



Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Newsletter

WBCI is a cooperative partnership to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation emphasizing voluntary stewardship.

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From the Editor

Welcome to the fourth edition of the WBCI newsletter. This newsletter is a project of the Outreach Committee and it is our intention to use it to provide updates on WBCI related activities and bird conservation in general for the benefit of our partners and the public. We invite you to submit articles, photos, upcoming events, and suggestions on how we can improve future issues to **Lynn Ratkowski** (lynn@typea.net), Editor. For more information about WBCI, please visit our website at: <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org>



Birds in the News

contributed by Joel Trick



Kirtland's Warblers 2008 Nesting Season Update!

The following is a brief summary of Kirtland's warbler activities conducted in Wisconsin during the 2008 nesting season. Planning and coordination for these activities were conducted by Joel Trick of the U. S.

Fish and Wildlife Service and Kim Grveles of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Kims' participation in the project was funded by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Kirtland's warbler field observations began on May 14, when at least two singing males were present at the Adams County site. The Wisconsin DNR hired UW-Green Bay wildlife biology graduate student Jennifer Goyette as a full time monitor to track activities at the Adams County site, and she began continuous field observations on May 19. Hiring Jennifer proved to be one of the best decisions we made all year, as she demonstrated exceptional skill in documenting home territories, finding nests, and determining their outcomes. Jennifer was able to establish the presence of at least 7 singing males by May 29, including one bird that was already color banded. All of these birds were eventually captured and all 6 unbanded birds were given unique combinations of color bands. On June 25, another unbanded male appeared at the Adams County site, but this bird was never captured and banded. The first female was observed at the site on May 19, and additional females were found as the season progressed through observations in each of the territories being defended by males. During the course

of the season five separate nests were found. One nest was predated prior to hatching, and of the remaining four nests, one nest fledged two brown-headed cowbird young, one was apparently predated approximately one week after hatching, and the remaining two nests each fledged five young.

Additional observations by U.S. Forest Service Researcher John Probst at a Marinette County site documented the presence of a female Kirtland's warbler in the territory of one of the males that we had previously banded. Subsequent observations by John and a volunteer observer suggested nesting activity, although no nest was ever located. Several fledgling warblers were observed at this site on July 21 and 22 which appeared to be Kirtland's, but this was never confirmed.

Cowbird traps were installed by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Wildlife Services at the Adams County nesting site on April 15, and operated through June 20. Trapping was conducted by USDA-Wildlife Services and during the period of trap operation, over 300 cowbirds were known to be captured.

Banding operations in Wisconsin were conducted by retired FWS biologist Ron Refsnider on June 9, 10 and 19, with the assistance of Joel Trick and Jennifer Goyette. These efforts resulted in the capture of a total of 9 different Kirtland's warbler males, one of which had been previously banded in the Bahamas on March 20, 2008. Unbanded birds were banded with aluminum FWS bands and three separate color bands, with six birds banded at the Adams County sites, and two other birds at separate sites in Marinette County.

On May 31, we conducted a Kirtland's Warbler Field Trip for members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO). Participation was determined through a drawing, and attendance was limited to 72 participants. All field trip participants were able to view a singing male Kirtland's Warbler. Feedback we received following the trip was all extremely positive, and WSO is already looking forward to and planning for a repeat of this field trip in 2009.

A statewide survey of potentially suitable Kirtland's warbler habitat was organized by Kim Grveles of the Wisconsin DNR, and conducted with the aid of numerous volunteers. The Surveys were conducted at numerous sites in 11 different Wisconsin counties. Surveys were hampered by adverse weather conditions over much of the period, but results have highlighted several areas to concentrate our efforts next year. Volunteers discovered two singing male Kirtland's

warblers at two sites in Marinette County, and both birds were captured and banded. On July 9, an additional single male responded to a tape and was observed at close range in Douglas County. Four additional survey teams reported hearing and/or seeing male Kirtland's Warblers at three sites in Vilas County, three sites in Jackson County, and two other sites in Marinette County. Unfortunately, we were unable to confirm any of these additional observations during subsequent visits to the sites. On June 24, a male Kirtland's warbler responded to a tape during a survey conducted on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Bayfield County. This bird was observed at close range and was closely associating with another bird which appeared to be a female Kirtland's warbler. The person conducting this search was hired by the National Forest specifically to search for Kirtland's warblers, but was not part of our volunteer survey effort. Repeated visits to this site failed to result in any subsequent observations.

The success of our activities in Wisconsin in 2008 is very much a result of the cooperative effort by numerous participants who contributed to the project. Plum Creek Timber Company has graciously allowed us to use their lands to conduct monitoring and cowbird trapping, and provided great support and information at our WSO Kirtland's Warbler Field Trip. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources hired the full-time monitor which allowed us to collect detailed nesting data at the Adams county sites. The U.S. Department of Agriculture -Wildlife Services constructed and operated cowbird traps, and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provided funding assistance to help offset the costs of cowbird trap operation. The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin provided funding to organize and conduct statewide surveys. Numerous County Forest Administrators provided assistance in identifying those land areas that they manage which could be suitable habitat to survey for Kirtland's warblers, and the generous efforts of numerous enthusiastic birders allowed us to look for Kirtland's warblers at many Wisconsin sites.

Coordinator's Corner

contributed by Andy Paulios

Summer is quickly fading and migration is already in full swing as I write this column. The spring-summer of 2008 had a number of highlights both for birds in Wisconsin and for bird conservation projects sponsored by WBCI. In addition, old and new challenges to bird populations appear or reappear seemingly faster than we have the ability to react to them.

WBCI's partners registered a number of impressive achievements in 2008. Beginning in March, WBCI had almost 80 people attend a citizen-based monitoring workshop in Green Bay, WI hosted by the Cofrin Biodiversity Center. In response to that and similar efforts, WBCI was able to attract enough volunteers to run 90+ owl monitoring routes, 70+ nightjar monitoring routes, and had to turn folks away for a pilot marshbird monitoring program! In addition, WI eBird continues to lead the Midwest in submissions. Look for more information in this newsletter on the new federal marshbird monitoring program and ways for your groups to get involved.

