



Wisconsin Society for Ornithology – 70th Annual Convention

“*Birding Northwestern Wisconsin*”

May 21 – 24, 2009

Held at The Lodge at Crooked Lake – Siren, Wisconsin

**** A map will be included with your registration confirmation ****

GENERAL QUESTIONS? Contact Scott Baughman (920-457-5574 or 920-980-3191 or baughman@charter.net)

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS? Contact Christine Reel (262-547-6128 or christinereel2@gmail.com)

Birders who choose to spend some time at this year’s WSO Convention will be rewarded for their efforts. The goal of our various field trips is to explore the many habitats here to “show off” the region’s bird diversity. We’d also like to introduce newcomers to northwestern Wisconsin and some of its most famous bird haunts.

The cry of the Loon and Sandhill Crane penetrate the early morning and evening hours, while Bald Eagles and Ospreys could sail overhead any time. The region is predominated by northern species, but there is also southern flavor as well. Trumpeter Swan, both bitterns, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Red-necked Grebe, Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks, Yellow Rail, Black-backed Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Common Raven, crossbills, Evening Grosbeak as well as a host of other nesting and migrant passerines – including 8 flycatchers (e.g., Olive-sided, Acadian, and Yellow-bellied), 22 warblers (e.g., Cerulean, Connecticut, Hooded, and both waterthrushes), and 12 sparrows (e.g., Lark, Clay-colored, Lincoln’s, LeConte’s, and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed) – should add to our enjoyment of birding northwestern Wisconsin.

Habitats in this part of the state are quite varied, yet the counties of Polk, Burnett, and Douglas are known for their Pine Barrens. These Pine Barrens are rare and imperiled habitat globally and consist mostly of prairie grasses, forbs, low shrubs, and scattered Jack Pine. Spread among these barrens are a number of wetlands, the largest being Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. Crex (as we birders call it) is a 30,000-acre property of predominantly wet sedge meadows, along with brushy prairies and pine forests scattered across its gently rolling landscape. Its bird list includes some 270 species. The surrounding areas within these three counties also include red and white pine forests, conifer swamps (black spruce, tamarack, and cedar), willows, soft maple, aspen, and ash. Another major component of this region is the St. Croix River, a National Scenic Riverway. The St. Croix originates in Douglas County near Solon Springs. It flows southwest and eventually forms the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota. It empties into the Mississippi River at Interstate State Park (St. Croix Falls, Polk County).

All-Day Field Trips – Thursday and Friday, May 21 and 22

The aim of WSO and its Convention Planning Committee is to offer two quality all-day field trips to experience the birdlife farther afield from the host convention site. These all-day trips are considered part of the annual convention itself and are ***open only to convention registrants***.

Because ***some roads in this area are not rated for coach bus travel*** we are offering **only car caravan transportation** each day. Some of the roads to and from our birding sites will be on mainly improved gravel surfaces and are drivable at this time of year by most vehicles. Some of our birding will be done from these road edges, while other stops will involve walking on nature or forest trails. It is very likely that on some of the off-road walks we will encounter wet conditions (dew or the result of rain), so plan accordingly. Approximate length and conditions of walks on these field trips will be announced at each stop.

All field trips begin and end at The Lodge Center Ice Arena, across the street from our convention site, The Lodge at Crooked Lake. If you are willing to be a driver on one or both days, please indicate that on your Registration Form, and include the number of people your vehicle can accommodate. A few of our stops will involve state parks where an entrance fee is required. If you are a passenger, we suggest that you donate a minimum of \$5 to the driver for gas reimbursement. For convenience we will try to set a limit of **four passengers per vehicle** (so there will be no one in the very back of a van), and for logistical purposes there will be a **maximum of 10 vehicles** per car caravan (~40 participants/trip). These field trips are very popular so please **register early**. If the route you have chosen is full on the day you’ve chosen it, your itinerary will be changed; check the confirmation you get for changes, and contact Christine Reel with questions (262-547-6128 or christinereel2@gmail.com).

SPECIAL NOTES: 1) Please be on time! We will not wait for latecomers. 2) If there is a last-minute situation that prevents you from attending at trip, please contact either Jeff Baughman at 920-960-4732 or Scott Baughman at 960-980-3191, so they know that you are unable to come on that day.

