



The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

GREAT BIRDING ON A GREAT LAKE!

May 17-19, 2024

The Lighthouse Inn, Two Rivers

(920) 793-4524 or 1-800-228-6416 <https://www.lhinn.com/>



Convention questions: Lynn Barber, Convention Chair
vicepresident@wsobirds.org (682) 365-6531

Registration and payment questions: WSO Staff
membership@wsobirds.org (262) 204-7242

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is pleased to present our 82nd annual convention. It includes the features we all love: field trips, first-day social gathering, our awards ceremony, illuminating speakers, and a banquet followed by an engaging keynote address. Birders of every experience level are welcome to come to the convention, greet friends old and new, and enjoy spring migration along Lake Michigan and nearby birding spots.

Two Rivers is named for the East and West Twin Rivers that flow through Two Rivers and into Lake Michigan. Fishing and water activities are therefore integral parts of Two Rivers. In addition to the wonderful birding opportunities in and near Two Rivers, some of which are mentioned below and will be visited on our Saturday field trips, Two Rivers and the surrounding areas have many hiking trails, including segments of the Ice Age Trail and the Mariners Trail along Lake Michigan.

All convention events are at The Lighthouse Inn, 1515 Memorial Drive, Two Rivers, unless otherwise indicated.

Pre-register March 1 – April 25 at the following rates:

- Standard \$50 If you prefer to register at the convention, the registration fee will be \$60 – bring cash or a check (WSO only does credit/debit cards online). Registration includes the Friday evening indoor picnic buffet but not the banquet.
- Student \$40; at convention, \$45 (students under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a registered adult)
- Banquet and keynote presentation, \$35

Register in one of three ways:

- Online at <https://wso.wildapricot.org/event-5621629> or go to the WSO website What We Do/Annual Convention
- By mail: use the form on page 7 with a check made out to WSO
- In person when you arrive (dinner buffet, banquet, and T-shirts may not be available)

Note that both mail and online registrations must be **received by April 25th**. No pre-conference registrations will be accepted after that date.

Note, too, that you are responsible for making your own lodging reservations. See below for hotel and campground information.

Refund policy: If you discover you're unable to attend, you're eligible for a full refund until the pre-registration cut-off date. After then, refund requests will be handled on an individual basis, and we cannot guarantee a full refund. Contact Lynn Barber (see contact details above) with your refund request.

COVID policies

Please interact with your fellow birders in a safe and sensible manner. We will inform you via email and general announcements on the WSO website if health regulations change or we feel special considerations are required (such as wearing a mask). If you feel ill, stay home. Please stay safe and healthy as we gather together again while Covid infections are still a possibility.

Lodging

WSO has reserved a block of rooms at the Lighthouse Inn for Friday, and Saturday nights, May 17 and 18. Make your reservation by calling the hotel at (920) 793-4524 or 1-800-228-6416 and mentioning WSO. Rooms will be held, at a special rate of \$104 + tax for lakeside rooms and \$89 + tax for parkside rooms, **until April 17, 2024**. After that date, or when all the blocked rooms have

been reserved, reservations will be provided if rooms are available and at the normal rate. Note that each room has a refrigerator and microwave and coffee maker. We also have reserved a block of rooms at the Village Inn on the Lake (920-794-8818 at \$118 + tax) and at the Inn on Maritime Bay in Manitowoc (920-682-7000 at \$129 + tax).

Camping. There are numerous camping possibilities in and near Two Rivers. These include the following (which we have not personally visited): Village Inn on the Lake in Two Rivers (920-794-8818), Scheffel's Hideaway Campground in Two Rivers (920-657-1270), and Devil's River Campground in Maribel, about 17 miles from Two Rivers (920-863-2812).

Convention schedule (Schedule is subject to change as necessary.)

All activities are included in your registration fee except where noted, and all are at the Lighthouse Inn unless indicated below.

Thursday, May 16 (pre-convention)

Birding on your own (information provided separately)

6:00 pm Birds & Beers and Bird Trivia contest at Cool City Brewing organized by Woodland Dunes Nature Center
FREE appetizers and door prizes sponsored by Explore Two Rivers. Cash bar and regular menu



Friday, May 17

Birding on your own or at Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve (see information on page 3)

3:00-7:00 pm Registration and check-in, Lighthouse Inn (pick up your pre-ordered T-shirt)
Silent auction bidding opens (cash or check only, no credit/debit cards)
Field trip sign-up sheets available for Saturday/Sunday

5:30 pm Dinner buffet with cash bar (cash bar continues through the evening)

7:00 pm Welcome, one and all!
WSO awards ceremony honoring this year's awardees

Saturday, May 18

5:00-7:30 am WSO field trips gather and depart at various times (check sign-up sheets for times) at the Lighthouse Inn

