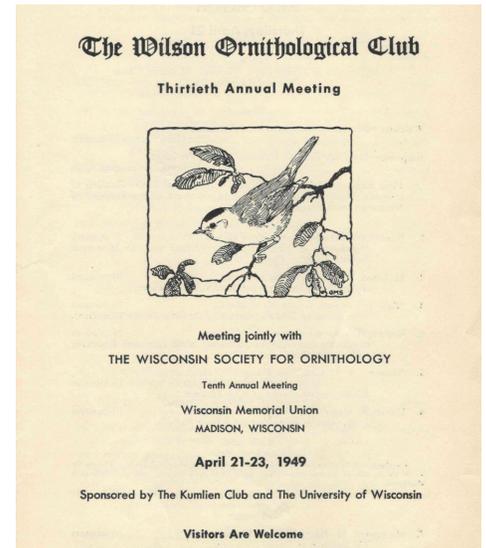
Clarence Jung also presented a paper



titled "How Ancient is the Art of Bird Banding." A business meeting with elections also was conducted, along with a formal evening dinner and program and a full agenda on Sunday as well. So a sixth annual meeting in Milwaukee existed beyond doubt.

What about 1945? According to the spring 1945 *Passenger Pigeon*, the annual convention scheduled for Madison in April "... has been postponed or canceled in conformity with O.D.T. (Office of Defense Transportation) regulations." This certainly makes sense considering the realities of World War II. So that answers 1945.

Moving forward, we still have 1946 as the Sixth Annual Convention. In 1947, the Madison convention was titled the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual (it said so on the program); the 1948 Waukesha convention program lists the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Con-



vention and then 1949 was deemed the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Madison. The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, in name, was a skip – another missing tooth.

Considering that WSO chartered in 1939, I'm sure a decision was made to coordinate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the decade of bird conservation work that had been done by the Society.

The programs are an interesting study of human behavior -- choices and decisions about numerical order.

But in the end, the program dates don't matter, but rather it's the conservation work and heightened awareness that happened in those years that really count.

-- NANCY NABAK

## Local group files challenge to NRB-approved plan for Sauk Prairie SRA

From Page 3

public review plan draft. We now encourage the board to eliminate these uses from the plan.

"Overall, we're pleased the draft master plan proposes considerable grassland and oak opening habitat management, along with ecological restoration, throughout the property. Restoring the extensive grasslands and savannah habitats that once occupied this site would be beneficial to many rare and declining bird species.

"WSO appreciates this opportunity to provide these comments. We want to reiterate that the conversion of Badger to the SPRA is a unique opportunity to preserve and further enhance the remarkable grassland bird habitat at this site. We doubt that the opportunity to restore or preserve a grassland of this size exists anywhere else in southern Wisconsin. Please emphasize recreational activities that are compatible with this area's unique and remarkable resources.

"Whatever is ultimately included in the master plan, we urge the Board to do everything it can to ensure the Department has the funds and staffing to implement the plan. This property currently is a rough gem. With dedicated management it can become one of the state's

shining jewels."

The Natural Resources Board did approve the draft Master Plan, with the one exception that it removed high-powered rocketry. I'm disappointed that dual-use motorcycles were included in the approved plan.

A local conservation organization, extensively involved in conversion of Badger to a recreation area, the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, has filed a legal challenge against the approved plan.

Its primary concern is that some high-impact components of the approved plan, such as dual-purpose motorcycles, are not consistent with earlier cooperative planning efforts for the property. The Badger Reuse Plan, developed and signed by 21 stakeholders representing federal, state, tribal, county, regional and municipal governments, landowners and non-profit organizations in 2000-'01 called for only compatible low-impact uses.

As I noted in my comments to the Board, this is an exceptional property from a bird conservation perspective. No matter what recreational uses are allowed for the site, it is time to move forward with developing and managing this incredible property at the base of the Baraboo Hills.

# Weekly guided walks promote Madison birds, nature

By JAN AXELSON

For the past three years now, a volunteer initiative in Madison has sponsored free, guided Bird and Nature Walks four times a month, every month of the year. It's not unusual for the walks to have 30 or more participants, including families with kids. It's not unusual to hear that a walk is someone's first time visiting a park.

The walks were the inspiration of volunteer Paul Noeldner. After helping to get Madison designated a Bird City Wisconsin in 2013, Paul turned his thoughts to how the city could promote birds and nature. As an advocate of nature recreation – spending time outdoors enjoying the natural world – Paul wanted to introduce more folks to the city's parks and preserves as places to enjoy birds and nature. Thus was born the idea to sponsor an informal walk every week beginning in January 2014.

