

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

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

Co-founder – International Crane Foundation; www.savingcranes.org
608-356-3454 (work); 608-356-3454 (office); 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; Magnificent cranes thriving in Buddhist cultures of Bhutan and Mongolia

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Co-founder and Senior Conservationist, International Crane Foundation

Jeff Bahls

Horicon Marsh Bird Club

920-210-4832; 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

715-476-2828; 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; Birds of Old-Growth Forests

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: None

HONORARIUM: Negotiable

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Author of nine 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 30 years, leading an array of trips designed to help people further understand the remarkable diversity and beauty of nature and our place within it

Steve H Betchkal

President, Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society

715-832-7359; stevebetchkal@gmail.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: Wisconsin's Wild Birds; A Walk West: Rediscovering America's National Parks One Step at a Time; When You Fall in Love With Birds; Lessons Learned From 1200 Birds; Habitat is Where it's At; 101 Ways to Add More Birds to Your Life; Climate Change & Birds; Top of the World to You (Birding in Utqiagvik, Alaska); Most Beautiful Birds; Here's to Hummingbirds; book signings; other topics adapted to specific group needs.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: None

HONORARIUM: Negotiable, but typically includes fee plus gas, food, and lodging expenses, if needed.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Lifelong Wisconsin birder, Born and raised in Racine, schooled in Appleton and La Crosse, wed to a Two Rivers Native, 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, Make Birds Not War; Step by Step Instructions for Saving the World a Birder at a Time, & Walk the Walk, Camp the Camp, Bird the Bird; video chronicler for Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions, originator of MartinMart, Welcome Back Bird Day, and WSO's Bird TV, writer for Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, Birdwatching, Wisconsin Trails, and Wisconsin West magazines, and Winner of 5 Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow Award as a professional TV photojournalist; creative and dynamic video and slide (PowerPoint) show resources

Ryan Brady

715-685-2933; Ryan.Brady@Wisconsin.gov

TOPICS: Programs for adults; Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas; Creating Backyard Bird Habitat; 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: Conservation Biologist for WDNR 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

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

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

Wisconsin DNR (retired)

715-532-2983; Christian.cold1953@gmail.com

TOPICS: Wildlife and Plant Ecology in Wisconsin; Wisconsin Wildlife–The State of our State; Reptiles and Amphibians of Wisconsin; Raptors of the Great Lakes Region; Owls of the Great Lakes Region; Eagles and Osprey–Back From the Brink: Birds and Birding; The Whitetail in Wisconsin; A Natural History of Bears (emphasis on black bear); Mammals of Wisconsin: 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; Alien Invasion– Exotics, and Invasive Species: The Animals We Love to Hate; Animal and Plant adaptations; Amazing Creatures of the Past. Full bio–sketch & topic descriptions available on request.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: None

HONORARIUM: Negotiable, but typically includes fee and travel expenses

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: 1991 graduate of UWSP – BS in Natural Resource Management (environmental education emphasis) and Wildlife; Retired WDNR Wildlife Technician and Educator; bird bander and falconer. Maintains a fleet of raptors and herptiles for educational purposes.

Ron Eckstein

Wisconsin DNR (retired); Wisconsin Green Fire: Voices for Conservation; Wisconsin Chapter, The Wildlife Society; Northwoods Land Trust

715-369-2979 (day); roneckstein@charter.net

TOPICS: Forest Habitat & Forest Ecology; Bald Eagles; Osprey; Wetlands; Public Lands

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: Within Vilas, Iron, and Oneida Counties

HONORARIUM: Travel expenses

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Lives near Rhinelander, retired DNR Wildlife Biologist, currently volunteers for 5 conservation organizations working to protect public lands and forest biodiversity in the Northwoods.

Marge Gibson

Raptor Education Group International (REGI);

www.raptoreducationgroup.org

715-623-4015; marge@raptoreducationgroup.org

Blog: 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

Member, Steering Committee, Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory <http://wglbbo.org>

617-315-9160 (day); chagner@madavor.com

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

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

Facebook: 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.

Dan Jackson

Treasurer and Past President, Coulee Region Audubon Society

Treasurer and Past President, Wisconsin Dragonfly Society

608-483-2271 (home); 608-317-3614 (cell); 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 25 years, Wildlife Photographer, Odonata and Butterfly enthusiast. Has led dozens of field trips in search of birds and dragonflies

William P. Mueller

414-698-9108 (day or evening); 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: \$200

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Avian ecologist; former Director of Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory since 2013 (retired); 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

TOPIC: Programs for adults and teens; Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds; Fifty Best Native Plants for Birds; Birds, Bees and Bouquets

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: Negotiable

HONORARIUM: Negotiable, but typically includes fee and travel and lodging 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

414-588-5099 (cell) johnodonnell132@gmail.com

TOPICS: Birding Alaska, The Last Frontier; The Birds and Ecosystems of Africa; Global Warming Effects on Birds and Ecosystems; Birds of the Cedarburg Bog; The Natural History of Wisconsin's Most Common Waterfowl Species.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: None

HONORARIUM: Negotiable on a case-by-case basis

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Former birding tour guide for the International Sierra Club; conducts ongoing breeding bird and migratory bird surveys in the Cedarburg Bog; affiliations with the International Crane Association, WSO, Sierra Club, Friends of the Cedarburg Bog, and Noel J. Cutright Bird Club at the Riveredge Nature Center.

Dan Panetti

262-241-8483 (day); birdmandan813@gmail.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

Patrick Ready

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

608-239-0791 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

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

608-798-4453, ext 229 (day); eric@iceagetrail.org

TOPIC: Programs for adults; Ice Age National Scenic Trail

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: None

HONORARIUM: None; honorary memberships appreciated

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Membership Coordinator, Ice Age Trail Alliance

John Shillinglaw

608-298-47756; 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

TOPICS: Programs for adults and children. Presentations: An ornithologist goes to the Movies, debunking media myths. Bird Migration: a remarkable ability; Outreach program on birds, their adaptations, and the physics of flight; (Adults/all ages): Bird banding demonstrations. Adult-level courses in Ornithology.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: None

HONORARIUM: \$100 to the Citizen Science Program at the Urban Ecology Center (negotiable), \$100/hr for banding demonstrations

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Manager of Research and Community 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: 920-904-1925

Email: naturalist@billvolkert.com

Website: 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 (nearly 4,000 species) and presents a naturalist’s view of the areas he has explored.

Tom Ziebell

920-312-1976 (evening); 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

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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.