



**The 81st Annual Convention of
The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.**

Birding Wonderful Waukesha

May 19–21, 2023

The Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee/Waukesha

262-547-0201

<https://www.theinglesidehotel.com/>



The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is pleased to partner with the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club to present our 81st annual convention. We've missed three years of conventions because of COVID-19 – our 80th convention was in the Eau Claire area in May 2019. With your safety in mind, we've planned a shortened convention this year, while still including features we all love: half-day field trips, member appreciation picnic, expanded awards ceremony, illuminating speakers, and banquet followed by an engaging keynote address. And new this year: "Heading to convention" field trips. See page 3 to find out how you can join them.

General convention questions:
Lynn Barber, Convention Co-chair
vicepresident@wsobirds.org

Registration questions:
Christine Reel, Convention Co-chair
convention@wsobirds.org
262-844-8187 (leave a voicemail)

Birders of every experience level are welcome to come and greet friends old and new and enjoy birds in the birdy and wonderful Waukesha County/South Kettle Moraine State Forest area!

Scattered in this beautiful area of southern Wisconsin are jewels of geology, botany, history, and ornithology. Remnants of the last glacier, which receded 10,000 years ago, are found throughout. The southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest is 30 miles long and covers more than 22,000 acres with kettle lakes, springs and spring-fed rivers and ponds, prairies, and forested glacial hills. These hills are the moraines from which the state forest gets its name; they were formed by deposits of debris left behind by the glaciers. Kettle lakes fill depressions created by blocks of ice left behind by retreating glaciers. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail meanders through the entire length of the property.

In wonderful Waukesha County, Goss club members identified some 250 species of bird during 2022. Highlights include 33 species of warbler. One very special species that calls the South Kettle home during breeding season is the Hooded Warbler, which is featured on our convention T-shirt this year (see page 7).

All convention events are at The Ingleside Hotel, 2810 Golf Rd., Pewaukee. The hotel is located just off of I-94. If you're coming from the west on I-94 take exit 291; from the east take exit 293. Golf Road (County Highway DR) is just north of the interstate, and the hotel is between these two exits. We're using the Pavilion for all of our events – it's a stand-alone building on the west side of the hotel property. Field trips will meet in the parking lot in front of the Pavilion on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Pre-register March 1 – April 20 at the following rates:

- Adults \$60; if you prefer to register at convention, the registration fee will be \$75 – bring cash or a check (WSO does not accept credit/debit cards)
- Students \$40; at convention, \$45 (students who are under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult)
- Banquet and keynote presentation, \$65

Register in one of three ways:

- Online: find a link at <https://www.wsobirds.org/what-we-do/annual-convention>
- By mail: use the form on page 8
- In person on the day you arrive (picnic, banquet, and T-shirts may not be available)

Note that both mail and online registrations must be **received by April 20**. No registrations will be accepted after that date.

Note, too, that you are responsible for making your own lodging reservations. See page 3 for hotel and campground information.

Refund policy: If you discover you're unable to attend, you're eligible for a full refund until the April 20 pre-registration cut-off date. After April 20, refund requests will be handled on an individual basis, and we cannot guarantee a full refund. Contact Christine Reel (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 after such a long time apart.

Preliminary convention schedule

All activities are included in your registration fee except where noted, and all are at the Pavilion of The Ingleside Hotel. Schedule is subject to change.

Friday, May 19

- 3:00-7:00pm Registration and check-in, the Pavilion, The Ingleside Hotel (pick up your pre-ordered T-shirt and free Passenger Pigeon visor [while supplies last])
- Silent auction bidding opens (cash or check only, no credit/debit cards)
- Field trip sign-up sheets available for Saturday/Sunday
- 5:30pm Member appreciation picnic with cash bar (cash bar continues through the evening)
- 7:00pm Welcome, one and all!
- WSO awards ceremony, honoring all of WSO's awesome award recipients from the last three years in addition to this year's awardees

Saturday, May 20

- 5:00-7:30am Field trips gather and depart at various times (check sign-up sheets for times) from the parking lot in front of the Pavilion; water station available for filling water bottles; restrooms available
- 12:00-2:00pm Registration and check-in, the Pavilion (pick up your pre-ordered T-shirt)
- Silent auction bidding continues
- Field trip sign-up sheets available for Sunday
- 2:00pm Presentations
- 2:00-2:45: Identifying Warblers of Wisconsin, Tom Schultz
- 2:45-3:30: Birds of the World: A Photographic Journey, Sunil Gopalan
- 3:30pm WSO's annual member meeting
- 5:00pm Social hour with cash bar (cash bar continues through the evening)

Book signing event by our keynote speaker, Tammah Watts

Silent auction bidding continues through social hour

6:30pm Banquet (not included in registration fee) followed by keynote presentation

Tammah Watts, licensed therapist and author of *Keep Looking Up: Your Guide to the Powerful Healing of Birdwatching*

Sunday, May 21

5:00-7:30am Field trips gather and depart at various times (check sign-up sheets for times) from the parking lot in front of the Pavilion; water station available for filling water bottles; restrooms available

Lodging

Note that you are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements.

