

## THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY Speakers Bureau

This list of individuals who are willing to give programs on birds and bird-related topics has been compiled for the use of bird clubs, Audubon societies, nature centers, classes, and other groups interested in birds. For those interested to be included on this list, please contact [SpeakersBureau@WSOBirds.org](mailto:SpeakersBureau@WSOBirds.org)

WSO is most grateful to all the people listed for their willingness to participate in this effort. Without them there could be no WSO Speakers Bureau. We thank them all.

### **George Archibald**

International Crane Foundation; [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org)  
608-356-9462, ext 156 (work); 608-356-3454 (home);  
[george@savingcranes.org](mailto:george@savingcranes.org)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and children; Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Wisconsin; Helping Endangered Cranes in Cuba, Asia, and Africa; Twelve Nations Join Forces to Help the Rare Siberian Cranes; Cranes from the Top of the World - Adventures with the Black-necked Cranes in Tibet and Bhutan

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** \$1,000 to ICF (negotiable), plus travel expenses

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Co-founder and Senior Conservationist, International Crane Foundation; Chairman, IUCN Crane Specialist Group

### **Jeff Bahls**

Horicon Marsh Bird Club  
920-210-4832; [jbahls@wildblue.net](mailto:jbahls@wildblue.net)

**TOPICS:** Experience with Ivory-Billed Woodpecker search team; Wood Ducks - nest boxes; Horicon Marsh

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Negotiable

**HONORARIUM:** Negotiable

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Member of Cornell's Ivory-billed Woodpecker Search team in Arkansas, 2007; member of Board of Directors of Wood Duck Society, a nationwide organization devoted to nesting Wood Ducks and their habitat;

member of Horicon Marsh Bird Club, 1996-present, current President; 30+ years' experience with Horicon Marsh, active with both Horicon NWR and Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area

## **John Bates**

Trails North; [www.manitowish.com](http://www.manitowish.com)

715-476-2828; [manitowish@centurytel.net](mailto:manitowish@centurytel.net)

**TOPICS:** Programs predominately for adults; Emblem Birds of the Northwoods; Birds of Northern Rivers and Lakes; Birding by Habitat in the Northwoods; Birding for Beginners; Winter Ecology of Birds; Bird Migration

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** Negotiable

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Author of seven books and contributor to six others, all of which focus on the natural history of the Northwoods; has worked as a naturalist in Wisconsin's Northwoods for over 20 years, leading an array of trips designed to help people further understand the remarkable diversity and beauty of nature and our place within it; member of Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy

## **Steve H Betchkal**

President, Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society

715-832-7359; [gonebirding88@hotmail.com](mailto:gonebirding88@hotmail.com)

**TOPICS:** A Wisconsin Farmboy in Galapagos (7 Weeks on a Boat in the Equatorial Pacific with Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions); Out There (in the Pribilofs); Birding by Ear; From Point A to Point B: Basics of Bird Migration; All of This and Robins Too: A Guide to the 50 or So Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin; 100 Birdy Things to Experience in Wisconsin before You Die; When You Fall in Love With Birds; 30 Lessons Learned From 1200 Birds; 101 Ways to Add More Birds to Your Life; Travels with an Avijournalist: Birds in TV and Print; Best National Parks and Refuges in the US; book signings; other topics adapted to specific group needs

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** Negotiable, but typically includes fee and travel and lodging expenses.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Lifelong Wisconsin birder, Born and raised in Racine, schooled in Appleton and La Crosse, wed to a Two Rivers girl, now living in Eau Claire - knows his turf; author of All of This and Robins Too: A Guide to the 50 or So Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin and Make Birds Not War; Step by Step Instructions for Saving the World a Birder at a Time; video chronicler for Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions, originator of MartinMart, Welcome Back Bird Day, and WSO's Bird TV, writer for Birdwatching, Wisconsin Trails, and Wisconsin West magazines and Eau Claire Leader-Telegram; professional TV photojournalist; creative and dynamic video and slide (PowerPoint) show resources

