



**WISCONSIN
SOCIETY *for*
ORNITHOLOGY**

80TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
May 24 – 27, 2019 (Friday – Monday)
River Prairie Center, 1445 Front Porch Place, Altoona, WI 54720
Phone# 715-598-8910 – <http://riverprairiecenter.com/>

The River Prairie Center is only minutes from downtown Eau Claire on a beautiful bend in the Eau Claire River with convenient access to a coffee company, restaurants, gas station, grocery store, and lodging. This area of the state includes some of the most important floodplain habitats in the upper Midwest. The Trempealeau and Chippewa Rivers flow to the mighty Mississippi. Our field trips on Saturday and Sunday will include sites located in the Lower Chippewa River IBA (Important Bird Area). Our local co-host organization is the Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society.

PRE-REGISTRATION March 1- April 30 at the following rates:

(PLEASE NOTE: After April 30, NO registrations will be accepted by mail or online. Walk-in registration is available at convention.)

- ❖ \$40 pre-registration fee for adults (\$50 walk-in registration fee at convention)
- ❖ \$20 pre-registration fee for students (\$25 walk-in registration fee at convention)
(ages under 18 must be accompanied by a registered parent or guardian)

Registration fee includes:

Friday member appreciation picnic, Passenger Pigeon award ceremony and reception.
Saturday morning field trips, luncheon, presentations and workshops.
Saturday evening keynote speaker program (Saturday evening banquet costs extra).
Sunday (all-day) & Monday (half-day) car caravan field trips (bus/train trip on Sunday has additional cost).

Non-birding spouses who only wish to attend the Saturday evening banquet are NOT required to pay the registration fee. Please enter their name in the banquet section on the registration form and include banquet payment.

Questions? Please contact convention registrar Christine Reel by email at convention@wsobirds.org or by phone at 262-844-8187.

Convention Displays

Bird-related groups and organizations and vendors are welcome to request complimentary display space at the convention. Please email the registrar at convention@wsobirds.org with the name of your group and your contact information. Space may be limited.

CONVENTION LODGING

PLEASE NOTE that you are responsible for making your own hotel reservations!

The WSO Convention Committee has reserved a block of rooms with special rates at two area hotels:

- Staybridge Suites, 1515 Bluestem Blvd, Altoona, WI (715-830-0800). Studio suites with Queen bed and pull-out sofa for \$104.95 per night plus tax. About one block walk from River Prairie Center.
- Holiday Inn & Express, 12858 26th Ave, Chippewa Falls, WI (715-723-4654). King or double queen at \$114.95 per night plus tax. About seven miles (15 minutes) from River Prairie Center.
- Rooms are reserved for WSO from Friday, May 24, through Sunday, May 26. You do NOT need to book all three nights for the special rate. ***(These reserved blocks will be released on April 23, 2019!)***
- Call the hotel at the number shown to make your reservation. Mention “WSO” or “Wisconsin Society for Ornithology” to receive the special block rates shown
- There are many other hotels available in the area as well as bed & breakfasts and campgrounds. Visit the following website for more information: <https://www.visiteauclaire.com/hotels/>
- Please remember to check out of your hotel room before you leave on early morning field trips on the last day of your reservation.

PRELIMINARY CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday, May 24, 2019

- 1-7 p.m. **Convention check-in** at the River Prairie Center.
Sign up for the Saturday morning field trips, pick up "extras" (convention shirts, bookstore orders).
- 4-6 p.m. **Member Appreciation Picnic** at Pavilion C in River Prairie Park *(included with registration fee)*
- 7-9 p.m. **Conventions opens** in River Prairie Center with brief remarks by WSO and area co-host organization.
WSO award presentations and reception to honor award winners *(included with registration fee)*
Assorted bars, coffee and cash bar.

Saturday, May 25, 2019

Early Morning Car Caravan Trips meet rain-or-shine at the River Prairie Center.
(The sign-up sheets in the convention check-in area will indicate departure times and destinations.)