WBCI's All-bird Plan is already being implemented across the state through a series of grassland bird workshops. Following a statewide symposium in January, the grassland committee of WBCI held five regional grassland implementation workshops in July and August. In total, over 325 people attended these workshops from a diverse set of state, federal, and local partner groups. Working at a landscape scale for grassland birds is very challenging but it's always encouraging to see how many partners care about these birds and these agricultural systems. Look for more on these workshops including presentations and materials at the WBCI website.

WBCI's education, international, and issues committees are also making serious progress on a number of important projects. I'd encourage all of you interested in bird education to keep in touch with that committee as they forge ahead on some exciting programs for bird education in the schools and in our communities. WBCI's International committee is hatching a more plans for WBCI partners to participate in neo-tropical conservation and have even funded a project in Columbia for Golden-winged Warblers!

In perhaps the most exciting update, WBCI has partnered with the Natural Resources Foundation of

Wisconsin to offer the Bird Protection Fund for priority WBCI projects. Funds in 2007 went to the Wisconsin Migratory Stopover Project. Keep in touch with NRF and WBCI for updates on this fund and for ways for your groups to contribute and benefit from the good work being supported here.

Despite all the good work by WBCI partners across the state and region we've still lost 75,000+ acres of grasslands through the loss of CRP this year, botulism E outbreaks will undoubtedly kill many more water birds this August and September, and more and more long-distance migrants are running into windows and communication towers or finding their winter "retreats" have been converted to more intensive human uses. Addressing these and other issues will require WBCI to be strategic and effective across the full life-cycle of all of its priority birds and will also require increased levels of commitment from traditional and non-traditional partners. The WBCI steering committee will begin meeting in September to discuss the next five years of WBCI and how we can collectively make a difference for the birds we love and depend on in our daily lives.



Bald Eagle imm.
© 2006 Dennis E Malueg

Immature Bald Eagle by Dennis Malueg

Announcements

A Partnership pays off for Kirtland's Warbler

A partnership of private, state and federal agencies has sparked a flicker of hope in Wisconsin for an endangered wood warbler. Efforts by Plum Creek Timber Company, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have led to the first successful nesting of Kirtland's warblers in the state.

Joel Trick, biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Green Bay Field Office, reports that a combination of close monitoring and control of parasitic brown-headed cowbirds resulted in at least 10 young warblers surviving to leave their nests. Only one nest was lost to cowbirds, which pose a primary threat to Kirtland's warbler recovery. "We are thrilled to see these birds successfully produce and raise young," said Trick. "The key has been the excellent coordination among all the partners. Without it, I doubt we would have a new generation of Kirtland's in Wisconsin this year." Trick pointed to Plum Creek's embrace of the warblers on their lands in central Wisconsin, nest monitoring coordinated by the DNR and the Service, and cowbird trapping efforts by the Agriculture Department's Wildlife Services.

Plum Creek has been an enthusiastic partner in recovery efforts for the Kirtland's warbler. Allowing access to its Adams County property, the company has supported monitoring and trapping activities that benefit the warbler. "Plum Creek is so pleased that the Kirtland's warbler protection efforts have been successful this year," said Scott Henker, senior resource manager for Plum Creek. "Whether it is this warbler, the Karner blue butterfly or various other wildlife that call our lands home, we are committed to working with state and federal agencies to protect these species and their forestland habitat in Wisconsin." "The success we've had this year is very encouraging for the Kirtland's warblers and for Wisconsin," noted Kim Grveles, an ornithologist with the Wisconsin DNR. "We look forward to continuing our work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and forest managers to closely monitor the sites, promote the warbler habitat and protect as much as possible their nesting areas from disturbance." Wildlife Services trapped and removed more than 300 cowbirds at two Kirtland's nesting sites in Adams County, preventing cowbirds from laying their eggs in warbler nests. This

practice by cowbirds usually results in adult Kirtland's warblers hatching and raising cowbirds instead of their own young. Studies have shown the presence of any cowbird eggs in a nest greatly decreases the likelihood that warblers will live to the nestling stage. Of five known Kirtland's nests in the area, only one contained cowbird eggs this year.

As a federal agency, Wildlife Services works under rules to take care that statewide cowbird populations are not significantly affected by the project. "Wildlife Services' specialists are privileged to have been able to use their skills to assist this rare songbird," said Jason Suckow, director for the program in Wisconsin. "Protecting agricultural, property and natural resources is our mission, often done through such public/private partnerships. We believe that with continued efforts the Kirtland's warbler can have a future in Wisconsin, which can also lead to opportunities for bird watchers and the local economy as occurred in Michigan."

As recently as 2006, the hope for endangered Kirtland's warblers in Wisconsin was fragile. But in 2007, three nests were discovered on Plum Creek land, although the nests produced no surviving young Kirtland's warblers. This year's successful fledging of at least 10 young is likely due to intervention of Wildlife Services' trapping operation. Next year, wildlife managers plan to continue cowbird trapping in key areas. They expect to revisit nesting sites and other areas in Wisconsin where single birds have been spotted, hoping to discover additional nests.

The tiny Kirtland's warbler, whose distinctive mating call can be heard up to a quarter of a mile away, lives primarily in jack pine forests in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan. The warbler selects nesting sites in stands of jack pine between 4 and 20 years old. Historically, frequent natural wildfires created these stands of young jack pine. Modern fire suppression programs altered this natural process, reducing Kirtland's warbler habitat and prompting Kirtland's numbers to drop as low as 167 singing males in 1987. Prior to last year's historic nesting in Wisconsin, no Kirtland's warblers have nested outside Michigan since nesting occurred in Ontario in the 1940s. Cooperative management efforts have restored the range in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

For more information on the Kirtland's warbler and other endangered species in the Midwest, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangere>

Wisconsin DNR Proposes To Remove The Trumpeter Swan And Osprey From The State's Endangered And Threatened Species List

On October 20, 2008, the DNR will hold a public hearing to de-list both the Trumpeter Swan (currently state endangered) and Osprey (currently listed as state threatened). The hearing will occur at 4:00 p.m. in Room G09 of the Natural Resources State Office Building (GEF 2) at 101 South Webster Street (entrance at the Webster Street door only).