As in the past, each day participants will ***switch routes***. If you are able to attend **only one of the two days** please indicate **which day you plan to attend and which route** you prefer.

ROUTE PLANS

Each day's field trip will meet in the parking lot at **The Lodge Center Ice Arena** (across the street from our convention site, The Lodge at Crooked Lake) and will return there in late afternoon. Each of the two days of field trips will offer a trip north into Douglas County and a trip south into Polk County. Trips are labeled "**North Route**" and "**South Route**," and **each has a different meeting time**. So, when planning your choices please take note of the meeting times.

NORTH ROUTE will meet at 4:45 a.m. in the parking lot at The Lodge Center Ice Arena

Sites included on this route are the **St. Croix Flowage**, the **Pine Barrens** east of Solon Springs, **Stone's Bridge**, **Stone Chimney**, **Lyman Lake Bog**, and **Breitzman Lake Bog**. Also, depending on time and the possibility of "stake-out" birds, we may stop at other sites along this route. *Notable species*: Trumpeter Swan; both bitterns; Upland Sandpiper; Black-backed Woodpecker; Winter Wren; Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets; Olive-sided, Alder, and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers; Blue-headed Vireo; possibly Boreal Chickadee and Gray Jay; several species of warblers, including Connecticut; Lincoln's and Clay-colored Sparrows; Yellow-headed Blackbird; and crossbills.

SOUTH ROUTE will meet at 5:15 a.m. in the parking lot at The Lodge Center Ice Arena

Sites included on this route are **Straight Lake State Park** (Wisconsin's newest state park), **Interstate State Park**, **Lotus Lake** (County Park), **Sand Lake**, **Bear Lake**, **Behning Creek State Fisheries**, **Balsam Branch**, and **D.D. Kennedy County Park**. Also, depending on time and the possibility of "stake-out" birds, we may stop at other sites along this route. *Notable species*: Red-shouldered Hawk; marsh birds (including both bitterns); shorebirds; both cuckoos; Pileated Woodpecker; Alder, Willow, and Acadian Flycatchers; vireos; Winter Wren; Hermit Thrush and Veery; and several species of warblers (e.g., Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush).

These two routes should give us the best chances of finding most of the specialty species listed above as well as any migrant or other resident species in this bird-rich area of Wisconsin.

ALL-DAY FIELD TRIPS: PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

LODGING is the participant's responsibility. Make your room reservation soon (see Convention Lodging Options elsewhere in these materials)!

All MEALS are the participant's responsibility, although a "Box Lunch" option is available. Please indicate your preferences for each day on the BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM. The trip leaders will supply one bottle of water for each participant each day for lunch. There will be a break for lunch along the way – at a park, boat launch, or wayside. A couple of large coolers will be available for food and beverages on each trip; you may also bring a small cooler. (**NOTE: Lunches will be distributed in recyclable cardboard containers and may not withstand being packed in ice, so plan accordingly.**) There may be long stretches of time between meals; therefore we suggest you bring along energy snacks, granola bars, trail mix, etc.

The **WEATHER** at this time of year can be somewhat unpredictable, so plan on it being cool in the mornings and possibly warm in the afternoons. This means you need to bring "layered" clothing – for example: 1) a short-sleeved shirt or T-shirt, a long-sleeved shirt, a sweatshirt, and a jacket; and 2) a pair of long pants or shorts along with a lined pair of wind pants (rain gear can often provide for this as well). There will be some walking involved, and even though it will be leisurely and on fairly good trails, bring a sturdy pair of shoes. Some habitats may be wet, so having boots that you can slip over your shoes will be to your advantage; or bring an extra pair of socks. A hat is often a good idea, especially if it's sunny or if it rains. By all means prepare for the possibility of rain, because each field trip will continue as planned, rain or shine.