- 10 a.m. **Convention check-in continues until 1 p.m.**
- 11 a.m. **Buffet luncheon in River Prairie Center** *(included with registration fee).*
"South of the Border" taco bar with chicken tortilla soup plus dessert.
- Noon **WSO Annual Meeting** with election of officers
80th Annual WSO Convention - Group Photo (time and weather permitting)

1-4:30 p.m. **Presentations & Workshops: River Prairie Center**

- 1:00 Bird School: A Successful Program for Beginners (Brenna Meyer)
- 1:25 Bird Banding at the Beaver Creek Reserve; Citizen Science and UWEC (Dr. Paula Kleintjes Neff, Jeanette Kelly and Brandon Polzin)
- 1:50 Life History Traits that Relate to Hunting Sandhill Cranes East of the Mississippi (Jeb Barzen)
- 2:15 Wisconsin's Important Bird Areas (Karen Etter Hale)
- 2:40 Break
- 3:00 Two Authors on an Unusual Ornithologist (B.J. Hollars and Sumner Matteson)
- 3:45 The Challenge of Identifying Baby Birds! (Tom Schultz)
- 5:30 p.m. **Social Hour** with cash bar begins (cash bar continues through evening events).
- 6:30 p.m. **Plated Banquet** – Cost: \$27/person (Cost is NOT included with registration fee)
Sign-up on the registration form on page 4 and specify your choice of the plated options on page 5.
- 7:30 p.m. **Keynote Presentation:** "Soft Spot, Hard Sell: The Problem with Promoting Birds in the Media"
Keynote Speaker: Steve Betchkal, Award-winning journalist and President of Gaylord Nelson Audubon.

Sunday, May 26, 2019

- 5 a.m. All-day field trips assemble and leave rain-or-shine from the River Prairie Center.
See options on page 3 and circle your selection on the registration form on page 4.
Be in the parking lot at 5 a.m. to find your group, meet the trip leader(s), and get your box lunch (if ordered).
- 5 p.m. **"Birds & Beers"** at Cowboy Jack's (River Prairie Park) – food/drinks available for purchase out of pocket.

Monday, May 27, 2019

- 5 a.m. Part-day field trips assemble and leave rain-or-shine from the River Prairie Center.
See options on page 3 and circle your selection on the registration form on page 4.
Be in the parking lot at 5 a.m. to find your group and meet the trip leader(s).

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**WEATHER & OTHER TIPS:** Be prepared for unpredictable weather by dressing in layers of clothing. Some habitats may be wet, so bring appropriate footwear. Prepare for rain; field trips will continue as planned, rain-or-shine. Wear a hat that protects from both rain and sun. Bring insect repellent and sunscreen. Bring your binoculars, field guide, spotting scope and camera, if you wish. A backpack is a convenient way to store your belongings. If you are in a car caravan, bring a two-way radio if you have one, so we can communicate on Channel 11/22 while driving. Cell phone coverage may be spotty in many areas.

**COOLERS & SNACKS:** All participants should bring along their own snacks and beverages. The bus will have coolers for those who ordered box lunches. There will be space on the bus for you to bring a personal cooler, if desired. Car caravan participants should bring their own small coolers to hold their food and beverages and/or box lunches.

## **EVENTS AND SCHEDULE – ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

**FRIDAY CHECK-IN:** Check-in for the convention at the River Prairie Center. Pick up your name tag, convention materials, and your “extras” if you ordered a convention t-shirt or items from the WSO Bookstore.

**FRIDAY PICNIC:** A grill-out picnic will be held at the large pavilion (pavilion C) in River Prairie Park. Directions to the pavilion will be available at check-in. Please indicate if you plan to attend on the registration form (page 4). Cost is included with registration but we would like to know this for planning purposes.