## **Ryan Brady**

715-685-2933; [Ryan.Brady@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Ryan.Brady@Wisconsin.gov)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults; Owls; Shrikes; Marsh Birds; Nightjars; eBird; Bird Monitoring; Bird City Wisconsin; Chequamegon Bay Birds; Bird Identification; Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI); other bird related topics as requested

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Weekdays only; within 120 miles of Ashland, possibly further depending on other factors

**HONORARIUM:** Donation to Natural Resource Foundation's Bird Protection Fund

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Research Scientist for WI-DNR out of Ashland, where he serves as Bird Monitoring Coordinator for the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative; former Chair of the WSO Records Committee; current member of the WI eBird Team; an avid birder and photographer

## **Gwyn Calvetti**

608-786-2526; [gwyntells@gmail.com](mailto:gwyntells@gmail.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs for all ages; Growing Young Birders; Birds in Lore and Legend (uses stories drawn from her own experiences and world folklore)

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** During the school year, within 1½ to 2 hours' drive of La Crosse area; during the summer, throughout Wisconsin

**HONORARIUM:** Negotiable

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** A life-long birder, special education teacher, and professional storyteller; member of the Wisconsin Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, the Wisconsin Arts Board Touring Artists' Roster, and the Coulee Region Audubon Club

## **Daryl Christensen**

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

608-296-3068 (day or evening); [daryl@darylchristensen.com](mailto:daryl@darylchristensen.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults; John Muir's Boyhood Birds; Preparing Your Winter Garden for Birds; Living with Wisconsin's Kirtland's Warblers; Winter Birds; Forster's Tern Recovery Program; Seeing More Birds; Cavity Nesters; Backyard Birds

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** Negotiable

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Is a lifelong birder from Marquette County, WI; past vice-president of WSO; recipient of several awards for working with endangered species in Wisconsin including the Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award and the Wisconsin Outdoor Responsibility Award; Has monitored birds for various programs over the past 30+ years including Wisconsin's Kirtland's Warbler Project in 2013; Breeding Bird Atlas worker

## **Christian W. Cold**

WDNR Bureau of Wildlife Management  
715-532-4373 (day); 715-532-2983 (evening);

[Christian.Cold@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Christian.Cold@wisconsin.gov)

**TOPICS:** (5th grade through adult): Wildlife and Plant Ecology in Wisconsin; Wisconsin Wildlife: A State of the State Update; Reptiles and Amphibians of Wisconsin; Raptors of the Great Lakes Region; Wisconsin Owls; Birds and Birding; The Whitetail in Wisconsin; A Natural History of Bears (emphasis on black bear); Discovering Nature with Your Family; Wildlife Management for Landowners; Extinction: Endangered and Threatened Species; Wild Turkey Biology, Ecology, and Management; Ethics and the Future of Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing; Aliens, Exotics, and Invasive Adaptations (targets grades K-3): Unhuggables - The Animals We Love to Hate; Animal and Plant adaptations; Amazing Creatures of the Past

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Focus on northern region, occasionally statewide

**HONORARIUM:** Contribution to WDNR Wildlife Education Program

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** 1991 graduate of UW-SP, BS in Natural Resource Management (environmental education emphasis) with minor in Wildlife; Mobile WDNR Wildlife Technician and Educator, based at Ladysmith Service Center; bander, falconer, and primitive outdoor skills enthusiast

## **Ronald G. Eckstein**

Wisconsin DNR (retired)

715-369-2979 (day); [ronald.eckstein@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ronald.eckstein@wisconsin.gov)

**TOPICS:** Forest Ecology; Bald Eagles; Osprey

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Within Vilas and Oneida Counties

**HONORARIUM:** Travel expenses

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** retired Wildlife Biologist

## **Joan Garland**

International Crane Foundation; [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org)

608-356-9462, ext 142 (day); 608-381-1262 (cell);

[jgarland@savingcranes.org](mailto:jgarland@savingcranes.org)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and children; Crane Conservation around the World; Whooping Crane Reintroduction; North American Cranes

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** For programs more than 45 miles from Baraboo, mileage and travel expenses

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Education Outreach Coordinator at the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Has worked at ICF for 14 years and is one of the Chairs of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, the team of non-profit and government agencies reintroducing the Whooping Crane to eastern North America. Has accompanied the ultralight-led Whooping Crane migration to Florida. Works on crane conservation education programs in Texas, northeastern China and Russia.