12:00-2:00 pm Registration and check-in, Lighthouse Inn (pick up your pre-ordered T-shirt)
Silent auction bidding continues
Field trip sign-up sheets available for Sunday

1:15-2:45 pm Presentations
Introduction to Gull Identification Workshop – Amar Ayyash
Birds and Scientific Illustration – Rebecca Jabs
Great Lakes Food Webs Through Time - Dr. Titus Seilheimer (effects of non-native species and warming water)

3:30 pm WSO Annual member meeting

4:30 pm WSO Board of Directors meeting (open to members)

5:00 pm Social hour with cash bar (cash bar continues through the evening)
Silent auction bidding continues through social hour

6:30 pm Family-style banquet dinner (not included in registration fee) followed by keynote presentation "Climate Change: How Birds Are Dealing with It and What Findings Prompt Us to Do" by Dr. Ben Zuckerberg

Sunday, May 19

8:30-11 am Gull field identification with Amar Ayyash at the Manitowoc Impoundment

Morning field trips leaving Two Rivers TBA and birding on your own

Convention food offerings

Please indicate your special dietary requirements/requests when you register. Note that vegetarian options are included for all meals. If you've requested a vegetarian meal, speak with the servers during the convention regarding your needs.

Friday Dinner Buffet (included in registration fee): Indoor buffet "picnic" supper featuring hamburgers, brats, coleslaw, baked beans, homemade chips and dip, and all the "fixins" (such as cheese, tomato, pickles, onions, lettuce, tomato, mayo, ketchup, mustard, etc.) and cookies for dessert. Cash bar available during dinner and during the awards ceremony.

Saturday boxed lunch (separate fee): Choice of ham, turkey or vegetarian sandwiches on white bread (unless you need a gluten free option). Chips and cookie included. Pick up at field trip start.

Saturday Banquet (separate fee): Family-style dinner featuring chicken and roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, coleslaw, hot vegetable, sauerkraut, and rolls. Dessert: apple crisp. Includes coffee and milk.

Saturday morning field trips

All field trips will be via car and will leave from the parking lot at the Lighthouse Inn at various times. Field trips have limited room – sign up in the registration area the day before. If you decide to join a field trip in the morning even though you haven't signed up, arrive in the parking lot a bit early and look for Joel Trick, who's organizing the field trips. He will place you with a group that has room. Field trips will go rain or shine, so plan for the weather.

We are offering box lunches for purchase prior to the event on the registration form. You can also pack your own lunch or there are also a number of restaurants and fast-food places in Two Rivers and Manitowoc to visit after the field trip.

For the 2024 Convention in Two Rivers, we will offer an assortment of field trips designed to find a variety of migrants in local habitats. These field trips are subject to last minute changes to take advantage of prevailing weather, habitat conditions and migration events. Sunday field trips will visit many of the same locations, allowing members to visit sites that may have been productive on Saturday. Also Sunday morning, gull expert Amar Ayyash will be at the Manitowoc Impoundment, allowing members to apply the gull identification skills learned at Saturday's presentation.

- In Two Rivers, we will offer trips to several Woodland Dunes Nature Center properties. On the trails near the nature center birders can expect to see Marsh Wrens, Sora and Virginia Rails in the cattail marsh, and a diversity of other species in the shrub and forested wetland habitats such as Blue-winged Warbler and others. <https://www.woodlanddunes.org/> <https://ebird.org/wi/hotspot/L159715>
- Birding the trails in the Goodwin Road area at Woodland Dunes will offer good chances for Winter Wren and Red-shouldered Hawk, as well as a diversity of forest birds, including migrant songbirds. <https://www.woodlanddunes.org/> <https://ebird.org/wi/hotspot/L913370>
- The Manitowoc Impoundment is a well-known site where we can expect to see a diversity of waterbirds, including potentially large aggregations of gulls, terns and shorebirds. Among the many possibilities here are Whimbrel and Little Gull. Manitowoc Impoundment - <https://ebird.org/wi/hotspot/L159714>
- Point Beach State Forest has extensive forested habitat located along the Lake Michigan shore, with high levels of migrant bird use. The offshore areas also offer the opportunity for a diversity of waterbirds, with the potential for Long-tailed Duck and Red-throated Loon. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/pointbeach> <https://ebird.org/wi/hotspot/L266980>, <https://ebird.org/wi/hotspot/L1103248>
- At Ken Euers Nature Area in Green Bay, we can expect a great diversity of waterbirds. Depending upon habitat conditions, this site can be very productive for wading birds and shorebirds, including Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black-crowned Night Heron and Great Egret. <https://greenbaywi.gov/facilities/facility/details/keneuersnaturearea-93> <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L159723>

- Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay is well known for high numbers and diversity of migrating warblers and other songbirds during peak migration periods. WSO visits this location for a fall warbler field trip, but here is an opportunity to visit during spring warbler time. <https://www.greenbaywi.gov/1418/Bay-Beach-Wildlife-Sanctuary>
<https://ebird.org/wi/hotspot/L159721>
- High Cliff State Park on Lake Winnebago is also well known for high numbers and diversity of migrating warblers and other songbirds during peak migration periods. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/highcliff>
<https://ebird.org/wi/hotspot/L159716>

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Woodland Dunes

The Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve, located between Two Rivers and Manitowoc, contains over 1,500 acres of hardwood and conifer forests, wetlands, and prairies with seven miles of hiking trails to enjoy. With staff and board members who are WSO members and awardees, Woodland Dunes has been a bird-friendly lakefront respite and breeding home as well as education center for an incredible 50 years. You can join their celebration before, after, and during off time at the convention.