A deciding factor in where to hold the walks was the presence of an active friends group to help promote and lead the walks. The Friends of Cherokee Marsh was the first to sign on, sponsoring walks on the first Sunday of the month. Three other groups soon joined the mix with walks on the second through fourth Sundays in other local parks and preserves. Fortunately, the locations were fairly well spread out across the city.

For the very first walk on the first Sunday of 2014, the sky was overcast with a temperature of +3 and a wind chill of -15. Paul came prepared with hot chocolate to share, and a few people actually showed up. A short walk ensued, and the program was off and running.

Rather than starting at dawn to find the maximum number of species, we decided to hold the walks in the afternoon when we fig-



Photo by Jan Axelson

Guide Julie Melton gathers a group to talk about the Cherokee Marsh wetlands.

ured the general public would be most likely to show up. We hold the walks year round to promote the idea that nature is interesting and accessible every month of the year.

We welcome folks of all skill levels and encourage a slow pace and plenty of questions. If the guide doesn't know an answer, someone else in the group often does. We look for birds but also may stop to examine just about any interesting insect, flower, tree, rock, scat or other piece of the natural world that catches someone's eye.

The walks have been so popular that other Friends groups have begun offering walks and also paddle and bike tours in other locations several times each year.

The first year, the walks were led entirely by volunteers, often someone from one of the friends groups. Thanks to a Besadny Conservation Grant and a donation from the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, we now can pay the guides, tapping into the network of

naturalists that the Madison School District uses to lead outdoor environmental education. We also have invited other local experts to lead walks that focus on geology and photography, and we're looking into future funding sources.

Some things we've learned:

-- **Our partners have been crucial in making the walks a success.** Madison Parks publicizes the walks on its website and by email and social media. The friends groups and Madison Audubon promote them to their members, and we post events in daily and weekly newspaper calendars.

-- **We hold events at the same time and in the same locations** each month to make it easier for folks to remember.

-- **A spotting scope can be helpful** for birds that stay still long enough for folks to have a view. Another way to share a distant sighting is to take a photo using a camera with good zoom capability and show the photo around on the camera screen.

-- **A bird ID book or app is helpful** for identifying birds and for sharing a picture of a bird we've just caught a glimpse of.

-- **We provide free lender binoculars when possible**, although we haven't solved the logistics of getting the binoculars to every walk.

-- **To start a program like this**, you don't have to be a Bird City, and you don't have to hold an event every week. You can tailor your program to the natural areas, volunteer availability and budget you have. What you do need is a commitment to holding fun, friendly, easy-going explorations on a regular schedule.

**Bird and Nature Outings page:**

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/events/birdnaturewalks.cfm>

## DNR realignment has an impact on bird conservation

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been engaged in a months-long and ongoing "strategic realignment." Gov. Scott Walker is expected to include many of the changes in the state budget he will introduce in February. Some of those changes were outlined in the DNR's official press release: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=4135>.

Karen Etter Hale, chair of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, reported to the WBCI Steering Committee several changes that will impact WBCI either immediately or in the future.

-- Craig Thompson, section chief for program integration in the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC), will be the DNR's representative on the WBCI Steering Committee, replacing Tom Hauge, who recently resigned as director of the Bureau of Wildlife Manage-

ment (BWM).

-- Ryan Brady has been transferred from BWM to NHC, working under Owen Boyle, section chief for species management. Brady will continue to devote part of his time on WBCI programs to monitor wildlife.

-- Yoyi Steele remains in BWM, working on master planning and on management plans for the Greater Prairie-Chicken. Etter Hale said Steele had been "a critical player in WBCI since our inception, but will no longer be working with WBCI."

"She did a superb job developing and overseeing the IBA program, including writing the book, as well as working on expanding the Leopold Reserve-Pine Island IBA and coordinating work on the Southern Forests."

-- Davin Lopez, working under Thompson, will be providing "coordinator services" part-time for WBCI. These have yet to be identified.

Thompson will update the WBCI Steering Committee on these changes when it meets Jan. 26. The DNR position of WBCI coordinator, held for many years by Andy Paulios, has been vacant for more than three years.

Despite the realignment, state Rep. Adam Jarchow (R-Balsam Lake) has just proposed splitting up the DNR, and Walker says he is open to the idea. Walker said Jarchow had given his office a proposal that would split environmental and wildlife functions into separate departments. Other areas such as forestry and parks would go to other agencies.