The Department's recovery programs for Trumpeter Swan and Osprey have been very successful. The statewide populations of these two species have increased to the point where they no longer qualify as endangered or threatened. The Department's policy is to list species only that are proven to be endangered or threatened, and to remove from the list species that have recovered to the point where they are no longer so rare as to qualify for such classifications. ("Endangered" means the species is so rare that it is approaching statewide extirpation. "Threatened" means that the species is likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered.)

The Department wrote a recovery plan for the Trumpeter Swan in 1986 establishing a recovery goal of at least 20 breeding and migratory pairs by the year 2000. Implementation of the plan first focused on cross-fostering using Mute Swans already in the wild as foster parents during 1987 and 1988, while Department biologists waited in line behind the State of Minnesota to collect Alaskan Trumpeter Swan eggs. Cross-fostering was not successful largely due to heavy snapping turtle predation of the young cygnets.

From 1989 through 1997, Endangered Resources staff (Jurewicz and Matteson) collected a total of 385 Trumpeter Swan eggs from wild nests in Alaska. These were transported back to Milwaukee by Terry and Mary Kohler and were hatched out in incubators at the Milwaukee County Zoo under the supervision of Ed Diebold, Curator Birds, and then his successor, Kim Smith. Cygnets were placed in two programs: the decoy-rearing program and captive-rearing program. In the decoy-rearing program, cygnets imprinted on a life-sized decoy, then were flown at less than a week of age to marsh sites in northern and central Wisconsin. Here, UW interns in camouflaged float tubes led cygnets to feeding and loafing patches. In the captive-rearing program, cygnets were maintained at a site owned by General Electric Medical Systems near Pewaukee until they reached 2 years of age. They were

then released at selected wetland sites in northern Wisconsin. A total of 355 swans were released via these two techniques. A third technique of lesser importance was captive parent-rearing, where a few captive pairs of swans produced cygnets that were released as yearlings at selected marsh sites in northern Wisconsin. A total of 32 swans were released via this third technique.

As a result of steady population growth since 1998, when there were 18 breeding pairs, the DNR's Natural Heritage Inventory Program recently revised the S rank (population status rank) from S3B (20-100 breeding occurrences) to S4B (apparently secure in WI). A population viability assessment, conducted by the DNR's Bureau of Integrated Science Services determined that the reintroduced population faces no threat of extirpation. In 2007, there were 113 breeding pairs in 19 counties.



Trumpeter Swans photo submitted by Ryan Brady

On October 11, 2007, the Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program was awarded a 2007 *Leopold Restoration Award: the John Nolen Award for Excellence in Ecological Restoration Practices*. The dedicated work of several wildlife managers and technicians, Endangered Resources and Science Services staff, the Milwaukee County Zoo, and the UW-Department of Wildlife Ecology helped make this possible, along with the support of the Natural Resources Foundation, Inc. and several other organizations, businesses, and private individuals. Most of these individuals and organizations/businesses were able to attend a party in their honor held at the Milwaukee County Zoo on 31 March 2007. Certificates of Appreciation for Exceptional Performance were awarded by then-WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett.

The Osprey was one of several bird species whose populations were decimated by DDT and DDE. In the early 1970s, the state's nesting population numbered fewer than 100 pairs. The Osprey was state

listed as endangered in 1972. In 1986, a comprehensive Osprey Recovery Plan was developed, with the goal of maintaining a self-sustaining Osprey population in suitable habitat throughout Wisconsin. Two objectives were identified to meet that goal: to maintain statewide production at a minimum of 1.2 young per active nest, and secondly, to increase the number of known active nests to 300. Four major actions were identified: 1. Determine current population and habitat status. 2. Determine population and habitat needed to achieve recovery. 3. Protect, enhance, and increase Osprey populations and habitats. 4. Establish and maintain communication with all interested groups and conduct public education.

Historically, Osprey chose dead tree “snags” for their nests. Because these snags are no longer present in sufficient numbers in Wisconsin to support a breeding population, an ambitious DNR project began in 1972 to provide artificial nesting platforms. Along with these management efforts, staff from DNR’s Wildlife Management and Endangered Resources conducted yearly statewide surveys by fixed-wing aircraft of active nests and reproduction. Active nest numbers have been at or above 300 since 1989. In 1989, the Osprey nesting population reached 300 pairs, and the species was down-listed to threatened. The breeding population stayed at a plateau of just under 400 pairs from 1993 to 2002, but since 2003 it has been above 400 pairs. In 2007, there were 480 active Osprey nests identified. As a result of this population growth, the Natural Heritage Inventory Program revised the S rank (population status rank) from S3 to S4B (apparently secure in WI). And Osprey productivity has held steady at 1.18 young per active nest for the last 7 years.

Of continuing concern, however, is the fact that natural nesting habitat for this species remains a scarce resource in the state. At least 84% of Osprey nests occur on “man-made” structures, most of them the artificial platforms. These platforms require periodic maintenance, repair, and replacement. Birds are also utilizing cell phone towers, ball field lights, power poles, and other human structures. It is very clear that it will be necessary to continue platform maintenance and to maintain ongoing relationships with energy companies to ensure that the bird continues to thrive in Wisconsin. The recovery of both of these species would not be possible without the cooperation and participation of scores of individuals, businesses, and organizations. Contributions to the Endangered Resources Fund on state income tax forms have also

been important. As we draw closer to removing these two bird species from the state’s Endangered and Threatened List, we are reminded once again that meaningful conservation in Wisconsin can only be achieved through an array of partnerships and concerted individual actions.



Osprey Photo by Dennis Malweg

New Way to Report Whooping Cranes!

When you encounter a whooping crane, please submit a record by using this ['New' WCEP partner website:](#)

Information submitted on this public reporting form instantly is received in email form by a diverse group of Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership folks (USFWS, WDNR, ICF, OM) who are involved with this restoration project. It's intended to be an easy way to provide them with your information. The Partnership greatly appreciates this help from the birding community!

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership also requests help to prevent or reduce habituation to humans by maintaining a safe distance from cranes. Whooping cranes that become overly tolerant of human presence are at greater risk to numerous hazards that could endanger their well-being. Binoculars and/or spotting scope are definitely in order. A digital photo from a zoom lens would be appreciated, too! We believe that birders are well-intentioned people who desire to help these birds establish a healthy, wild nature. We ask the media to not release any whooping crane locations more specific than county.