IMPORTANT: Because this area of the state is notorious for **TICKS**, it would be wise to wear rubber boots! Other insects at this time of year can be nasty as well, so be prepared. Consider bringing along insect repellent, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and sunscreen. Also remember to bring your binoculars, your favorite field guide, and your spotting scope and camera if you wish. A day-pack is a convenient way to store your field guides, snacks, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

Half-Day Field Trips – Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24

Early Morning – 11:00 a.m. Field Trips will meet in the parking lot at **The Lodge Center Ice Arena** (across the street from The Lodge at Crooked Lake, the convention site), *rain or shine!* **Sign-up sheets for these field trips** will be in the convention registration area. The **starting and ending times, destinations, and length and conditions of walks will be indicated on the sign-up sheets.** These half-day car caravan field trips are intended to go to most of the very BEST birding locations close to the convention site.

POSSIBLE DESTINATIONS

- Bird Banding with Bruce Bacon
- Crex Meadows
- Fish Lake Wildlife Area
- Namekagon Barrens & St. Croix River
- St. Croix River & Crex Meadows
- Wisconsin Point, Superior (*Sunday morning only*)

Displays – Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23

All **bird-related groups and organizations** are welcome to set up a display at the convention. Please indicate on the Convention Registration Form how many tables you will need for your display.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

ALL-DAY FIELD TRIPS May 21 and 22 (Thursday & Friday)

Meeting at and returning to The Lodge Center Ice Arena (across the street from The Lodge at Crooked Lake)

ACTIVITIES MAY 22 – 24 (Friday evening – Sunday noon)

- 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Convention Registration at The Lodge at Crooked Lake in Siren
– *Sign up for Saturday morning half-day field trips.*
NOTE: 1) Most Half-Day Field Trips will be limited to a maximum of 20 people.
2) Sign-up Sheets indicate start and end times, destinations, walk lengths, and conditions.
- 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. WSO Bookstore open
- 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Display of Crex Meadows information and items for purchase
- 7:00 p.m. Jim Hoefler – “Introduction to Crex Meadows: History and Management”
- 7:30 p.m. Ryan Brady – “Overview of the Marshbird Monitoring Project”
- 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. Field Trip to Crex Meadows – “Evening Marshbirds”

SATURDAY, MAY 23

- Early a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Half-Day Field Trips (carpool from The Lodge Center Ice Arena) (*rain or shine!*)
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon Convention Registration continues
– *Sign up for Sunday morning half-day field trips.*
NOTE: 1) Most Half-Day Field Trips will be limited to a maximum of 20 people.
2) Sign-up Sheets indicate start and end times, destinations, walk lengths, and conditions.
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon WSO Bookstore open
- 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Display of Crex Meadows information and items for purchase
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Lunch at The Lodge at Crooked Lake catered by Adventures Catering
Soup & Sandwich Buffet (including vegetarian options), chips, and brownies; shade-grown coffee, hot tea, milk, and water
NOTE: This lunch is included in the registration fee.
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. WSO Annual Meeting for WSO members
- 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Scott Hull – “Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse 2025: Conservation Success Story or Lost Cause?”
- 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Free Time
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Convention Banquet catered by Adventures Catering
Buffet: *Stuffed chicken breasts, beef tips, vegetarian lasagna, potatoes, noodles, seasonal vegetable blend, garden salad, rolls, and desserts (strawberry shortcake, cranberry/apple cobbler, and chocolate mousse)*
Beverages: shade-grown coffee, hot tea, milk, and water
- 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Presentation of Awards
- 6:30 p.m. Andy Paulios and Bruce Bacon – “Nightjars in Wisconsin”
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Field Trips (two options):
1) to band Nightjars
2) to Crex Meadows

SUNDAY, MAY 24

- Early a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Half-Day Field Trips (carpool from The Lodge Center Ice Arena) (*rain or shine!*)
- 11:00 a.m. Convention ends

Convention Cost, Registration Deadline, & Other Information

Registration fee: \$20/person if postmarked on or before April 25

- After April 25, no registrations by mail will be accepted; the registration fee at the door will be \$30/person.
- Those who register at the door may inquire about Saturday evening Convention Banquet availability, but space is not guaranteed.
- Those who do not attend the Saturday evening Convention Banquet are welcome to attend all other Saturday evening activities.
- Full refunds will be issued only for requests postmarked by April 25. Once the number of convention participants has been finalized, we are obligated to pay for every person registered. If you have a refund request, contact Christine Reel by April 25.
- The Friends of Crex Meadows will have their T-shirts and other items for sale during the convention.

