

2008 BIRDING FESTIVAL DETAILS

FRIDAY FESTIVITIES

Welcome Reception 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Participants, presenters, and sponsors are invited to attend this casual Friday evening gathering. The Discovery Center Bird Club is hosting the event and providing free appetizers and beverages, including wine, soft drinks, coffee, and beer.

Spirit of Place 6:00 p.m.

The wonders of nature, especially in the Northwoods, are endless. Local naturalist and author, John Bates, along with his wife and artist/author Mary Burns, will share stories and poems focusing on the spirit of the great Northwoods.

SATURDAY FESTIVITIES

Sunrise Warbler Walks 6:00 – 7:45 a.m.

Designated by birding level, these walks are led by experienced bird guides and are geared towards your level of expertise (beginner, intermediate, and advanced). View and listen for bird activity along the Discovery Center grounds at the peak hours of the morning. Walks total approximately 1 ½ miles.

Bird Banding 6:00 – 7:45 a.m.

Join Master Bird Bander, Bruce Bacon, and Discovery Center Naturalist and Bird Bander, Zach Wilson, as they set mist nets and capture birds for scientific research. Last year, among a number of birds captured and released, participants were fortunate to view the rare Golden-winged Warbler!

Bagel, Fruit, Coffee, and Juice Bar 7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

A delicious and healthful all you can eat breakfast awaits our hungry birders, presenters, and volunteers. Grab a bite to eat, sit back, relax, and take in the day's keynote presentation.

KEYNOTE: Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project 8:15 – 9:00 a.m.

Joan Garland, the Education Outreach Coordinator at the International Crane Foundation, is one of the co-leaders for the Outreach Team for the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. For the past eight years this non-profit organization have been working on an ambitious reintroduction project to restore a migratory flock of whooping cranes to eastern North America. For the past five years Garland has accompanied the whooping crane migration down to Florida and has lots of stories and research to share.

CHOICE OF ONE AM FIELD TRIP 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Powell March Wildlife Refuge Hike

Join your experienced guides Linda Winn, WNDR Wildlife Biologist, and State Ecologist Colleen Matula for an exploration into one of the true gems of the Northwoods. Ms. Winn offers participants insight into the past, present, and future management of the

area, as well as providing greater insight into the species of concern that birders may encounter upon their journey through one of the largest marshes in the state. Signature species include Sandhill Cranes, Yellow Rail, LeConte's Sparrow, Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, American Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlins, Sharp-tailed Grouse and White-rumped Sandpipers.

Little Turtle Flowage Hike

Participants are guided along on an exploration of a hidden treasure and birding hotspot in the Northwoods. The diverse habitat of the flowage promotes a wide variety of migratory and resident wildlife species such as Black Terns, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. Other species include Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, Great Blue Herons, Trumpeter Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, Merlins, American Kestrel, Common Snipe, Sora, Yellow Rail, Eastern Kingbird, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and Song, Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows.

Rice Creek Paddle

The Rice Creek Paddle takes participants to a treasured area, located along a 2-mile stretch between Round and Big Lakes in Boulder Junction, WI. Recently designated as a State Natural Area (in 2007), this unique paddle will find you winding your way through diverse shoreline habitats including conifer swamps, boreal rich fens, sedge meadows, and northern wet-mesic forests. A wonderful variety of breeding and migrating birds can be found in this richly diverse habitat, with some of the more notable birds including Gray Jays, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Winter Wrens, and Black-backed Woodpeckers. As well, a high density of Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles utilize both Round and Big Lakes making these likely sightings as well.

Manitowish River Paddle

Troy Walters, avid birder and naturalist at Trees for Tomorrow, leads participants on a paddle of the historic Manitowish River. This quiet morning paddle will focus on waterbirds, shore-nesting passerines, and nesting raptors including Eagle, Merlin, and Osprey. Participants may choose to bring and launch their own canoe or kayak; or canoes and kayaks will be available at the launch site for your ease and convenience.

Van Vliet Old Growth Hike

This beautiful, rolling site is being considered for designation as a Scientific and Natural Area, and with good reason. It houses the now uncommon hardwood-hemlock forest, and provides gorgeous hiking and great birding opportunities. A great variety of summer birds are found here, including Alder Flycatcher, Barred Owls, Veery, Wood and Hermit Thrush, Black-and-white, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Palm and Pine Warblers; not to mention the other migrants we're bound to encounter as they stop over on their way to breeding locales further north.

Turtle Flambeau Flowage Pontoon

Participants will hop aboard a pontoon or an electric duffy boat and spend the morning on the picturesque Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. This Scenic Waters Area is an area rich in diversity of wildlife habitats, providing important migratory and breeding habitat for

many species of birds, and offering the highest number of nesting loons, eagles, and osprey in the state.