## **Marge Gibson**

Raptor Education Group International (REGI);

[www.raptoreducationgroup.org](http://www.raptoreducationgroup.org)

715-623-4015; [marge@raptoreducationgroup.org](mailto:marge@raptoreducationgroup.org)

Blog: [raptoreducationgroup.blogspot.com](http://raptoreducationgroup.blogspot.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and children; Wisconsin Raptors; Wildlife Rehabilitation; West Nile Virus in Birds; raptor rehabilitation, research and education topics; traveling live birds

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Few with adequate notice

**HONORARIUM:** Travel expenses

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Biologist with California Condor Recovery Team in 1980s; team leader for the Bald Eagle Capture and Health Assessment program following Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, Valdez, Alaska, 1989; field research on Red-shouldered Hawks and Barn Owls in Southern California from 1976 to 1989; founder and Director of Orange County Bird of Prey Center, Orange County, California, 1976-1989; President of IWRC (International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council), 1995-2000; founder and Executive Director of Raptor Education Group International, Antigo, 1993

## **Charles (Chuck) Hagner**

Editor, BirdWatching Magazine [www.BirdWatchingDaily.com](http://www.BirdWatchingDaily.com)

Member, Steering Committee, Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat

Observatory <http://wglbbo.org>

617-315-9160 (day); [chagner@madavor.com](mailto:chagner@madavor.com)

Blog: <http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BirdWatchDaily>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BirdWatchingMagazine](http://www.facebook.com/BirdWatchingMagazine)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and children; Preventing Bird-Window Collisions; What We've Learned and What We Still Don't Know about Birds; A Quarter Century of Superb Photos; BirdWatching Magazine; publishing, writing, and editing

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** To be negotiated, in addition to travel expenses

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Editor of BirdWatching Magazine (formerly Birder's World) since 2001; author of Wings of Spring (Stackpole 2006) and Guide to Ducks and Geese (Stackpole 2006); author of "The Secret Life of the Kirtland's Warbler" (Nature Conservancy magazine, spring 2006), and other articles; writer and editor, Time Life Books

Please note: BirdWatching Magazine is published by Madavor Media, in Braintree, Massachusetts, but Charles lives (and works) in Milwaukee, WI.

## **Rick Hill**

Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station (CGORS)  
920-602-5120; [Rptrbander@gmail.com](mailto:Rptrbander@gmail.com)

**Topics:** Raptor banding efforts and methods used by CGORS. Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station is the longest running raptor banding station in North America. The talk focuses on the history and stories gleaned from over 65 years of banding activity.

**Travel Restrictions:** Negotiable

**Honorarium:** \$500 donation to CGORS

**About the Speaker:** Is on the Board of Directors of CGORS and is an active bander every Fall during the migration along Lake Michigan's western coastline. His program is well received by birders and non-birders alike, with an easy conversational style throughout.

## **Dan Jackson**

President, Coulee Region Audubon Society  
President, Wisconsin Dragonfly Society  
608-483-2271 (home); 608-317-3614 (cell); [DEJackson2256@gmail.com](mailto:DEJackson2256@gmail.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and/or children; Birds of Wisconsin; Feeder Birds of Wisconsin; Warblers of Wisconsin; Birds of the Great Backyard Bird Count; The Beauty of Nature; Damsels and Dragons of Wisconsin; Dragonfly field trips; Butterflies of Wisconsin

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** 100 miles from La Crosse

**HONORARIUM:** Negotiable

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Avid birder for over 20 years, Wildlife Photographer, Odonata and Butterfly enthusiast. Has led dozens of field trips in search of birds and dragonflies