Wind on the Water Work Groups

Cheryl Nenn of the Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers posted the following:

"As part of Doyle's task force on global warming, the PSC and Dept of Administration have formed a Wind on the Water (WOW) workgroup. There are various subgroups, and several of us have been asked to be a part of the community outreach subgroup including Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers and Alliance for the Great Lakes. That is the group that is helping to form what types of public input needs to be elicited and at what points of the process-with a key emphasis being on a lot of public input early on in the process. The PSC has already had several meetings in Racine and Manitowoc, which are the "windier" areas where wind turbines on the lake would be most likely-not saying that any proposals have been put forth though yet-at least that I know of. There hasn't been anything here in Milwaukee as of yet."

For further information see:

news.wicounties.org/egov/docs/newsletters/89_81_1367.asp

WBCI Grassland Conservation Workshops

WBCI held a statewide grassland bird conservation workshop and five regional implementation workshops in 2008 to address grassland bird conservation declines. Bird species dependent on grasslands and open space are declining faster than any other bird habitat guild in North America. In Wisconsin, species such as Western Meadowlark, Henslow's Sparrow, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Upland Sandpiper and Grasshopper Sparrow have declined by as much as 90% in the last 50 years. These declines have occurred despite the tremendous amount of grasslands habitat work and money spent in Wisconsin by a host of conservation partners on individual wildlife areas, refuges, and private lands through the Farm Bill programs. Agricultural practices that once supported strong populations of many grassland bird species continue to intensify and will likely only increase in the short-term due to demand for corn-based ethanol. In addition, it is expected that Wisconsin will lose 200,000 acres of CRP grasslands in the next three years. If we are to sustain viable populations of these species of greatest conservation need (SGCN), we need a diverse partnership that maximizes its effort in focal areas that have the most potential for grassland bird conservation. This will

require partnerships on both public and private land that result in viable agricultural economies that also provide habitat for bird SGCN. WBCI's grassland bird workshops were intended to begin that discussion with all available partners necessary to tackle this issue.

WBCI partners showed up in force to learn more about the latest grassland bird issues and priorities around the state. Over 200 people attended the statewide workshop in January and 325+ people attended the five regional workshops held in July/August of 2008 around the state. Participants learned about the latest research on grassland birds and strategies to stem the declines. For more information on these workshops see the WBCI website (www.wisconsinbirds.org) in the near future for the materials and talks given at each workshop.

Meet the new WBCI Steering Committee

Submitted by Andy Paulios

WBCI is currently undergoing a series of changes as WBCI partners become more active in bird conservation efforts and these efforts expand in scope. The first major change happened when WBCI's coordinating council voted itself out of existence and formed a smaller, more active steering committee. The steering committee will meet more regularly to approve short-term workplans, set long-term direction for WBCI and work to ensure that progress is being made on important bird conservation priorities. The steering committee is made up of five permanent members with a statewide presence and four ad-hoc members on two year terms. You can find the steering committee members listed at the bottom of this newsletter or and you can check in on the latest minutes and progress on the WBCI website.



Magnolia Warbler Photo by Dave Freriks

2009-2010 Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grant Program

We are pleased to announce that the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) is soliciting proposals to enhance, preserve, protect and restore resources within the state's coastal zone- all counties adjacent to Lakes Superior and Michigan, with their nearly 1000 miles of shoreline.

WCMP Grants are available for coastal land acquisition, coastal wetland protection and habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, coastal resource and community planning, Great Lakes education, public access and historic preservation.

Applications are due November 3, 2008. For further information contact Travis Olson Program Coordinator: Wetland Protection & Land Use Planning. (608-266-3687 or travis.olson@wisconsin.gov)

- Applicants are encouraged to contact WCMP staff early to discuss ideas for project proposals and application requirements. When developing proposals, please pay close attention to the following items:
 - Application materials and the Request for Proposals are available on the WCMP website www.coastal.wisconsin.gov
 - There is a cost-share requirement for all projects requiring non-federal matching funds. Matching funds may be in the form of in-kind contributions.
 - For acquisition, habitat restoration and construction projects, be sure to include copies of all required permits or permit applications and title documentation with the application materials. For all projects, be sure to include copies of required documentation and letters of support.

LoonWatch accepting grant proposals

LoonWatch, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, is accepting proposals for the 2009 Sigurd T. Olson Loon Research Award. The award is named for biologist Sigurd T. Olson, whose 1952 paper with co-author William H. Marshall, "The Common Loon in Minnesota," continues to be cited as one of the premier baseline reports on the species.

Since 1986, the loon research award has provided funding for original research that leads to better understanding and management of loon populations. LoonWatch will accept proposals for research

conducted in North America on any *Gavia* species. Research on behavior, breeding ecology, migration, winter ecology, toxicology and evolution will be considered. Proposals addressing human impacts to loons will be given special consideration.

The award will be designated for research that will be conducted during the 2009 calendar year. The maximum grant is \$3,000. A portion of the award is funded by the North American Loon Research Endowment. The proposal deadline is December 5, 2008 and the award winner will be notified by January 30, 2009.

LoonWatch, now in its 30th year of coordinating volunteers to monitor loon activity and reproductive success, is one of the many programs at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. Since its founding in 1972, the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College has facilitated solutions to environmental problems in the North Country through education, research, and citizen involvement. The Institute's namesake, Sigurd F. Olson (1899-1982), is one of North America's most beloved nature writers and influential conservationists of the 20th century. In 1974 he won the John Burroughs Medal for his book, "Wilderness Days." To obtain more information about the Institute, call (715) 682-1223 or visit our website at: www.northland.edu/soei <<http://www.northland.edu/soei>> .