Lunch and Announcements 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Your boxed lunch will include choice of sandwich/wrap, snack-able veggies, pretzels, and water. Relax indoors, or box your lunch up and take it outdoors, enjoying the gorgeous lake views our lakeside benches and outdoor amphitheater provides.

Exhibitor Display Showcase 12:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Be certain to check out the exhibitor display tent. Sponsors, presenters, organizations and individuals set up educational and retail tables with the same theme in mind – BIRDS! Tables include videos, running computer shows, free educational materials, bird-related items for sale, and a chance to speak with presenters and a variety of non-profit organizations with services dedicated to birds, habitat, and conservation. Featuring wildlife artists, bird rehabilitators with live birds, and more...

Bird Shack's "Build Your Own" 12:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Jack King offers a wonderful activity for kids and adults alike. Quality pre-cut wood pieces assist participants in building a bird feeder to take home. Simply stop by, select the wood cuts, and piece your feeder together. All tools, materials provided by *Pukall Lumber* and guided supervision provided. Take with you a homemade festival souvenir, adding to your backyard bird habitat.

CHOICE OF TWO AFTERNOON PROGRAMS OR ONE OFFSITE FIELD TRIP 1:30 – 3:30

PROGRAMS

Backyard Bird Habitat 1:30 – 2:25 p.m. and 2:30 – 3:25 p.m.

Join Barbara Blow, owner of Stony Creek Gardens in Minocqua, for a session aimed at informing folks how to best prepare and design their backyards for increased wildlife activity. Barbara will share with participants a number ideas related to structures, trees, shrubs, and vines that will act to encourage a variety of birds and other wildlife.

Wisconsin's Bird Surveys: Become a Citizen Scientist 1:30 – 2:25 p.m. and 2:30 – 3:25 p.m.

Amber Roth, former LoonWatch Coordinator, WDNR Research Technician and current Ph.D Forest Science student, provides the perfect program for folks interested in monitoring birds in their backyards or with one of the many established surveys in the state. Discover the many citizen-based bird surveys in Wisconsin and how you can become involved regardless of your birding skill level. Also learn how to create a simple survey to monitor birds on your property.

Cranes of the World: 1:30 – 2:25 p.m. and 2:30 – 3:25 p.m.

Joan Garland, Education Outreach Coordinator at the International Crane Foundation (ICF), leads a program on Cranes throughout the world. Cranes are a charismatic family of birds, found on five of the seven continents. The ICF works worldwide in over 22 countries to conserve cranes and the ecosystems on which they depend. ICF is dedicated to securing the future for all 15 species of cranes worldwide. Discover the beauty of these majestic cranes and learn how ICF is working to protect these endangered birds.

Birds Up Close – Banding Demo 2:30 – 3:25 p.m.

In case you missed the morning session... Join Master Bird Bander, Bruce Bacon, and Discovery Center Naturalist and Bird Bander, Zach Wilson, as they set mist nets and capture birds for scientific research. Last year, among a number of birds captured and released, participants were fortunate to view the rare Golden-winged Warbler!

FIELD TRIPS

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Turtle Flambeau Flowage Pontoon 1:30 – 3:30

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Presque Isle Rearing Ponds Hike 1:30 – 3:30

The Presque Isle Rearing Ponds were traditionally known as the largest Walleye Rearing Ponds in the state. More recently, and with the ponds now back in the hands of the Town of Presque Isle, they have become a locally favored birding spot. With an easy mile-long walk around the ponds and through a nearby mixed conifer/hardwood forest, this makes for an excellent afternoon trip. A great variety of migrating waterfowl congregate at the ponds, gathering up small fry to continue their journey north. Northern Harriers, Merlins and Coopers, Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawks are frequent visitors/residents to the ponds and the nearby wooded areas. As well as a number of shoreline birds, the wooded areas running along the entry water into the pond can bring with it a nice diversity of migrating wood warblers.

CONCLUDING EVENTS

Raptor Education Group, Inc. (Live Raptors) 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

The Raptor Education Group, Inc (REGI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting awareness of and respect for native bird species, their natural behaviors and habitats, and to help ensure the successful transition of rehabilitated birds back into the wild. Educators from REGI will bring four live raptors to help with their program focusing on the wonderful world of raptors.

Dessert Social 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Splurge a little! Delicious desserts, provided by *Michael's Parlor of Manitowish Waters*, provides a perfect end to the day. Grab a dessert, socialize and mingle with fellow

birders, view the board with the final and tallied sightings for the day, and see if you are a winner of one of our several raffle items!