The idea of dividing the DNR has long been debated, with advocates saying separate agencies could better deal with regulatory issues in one department and hunting and fishing issues in another. Opponents counter that it's best to have one department deal with all issues affecting the environment.

# Eagle population is growing

From Page 1

Jaskiewicz says the number of occupied nests continues to rise in northern Wisconsin, heart of eagle country due to its abundant lakes and rivers, and in southeastern Wisconsin, where the proportional increase was the largest.

The Southeast historically has had a smaller population of nesting eagles, and the increase, from 11 to 17 nests, may be due to eagle numbers in the North getting close to carrying capacity, so their range is expanding, she said.

Occupied eagle nests were observed in 69 of 72 counties, with Vilas and Oneida continuing to have the most nests and Milwaukee, Kenosha and Walworth showing no nests.

The 2016 midwinter eagle survey showed an impressive 87% increase in wintering eagles across the state over the previous winter.

This may have been due to unusually mild weather enabling more eagles to stay in the state; typically, eagles move south and congregate along major rivers near open water areas below dams.

Because eagle and osprey populations are healthy and growing, DNR did not conduct a second aerial survey that it has done in

past years to assess the reproductive success of the breeding pairs. Instead, resources are being redirected to other non-game species.

Eagle nests are federally protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty,

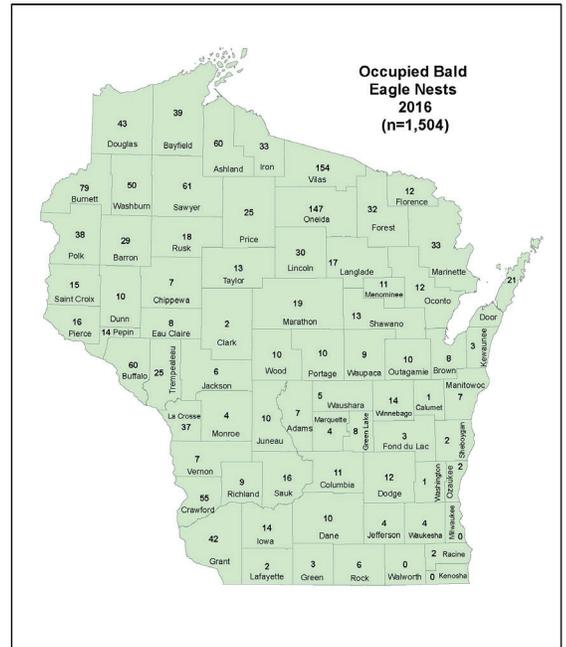
## How to support eagles

Citizens and organizations can help make sure these important annual surveys continue by sponsoring an eagle nest or purchasing a new eagle license plate, which provides a \$25 annual donation to the Endangered Resources Fund. Go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "eagle plate" for more information.

DNR's "Adopt-An-Eagle Nest" program allows sponsors, for a minimum contribution of \$100, to receive an adoption certificate, an aerial photo showing the location of their eagle nest, results from the surveys and a full-color eagle calendar. Go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "AEN" for more information.

## Where to see eagles

Wisconsin offers numerous winter opportunities to view eagles and learn more about



these majestic birds. Dams and power plants provide areas of open water in which eagles can fish, and communities have created Bald Eagle Watching Days in these areas.

Most notable are Sauk Prairie, the Fox Cities, Cassville, Kaukauna, Prairie du Chien and Ferryville. Events run from Jan. 13 and run through March 4. For details: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/baldeagle.html>

**ADOPT AN EAGLE NEST**

**YOUR DONATION PAYS FOR:**  
 NEST SURVEYS  
 NEST PROTECTION  
 EAGLE RESEARCH  
 & REHABILITATION

**DNR.WI.GOV SEARCH "AEN"**



## LET'S GO BIRDING

# Manitowoc Impoundment/Harbor: Containment area becomes a year-round hot spot for rarities

From *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, Fifth Edition (2009)*, as adapted by **DANI BAUMANN**

The Manitowoc impoundment area was created in the early 1970s by the Army Corps of Engineers to receive dredge spoils from the Manitowoc and Two Rivers harbors. The impoundment offers a variety of habitats, including open water and shoreline areas ideal for a wide variety of birds. An easy walk from the parking lot along the containment causeway and the vessel wall permits good viewing of birds both within the containment vessel and in the harbor area.