Northland College and its Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute are located in Ashland, Wis., near the shores of Lake Superior. The College has been recognized as one of the top colleges in the nation for science and mathematics, as a model environmental campus for the Lake Superior Basin, and as one of Wisconsin's true liberal arts colleges. Founded in 1892, Northland now enrolls 700 students from 41 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Kenya, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago. For more information about Northland College and its Institute, visit our website at www.northland.edu . For more information on the award, please go to www.northland.edu/loonwatch. To request proposal guidelines contact LoonWatch at: STO Loon Research Award, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, 1411 Ellis Ave, Ashland WI 54806, e-mail loonwatch@northland.edu or call 715-682-1220

7th Annual Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival

Submitted by Ric Zarwell

With November concentrations of easily-viewed and musical Tundra Swans now growing upward into the 20,000+ range, and combined numbers of all other waterfowl at or above the half-million mark, the successful Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival weekend event will undergo major improvements to better accommodate participants in 2008. Plus it is near enough for Wisconsinites that it could substitute for a hugely expensive vacation at a more distant and probably less wildlife-rich location.

This fall's event will feature much more extensive field trip coverage of the ecologically-rich Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge between Prairie du Chien and La Crosse, on Wisconsin's western border. Field trips will be slower-paced than in previous years, and will include a greater emphasis toward on-site education and interpretation.

Another addition for 2008 will be optional evening field trips to call-in and closely observe or photograph several species of owls in the beautiful bluffs which border the river. The festival will again partner with Mississippi Explorer Cruises < <http://www.mississippiexplorer.com/> > to offer the highly popular cruises aboard heated excursion boats that provide festival-goers with eye-level views right out among the concentrations of Tundra Swan, Bald Eagles, and many kinds of other wildlife.

The Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival will again be headquartered at Lansing, Iowa – just the distance of 1 city block west of the Wisconsin border, where the only bridge between La Crosse and Prairie du Chien that crosses the Mississippi is located. But, as in all previous years, field trip will investigate the best nearby river and bluff habitats in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa – in the very heart of the famous Driftless Area. Only this year those field trips will last longer, be more informative, and be more comfortably paced.

Lastly, it is not certain yet, but the 3-day 7th Annual Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival may take place on two, or even three different weekends, each taking place while the nationally famous wildlife concentrations are at or near peak numbers.

People who are interested in participating in the 2008 festival should obtain the latest details, cost breakdown, and registration materials by contacting

Ric Zarwell (by email only please), at: Ric.Zarwell@mchsi.com. As their first step, everyone should register for the festival through Ric.

Morning and afternoon field trips will be timed to coincide with boat tours, and participants should be able to easily enjoy both relaxed experiences not once, but twice, in one weekend. After registering for the festival, parties can then reserve space(s) for a boat trip by using the Mississippi Explorer Cruises website provided above.

The first 6 festivals brought participants from 23 states and Canada, and from distant U.S. regions such as New England, East Coast, Gulf Coast, and up and down the West Coast. The improved itinerary may attract even more people. Therefore, it may be necessary to limit the number of participants on field trips. To address this, reservation will be accepted using a first-come, first-served system.



Upper Mississippi River by Andy Paulios

Upcoming Events

Fall Events

SEPT 27 & 28, and OCT 14 & 23 Four Talks on Managing Your Land to Help Birds

If you're interested in conserving birds and their habitats, consider attending any of the four programs described below. Learn more about creating bird-friendly spaces in your own backyard. Vicki Piaskowski, international coordinator of the Birds Without Borders – *Aves Sin Fronteras*® (BWB-ASF) project,* will speak about a new, reader-friendly guide called *The Birds Without Borders – Aves Sin Fronteras*® *Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage your Land to Help Birds*. The guide is based on research conducted by the BWB-ASF project at three sites in Wisconsin. The Sept. 27, 28 and Oct. 14 events are in Land O' Lakes, one of the three areas where BWB-ASF conducted bird research from 1997 through 2001. All talks are free and open to the public.

Saturday, September 27: Kids can create an owl craft with BWB-ASF project assistant Kari Williams at the Land O' Lakes Public Library (4242 County Hwy. B), 10-11 a.m. At 1 p.m., enjoy a reception at Ely Memorial UCC Fellowship Hall (4302 County Hwy. B), where Piaskowski will offer free copies of the guide and speak about ways to help birds. Refreshments and snacks provided.

Sunday, September 28: Join Piaskowski for an 8 a.m. bird walk starting at the Land O' Lakes Public Library (4242 County Hwy. B). See some of the migrating birds that stop at Land O' Lakes.

Tuesday, October 14: A 6:30 p.m. presentation by Piaskowski, held as part of a meeting of the Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club at Ely Memorial UCC Fellowship Hall (4302 County Hwy. B), includes free copies of the guide.

Thursday, October 23: 7 p.m. talk by Piaskowski at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Peck Welcome Center. Open to the public; parking is free. Learn what you can plant to help birds in fall and in spring, get an update on BWB-ASF bird research in Pewaukee and Rosendale, Wis., pick up a complimentary copy of the guide, and enjoy free beverages and snacks.

OCT 5 1:30 pm The Prairie Enthusiasts present the last fall Prairie Walk

La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie. This will be the last in the series of prairie walks along the railroad remnants for 2006, with local naturalist Bob Lee leading the search for the late bloomers such as Little Bluestem, Sweet Everlasting, Downy Gentian. This will be a leisurely walk on level terrain. Trip Leader will be Bob Lee (608-486-2154) If you're interested, meet in Rockland, WI (near I-90 in eastern La Crosse Cty) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).

OCT 17 Presentation by Loon Expert, Michael Meyer

The call of a loon echoing across a northern lake is one of the most beloved sounds of nature. The 2008 Charlotte Bates Fenlon Memorial speaker appearing October 17 at Mosquito Hill Nature Center knows better than anyone how commonly that call will be heard in Wisconsin's future.

Michael Meyer, Ph.D., wildlife toxicologist with the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Integrated Science Services based in Rhinelander, has studied the common loon population in northern Wisconsin since 1991. He and his research team have banded more than 2,200 loons in that time. He will discuss his findings in a presentation entitled "The Status of the Common Loon in Northern Wisconsin."

Most recently, Meyer has been examining the effects of methyl mercury, a common air pollutant, on the loon population in a collaborative study with the U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, University of Wisconsin Department of Wildlife Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory, Narragansett, R.I.

The speaker series presents educational programs annually on behalf of Mosquito Hill, funded by the *Charlotte Bates Fenlon Memorial Fund* within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. Tickets are available for \$15 by calling the Hill at 920-779-6433 or emailing swikamk@co.outagmie.wi.us Mosquito Hill is located at N3880 Rogers Rd., New London, WI 54961.

