

12<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Northwoods Birding Festival

## Festival Guide

May 13-14, 2016

Hosted by the North Lakeland Discovery Center  
Manitowish Waters, WI



The Northwoods Birding Festival is an opportunity for bird enthusiasts of all levels to celebrate birds while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow birders in the beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Learn from experts in the field of ornithology, improve your birding skills through field trips to local birding hotspots, and see birds up close through bird banding demonstrations!

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## Friday Evening Reception

### **Welcome Reception**

**Friday, May 13, 5:00pm – 6:00pm**

Come out before the presentation to meet fellow birders and swap some stories about the birds you've seen recently. You will enjoy complementary appetizers which have been donated by members of the Discovery Center Bird Club and other volunteers, as well as a cash bar.

### **Presentation: Wildlife Ecology and Management: Words of Wisdom from a Naturalist**

**Friday, May 13, 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

**Speaker: Christian Cold**

Chris will discuss the fundamental needs of wildlife, factors that regulate their populations, and practices that enable wildlife and forest management professionals to maintain an appropriate abundance and richness of each species. Based on his 25 year tenure in WDNR Wildlife Management, Chris will provide a philosophical perspective on current critical issues facing wildlife management professionals today. Highlighting the significance of the 100th anniversary of the International Migratory Bird Treaty, Chris will conclude with a sound rationale for the value of wildlife in our lives.



Photo Credit: Amber Roth



#### **About the Speaker**

Christian Cold is a wildlife technician and educator of 25 years for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Based in Ladysmith, he serves as a mobile, non-formal educator who travels extensively throughout Wisconsin offering programs on wildlife and related topics of natural history to schools and adult audiences. Chris is a 1991 graduate of UW-Stevens Point, with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management and Wildlife with an emphasis in Environmental Education. He is a licensed falconer (since 1970) and former bird bander (28 years). In his spare time he maintains a fleet of educational animals, takes nature hikes, hunts, fishes, wades & snorkels in area streams, reads natural history, and collects fossils, insects, and other natural history objects. He lives near the Flambeau River with his wife Susan.

## Saturday Morning

### **Sunrise Warbler Walks**

**Saturday, May 14, 6:30am – 7:30am**

**Leaders: TBA**

These short hikes are a great way to catch some early birds! View and listen for bird activity around the Discovery Center grounds at the busy hours of the morning. Warbler Walks are offered for beginner, intermediate, and advanced birders. Just indicate your preferred walk on your registration.

*Transportation: Onsite*

*Physical Activity Level: Relaxed. A hike over gentle terrain of about 1-2 miles.*



Photo Credit: Conserve School Student



Photo Credit: Conserve School Student

### **Bird Banding Demonstrations**

**Saturday, May 14, 6:30am – 12:00pm**

**Bander: Heather Lumpkin**

A bird in the hand beats two in the bush! Stop by when the nets are open as Heather demonstrates the techniques for live bird banding. See birds up close and learn more about how banding can be used for research on bird survival, productivity, and distribution. You may even have the opportunity to release one of the birds once it has been banded!



Photo Credit: Guy David

### **About the Bander**

Heather joined the North Lakeland Discovery Center staff in June 2013. She grew to love the Northwoods while earning a Masters in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Environmental Education through a UW graduate fellowship program at the Conserve School in Land O Lakes. She also has a Masters in Zoology from UW–Madison, where she studied the effects of climate and residential development on birds in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Heather coordinates the research and monitoring program, a perfect way to combine field ecology research & environmental education/outreach.



## Field Trips

**Saturday, May 14, 8:00am – 11:30am**

### **Powell Marsh Birding Photography**

**Leaders: Azael Meza and Vanessa Haese-Lehman**

Here's a chance to hone your bird photography skills at the scenic Powell Marsh area with Discovery Center Executive Director and Professional Photographer Azael Meza. You'll visit Powell Marsh where you will have a good chance of photographing a variety of shorebirds and other signature species such as Sandhill Cranes, Bobolinks, Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, Tree Swallows, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Semipalmated Plovers, and Trumpeter swans.

*Equipment: Camera with telephoto or Zoom lens, Tripod*

*Transportation: Carpool\**

*Physical Activity Level: Relaxed: Flat terrain, 1-2 miles.*



Photo Credit: Azael Meza



Photo Credit: Guy David

### **Birding by Canoe**

**Leader: Zach Wilson**

Zach Wilson, Conservation Specialist with Iron County Land and Water Conservation, will guide you on a fun paddle down the Manitowish River (or Gresham Creek dependent on water levels). Flatwater dominates and waterfowl and songbirds use the river as stopover and nesting sites. You'll paddle slowly and stop frequently to observe all the wonderful birdlife and other wildlife. Canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided. If the weather is poor on that day, plan to join one of the other land field trips.

*Transportation: Provided*

*Physical Activity Level: Moderate: Must be able to get in and out and paddle a canoe for 1-2 miles.*

### **Lesser Known Sites in the Manitowish Waters Area**

**Leaders: John Bates and Mary Burns**

Everyone knows to go to Powell Marsh and the Little Turtle Flowage - they're great sites! But sometimes a little exploring down some unmarked roads can yield some great finds, too. We can't give you names for them, because . . . well, they're unnamed! Join author and naturalist John Bates and his wife Mary Burns for a hunt for the best, lesser-known birding hotspots in the area.