Ingleside lodging. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Ingleside for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, May 18–20, at the special rate of \$149 per night plus tax. Make your reservation by visiting <https://reservations.travelclick.com/17743?groupID=3721124> or calling the hotel at 262-547-0201 and mentioning WSO. Rooms will be held at the special rate **until April 17, 2023**. 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 the hotel does not offer free breakfast; each room has a refrigerator and coffee maker, and a microwave is in the lobby. This rate does not include access to the water park.

Camping. Four Waukesha County parks offer camping. Visit <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/camping> or call 262-548-7801 for details. Naga-Waukee park is closest to the Ingleside. Note that the Waukesha County park system requires a county park pass; find information here: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/park-system/park-fees/ParkEntry/>.

Within Kettle Moraine State Forest, Ottawa Lake and Pinewoods campgrounds are closest. Visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/kms/recreation/camping> or call 888-947-2757. A state park sticker is required if your car is parked at most locations within the forest, including the campgrounds: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/admission>.

Free WSO visors



The WSO Passenger Pigeon Visor, a \$12 value, is free to the first 50 people who check in in the registration area. The adjustable stone-colored visor features an embroidered WSO logo.

Field trips

“Heading to convention” field trips (Friday)

For this year’s convention, WSO is trying something new. Instead of the traditional “Pre-convention” or “Post-convention” two-day field trips that we’ve offered for many years, we are organizing field trips that begin at various locations around the state. These will all take place on **Friday, May 19**, and the trips will all terminate at the convention site in Waukesha in the afternoon, in plenty of time for the member picnic and events that evening.

There are volunteer leaders for each of these field trips. If you're interested in a particular starting point, contact the leader of that trip to learn specifics about the meeting point and time.

- Wausau Area – Dan Belter bwhawk55@gmail.com and Lynn Barber
- White River Marsh – Tom and Wendy Schultz trschultz44@gmail.com
- Kettle Moraine (Northern Unit) – Jeff Baughman jlbirdier@gmail.com
- Manitowoc Area – Joel Trick jtrick214@gmail.com
- Sheboygan Area – Carl Schroeder omiimiig@gmail.com
- Port Washington Area – John O'Donnell johnodonnell132@gmail.com and Alex Mann
- Middleton Area, Pheasant Branch – Ruth Smith velcrobaby@hotmail.com and Pat Ready

“Heading out from convention” field trips

All field trips will be via car and will leave from the parking lot in front of the Pavilion at the Ingleside at various times. Field trips have limited room – sign up in the registration area the evening 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 Tim Hahn, 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.

Since we're offering half-day field trips only, we're not offering box lunches for purchase. There are many restaurants near the Ingleside, as well as near wherever you find yourself at lunchtime – or you may choose to pack your own lunch.

Waukesha County parks require a pass: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/park-system/park-fees/ParkEntry/>. In addition, most areas in South Kettle require a state park sticker if you park your vehicle: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/admission>. If stops on your field trip require a pass/sticker, to expedite entering the park, either pay ahead online or have the fee envelope (available in the registration area) ready to drop into the box when you get to the site.

There's also a list of birding spots you may wish to visit on your own in the registration area. Or visit the Goss bird club website for a list of county-wide birding hotspots: <https://www.gosbirdclub.org/hotspots.html> (see the first paragraph for the link to the pdf listing).

Field trips in Waukesha County (Saturday)

- **Paradise Valley SWA and Area Hotspots**
Habitats: Cattail marsh, open water, grassland, and prairie
Target Species: Migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, Black-necked Stilt, Trumpeter Swan, Black and Forster's Tern, Northern Harrier, American and Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Blackbird
Terrain: Mostly level walking path. Distance: 1.5 to 3.0 miles.
- **Vernon Marsh State Wildlife Area**
Habitats: Cattail marsh, deciduous woods, grassland, and prairie
Target Species: Migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, Trumpeter Swan, Black and Forster's Tern, American and Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, Sedge Wren, Yellow-headed Blackbird
Terrain: Some hills, but mostly level walking path. Distance: 1.5 to 3.0 miles.
- **“Crow How” at Monches Woods (private property)**
Habitats: Deciduous and mixed forest, river valley
Target Species: Louisiana Waterthrush, Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Pine and Blue-winged Warbler
Terrain: River valley with hills. Distance: 1.0 to 2.0 miles.
- **South Kettle Moraine State Forest**
Habitats: Pine woodlands, oak forest and openings, grassland, and prairie
Target Species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Green, Hooded, Kentucky, Pine, Cerulean and Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Henslow's and Lark Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole
Terrain: Well-groomed trails with minimal hills. Distance: 1.0 to 2.0 miles.