## **Maureen Leonard**

Sciences Department, Mount Mary College  
414-930-3303; [leonardm@mtmary.edu](mailto:leonardm@mtmary.edu)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults; Bird behavior; bird vocalizations; bird breeding

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** One hour from Milwaukee during the school year, negotiable during the summer

**HONORARIUM:** Negotiable

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Behavioral ecologist specializing in bird song

## **William P. Mueller**

414-698-9108 (day or evening); [wpmueller1947@gmail.com](mailto:wpmueller1947@gmail.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults; Changing Bird Populations; Wind Power and Wildlife; Bird Identification; All about Red-headed Woodpeckers; Birds and Urban Areas; Road Mortality of Birds; Threats to Bird Populations; Raptors; Early Winter Birds of Wisconsin

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Needs six weeks' notice

**HONORARIUM:** \$150

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Avian ecologist; biogeography graduate research and MS degree from UW–Milwaukee; undergraduate degree in biological aspects of conservation; taught bird study at Alverno College and UW–Waukesha; UWM Field Station work; Atlas work; BBS; CBC; past Conservation Chair of WSO; member of Issues Committee of Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative; Project Coordinator of The Milwaukee BIOME Project

### **Mariette Nowak**

262–642–2352 (day or evening); [mmnowak@wi.rr.com](mailto:mmnowak@wi.rr.com)

**TOPIC:** Programs for adults; Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** \$150 plus travel expenses

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Master's degree in Botany and Zoology; past Director of Wehr Nature Center; past WSO Education Chair; author of Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds

### **John O'Donnell**

262–375–8653 (H); 414–588–5099 (C) [nodjod@wi.rr.com](mailto:nodjod@wi.rr.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs are for adults; Birding Alaska: The Last Frontier; The Amazing Birds and Ecosystems of Africa; Global Warming Effects on Birds and Ecosystems; Birding South America; Biodiversity Unfettered; The Psychology of Birding (from the perspective of a Psychologist– Birder); Ecopsychology

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** Case–by–case basis depending on travel requirements and group

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Has led trips and guided in the areas mentioned above; memberships and affiliations with the International Crane Foundation, WSO, Riveredge Nature Center, Sierra Club, Friends of the Cedarburg Bog; is a long–time practicing psychologist and life–long birder

### **Dan Panetti**

262–241–8483 (day); [dpanetti@wi.rr.com](mailto:dpanetti@wi.rr.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and children; Birds of the Backyard; Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat; Native Plantings for Birds and Butterflies; Housing for Birds

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Case–by–case basis

**HONORARIUM:** Case–by–case basis

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Owner, Wild Birds Unlimited – Mequon (20 years); Vice President, Milwaukee Audubon Society; member of Advisory Board for

Pineview Wildlife Rehab Center; leader of Schlitz Audubon Nature Center bird club

### **Steven Petznick**

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

920-636-5047

[prairieandpines@yahoo.com](mailto:prairieandpines@yahoo.com)

Programs for adults;

**TOPICS:** Landscaping for Wildlife; Becoming a Better Bird Watcher; Binoculars: What's Right for You; Beauty of Bluebirds; Invasive Species; Cavity Nesting Waterfowl; Wood Ducks; Land Management; Songbird Identification

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** 75 mile radius of Antigo, WI

**HONORARIUM:** \$50 plus mileage

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Worked as a naturalist at Mosquito Hill Nature Center for over 25 yrs. Monitored wood duck and bluebird nest boxes for over 20 years. Columnist for WSO's Badger Birder. Past President of Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club and the Fox Valley Bird Club. Knowledgeable about prairies and terrestrial invasive species.

### **Patrick Ready**

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

608-239-0791 [Birdsready@gmail.com](mailto:Birdsready@gmail.com)

**TOPICS:** Attracting Eastern Bluebirds & other cavity nesters; Monitoring American Kestrel boxes; Osprey in southern Wisconsin; Attracting birds to your yard

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Within 100 miles from Madison

**HONORARIUM:** \$75

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** President of the Bluebird Restoration of WI. (BRAW) Editor of the "Wisconsin Bluebird" newsletter. Former editor of the CAWS newsletter of Madison Audubon Society. Longtime volunteer for Madison Audubon. Monitor 20 Kestrel nest boxes in southern Dane Co. Manage 10 bluebird trails in Dane Co.