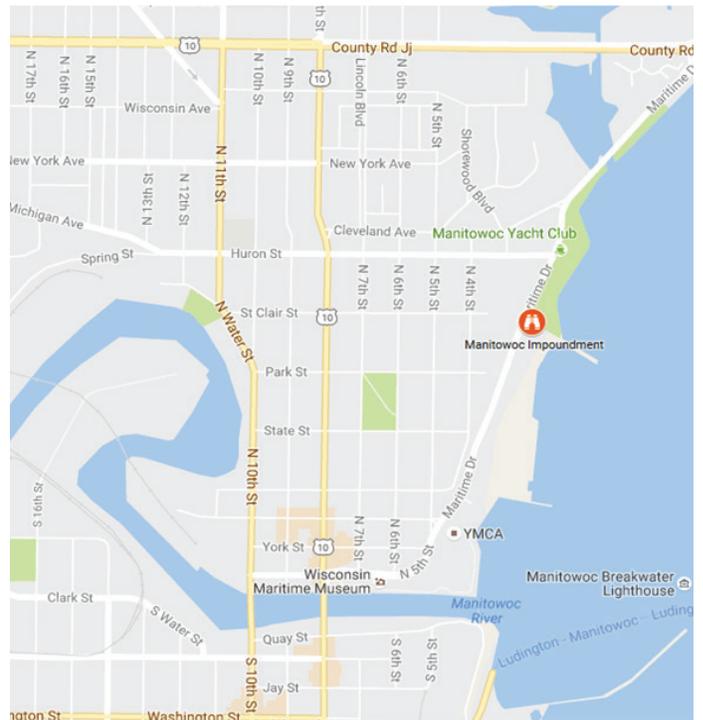
The diverse habitats, created in part by plant succession, attract birds in every season. Dredge material is added to the containment vessel on an irregular schedule, but when fresh spoil material is added, it becomes especially attractive to gulls, terns and shorebirds. The area has hosted a large variety of interesting and sometimes rare gulls to Wisconsin including Lesser Black-backed, Iceland, Glaucous, Thayer's, Laughing, Franklin's, Little, Black-headed, Mew, and a Black-legged Kittiwake. A Royal Tern has been seen twice among the Forster's and Common Terns. May 2016 saw the appearance of a much talked about White-winged Tern.

On occasion an American White Pelican will find respite from its travels in the containment vessel, usually swimming in the company of gulls and puddle ducks.

From the middle until the end of May, Whimbrels are seen and heard as they pass through the lakeshore area. And, if the weather patterns are correct, the flights can include very large flocks numbering 500-1,000. American Avocets, Willets, both godwits and Black-necked Stilts have also been found, but rarely. Toward the end of May, Ruddy Turnstones collect on the containment shore at dusk. With luck, these flocks of Ruddy Turnstones may contain a Red Knot.

Because the containment is an ever changing environment, especially when new dredge material is added, its status as a birding attraction is always in flux. Until the containment is filled, it deserves consideration as a stopping place on any birding trip along Lake Michigan.

The containment facility is located on the extreme east side of Manitowoc and can be easily reached from the north or west. From the north, take Maritime Drive south from Highway 42 along the Lake Michigan shore and continue south to the parking lot, located



about 1,000 feet south of the Manitowoc Yacht Club. From the west or I-43, follow Highway 151 to the city center. Proceed north on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and cross the Manitowoc River. Veer east onto Maritime Drive, and continue past the marina area to the parking lot described above. This parking lot is adjacent to the causeway to the vessel area, and ultimately ends at the lighthouse.

*"Let's Go Birding" aims to encourage enjoyment of Wisconsin's rich birding opportunities and also to introduce additional readers to Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, Fifth Edition, compiled by DARYL TESSEN for WSO and available for purchase online from the WSO Bookstore, currently at a 50% discount. The Manitowoc County chapter was written by DR. CHARLES SONTAG.*

## Communication-tower owners change lighting to protect birds

New guidelines for lighting on the nation's communication towers spell out how tower operators can save birds and energy without sacrificing safety. Put in place by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the guidelines strongly encourage tower operators to turn off or reprogram steady-burning red or white lights in favor of flashing lights, which are less harmful to birds yet still alert pilots to the towers' presence.

As of late October, operators of more than 750 tall towers nationwide already had updated their lighting systems under the new guidelines. Making the switch saves energy, reduces operating costs and reduces bird collisions substantially.