- **Badertscher and Engel Preserves**
Habitats: Mixed deciduous woodlands, prairie, and cattail marsh
Target Species: Marsh birds, warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and other migrants
Terrain: Some hills, but mostly level walking path. Distance: 2.0 to 3.0 miles.
- **Bark River (accessible) and Hartland Marsh (some hills)**
Habitats: Oak and riparian woodlands, river, and cattail marsh
Target Species: Marsh birds, warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and other migrants
Terrain: Bark River Trail – paved paths on level terrain; Hartland Marsh – minimal hills, mostly level terrain, and boardwalk through the marsh. Distance 1.5 to 2.0 miles.
- **Retzer Nature Center, Fox River Park, Fox Brook Park, and Fox River Sanctuary (all accessible)**
Habitats: Mixed woodlands, grassland, river, and wetlands
Target Species: Warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and other migrants
Terrain: Paved paths and other mostly level terrain. **This field trip is designed for people with mobility issues that may prevent them from participating in more arduous hikes.**
County park entry fee for Fox River and Fox Brook Parks (see page 4 for information).

Field trips in Southeast Wisconsin (Sunday)

- **“Crow How” at Monches Woods (private property) and North Kettle Moraine State Forest**
Habitats: Mixed woodlands and grasslands of the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest
Target Species: Louisiana Waterthrush, Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Pine, Blue-winged and Mourning Warbler
Terrain: Well-groomed trails with some hills. Distance: 1.5 to 2.5 miles.
- **Lake Michigan Shoreline in Milwaukee County**
Habitats: Mixed woodlands and grasslands of parks and natural areas along Lake Michigan
Target Species: Anything is possible along the lake, but there is great opportunity for warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and other migrants
Terrain: Well-groomed trails with minimal hills. Distance: 1.0 to 2.0 miles.
- **Horicon Marsh**
Habitats: Cattail marsh, grassland, and deciduous woodlands
Target Species: Migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, Black-necked Stilt, Trumpeter Swan, Black and Forster’s Tern, Northern Harrier, American and Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Blackbird
Terrain: Level walking paths and boardwalks with no hills. Distance: 1.0 to 1.5 miles.
- **Wehr Nature Center**
Habitats: Mixed deciduous woods, grassland, open water, and stream
Target Species: Warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and other migrants
Terrain: Groomed walking paths and boardwalks with some hills. Distance: 1.0 to 3.0 miles.
- **Zeloski Marsh near Lake Mills**
Habitats: Cattail marsh, grassland, and deciduous woodlands
Target Species: Migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, Trumpeter Swan, Black and Forster’s Tern, Northern Harrier, American and Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Blackbird
Terrain: Level walking paths and boardwalks with no hills. Distance: 1.0 to 3.0 miles.

Convention food offerings

Please indicate your special dietary requirements/requests when you register. Note that vegetarian options are included for both the picnic and banquet. If you’ve indicated a special food request, speak with the servers during convention regarding your needs.

Member appreciation picnic (included in registration fee): Buffet supper featuring hamburgers and grilled marinated chicken breasts, along with vegetarian baked beans, mac and cheese, salad, fruit, relishes, and rolls. Includes coffee, lemonade, iced tea, and milk. Cash bar available open during the picnic.

Awards ceremony (included in registration fee): Lemon bars and rich fudge brownies, with coffee available from the cash bar, which will be open until 9:00pm.

Banquet (separate fee): Dinner buffet featuring baked salmon with lemon cream and basil, roast beef forestiere with wild mushrooms au jus, and fontina risotto cakes, along with deli salads, vegetables and dip, fruit, cheese and sausage, garden salad, potatoes, rice, hot vegetables, and rolls. Dessert: carrot cake and chocolate decadence (flourless cake with raspberry sauce). Includes coffee, tea, milk, and iced tea. Cash bar open until 9:00pm.

Saturday afternoon speakers

Identifying the Warblers of Wisconsin – Tom Schultz. Tom is well known to WSO, as a former president, a long-time board member, and co-chair of the Field Trips committee. He works as a wildlife artist and has done many illustrations for bird books, including *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and *A Peterson Field Guide to Warblers of North America*. During this presentation he will share information on identifying the warblers we can see in Wisconsin.