*Transportation: Provided*

*Physical Activity Level: Relaxed: Mostly driving with occasional short walks on gentle terrain.*



Photo Credit: NLDC Staff



Photo Credit: Heather Lumpkin

### **Powell Marsh Hike**

**Leader: Guy David**

Head out early to Powell Marsh with Bird Club member Guy David and explore one of the best spots for shorebirds and a variety of other species too! You'll have time to explore some less traveled parts of Powell Marsh as you search for signature species including Sandhill Cranes, Bobolinks, Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, American Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Semipalmated Plovers, and Trumpeter Swans.

*Transportation: Carpool\**

*Physical Activity Level: Moderate: Gentle terrain, 2-4 miles.*

### **Presque Isle Ponds**

**Leader: Colleen Matula**

Take a tour of a true Northwoods hidden treasure. You'll hike around "the ponds" of Presque Isle, a little known birding hotspot that provides opportunities to view both shoreline and woodland bird species. Your guide, Colleen Matula, Forestry Specialist with the WDNR, will help you locate birds and other wildlife that frequent this location.

*Transportation: Carpool\**

*Physical Activity Level: Relaxed: Flat terrain, 1-2 miles.*



Photo Credit: Guy David



Photo Credit: Heather Lumpkin

### **Turtle-Flambeau Auto Tour**

**Leaders: Terry Daulton and Jeff Wilson**

Join your guides Terry Daulton and Jeff Wilson as they take you to several prime birding spots around the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. You will drive between birding locations, stopping periodically to get out of the car and view both shore and woodland bird species. This trip will involve limited hiking and is a good option for those who are looking for a very relaxed birding experience.

*Transportation: Provided*

*Physical Activity Level: Relaxed. Mostly driving with occasional short walks on gentle terrain.*

### Little Turtle Flowage Hike

**Leaders: Chris Latimer and Donna Roche**

Join ecologist and keynote speaker Chris Latimer and Bird Club member Donna Roche on a hike around the Little Turtle Flowage. This wetland area is a part of the Little Turtle Waterfowl Management Area, and its diverse habitat promotes a wide variety of migratory and resident bird species such as Black Terns, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers.

*Transportation: Carpool\**

*Physical Activity Level: Moderate: Gentle terrain, 2-3 miles.*



Photo Credit: Heather Lumpkin



Photo Credit: Katie Simonsen

### Van Vliet Old Growth Hemlocks

**Leader: Licia Johnson**

Discovery Center Naturalist Licia Johnson will take you on a guided exploration of this recently designated State Natural Area. The beautiful old growth forest and other diverse habitats of this site offer great opportunities for viewing hermit thrush and several warbler species such as Black-and-white Warblers and Black-throated Green Warblers. This trip will also focus on other wildlife and landscape features.

*Transportation: Carpool\**

*Physical Activity Level: Moderate: Hilly terrain, 2-3 miles.*

\*Please note: Some field trips are by carpool. We appreciate those able to assist with personal vehicles.

## Keynote

### **How Many Birds Can Dance on the Edge of the Brink?**

### **What Birds Can Tell us About Their Changing Environments.**

**Saturday, May 14, 12:15pm – 1:00pm**

**Speaker: Chris Latimer**

There is compelling evidence that humanity's impact on the Earth has pushed us into a new geological epoch: the Anthropocene. Two major drivers of biodiversity loss in the Anthropocene are climate and land use change. Understanding how forces of climate and land use change drive biological changes at the level of individuals and populations and how these then combine to form ecological patterns across entire regions or continents will be important for our ability to plan and better manage wildlife populations under future uncertainties. Chris will be presenting some of the research being conducted in his lab group (headed by Dr. Ben Zuckerberg at the University of Wisconsin-Madison) that addresses the synergistic effects of land use and climate changes using birds as a model taxa.



Photo Credit: Azael Meza

#### **About the Speaker**

Chris Latimer grew up in a small town in eastern Virginia where he learned to hunt and fish, and where his passion for the outdoors began. He went to college at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), where he earned a B.S. in wildlife sciences and forestry. His undergraduate research experiences chasing lemurs through the rainforest of Madagascar and conducting shorebird surveys via kayak in North Carolina led to Virginia Tech, where he earned his M.S. examining the value of different coal surface-mine restoration techniques to provide suitable nesting habitat for a variety of songbirds. He is now at the University of Wisconsin-Madison working towards a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology, studying the combined influences of climate, land-use and supplemental feeding on winter bird survival and foraging behavior. His research interests broadly focus on understanding how individual level differences in behavior and physiology enable individuals to cope with a diverse array of environmental stressors and how those individual differences ultimately influence population dynamics.