**FRIDAY EVENING AWARDS CEREMONY:** The presentation of WSO’s annual Passenger Pigeon awards will be held in the River Prairie Center beginning at 7 p.m. Assorted bars and refreshments will follow. A cash bar will also be available.

**CONVENTION SHIRTS:** *Short-sleeved T-shirts* designed by Steve Betchkal featuring a “Got Warblers?” logo. Made from a softer fabric than in the past. They will be available **by pre-order only** with online registration or with the enclosed registration form on page 4. You can preview the t-shirt design at [wsobirds.org/annual-convention](http://wsobirds.org/annual-convention).

**Sunday Birds and Beers:** This is an informal/optional get-together at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening at Cowboy Jack’s Saloon, located near the River Prairie Center. Attendees will enjoy this opportunity to catch up with friends and discuss birds (of course!). A wide variety of food and beverages may be purchased out of pocket. Please indicate on the registration form (page 4) if you plan to attend so that we can get an estimated head count.

### **SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS**

These morning car caravan trips depart rain-or-shine from the River Prairie Center. Destinations, assembly areas, and departure times will be listed on the sign-up sheets in the convention check-in area. Tentative destinations include Dunnville Wildlife Area (two groups), Beaver Creek Reserve, Augusta Wildlife Area, Chippewa County Forest, Dunn County Wetlands and Lake Wissota/Riverview Park.

### **SUNDAY & MONDAY FIELD TRIPS:**

All-Day field trips will be offered on **Sunday, May 26** with *part-day* options on **Monday, May 27** (Memorial Day). The transportation options for Sunday include coach bus (extra fee), carpooling caravans, or green birding by bicycle. Monday will be by car caravans only. The Monday trips will NOT return to the convention center. Sign up for one of the five groups shown below by circling the appropriate letter (Sunday) or number (Monday) on your registration form on page 4. Please circle “None” if you do NOT plan to attend any of the field trip options that day.

**BOX LUNCHES:** A box lunch option (\$12) is available **for the Sunday trips only**. ***If you want a box lunch***, indicate that on the convention registration form (page 4), **and** include a box lunch order form with your option choices (page 5). Box lunches will be ready Sunday morning before field trip departure.

### **PRELIMINARY DESTINATIONS:**

**Please circle your Sunday and/or Monday choices on the registration form (page 4).**

#### Sunday, May 26

- A. BUS. Tiffany Bottoms birding by railcar (morning) and other bus stops on the return to Eau Claire in afternoon. *Participants will be charged \$45 to cover the cost of the bus and the special railcar ride. The bus is a motor coach with bathroom. The open-air train is operated by the Chippewa Valley Motorcar Association and making this special run for our convention only. The train will travel into the heart of Tiffany Bottoms Wildlife Area through wet mesic floodplain forests. It will make several stops along the five-mile ride south at wetlands and floodplain prairies. The train pulls a porta-potty car along for the trip. Please note that the train ride is **NOT** handicap accessible.*
- B. CAR. This group will travel west from Eau Claire to explore Tiffany Bottoms and Dunnville Wildlife Area.
- C. CAR. This group will travel south to the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge.
- D. CAR. This group will head east to visit Beaver Creek Reserve and the Clark County Forest.
- E. BICYCLE. *Participants in this green birding option will spend the morning and early afternoon on the Chippewa River State Trail between Eau Claire and Dunnville. This is an asphalt trail following an abandoned railroad line. Day pass costs \$5.*

#### Monday morning, May 27

***Please note that these Monday trips are outbound and will NOT return to the Eau Claire area.*** Trips 1 thru 4 are designed to take participants about two hours in an east to southeast direction and closer towards home. Trip 5 heads about two hours further north from the Eau Claire area, and participants selecting this option should make their own reservations if planning to stay overnight in the Crex area.

- 1. Mead Wildlife Area and Big Eau Pleine Reservoir.
- 2. Sandhill Wildlife Area and Buena Vista Grasslands.
- 3. Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and Baxter’s Hollow.
- 4. Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area.
- 5. Crex Meadows Wildlife Area.