Convention Lodging Options

No matter what type of accommodations you prefer, we recommend that you *make your reservation early* because the holiday weekend is expected to draw many visitors to the area.

HOTELS/MOTELS

To get special convention rates, contact the facility at the number(s) listed below (do not use other toll-free numbers or the internet), and refer to “WSO” when making a reservation. About Breakfast: Due to the early hour convention field trips begin, it is suggested that you bring your own breakfast or contact the staff of the place you are staying to see if they can accommodate you.

Rooms are being held for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, May 20 through 23, at the Convention site:

The Lodge at Crooked Lake – 24271 State Road 35 North, Siren 54872 – 877-843-5634 or 715-349-2500

Special rate: any bed configuration, \$69; **deadline** for making reservations at this rate is **April 15**, after which rooms will be released

For more information: <http://www.mylodge.com/>

Willing to provide early continental breakfast – request a time when you make your reservation

No rooms are being held at:

Best Western Northwoods Lodge – 23986 State Road 35 (Jct Hwy 35 & 70), Siren 54872 – 877-349-7800 or 715-349-7800

Special rates: double queen, \$59.95; queen with refrigerator or king, \$64.95

About 2.3 miles from convention (4 minutes); for more information: <http://www.northwoodslodge.com/>

Willing to provide early continental breakfast – request a time when you make your reservation

Pine Wood Motel – 23862 State Road 35 South, Siren 54872 – 715-349-5225

Special rates: one bed, Wed/Thu, \$40; one bed, Fri/Sat, \$50; two beds, Wed/Thu, \$45; two beds, Fri/Sat, \$60

About 2.6 miles from convention site (4 minutes); for more information: <http://www.pinewoodmotel.com/>

BED & BREAKFASTS (No rooms are being held)

Locate additional B&Bs by visiting <http://www.wisvacations.com/wisconsin/wisconsin/cities/burnett.html>.

Forgotten Tymes Country Inn Bed and Breakfast – 7420 Tower Road, Siren 54872 – 715-349-5837

About 3.4 miles from convention site (6 minutes)

Lilac Village Bed and Breakfast – 7665 Bradley Street, Siren 54872 – 888-891-1207 or 715-349-7012

About 2.3 miles from convention site (4 minutes); for more information: <http://www.lilac-b.com/>

CAMPING (No sites are being held)

Locate additional campgrounds by visiting <http://www.bcra.com/>, <http://burnettcounty lodging.com/>, or <http://www.wisvacations.com/wisconsin/wisconsin/cities/burnett.html>.

Carder's Clam Lake Resort – 6420 Hwy 70, Siren 54872 – 715-349-5160

About 3 miles from convention site (5 minutes); for more information: <http://www.cardersclamlakeresort.com/>

DuFour's Pine Tree Campground – 29221 Hayden Lake Road, Webster 54893 – 715-656-4084

About 6 miles from convention site (11 minutes)

Mallard Lake Family Resort – 3880 Norman's Landing Road, Webster 54893 – 877-866-7576

About 12 miles from convention site (20 minutes); for more information: <http://www.mallardlakeresort.com/>

Stuart's Leisure Acres – 27950 Yellow Lake Road, Webster 54893 – 715-866-8343

About 12 miles from convention site (20 minutes)

Birchwood Beach Resort & Campground – 21710 Spirit Lake Road West, Frederic 54837 – 715-327-8965

About 18 miles from convention site (25 minutes); for more information: <http://www.birchwoodbeachresort.com/>

Registration Form – WSO 70th Annual Convention

May 21 – 24, 2009 – The Lodge at Crooked Lake, Siren

Please NOTE: This form must be postmarked by April 25; after that date, you must register at the door.

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email Address _____
Special food needs for Saturday Noon Lunch or Evening Banquet (vegetarian options are already offered) _____

Convention Registration Fee # of People Total

\$20/person (after April 25, \$30 walk-in registrations only) x = \$ (1)

Offer for NON -WSO Members If you wish to join WSO you may pay the WSO Membership Fee with this registration.

