

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II
Final Season Kickoff:
Gearing up for the Home Stretch
April 5-7, 2019

wsobirds.org/atlas-2019-kickoff
Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Stevens Point
www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/stevens-point/steaa/hoteldetail



One Final Atlasing Year

Help us gear up for our **fifth and final season** of Atlas field work by joining us on Friday, April 5, through Sunday, April 7, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center in Stevens Point. We need your help to complete this monumental effort by this fall. About 15% of Atlas survey blocks have seen little to no survey effort, while an additional 25% still need some work to be marked COMPLETE. Join us to learn where and how we need you most, and why it matters. Together we can finish strong!

Topics will include an overview of field work results to date, strategies for completing field work in the final year of atlasing, and plans for an Atlas II book and other products. We will also honor our amazing major donors and awesome top atlasers.

You Won't Want to Miss:

- **Keynote Address** – Ian Davies, eBird Project Coordinator, on Wisconsin's pioneering role in the next chapter of atlasing through eBird
- **Overview of Atlas Effort** – Coordinators Nick Anich and Ryan Brady will discuss what we've done and what's left to complete in 2019
- **Morning and Nocturnal Field Trips** – Multiple trips led by state and local experts at local hot spots and Atlas blocks

Registration

Advance registration is \$30 and is open until **March 15**. Fee includes breakfasts, snacks, and Saturday lunch. Walk-ins are welcome for \$40 (**cash or check only**).

There are two ways to register:

- Fill out and mail the following form with a check
- Register and pay online through wsobirds.org/atlas-2019-kickoff

Hotel Information

A block of rooms is reserved at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point. Rooms cost \$82 plus tax (single) or \$109 plus tax (double) per night. **Rates are good until March 6 or until the block is full.** To reserve a room, call 715-344-0200 and press #3. Our group name is **WI DNR**, and the block code is **WID**.

Birds & Beers

Gather with other atlasers beginning at 6:30 Friday evening at Central Waters Brewing Company, 351 Allen St., Amherst (15 miles from Holiday Inn via Hwy 10 East). Entry is \$8 and provides your first beer and substantial hors d'oeuvres. The brewery does not serve food, but carry-in food is welcome. Website: <https://centralwaters.com>.

Questions

Contact Christine Reel, registrar, at christinereel2@gmail.com or 262-844-8187.

Agenda (subject to change)

For the latest updates, visit wsobirds.org/atlas-2019-kickoff.

Friday, April 5

3:00 pm **Atlasing 101: Training for Beginners and Refresher for Returning Atlasers** (optional). Bill Mueller, Mike Reese, and Tom Prestby. Ends around 5:30.

6:30 **Birds & Beers.** Central Waters Brewing Company (see details above).

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Saturday, April 6

- 6:00 am **Hotspot field trips.** Meet in hallway near convention entrance. Multiple trips will be led by local and state birding experts. Return by 9:00.
- 8:30 **Registration and Continental Breakfast.** Breakfast provided; available until 9:30.
- 9:30 **Introduction to Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II.** Nick Anich (Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR) and Ryan Brady (Breeding Bird Atlas Science Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR).
- 10:00 **Exciting Results from the First Four Seasons of WBBA II.** Nick Anich and Ryan Brady.
- 11:00 **Recognizing Our Volunteer Atlasers and County Coordinators.** Eva Lewandowski (Citizen-based Monitoring Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR), Nick Anich, and Ryan Brady.
- 11:30 **Funding the Breeding Bird Atlas and Donor Recognition.** Charlie Luthin (Chair, Atlas Development Committee).
- Noon **Lunch.** Lunch provided.
- 1:00 pm **Overview of Atlas Effort: What We've Done and What's Left to Do.** Nick Anich and Ryan Brady.
- 1:45 **Break Out Groups – Planning for Success in 2019.** A job fair–style session connecting atlasers with county coordinators to ensure completion of remaining priority blocks.
- 2:45 **Break.** Snack provided.
- 3:00 **Strategies for Successfully Completing Your Atlas Block.** Nick Anich and Ryan Brady.
- 3:20 **Tips for Targeting Uncommon and Secretive Species.** Tom Prestby (WBBA II Training and Support Specialist).
- 3:40 **Meeting the Challenge of Juvenile Bird Identification.** Tom Schultz (Birding Expert, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology).
- 4:00 **Revisiting Confusing Aspects of the WBBA II Protocols and Making Those Tricky Judgment Calls on Breeding Codes.** Tom Prestby.
- 4:40 **Wrap-up and Question and Answer Session.** Nick Anich, Ryan Brady, and Tom Prestby.
- 5:00 **Adjourn.** Dinner on your own. List of area restaurants available in registration area.
- 7:00 pm **Nocturnal Atlasing field trip(s).** Meet in hallway near convention entrance. Visit nearby Atlas blocks in search of woodcock, snipe, and owls. Return by 9:30. WEATHER PERMITTING.

Sunday, April 7

- 7:00 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast.** Breakfast provided; available until 7:45.
- 7:45 **Atlas Quiz Time with Prizes.** Ryan Brady, Nick Anich, and Tom Prestby.
- 8:00 **Keynote Presentation – WBBA II: The Future of Atlasing in the Era of eBird.** Ian Davies (eBird Project Coordinator, Cornell Lab of Ornithology).
- 9:00 **Lessons Learned from the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio.** Matt Shumar (former coordinator, Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II).
- 9:30 **Following the Field Work: Generating Products for the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas.** Lee Pfanmuller (former program manager, Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas).
- 10:00 **Break.** Snack provided.
- 10:30 **Expected Products of Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II.** Nick Anich and Ryan Brady.
- 11:00 **Chat with the Experts! A panel discussion and Q&A session.** Ian Davies, Matt Shumar, Lee Pfanmuller, Nick Anich, Ryan Brady, and Tom Prestby.
- Noon **Adjourn.** Have a safe trip home!
- Noon **Special Session for County Coordinators.** Lunch provided. Ends around 1:00.