OCT 17 7:00 PM “The Status of the Common Loon in Northern Wisconsin.”

Michael Meyer, Ph.D., wildlife toxicologist with the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Integrated Science Services. **Tickets are \$15** and can be requested by calling Mosquito Hill at 920-779-6433 or emailing swifkamk@co.outagamie.wi.us Mosquito Hill Nature Center is located at N3880 Rogers Rd. New London, WI 54961

OCT 10 Raptor Workshop: Accredited through University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

A 5-day workshop entitled "Introduction to Raptor Field Techniques" will be held in Stevens Point, WI by Eugene Jacobs of the Linwood Springs Research Station and Loren Ayers of the Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources. It is scheduled to begin on Monday evening October 6 and continue through Friday October 10, 2008. Receive first hand experience working with: live raptors, capturing, handling, banding techniques, broadcast call surveys, tree climbing and rappelling, telemetry equipment and more. Cost is \$425 and space is limited, so register early. For more information and a registration form visit www.RaptorResearch.com.

NOV 1 10:00 AM “The World of Shrikes” at Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club

Ryan Brady, Natural Resource Research Scientist, Bureau of Wildlife Management, WI DNR will share his ongoing research into the feeding behavior and overall biology of this fascinating hunter. This is a joint monthly meeting with the Oshkosh Bird Club.

DEC 6 10:00 AM “Kirtland’s Warbler in Wisconsin”

Kim Grveles, Asst. Zoologist/Ornithologist with Natural Heritage Inventory, Bureau of endangered Resources, WI DNR. Kim has been tracking the current success stories of this newcomer to the state and will be sharing the latest findings.

Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club meets the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, N3880 Rogers Rd. New London, WI 54961. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information on NWBC visit newbirdclub.org. Questions regarding these programs? Contact Steve Petznick (920)779-6433 email petznisj@co.outagamie.wi.us

DEC 19 8:00 AM Shiocton Christmas Bird Count

Interested birders please contact Steve Petznick at (920) 779-6433 or petznisj@co.outagamie.wi.us for more details.

JAN 28-29, 2009

The Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council will be holding a Prescribed Fire Conference January 28-29 at the Ramada Inn, Stevens Point. For further information see www.prescribedfire.org

FEB 21-27, 2009 Costa Rican Bird Route Challenge

The Costa Rican Bird Route Challenge is the official opening event of the Costa Rican Bird Route, the first birding trail in Costa Rica. The 13 site birding trail includes 6 new private reserves along with world famous birding areas such as La Selva Biological Station, Selva Verde Lodge, and Laguna Lagarto Lodge.

The Challenge, which will be held Feb. 21-27th, 2009, is a contest to see which team of bird watchers can observe the most number of birds in the Bird Route over a period of three days. Each team will consist of six people, two of which will be local guides. The remaining four slots are for you and your teammates. There will be a total of six teams racing through the Costa Rican Bird Route in search of the most number of birds possible. Each team will be equipped with either two 4 wheel drive vehicles or a single 4 wheel drive van.

The Challenge itself is being run to raise funds for improving infrastructure at new biological reserves, and to raise awareness about the Costa Rican Bird Route. Each team is required to raise a minimum of \$500 to help support the development of bird tourism at the new private reserves. The winning team will receive a plaque, as well international recognition as the winners of the first Costa Rican Bird Route Challenge.

Upon arrival for the Challenge you will meet your Costa Rican guides and will participate in an opening ceremony and dinner at the famed Bougainvillea Hotel outside of San Jose. The following day each team will have a travel day to get to their starting location and will be assigned three sites within the route. Each team will have three Big Days of counting, one at each of the assigned sites. The fourth day each group will have the morning to bird at their final site, and then all

groups will meet back at the Bougainvillea by mid afternoon with their final counts. On the evening of the 20th everyone will participate in the grand awards banquet where the winning team and sites will be announced.

You can start your own team or join an existing team for just \$1100. Rainforest Biodiversity Group is offering this trip at cost. This price of this trip includes 6 nights lodging (2 at Bougainvillea, 2 at a Bird Route Portal Site, 2 at a Bird Route Remote Site), all transportation during the trip including transfer to and from the airport, 2 local bird guides, all meals for the trip including the two banquets, a Costa Rican Bird Route Challenge T-shirt and a complimentary Bird Route Map and Guide. This DOES NOT include flight, airport taxes, snacks, tips or donations.

There is a down payment of \$250 /person to reserve a spot in the Challenge due by Nov. 1. As mentioned, each team, as part of the cost of the tour, is required to raise \$500 per team as a donation to support new reserves within the Route. This is in addition to stated cost of the trip. The official list for the Costa Rican Bird Route is 520 species. How many will you be able to see?

To reserve your space, visit www.costaricanbirdroute.com or contact Raquel Gomez at Raquel@costaricanbirdroute.com. The Costa Rican Bird Route is a project of [Rainforest Biodiversity Group](#).



Birding along the Costa Rican Bird Route: Photo by Holly Robertson

Act Now for Songbirds

U.S. Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) have H.R. 5756 to reauthorize the existing **Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA)** to meet the growing needs of our migrants, many of which are in rapid decline.

NMBCA is the only federal U.S. grants program specifically dedicated to the conservation of our migrant birds that is available Americas-wide. It has a proven track-record of success, having supported 225 projects in 44 U.S. states/territories and 34 other countries since its inception in 2002. Advances in conservation for many species, such as the declining Cerulean Warbler, owe much to the NMBCA.

The reauthorization bill proposes a **significant increase in maximum funding** from \$6 million to \$20 million, meaning many of the worthwhile projects that cannot currently be funded will be able to be supported. This increase in the NMBCA is therefore crucial in helping achieve international bird conservation goals.

See the [American Bird Conservancy](http://www.americanbirdconservancy.org) website for more details on how your organization can support this wonderful funding source for migratory birds.



WBCI Partner Profile

contributed by Brian Bub, NRC Inc.

Natural Resource Consulting, Inc.