### **Steven Servantez**

608-868-7194; [isuvet89@jvl.net](mailto:isuvet89@jvl.net)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and children; Bird photography

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** Southern Wisconsin/Northern Illinois

**HONORARIUM:** None

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Owner of a veterinary hospital; wildlife photographer with emphasis in bird photography, numerous published bird photographs

### **Eric Sherman**

Ice Age Trail Alliance; [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org)



608-798-4453, ext 21 (day); [eric@iceagetrail.org](mailto:eric@iceagetrail.org)

**TOPIC:** Programs for adults; Ice Age National Scenic Trail

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** None; honorary memberships appreciated

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Communications Specialist, Ice Age Trail Alliance

### **John Shillinglaw**

608-298-47756; [jashlaw@aol.com](mailto:jashlaw@aol.com)

4421 Waite Lane

Madison, WI 53711

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults; Prairie Restorations; Grassland Birds; Karner Blue Butterflies

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** 60 miles

**HONORARIUM:** None

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Long experience with WSO, Audubon, and restoration biology

### **Tim Vargo**

Urban Ecology Center

414-964-8505; [tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and children; (Children): Outreach program on birds, their adaptations, and the physics of flight; (Adults/all ages): Bird banding demonstrations; beginning birding lecture; Series of bird identification and ornithology workshops

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** \$100 contribution to the Citizen Science Program at the Urban Ecology Center (negotiable)

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Manager of Research and Citizen Science at the Urban Ecology Center, a not-for-profit Environmental Education Center in Milwaukee; studied tropical bird communities in Costa Rica for Master's degree; conducted bird research in Bolivia and Australia and throughout the United States

### **Bill Volkert**

W996 Birchwood Drive, Campbellsport, WI 53010

Phone: 920-533-8939 or 920-904-1925

Email: [naturalist@billvolkert.com](mailto:naturalist@billvolkert.com)

Website: [billvolkert.com](http://billvolkert.com)

Programs for adults and families

**Topics:** A complete listing of available programs is on his website.

Topics include a range of programs about Wisconsin birds and natural resources, plus numerous presentations from his travel and international

work in Central and South America; Lake Baikal, Russia; Mongolia; Australia; New Zealand and Kenya.

**Travel Restrictions:** None

**Honorarium:** \$200

**About the Speaker:** Bill worked as the wildlife educator and naturalist at Horicon Marsh for 27 years where he conducted over 3,600 education programs for more than 210,000 people. He is also a frequent guest on Wisconsin Public Radio where he talks about Wisconsin birds. From 1991 through 2004 he made 8 trips to Russia and two trips to Mongolia to work on a range of projects for the protection of Lake Baikal. Since 2002 he has been traveling to Nicaragua to work on and support conservation and wildlife education projects in that country and is the author of "Where to Watch Birds in Nicaragua". As a result of his extensive travels he has observed more than one-third of the world's birds (over 3,600 species) and presents a naturalist's view of the areas he has explored.

## **Tom Ziebell**

920-312-1976 (evening); [ctiebell@new.rr.com](mailto:ctiebell@new.rr.com)

**TOPICS:** Programs for adults and teens; Birds of Rush Lake; Restoration of Rush Lake; Colonial Nesting Birds of Millers Bay, Oshkosh; Nesting Gulls on Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:** None

**HONORARIUM:** Travel expenses if more than an hour's drive from Oshkosh

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** MS in Zoology; WBBA Region 17 Coordinator; conducts state and federal bird surveys; has observed/studied local birds since 1970

Revised Sept. 2018  
Compiled by Richard Staffen

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was organized in 1939 to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds. It was incorporated as an educational and scientific nonprofit organization in 1942. For more information about WSO or to become a member, please visit our website at [www.wsobirds.org](http://www.wsobirds.org).