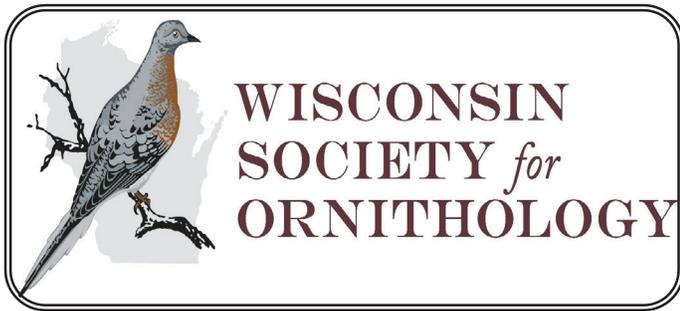
Steady red or white lights on communication towers attract or disorient migratory birds flying at night. As many as 7 million birds a year die in collisions with towers and the guy wires that support them.

"By extinguishing the non-flashing lights on towers, we can reduce night-time bird fatality rates by as much as 70%," said Dr. Christine Sheppard, the American Bird Conservancy's bird collisions campaign manager. "We wish to thank the operators of the 700-plus towers that have already switched their lighting to help reduce mortality of birds," Sheppard said. "But there are still some 15,000 tall towers across the U.S. with outdated lights that are dangerous for birds. We are asking all tower operators to

make this cost-saving and life-saving switch to help migratory birds."

The new guidelines explain how owners of towers taller than 350 feet above ground level (AGL) and built before 2015 can use a series of easy steps to end the use of non-flashing lights. The FCC and FAA are expected to release specifications for flashing lights on towers 150 to 350 ft. AGL soon.

The FAA is calling on owners to eliminate the use of non-flashing lights on all towers. "New tower lighting schemes should now follow the revised guidance, and operators of towers with the old lighting system should submit plans explaining how and when they will transition to the new standards," the agency said.



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# 2017 Field Trips

**January 7 (Saturday)**

*Milwaukee: Lake-front Birds*

**January 28 (Saturday)**

*Buena Vista Marsh & Necedah NWR*

**March 12 (Sunday)**

*Sheboygan: Lake-front Birds*

**March 18 or 25 (Saturday)**

*Dane & Columbia Counties*

**April 8 (Saturday)**

*Mead Wildlife Area*

**NEW April 21 (Friday - Evening)**

*Navarino State Wildlife Area: Night Sounds  
Shawano County*

**May 6 (Saturday)**

*White River Marsh - Green Lake Co.*

**May 13-14 (Saturday & Sunday)**

*Honey Creek:  
Birdathon-&-Bandathon*

**NEW May 27 (Saturday)**

*White River Marsh - Green Lake Co.  
Young Birders "ONLY" Field Trip*

*Joint trip w/ Wisconsin Young Birders Club*

**June 3 (Saturday)**

*Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest  
Fond du Lac & Sheboygan Counties*

**NEW June 10 (Saturday)**

*Bass Hollow State Natural Area  
Juneau County*

**June 16-19 (Friday - Monday)**

***78th Annual Convention**  
Potawatomi Carter Casino Hotel  
"Celebrating Citizen Science"*

**NEW June 24 (Saturday)**

*Buena Vista Grasslands & Leola Marsh*

**NEW July 1 (Saturday)**

*Douglas County: Barrens Birding*

**August 13 (Sunday)**

*Horicon Marsh NWR*

**September 9 (Saturday)**

*Green Bay: Fall Warblers*

**September 22-24**

*Wisconsin Point Weekend "Jaegerfest"*

**October 1 or 8 (Sunday)**

*Harrington Beach State Park: Hawks*

**Jan. 7 (Saturday)**

**Milwaukee: Lake-front Birding**

**Meet: 8:00 am** at South Shore Yacht Club  
([Google Map](#)). Start your annual bird list right



with a field trip for the hardy! We'll work our way north to Sheboygan searching through any wintering gull flocks for Great Black-backed,

Thayer's, Glaucous, Iceland, plus others. We'll also scan through the assortment of waterfowl on the lake for scoters and Long-tailed Ducks, and we may have a chance of seeing a Snowy Owl as well. Dress warmly and bring your "energy" foods.

**January 28 (Saturday)**

**Buena Vista Marsh & Necedah NWR  
*Eagles and Winter Birds***

**Meet: 8:00 am** meet at Buena Vista Marsh along CTH W ([Google Map](#)), just west of where it curves to the west.

**Directions:** Exit off I-39 at CTH W (exit 143,



Portage Co. near Bancroft), and follow CTH W west and north about two miles.

We'll spend a good portion of the morning here at Buena Vista looking for wintering raptors, Prairie-Chickens, and other grassland birds. Later in the morning we'll depart for Necedah NWR in search of Bald Eagles, diving ducks and possibly wintering Golden Eagles. Bring a bag lunch to eat in the car.