Natural Resources Consulting Inc., (NRC) joined WBCI as a partner in March 2008. NRC is a natural resource-based consulting firm that provides private sector and governmental clients with a full range of technical natural resource services, project support, and regulatory consultation including biological evaluations, environmental impact assessments, and regulatory compliance and permitting. NRC has over 40 technical staff stationed throughout the Upper Midwest with offices in Cottage Grove (headquarters), Stevens Point, Menasha, Mequon, Middleton, and Rice Lake, Wisconsin; Geneseo, Illinois; and Independence, Iowa. NRC's professional scientists have a wide range and depth of expertise in wetland ecology, soil science, wildlife ecology, geographic information systems, restoration ecology, botany, forestry, fisheries/aquatic science and management, water resources, environmental planning, and natural resources management.

Six of NRC's professionals specialize in avian ecology and regularly conduct bird inventory and monitoring surveys, as well as bird habitat assessments, to assess potential risks to bird species and populations on a variety of projects ranging from residential and commercial development to electric transmission and wind energy development projects. NRC's avian ecologists use standardized bird survey protocols to design and implement pre- and post-construction bird survey studies. They interpret the survey results, apply current knowledge and research, and use a scientific approach to develop innovative and practical solutions for avoiding or minimizing impacts to birds, streamlining the approval and permitting process, and maintaining project schedules.

NRC's clients include major utility companies and wind energy developers as well as natural gas and petroleum pipeline companies. In the past ten years, NRC has been involved in the siting, construction, and operation of many of the large transmission, pipeline, and wind energy projects in the Midwest. Priority and rare bird species that have been the focus of many of NRC's bird habitat assessments and surveys in Wisconsin include the spruce grouse, greater-prairie chicken, great blue heron, osprey, bald eagle, northern goshawk, red-shouldered hawk, peregrine falcon, upland sandpiper, black tern, Acadian flycatcher, Bell's

vireo, Swainson's thrush, cerulean warbler, prothonotary warbler, Connecticut warbler, hooded warbler, and Henslow's sparrow.

The 2008 field season has been the NRC's busiest for bird surveys in the company's ten year history, with 15 different projects requiring surveys. That compares to only three or less projects in each of the previous three field seasons. Much of the increased need for NRC's avian services stems from the growth in the wind energy sector. NRC is currently involved in over 30 wind energy projects in seven Midwestern states – a third of which include a bird survey component. NRC's involvement in large-scale development, wind energy, utility, transportation, and restoration projects throughout the Upper Midwest gives NRC first-hand knowledge of and experience with changes that are occurring on Wisconsin's landscape. This experience provides NRC's avian ecologists a first-hand perspective of the potential threats to Wisconsin bird species, populations, and their habitats, as well as the foresight for potential conservation opportunities and priorities.



NRC's Cottage Grove avian ecologists Bill Mueller and Brian Bub.

Note: if you would like your organization's or agency's profile to appear in a future issue of the newsletter, please send a brief write-up to Lynn Ratkowski (lynn@typea.net), editor.

All-bird Plan Species Profile: American Bittern

contributed by Andy Paulios

Why are we concerned?

The American Bittern is of high conservation concern throughout its range due to population declines rangewide. This species nests in large shallow wetlands or wetland complexes across the northern hemisphere and winters in coastal wetlands all the way south to Costa Rica. Most Wisconsin breeders probably winter in large wetlands in the South East United States including the Everglades. Of concern is the loss and fragmentation of many of these shallow marsh complexes on both the breeding and wintering grounds. Populations appear to have declined up to 60% rangewide based on Federal Breeding Bird Survey data.

In the early 1900s, ornithologists reported that the American Bittern was found in all suitable localities throughout Wisconsin, but were most numerous in the southern third of the state. Today, this pattern is reversed; The American Bittern is a more common summer resident in northern and central Wisconsin and an uncommon breeder in the southern parts of the state. It's unclear why populations south of the tension zone have declined, but wide-scale wetland loss and fragmentation is suspected. Wisconsin's participation in the new federal marshbird monitoring program should help to better understand Wisconsin bittern populations as we target conservation efforts.

Biology in Wisconsin

American Bitterns arrive in Wisconsin in Mid-April and they undergo nesting activities through mid-summer. They are most vocal from late April-early June. They prefer large (>30 ha) shallow marshes or sedge meadows in Wisconsin and are occasionally found in shrub swamps or wooded swamps that have significant open areas associated with them. They build their nest on a platform above the shallow water or even in adjacent grassy fields. They are difficult to detect if not singing as their coloration and behavior helps them to blend into the surrounding vegetation. They prey on amphibians, small fish, insects and basically anything else that moves in the marsh!

Conservation Action

Partners in Flight and the upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture (UMRGL JV) have made the American Bittern a priority for conservation. In order to reach population goals for American Bittern and other marsh wetland species, the UMRGL JV has determined that it will require maintenance and protection of existing wetland complexes as well as restoration of up to 15,000 acres of wetlands per year in the next ten years. For managers targeting American Bittern restorations should focus on larger sites (>30 ha) that are buffered by additional wetlands and/or grasslands. Water levels should be maintained at less than 61 cm and any drawdowns that occur should be gradual to mimic natural level changes. Wisconsin will learn more about its bittern populations through the new federal marshbird monitoring program that WBCI is implementing. This program will help get a handle on populations as well as habitat use and response to management at groups of sites.

For further information

Wisconsin All Bird Plan

www.wisconsinbirds.org/plan/species/ambi.htm

Effects of Management on Grassland Birds: American Bittern

www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/ambi/ambi.htm

Wisconsin Marshbird Monitoring Program:

Ryan Brady, WI-DNR (715.685.2933 or ryan.brady@wisconsin.gov)



New Statewide Marshbird Survey Underway

by Ryan Brady, WDNR Research Scientist

A new era in bird monitoring has begun in Wisconsin and beyond with initiation of a new statewide marshbird survey in 2008. This groundbreaking effort is the result of dedicated work by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative's [Research & Monitoring Committee](#) and a strong collaboration between WBCI partners and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management (USFWS-DMBM) in Patuxent, Maryland.