## REGISTRATION FORM – WSO 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

### **Registration Options:**

Between March 1 and April 30, there are two options

- 1) **Register and pay ONLINE** at [wsobirds.org/annual-convention](http://wsobirds.org/annual-convention)
- 2) **Register by MAIL** – Mail this registration form & your check to the convention registrar: Christine Reel, 2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188. Make check payable to “WSO Convention”. Please fill out and include the Saturday evening banquet form (page 5, TOP), Sunday box lunch form (page 5, BOTTOM), and WSO Bookstore order form (page 6), as needed.

After April 30, you must register at the door and the cost will be higher as noted on page 1.

*Note: We will try to accommodate walk-in registrants with evening banquet requests but availability may be limited!*

**Participant #1** \_\_\_\_\_ **Participant #2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_)** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note any dietary restrictions for participant(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

| Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Cost                                       | Number                                     | Total \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Convention Registration Fee</b> which includes Friday picnic and awards reception, Saturday noon lunch and afternoon presentations and evening keynote address (banquet meal is extra cost), plus all field trips (bus option is extra cost). | <b>\$40 Adult</b><br><b>\$20 Student</b>   | # of Adults: _____<br># of Students: _____ | \$ _____ |
| <b>Will you be attending the Friday picnic?</b><br><i>Please enter head count for planning purposes only.</i>                                                                                                                                    | Included with registration fee             | # of Persons _____                         |          |
| <b>Saturday Evening PLATED Banquet (extra fee):</b><br><i>Select from the four plated options on top of Page 5!</i><br><b>Guest Name:</b> _____<br>Include the order form (TOP of page 5) with registration.                                     | <b>\$27/person</b>                         | # of Persons _____                         | \$ _____ |
| <b>SUNDAY All-Day BUS Trip (A):</b> <i>Cost covers motor coach and morning train ride into Tiffany Bottoms (see page 3 for details).</i>                                                                                                         | <b>\$45/person</b>                         | # of Persons _____                         | \$ _____ |
| <b>SUNDAY All-Day CARAVAN Trips: (circle one)</b><br>CAR B C D or BICYCLE E or NONE                                                                                                                                                              | Included with registration fee             | # of Persons _____                         |          |
| <b>SUNDAY Box Lunch (extra fee)</b><br>Include the order form (BOTTOM of page 5) with registration.                                                                                                                                              | <b>\$12/person</b>                         | # of Persons _____                         | \$ _____ |
| <b>Will you be attending the Sunday “Birds &amp; Beers”?</b><br><i>Please enter head count for planning purposes only.</i>                                                                                                                       | Out of pocket                              | # of Persons _____                         |          |
| <b>MONDAY CAR CARAVAN Trips: (circle one)</b><br>1 2 3 4 5 NONE                                                                                                                                                                                  | Included with registration fee             | # of Persons _____                         |          |
| <b>Convention T-Shirts</b> <i>Please mark size(s) desired.</i><br><b>Men’s Short-sleeve:</b> S__ M__ L__ XL__ XXL__<br><b>Women’s Short-sleeve:</b> S__ M__ L__ XL__ XXL__                                                                       | <b>\$17/shirt</b><br><u>(tax included)</u> | <b># of shirts</b><br>_____                | \$ _____ |
| <b>WSO Bookstore Order:</b> TOTAL amount due from the “WSO Bookstore order form” (page 6)                                                                                                                                                        |                                            |                                            | \$ _____ |
| <b>Check #:</b> _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>                        |                                            | \$ _____ |

**SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET - PLATED SELECTION ORDER FORM**

**(INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH REGISTRATION IF ORDERING)**

Please select from ONE of the following plated choices for each participant (or guest).