Friday, May 17

50th Anniversary Open House 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with refreshments and hourly door prizes. Guided hikes at 8:30 & 10:30 am, 1:30 & 3:00 pm. No registration required. <https://www.woodlanddunes.org/open-house-50th-anniversary/>

Saturday, May 18

Bird Breakfast & Migration Celebration with birding hikes. Registration required with Woodland Dunes and available after May 1.

Saturday afternoon speakers

Introduction to Gull Identification Workshop – Amar Ayyash

Often approached with apprehension, gulls have gained a love-hate relationship with many birders. Among these larids are some of the most coveted bird species in the world. Amar will highlight key identification field marks for separating our most common gull species, and he will also touch on some of the often-ignored topics in gull-study such as the aging process and plumage. Come learn why an increasing number of people are being drawn to this family of birds and are eagerly calling themselves "larophiles".

Birds and Scientific Illustration – Rebecca Jabs

Join local science illustrator Rebecca Jabs for a look at how interpretive artwork benefits our study of birds. From early field guide illustrations to today's digital infographics, the focus has shifted through time to reflect new technologies and needs. Rebecca will share examples of work from various illustrators as well as some of her own projects.

Nothing is Certain but Change—Great Lakes Food Webs Through Time - Dr. Titus Seilheimer of UW SeaGrant

The Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater system and home to rich and vibrant habitats. From the headwaters of the Fox River to the deepest point in each lake, complex interactions happen between the land, water, and people. The story of these changing ecosystems can be reflected in the changes in the species that we observe on the coasts. There are nearly 200 non-native species in the Great Lakes that have proven to be a food resource (round goby) as well as a trap (bird death from avian botulism from round goby). Dr. Titus Seilheimer will take the audience on a trip through time and space to follow how the Great Lakes have changed over the century and peak into the future of a warming climate.

Saturday evening keynote

Climate Change: How Birds Are Dealing with It and What Findings Prompt Us to Do - Dr. Ben Zuckerberg, Associate Professor, Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, UW Madison

The evidence supporting the impact of modern climate change on birds is undeniable. Each year, we witness the shattering of climate records, and the scientific community widely agrees that we're surpassing tipping points. Consequently, many bird species are grappling with the task of adapting—or failing to adapt—to novel climatic conditions. During my presentation, I will delve into the ways climate change is not only influencing individual bird behaviors but also reshaping entire bird communities across vast regions and continents. From the disappearance of winters to the onset of earlier springs and the surge in extreme

weather events, numerous challenges confront bird species worldwide. Amidst these challenges, however, there is room for optimism. I will highlight the promising strides made in climate-smart conservation, citizen science, and adaptation efforts, offering hope for the future of our feathered friends.

Sunday morning

Morning field trips leaving Two Rivers, schedule TBA

8:30-11 am Gulls in the Field with Amar Ayyash

Join us for a unique field trip to look for gulls on the Manitowoc lakefront. This trip is ideal for anyone attending the Gull identification Workshop on Saturday, but it is open to anyone. We will be looking for lingering northern gulls that are still around such as Iceland and Glaucous Gull, and also anticipate some spring migrants such as Bonaparte's and Little Gull. Amar will also be pointing out the various ages of our local gulls, with an emphasis on molt and plumage terminology. There is always something interesting to see in the Manitowoc Impoundment, and this will be home base for most of the trip.

Convention T-shirts

Our convention T-shirt features a beautiful American Avocet designed by scientific illustrator and convention speaker, Rebecca Jabs. The T-shirts are available in men's/unisex and ladies' short-sleeved styles in a tan color and men's/unisex long-sleeved style in a slate color. The colors (but not long-sleeve style) are shown below.

T-shirts are available **only by pre-order**. Pick up your shirts at the convention check-in table on Friday or Saturday. Extra cost for shipping may apply if an order is not picked up at the convention.



Silent auction (cash and checks only; no credit/debit cards)

The convention silent auction is back again! All proceeds from this fundraising event will go to further WSO's mission of promoting the enjoyment, study, and conservation of Wisconsin's birds. The auction features exclusive, one-of-a-kind travel and learning experiences. Stay tuned for details on this year's silent auction offerings.