### **March 12 (Sunday)**

#### **Sheboygan: Lakefront Birding**

**Meet: 8:00 am** at the **Sheboygan Marina**. **Directions** ([Google Map](#)): take Hwy. 23 (Erie Av.) east into downtown Sheboygan.. Continue east on Erie to 4th Street, turn right (south) on 4th to Ontario Ave. At Ontario turn left (east) and follow it to lake (Broughton Dr.). Turn right on Broughton Dr. and continue south until you see the marina on the left. Depending on current birding information, our travels may take us north to Manitowoc and Two Rivers harbors or south to Harrington Beach State park and Port Washington areas. Bring a bag lunch.



### **March 18 or 25 (Saturday)**

#### **Dane & Columbia County Ponds**

**Meet: 7:00 am** at **Goose Pond**, 1 mile south of Hwy. 51/60 on Goose Pond Road (south-east of the town of Arlington). ([Google Map](#)). Our group will tour by auto to several ponds and flooded fields in this very productive area. A wide variety of water birds, shorebirds, migrant passerines and others are possible. Our trip typically ends around noon after birding the causeway (CTH V) on Lake Wisconsin. Bring a bag lunch.

### **April 8 (Saturday)**

#### **George W. Mead Wildlife Area**

**Meet: 7:30 am** at the "old" wildlife headquarters building, near the bathrooms, along CTH S - 2 miles south of CTH C or 6.2 miles north

of Hwy 10 ([Google Map](#)). This trip will include a combination of car caravan and some light walking. Highlights include an assortment of waterfowl, Prairie-Chickens,



Longspurs, but also some early spring passerines such as Winter Wren, various sparrows and other songbirds. This trip will be led by Myles Hurlburt and Rob Pendergast. If you have questions contact Myles Hurlburt at ([715-574-1003](tel:715-574-1003)) or [mhurlburt44@gmail.com](mailto:mhurlburt44@gmail.com)

### **NEW April 21 (Friday)**

#### **Navarino SWA: Night Sounds Shawano County**



**Meet: 6:30 pm** at the **Navarino nature center parking lot off Lindstien Road** ([Google Map](#)).

Join leaders Tom Prestby, Stuart Malcom, and Erin Giese in taking in the night sounds of one of the region's most diverse areas. We'll begin in the evening listening for rails, bitterns, and other marshbirds and then take in the display flights of American Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe. Afterward, we'll search for nocturnally active marshbirds and owls while taking in the chorus of several species of frogs. This is an excellent way to learn how to collect nocturnal data for Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. **Bring a flashlight**. For more information about this trip contact Tom Prestby at: [prestby@uwgb.edu](mailto:prestby@uwgb.edu), 414-614-0798

### **May 6 (Saturday)**

#### **White River Marsh Green Lake County**

**Meet at 5:00 am** (for those wanting to experience the early dawn chorus of woodcock, snipe, rails, cranes, etc.) meet at the **parking lot by the cattail marsh along White River Road**, about 4.3 miles east of Hwy. D, north of Princeton in Green Lake County



([Google Map](#)). If you don't want to arrive that early, the group will probably be along this

road until around 8:00 AM. Bring along a lunch.

### May 13-14 Honey Creek

#### *Birdathon and Bandathon*

Come to WSO's **Honey Creek property in Sauk County**, for a Bandathon on Saturday & Sunday at the Nature Center ([Google Map](#)). Then arrive by 8 a.m. on Sunday to join Jesse Peterson and other WSO birders in a Birdathon on the property that will include a hike up Honey Creek valley. Camping facilities will be available and the Nature Center building will be open. For more information, contact Jesse Peterson at (608) 836-8334 or [peterson.jesse@tds.net](mailto:peterson.jesse@tds.net)



### NEW May 27 (Saturday)

#### **White River Marsh - Green Lake County**

#### ***Young Birders "ONLY" Field Trip***

#### ***Joint Trip w/ Wisconsin Young Birders Club***



**Meet at 7:00 am** The field trip is **for birders under 19 years old** and their chaperones. The group will meet at the **parking lot by the cattail marsh along White River Road**, about 4.3 miles east of

Hwy. D, north of Princeton in Green Lake County ([Google Map](#)). We will be birding at White River Marsh the entire time. Bring along a lunch.