All plated options will include house salad and dinner roll plus assorted cakes and cheesecakes for dessert.

|                                                                                                                      | Part. # 1                | Part. #2<br>Or Guest     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Roasted herb crusted split chicken breasts with garlic roasted red potatoes and vegetable medley.....             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Marinated sirloin steak stuffed with aged sharp cheddar, apricot drizzle glaze, Spanish rice, and vegetable ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Panko crusted boneless walleye fillet on top of charred vegetables and wild rice .....                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Vegetarian Baked Ziti tossed with roasted corn, tomatoes and rose cream sauce .....                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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**SUNDAY BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM**

**(INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH REGISTRATION IF ORDERING)**

Box lunches may be ordered for SUNDAY ONLY whether you are on the bus, in a car caravan or bicycling. The box lunches will be catered by Cabin Coffee Company of Altoona.

There will be NO box breakfasts available. There is a Kwik Trip located in the Prairie River complex that has hot breakfast sandwiches available by 4:00 a.m. and a 24-hour Woodman's grocery store just across the street.

**Box Lunch Cost is \$12 per box.** Please fill in your choices on the form below and include this form with your registration. Include payment amount on registration form (page 4). Each lunch will contain your sandwich selection plus a bag of chips, cookie, pickle, mint and condiments. All sandwiches include lettuce and tomato.

**Please indicate your name and circle which SUNDAY field trip group you are in:**

Participant #1: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD TRIP GROUP A B C D E  
 Participant #2: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD TRIP GROUP A B C D E

**OPTIONS** (choose a bread, cheese, and sandwich option *for each participant listed* above): **Part. # 1** **Part. #2**

**Indicate your choice of bread:**

|                        |                          |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Whole grain wheat..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marble Rye .....       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Croissant .....        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wrap.....              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Indicate your choice of cheese:**

|                    |                          |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| American.....      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Monterey Jack..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NO CHEESE.....     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Indicate your choice of sandwich**

|                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ham.....                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Turkey.....              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chicken Salad .....      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chicken Bacon Ranch..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Veggie.....              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# WSO BOOKSTORE ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE NOTE:

Items are available to you at this *special convention pricing* by preorder only.

If you register for the convention by mail, use this WSO Bookstore Order Form and include it with your convention registration form. Transfer the TOTAL amount due from this page to the registration form on page 4. (*Prices include sales tax.*)

You can also order WSO Bookstore items as part of the online convention registration process.

Your order can be picked up at the WSO convention check-in table between the hours of 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 24, and 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 25. (Note: There may be additional charges for shipping if NOT picked up at the convention.)

| Title                                                                                                                                                                   | Price per Unit | Quantity                  | Total Price |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b><i>Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin</i></b><br>Covers 214 species in depth. Hardcover, 624 pages.<br>Edited by Cutright, Harriman, Howe. 2006                | \$15           | _____                     | \$ _____    |
| <b><i>Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts</i></b><br>Describes birding hotspots in every Wisconsin County.<br>Spiral bound, 556 pages.<br>Compiled, edited by Tessen. 2009 | \$10           | _____                     | \$ _____    |
| <b><i>Wisconsin Birds, Field Checklist</i></b><br>Three-panel card lists 347 species. 2017<br><b>Pack of 25.</b>                                                        | \$5            | _____<br># of packs of 25 | \$ _____    |
| <b><i>Passenger Pigeon Cap</i></b><br>Olive-colored cap with embroidered WSO Logo<br>Adjustable.                                                                        | \$15           | _____                     | \$ _____    |
| <b><i>Passenger Pigeon Visor</i></b><br>Stone-colored visor with embroidered WSO Logo<br>Adjustable.                                                                    | \$12           | _____                     | \$ _____    |
| <b><i>WSO "We Brake for Birds." Bumper Sticker</i></b><br>Blue with white lettering. 3" x 12".                                                                          | \$2            | _____                     | \$ _____    |

|                                                                                                                            |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> ( <i>includes tax</i> )<br><b>Enter this amount on the registration form in the "WSO Bookstore Order" box</b> | \$ _____ |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|