Optional WSO Membership Fee for Non-Members: \$30/person OR \$35/family \$ (2)

Convention All-Day Field Trips – Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22

(Suggestion: \$5/passenger to the driver)

Carpool Caravan:# of people registering for trip..... Willing to drive..... Total number of people in vehicle
(circle choice)

Thursday, May 21, North Route yes no

Thursday, May 21, South Route yes no

Friday, May 22, North Route yes no

Friday, May 22, South Route yes no

If you want a box lunch for Thursday and/or Friday, you must include a Box Lunch Form for each person (next page).

Box Lunch for Thursday, May 21:.....# of People Total

\$10/person x = \$ (3)

Box Lunch for Friday, May 22:# of People Total

\$10/person x = \$ (4)

Convention Lunch – Saturday, May 23 – at The Lodge at Crooked Lake

NOTE: The Convention Registration Fee includes the Saturday noon Lunch

Buffet: Soup & Sandwich (including vegetarian options), chips, and brownies. Beverages: shade-grown coffee, hot tea, milk, and water.

Do you plan to have this lunch? _____ No _____ Yes: number of people _____

Convention Banquet – Saturday, May 23 – at The Lodge at Crooked Lake

Buffet: Stuffed chicken breasts, beef tips, vegetarian lasagna, potatoes, noodles, seasonal vegetable blend, garden salad, rolls, and desserts (strawberry shortcake, cranberry/apple cobbler, and chocolate mousse). Beverages: shade-grown coffee, hot tea, milk, water.

Banquet:# of People Total

\$20/person x = \$ (5)

Convention Display – Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23

All **bird-related** groups and organizations are welcome to set up a display at the convention. Number of tables needed: _____

Name of Group/Organization _____ Contact Person/Info _____

GRAND TOTAL (ADD LINES 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 as applicable) \$ (6)

Please send payment (payable to *WSO Convention Fund*) for the GRAND TOTAL amount (#6) with this form (and Box Lunch Form on next page, if needed) **on or before April 25 to:**

Christine Reel – 2022 Sherryl Lane – Waukesha, WI 53188

Box Lunch Order Form

for All-Day Field Trips – Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22

***** One Person Per Form *****

(make copies of this form as needed)

Box lunches for the Thursday/Friday all-day trips will be provided by Chattering Squirrel in Siren. Each lunch contains your choice of a sandwich, wrap, or salad; chips; your choice of a side dish; and your choice of cookie with chocolate. **If you want a box lunch, you must include a separate Box Lunch Order Form for each participant with your registration.**

All sandwiches are served with lettuce; mayonnaise and mustard are available on the side. Bottled water is included.

NAME: _____

DAY: ____ Thursday ____ Friday

ROUTE: ____ North ____ South

Sandwich/wrap/salad (choose one and indicate choice of bread where appropriate):

(For ham and turkey sandwiches and veggie wraps, please indicate your cheese preference: None, Swiss, or Cheddar – if you leave that line blank, no cheese will be added.)

- | | Multi-grain | Croissant | Wrap |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham Deli Stacker (cheese: _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Deli Stacker (cheese: _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veggie Wrap (cheese: _____) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Caesar salad (dressing on the side) | | | |

Side (choose one):

- Fruit Salad
- Veggies & Dip

Dessert (choose one):

- Chocolate Chip Cookie & Gourmet Chocolate
- Oatmeal Raisin Cookie & Gourmet Chocolate
- Ginger Molasses Cookie & Gourmet Chocolate

Special dietary needs: _____

NAME: _____

DAY: ____ Thursday ____ Friday

ROUTE: ____ North ____ South

Sandwich/wrap/salad (choose one and indicate choice of bread where appropriate):

(For ham and turkey sandwiches and veggie wraps, please indicate your cheese preference: None, Swiss, or Cheddar – if you leave that line blank, no cheese will be added.)

- | | Multi-grain | Croissant | Wrap |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham Deli Stacker (cheese: _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Deli Stacker (cheese: _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veggie Wrap (cheese: _____) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Caesar salad (dressing on the side) | | | |

Side (choose one):

- Fruit Salad
- Veggies & Dip

Dessert (choose one):

- Chocolate Chip Cookie & Gourmet Chocolate
- Oatmeal Raisin Cookie & Gourmet Chocolate
- Ginger Molasses Cookie & Gourmet Chocolate

Special dietary needs: _____