### June 3 (Sunday)

#### ***Northern Unit -Kettle Moraine State Forest***

#### ***Fond du Lac & Sheboygan Counties***

**Meet: 6:00 am** at **Mauthe Lake Recreation Area**, the first large parking area, **beyond** the ticket booth, on the main road to the beach/picnic area ([Google Map](#)). Please note that there is a state park entrance fee. Bring good walking shoes, because there will be quite a little hiking, though leisurely. Most trails are well groomed. Notable species include Red-shouldered & Broad-winged Hawks, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian, Alder and Willow Flycatchers, 10-15 warbler species including Mourning, Canada, Hooded, Pine and Cerulean Warblers, as well as Grasshopper, Henslow's and Clay-colored Sparrows. Bring a bag lunch.

### NEW June 10 (Saturday)

#### **Juneau County:**

#### ***Bass Hollow State Natural Area***

**Meet: 7:00 am** at the main parking area on Hwy K ([Google Map](#)). Join leaders Aaron Stutz and Cynthia Bridge in exploring this woodland gem in southern Juneau County while contributing valuable data to a priority block of Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. Expected highlights are southern breeders

including Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and possibly Hooded Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. Please bring hiking shoes and other hiking attire as well as a bag lunch. For more information about this trip contact Aaron Stutz at: [agstutz@scglobal.net](mailto:agstutz@scglobal.net), 608-698-1692.

### June 16-19 (Friday - Monday)

#### ***78th Annual Convention***

#### ***"Celebrating Citizen Science"***

#### ***Breeding Birds of the Nicolet***

Come join us at the Potawatomi Carter Casino Hotel in Carter, WI. ([Google Map](#)). (Convention registration will run from April 1 - May 15).

Convention check-in will begin Friday June 16 at 2 pm with a "member appreciation" picnic at the American Legion Memorial Park in Wabeno, from 4 - 6 pm. Then at 7 pm the WSO awards ceremony will begin at the hotel followed by reception to honor the recipients.

Saturday will start early with local area field trips, followed by a buffet style lunch at the hotel. At noon there will be business meeting, with presentations and birding workshops from 1 - 4 pm. On Saturday evening there will be social hour leading into the annual banquet followed by a keynote speaker.

Sunday and Monday "all-day" field trips are open only to convention registrants. WSO members have first priority until April 30; after that, the remaining spaces will be open to nonmembers. Transportation options are either by coach bus or



carpooling caravans. These trips will depart from the hotel on both days. On Sunday evening there will be an *informal* "Birds and Beer" event for all.



### **NEW June 24** **(Saturday)**

***Buena Vista Grasslands & Leola Marsh***

**Meet: 7:00 am** at the kiosk on County W in the Buena Vista Grasslands ([Google Map](#)). Join leaders Dan Belter and Rob Pendergast in one of the top grasslands in the state. Breeding grassland specialties will be the highlights, likely including Upland Sandpiper, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, and possibly Greater Prairie-Chicken. We will collect breeding data for these species in multiple priority blocks for Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. For more information about this trip contact Dan Belter at: [bwhawk55@gmail.com](mailto:bwhawk55@gmail.com).

### **NEW July 1** **(Saturday)**

**Douglas County:**  
***Barrens Birding***

**Meet: 7:00 am** on County M and Center Bird Sanctuary Road, west off Hwy. 53 south of Solon Springs. ([Google Map](#)). Join top atlaster's Matt Berg and Brian Collins in exploring the unique barrens habitats of the Douglas County Wildlife Area. Typical barrens species such as Upland Sandpiper, Brewer's Blackbird, and several species of sparrows and warblers are expected as well as the possibility of Sharp-tailed Grouse. Help contribute valuable data to this unique priority block for Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. For more information about this trip contact Matt Berg at [saintcroixdfly@gmail.com](mailto:saintcroixdfly@gmail.com), 715-338-7502.



### **August 13 (Sunday)**

***Horicon Marsh NWR***

**Meet: 7:00 am** along Hwy. 49, on the north end of Horicon Marsh ([Google Map](#)). 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.



### **September 9 (Saturday)**

***Green Bay: Fall Warblers***

**Meet: 7:00 am** at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary ([Google Map](#)), which 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.

### **September 22-24**

**Wisconsin Point Weekend: *JAEGERFEST***

**Meet: 7:00 am** each morning at the **first beach parking area (Lot #1) along the Moccasin Mike Road** ([Google Map](#)), that leads to Wisconsin Point. Weather plays such an integral part in birding this area, in fact the worse the weather the more incredible the birding could be. So prepare for the possibility of wet, cold weather as well as typical cool fall temperatures along lake Superior. Participants may want to bring old bread, popcorn, beef suet, etc. for "chumming" the gulls. If you are staying in a motel, make sure you book your reservation early!