## Concurrent Sessions

### **Birds of Prey of the Northwoods**

**Session 1, Saturday, May 14, 1:15pm – 2:10pm**

**Session 2, Saturday, May 14, 2:20pm – 3:15pm**

**Speaker: Bart Kotraba**

Join Bart Kotarba from the Northwoods Wildlife Center to learn about ways to identify raptors found in Northern Wisconsin. Learn how to use clues like plumage, silhouette and vocalization to aid in raptor identification. A live bird or two will also make an appearance.



### **About the Organization**

The Northwoods Wildlife Center provides wildlife with rescue, rehabilitation and release services for the vast majority of Northern Wisconsin as well as field assessments in the western portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As one of the most established wildlife rehabilitation centers in Northern Wisconsin, they help hundreds of animals make their way home to the untamed forests of the Northwoods. It is a costly task that they have proudly worked on since 1979. All of their funding comes from a generous public who believe in their mission: Working Towards a Better Future for Wildlife Through Rehabilitation, Education, and Research.



Photo Credit: Guy David

### **Loons – Symbol of the North**

**Session 1, Saturday, May 14, 1:15pm – 2:10pm**

**Speaker: Erica LeMoine**

One of the most beloved creatures on our northern lakes, the common loon family captivates our hearts as we watch them develop from chick to adult. For thirty-eight years Loon Watch has been researching loons and the lakes they live on. Learn about the common loon – identification, calls, behavior, habitat, threats, and what you can do to protect loons. Erica will discuss their common loon citizen science monitoring programs and how you can participate. She will also provide an update about loon research in the Midwest.

### **About the Speaker**

Erica LeMoine was appointed LoonWatch and Citizen Science Coordinator for the Northland College Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in January 2011. Her interests and work involve a combination of natural resources education and field work. Some of her favorite work includes coordinating the LoonWatch program teaching water quality monitoring techniques, overseeing an oyster reef restoration program and sea turtle monitoring projects. Erica is happy to be working with Loon Rangers, lake associations, and anyone interested in protecting loons and their habitat.





## Storytelling of Ojibwe Bird Tales

**Session 1, Saturday, May 14, 1:15pm – 2:10pm**

**Speaker: Charlotte Hockings**

Birds feature prominently in Native American culture, and the Ojibwe people are no exception. Join Charlotte Hockings, owner of the Waswagoning Re-Created Ojibwe Indian Village in Lac Du Flambeau, as she draws on 30 years of experience with Ojibwe culture to discuss the role of birds in Ojibwe culture. She will bring to life tribal stories of birds in an exciting, storytelling presentation.



### About the Speaker

Charlotte Hockings is the owner of Waswagoning, a re-created Ojibwe Village located in Lac Du Flambeau, WI. This village provides tours to the public, educational presentations, and a dance theater that educates the public about Ojibwe culture. She is also adjunct professor of Ojibwe Culture at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College located in Hayward, WI.



Artwork Credit: Sharon Reilly

## Field Sketching Birds: 5 Simple Steps

**Session 2, Saturday, May 14, 2:20pm – 3:15pm**

**Speaker: Sharon Reilly**

Birds are everywhere and fill our lives with music and enjoyment. Learning to sketch birds will also lead to an even greater appreciation for the variety and beauty of our feathered neighbors of the Northwoods. In this workshop a brief overview of bird anatomy will be covered to avoid common mistakes in sketching birds. The focus of the workshop is to learn basic techniques for quick sketching in the field by learning 5 simple steps to help you sketch birds with more confidence. Learning to draw birds also opens one's eyes. You will begin to see more detail which will also help in identifying birds in the field. Participants will leave with more confidence in sketching birds and with better bird identification skills.

### About the Speaker

Sharon's experience is broad and vast with over 30 years of experience as a wildlife conservation biologist working to conserve endangered species and to protect the habitats upon which they depend. Professional experience includes work in Hawaii as the Hawaii Wetlands Manager for Ducks Unlimited and as the Save Our Shearwaters Coordinator (Kauai, Hawaii). She also worked as the Hawaii Endangered Species Biologist. Sharon has also worked with many groups of birds in captivity and as a wildlife rehabilitator. Her passion for birds also is expressed in her paintings, photography and other artworks.



## The Secret Love Lives of Birds

Session 2, Saturday, May 14, 2:20pm – 3:15pm

Speakers: Licia Johnson and Heather Lumpkin

For the last two years Heather and Licia have delighted Discovery Center program attendees with an annual “Secret Love Lives of Animals” Nibble’s N’ Knowledge Valentine’s Special. Join them for a special “Secret Love Lives of Animals: Birds Only Edition” of the presentation that will have you guessing at the strange (and often hilarious) mating rituals of birds around the world as you participate in a Jeopardy-style game.



Photo Credit: Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Photo Credit: Guy David

## Build your own Birdfeeder

Session 1, Saturday, May 9, 1:15pm – 2:10pm

Session 2, Saturday, May 9, 2:20pm – 3:15pm

Workshop Leader: Ryan Wahlgren

Take home a handmade festival souvenir! Construct a birdfeeder using pre-cut wood pieces and place on your window to improve bird habitat and attract more birds to your backyard.

# We Hope to Spot You There!



Register at:  
North Lakeland Discovery Center  
[www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net)  
(715) 543-2085