Marshbirds such as rails, bitterns, coots, and grebes are among the most poorly monitored bird groups in North America, largely because of low detection rates associated with their secretive behavior and difficult-to-access habitats. With information on status, abundance, population trends, and habitat associations generally lacking for many species, the USFWS-DMBM is working toward development of a national marshbird monitoring program that aims to fill these gaps and inform management and conservation decisions for these species and the wetlands they inhabit. In 2008, WBCI joined forces with USFWS-DMBM to pilot a framework for the program before its application on regional and national scales.

Survey points in Wisconsin were randomly chosen using a habitat-based, probabilistic sampling design based on wetland data available from the [Wisconsin Wetland Inventory](#). Although logistically challenging in many ways, this design will allow for large-scale inferences about marshbird populations unlike any current avian monitoring programs. These randomly-selected wetland points were then ground-truthed by trained staff to confirm habitat types and site accessibility. Surveys followed a nationally-standardized marshbird monitoring [protocol](#) and were conducted by a combination of paid staff and nearly 30 volunteers who received detailed training at a two-day workshop held at Horicon Marsh in April 2008.

Observers ultimately surveyed ~350 points over ~60 routes across Wisconsin, largely on public lands from Walworth to Douglas to Trempealeau to Marinette Counties and many places in between. Most of these points were surveyed twice between late May and mid-June, while some were surveyed only once and others three times between early May and late June. The most commonly detected primary target species were Sora, Virginia Rail, and American Bittern, although

surveyors also found Least Bitterns, Pied-billed Grebes, Common Moorhens, and American Coots. King and Yellow Rails, both priority species of high conservation concern, were detected at several sites, including a few locations not previously known to host these species. Observers also collected data on a suite of secondary target species, such as Black Terns, Wilson's Snipes, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and other wetland birds that are not well-monitored by other surveys.

Survey data will be stored in a national marshbird monitoring [database](#) maintained by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and results from this pilot year will be used to improve the sampling design and program implementation in Wisconsin and other states in the years ahead. A second season of the pilot survey will be completed in Wisconsin in May/June 2009. Potential modifications from 2008 include increased focus on private lands wetlands, a non-random stratum targeting specific wetland properties of interest, and more detailed assessment of habitat characteristics at survey sites.

Special thanks are extended to all of the volunteers, biologists, property managers, and other staff that made this pilot year such a tremendous success. Your cooperation and dedication have played a major role in advancing state-level and continental efforts to monitor and conserve a poorly-known group of birds and the wetland habitats on which they depend. Anyone wishing to participate in 2009 should contact the survey coordinator, Ryan Brady, at ryan.brady@wisconsin.gov or 715-685-2933.



Bayfield County Wetland, photo submitted by Ryan Brady

Featured IBA: St. Croix River

Submitted by Yoyi Steele

Extending almost 28 miles between the cities of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin and Stillwater, Minnesota, the St. Croix River IBA encompasses some 12,800 acres of basalt and limestone river gorges and cliffs and diverse natural communities including wetlands, forests, savanna, and prairie. Several forest types are present including drier forest in the upper stretch composed of oaks, white pine, basswood, and red cedar. The lower section contains some extensive tracts of floodplain forest dominated by silver maple, green ash, hackberry, and American elm, as well as forested seeps, running sloughs, braided channels, and backwater lakes and marshes. Uplands host oaks, basswood, aspen, paper birch, and white pine, with patches of dry prairie and savanna on warmer southern and western exposures.

This IBA supports a rich breeding bird community and is particularly important for floodplain forest species. Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-throated Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush are among the high-priority forest birds that breed along the St. Croix. The bluffs host large numbers of nesting Bank, Cliff, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Below the bluffs, the backwater marshes and riparian areas have breeding Hooded Mergansers, Belted Kingfishers, American Bitterns, and Marsh Wrens. Great Blue Herons nest in several rookeries along this portion of the river. Thousands of landbirds use the river as a migratory corridor in both spring and fall, and Bald Eagles can be common in winter if enough areas of open water remain.

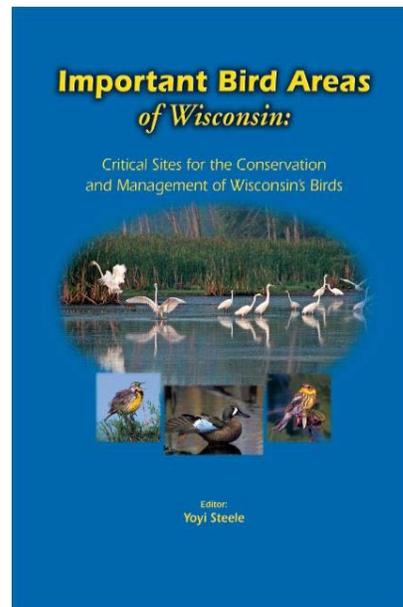
The St. Croix River IBA is a mix of public and private parcels, many of which are managed for conservation. The IBA includes Interstate State Park, the St. Croix Islands State Wildlife Area, and two State Natural Areas, managed by WDNR, as well as a portion of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, managed by the National Park Service. Another important partner is Standing Cedars Conservancy, which owns and manages over 1,500 acres of land south of Osceola, much of it being restored to savanna and prairie. Minnesota's IBA program has recognized the importance of this site with the establishment of the

Middle St. Croix IBA, which mirrors the IBA on the Wisconsin side.

Standing Cedars Conservancy hosted a dedication ceremony for the St. Croix River IBA on September 15, 2007, which was attended by WDNR, National Park Service, and Audubon Minnesota staff as well as many Standing Cedars members and volunteers. The St. Croix River is Wisconsin's 51st IBA.



Dan Schuller, Paul Kooiker, Dan McGuinness (Audubon Minnesota), Yoyi Steele, Neil Soltis (president of Standing Cedars), and Robin Maercklein (National Park Service) at the St. Croix IBA dedication



Get your IBA book today!

<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/IBA/IBA-book.htm>

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Newsletter Submission Info

Winter/Spring Issue

NOV 1 Call for submissions
JAN 1 Submission deadline
FEB 1 Newsletter release

Summer/Fall Issue

MAY 1 Call for submissions
JUL 1 Submission deadline
AUG 1 Newsletter release

Steering Committee Members

The Nature Conservancy

Aldo Leopold Foundation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

WI Audubon Council

WI County Forests Association

WI Department of Natural Resources

WI Society for Ornithology

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