### **October 1 or 8 (Sunday)**

**Harrington Beach State Park: *Hawk Watch***

**Meet: 8:00 am** at the lower beach parking area of **Harrington Beach State Park** ([Google Map](#)). Please note that there is a state park entrance fee.

If the weather cooperates, this area can be very good for viewing the fall hawk flight. Later in the morning we will also venture south to the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory and check for additional species at that site. Bring a lunch.

### Starting Location Maps

*For your convenience, we have added a link to Google Maps for directions to the starting location of each field trip. Note, a Google account (free) is required to view these maps. All that is necessary is to hover the mouse over the ([Google Map](#)) and when the little hand with a “W” appears, left click the mouse. This should take you to the trip starting location in Google Maps.*

### Dual Field Trip Dates

Two field trips have two different dates indicated. Our intent is to try and optimize our birding during these migration periods. The 1<sup>st</sup> date listed is the normal scheduled date, but if it is determined that the 2<sup>nd</sup> date may be better, we will notify participants via the WSO Website: <http://wsobirds.org> and Wisbirdn Listserv. So please check these two services a day or two prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> date listed.

### Weather Cancellation Policy

*In the event of poor or dangerous weather conditions any given field trip may be cancelled. Participants will be notified via the WSO Website: <http://wsobirds.org>, Wisbirdn Listserv, as well as various Wisconsin birding Facebook pages. Please realize that under some circumstances there may not be sufficient time to post a cancellation. So please **EXERCISE GOOD JUDGEMENT** when deciding to attend.*

### Field Trip Co-Chairs

#### **Tom Schultz**

*N6104 Honeysuckle Lane,  
Green Lake, WI 54941  
Cell: (920) 960-1796  
e-mail: [trschultz@centurytel.net](mailto:trschultz@centurytel.net)*

#### **Jeff Baughman**

*W2640 Middle Road,  
Campbellsport, WI 53010  
Cell: (920) 960-4732  
e-mail: [jbaughman@csd.k12.wi.us](mailto:jbaughman@csd.k12.wi.us)*

**WSO Website : <http://wsobirds.org>**

**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**

**Jan. 7 (Saturday) --Milwaukee: Lakefront Birding**

**Meet at 8 a.m. at South Shore Yacht Club.** Dress warmly and bring your “energy” foods. **Directions to South Shore Yacht Club:** take I 794 EAST over the Harbor Bridge. At the south end of the bridge take the Port of Milwaukee exit. The exit terminates at Carferry Drive (stop sign), turn left (east) on Carferry, continue east to a “T- intersection” with So. Lincoln Memorial Drive. Turn right (south) on Lincoln Memorial Dr. At the top of the hill the road curves right (west) and becomes Russell Avenue. After 1 block you will come to a stoplight at Superior Street; turn left

(south) onto Superior and go 3 blocks to Iron Street. Again, turn left (east) on Iron, go 2 blocks and then down the hill into the parking lot, continue to the south end of the Yacht Club.

**January 28 (Saturday) -- Buena Vista Marsh & Necedah NWR - Eagles and Winter Birds**

**Meet at 8:a.m. at Buena Vista Marsh along CTH W** just west of where it curves to the west. **Directions:** Exit off I-39 at CTH W (exit 143, Portage Co. near Bancroft), and follow CTH W west and north about two miles.

*Complete 2017 schedule appears on Pages 15-19 of this issue of The Badger Birder.*

**WSO Board of Directors**

**Jan. 22 (Sunday) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Quarterly meeting will be held at Horicon Education and Visitor’s Center on Highway 28 just north of the City of Horicon. Members are always welcome; bring a lunch.

**Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon**  
**May 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday) at Honey Creek**

Meet at the Cox Nature Center on the Harold and Carla Kruse Nature Preserve at Honey Creek in Sauk County. Banding will be conducted both days, weather permitting.

**78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**June 16-19 (Friday-Monday over Father’s Day weekend)**

Headquartered at Potawatomi Carter Casino and Hotel in the Nicolet National Forest just south of Wabeno.

**WSO Membership Application or Renewal**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$30         | <input type="checkbox"/> Life (single) \$600 +                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35         | <input type="checkbox"/> Life (couple) \$700 +                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$75     | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1000 +                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth \$15 #        | <input type="checkbox"/> + also payable in four yearly installments           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$15 *       | <input type="checkbox"/> * 65 and over (The Passenger Pigeon is not included) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> # Full time student |   |

**Make check payable to WSO and send with form to address below**  
**WSO Membership PO Box 3024 Madison, WI 53704-3024**