Birds of the World: A Photographic Journey – Sunil Gopalan. Sunil is the current WSO President and has been involved with WSO in many ways including being the Spring Seasonal Editor of *The Passenger Pigeon* since 2015. He is a widely published bird photographer with his photos appearing in magazines ranging from *The Passenger Pigeon* to *National Geographic Magazine*. During this presentation he will share stories and photographs of birds from across five continents, along with the challenges involved with bird photography while traveling in remote locations far from home.

Saturday evening keynote

Tammah Watts, licensed therapist and author of *Keep Looking Up: Your Guide to the Powerful Healing of Birdwatching*



Birds are beautiful, funny, mystical, and enduring, just like we are. Like them, we come in varying colors, shapes, and sizes and it is our differences, as well as what we have in common, that serve as our greatest strengths. –
Tammah Watts

Join Tammah as she weaves together personal story and avian life to reveal the marvelous phenomenon shared among us. This interactive keynote presentation invites the audience to become acquainted, or perhaps re-acquainted, with the many benefits we experience connecting with our feathered friends at home, in the community, and beyond.

Learn about and explore:

- the many benefits of spending time in nature, and in particular with birds, for our physical and mental health and overall well-being,
- how spending time with birds in a mindful way can deepen our appreciation for our feathered friends as well as enhance our connection to the natural world and to ourselves,
- ways to develop heightened awareness and acceptance for birding in various settings and capacities from at home to far distant lands, and
- how our story about life and birds can foster a sense of community that honors what we have in common as well as celebrate our differences.

Experience birds in a whole new way wherever you are and whenever you wish – all you have to do is look up, take notice, and open your heart and mind.

<https://tammahwatts.com/>

Convention T-shirts



Our convention T-shirt features a beautiful Hooded Warbler painted by convention co-chair Lynn Barber. The convention committee ran a contest for the shirt illustration, and four lovely pieces of art were submitted by WSO members. This warbler was chosen by vote from the committee (and no, committee members did not know who painted the entries when they voted). See below for the importance of the South Kettle Moraine area to the Hooded Warbler.

The Hooded Warbler shines on the heather stone background. The shirts, available in unisex short- and long-sleeved styles and women's short-sleeved style, are 52% cotton/48% polyester. Our shirt supplier says the sizes run true to what you expect, so order the size you usually wear.

The Hooded Warbler in the Southern Kettle Moraine. Historical records, dating back to 1852 (Hoy) and continuing to the present, indicate that this southern species was once considered very rare in Wisconsin, with scattered reports of one to ten birds per year. In the mid-1970s established nesting colonies were observed in Waukesha and Sauk Counties. John Bielefeldt conducted surveys of this bird in the South Kettle Moraine in the 1970s up until 2010. This species requires mature forest with an understory for nesting, so the habitat here was ideal. Since then, the Hooded Warbler population has moved east and north with breeding populations in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest and in suitable tracts of mature forest in between. Its beauty and loud melodic song attract birders to this area from all over. eBird reports show the South Kettle Moraine State Forest to be a stronghold for this lovely species. – *Anne Moretti*

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

The convention silent auction is back in 2023! 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. Here's a sampling of what will be on offer, with more to come:

- **Fall Migration Weekend in Door County:** Spend three nights in a luxurious two-bedroom condo at The Yacht Club in Sister Bay – right on the water – during the peak of fall migration.
- **Bird Photography Tutorial:** Learn how to take that perfect avian portrait during a private tutorial from award-winning photographer Sunil Gopalan.
- **Horicon Marsh Mini-Break:** Enjoy a night's stay at The Audubon Inn in Mayville and the perks of a family membership to the Friends of Horicon Marsh.
- **Hammered Dulcimer Concert:** At your next dinner or event, treat guests (or just yourself!) to folk and international music performed Lynn Barber.
- **Home Garden Consultation:** Transform your backyard into a bird-friendly habitat with help from WSO's Executive Director and Master Gardener Volunteer Jennifer Lazewski.

A bit of Waukesha area history. At the turn of the last century, the mineral springs of the Waukesha area were internationally known for their healing properties, and a vibrant summer resort culture grew as people came to drink the cold, pure water from dozens of springs. They thought the water could cure such ailments as diabetes and depression. The period saw the founding of 200 spring companies and construction of dozens of health spas and resorts. You can see remnants of those resorts in several locations in South Kettle, among them Scuppernong Springs and Paradise Springs nature trails. – *Christine Reel*

