

EL Family - LIMITLESS PERFECTION

Exceptionally brilliant field flattener lenses,
HD optics, high quality coatings, unique ergonomic design
and maximum comfort



A SERVICE OF THE OUTDOOR WIRE DIGITAL NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016

The Birding Wire

HOME

ARCHIVES

CONTACT

SUBSCRIBE

Presented By



BIRDING WIRE



Post News, Announcements on the Birding Wire

Don't forget to send information for your upcoming birding event or festival for inclusion in The Birding Wire calendar. Non-profit clubs, organizations and state agencies may submit news free of charge and reach thousands of readers each week.

Manufacturers, tour companies and other birding-related businesses may become Corporate Members at a reasonable cost annually and submit press releases and company news. Our readers are rigorously encouraged to become part of The Birding Wire by sending items to birdingwire@gmail.com.

CONSERVATION



Axalta and DU Announce Project for Coastal Texas

Axalta Coating Systems and Ducks Unlimited jointly announced that restoration work on the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast is the first conservation project reinforced by their partnership, part of a \$10-million conservation program

supported by Axalta over the course of five years.

COURTS



\$8.8 Billion Settlement Reached with BP

This week, a federal court in New Orleans approved a settlement for \$20.8 billion settlement to resolved civil claims resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, marking the largest recovery of damages ever approved for injuries to natural resources.

DESTINATIONS



Huron House B&B Offers Special Birding Package

The Huron House Bed and Breakfast in Oscoda, Mich., a romantic lakeside bed and breakfast known for its prime Lake Huron location and various bird sightings, has put together a getaway specifically with bird lovers in mind.

ESA



USFWS: Sprague's Pipit Does Not Require Federal Protection

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced this week that the Sprague's pipit no longer meets the definition of a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

EVENTS



Hackberry Flat Day to be a Birding Bonanza

Try your hand at bird-watching and a number of other family-oriented outdoor activities at the annual Hackberry Flat Day event in southwestern Oklahoma April 16.



SE Ohio Birds in the Hills Apr. 23-24

Rural Action is partnering with Camp Oty'Okwa in the Hocking Hills and the Athens Area Birders to host the first major birding festival in Southeast Ohio April 23-24.



IMBD Event Celebrates Birds of Camp Amnicon, Wis.

In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, Camp Amnicon and its conservation partners will host a special celebration, "A Year in the Life of a Migratory Bird," on Saturday, May 7.

LITIGATION



Feral Cat Colonies at NY State Beach Subject of Federal Lawsuit

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has filed suit in federal court against the New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (Parks Office) over the continued presence of feral cat colonies at Jones Beach State Park.

MILESTONES



Maine's Hog Island Audubon Camp Turns 80

The Hog Island Audubon camp specializes in a wide variety of six-day birding and ornithology programs, from "Breaking into Birding" which introduces basic topics such as field identification, to "Hands-On Bird Science", a methods session teaching skills in bird-banding, study skin preparation and sound recording.

NESTCAMS



Watch a Wild California Condor Chick Hatch

For the first time in history, anyone with an Internet connection has the chance to watch a wild California Condor egg hatch via a live camera focused on a nest at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Ventura County, Calif.

NEW PRODUCTS



Steiner Expands Wildlife XP Line to Compact Models

Following the successful 2015 launch of the premium Wildlife XP binoculars, Steiner announces the expansion of the product line to include the 8x24, 10x26 and 10.5x28 Wildlife XP Compact binoculars.

OPTICS



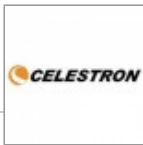
TLS APO 23 mm Digiscoping Adapter from Swarovski Optik

SWAROVSKI OPTIK NORTH AMERICA presents the new TLS APO 23 mm Apochromat Telephoto Lens System Adapter, available from specialist retailers this month.

PARTNERSHIPS

Celestron Sponsors the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Celestron, a leading sport optics manufacturer based in Torrance, Calif., has partnered with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as an official sponsor to promote the hobby of birding and to work toward the



common goal of introducing birds to a broader audience.

RECOGNITION



Dr. Meg Hatch Named AOU Elective Member

Penn State Worthington Scranton has announced that associate professor of biology Dr. Meg Hatch has been named an elective member of the American Ornithology Union (AOU).

REGULATORY



Pennsylvania Drone Ban on Game Lands Moves Ahead

This week, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners cast a unanimous preliminary vote to enact a ban on the flying of unmanned aerial vehicles over lands or waters designated as state game lands.

SPECIES



Forest Phantom: Kentucky Warbler

The Kentucky Warbler, like the Canada Warbler, Ovenbird, and Wood Thrush, depends on healthy forest with a rich and varied understory.

STATES



Give Beach-nesting Birds Their Space

Georgia's beaches are not only vacation hotspots, in spring and summer they're top spots for nesting shorebirds and seabirds, and for migrating species fueling up for long flights to the Arctic.



Enjoy Spring Events at Michigan State Parks in April

Spend time outdoors celebrating the start of the spring season by attending the various events at state parks and recreation areas throughout Michigan.



Kentucky Researchers Seek Barn Owl Nesting Locations

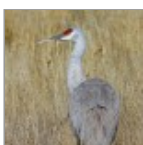
Wildlife biologists with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources need the public's help in locating as many barn owl nesting sites as possible to gain a deeper understanding of why the species has declined in the state.



Nebraska WMA Reopened Following Whooping Crane's Departure

Wilkinson Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Platte County has reopened to the public following a temporary closure in place to protect whooping cranes using the area. Three whooping cranes present at the WMA since March 25 left the area and continued their migration north on April 5.

VOLUNTEERS



ICF Searching for Volunteer Crane Counters

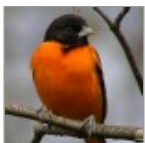
The International Crane Foundation is seeking volunteer citizen scientists to participate in the 41st Annual Midwest Crane Count on Saturday, April 16.



Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey June 17-19

Wisconsin's Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey, the longest running volunteer bird monitoring program in a U.S. national forest, is actively seeking volunteers for its 2016 survey program.

YOUTH



WSO Oriole Count to Introduce Young People to Birds

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology believes it's important to introduce birds and birding to young people. For that reason, it is hosting the third annual Wisconsin Oriole Count.

The Birding Wire Photo Gallery



This week's featured photograph of a secretive Eastern screech owl was submitted by Birding Wire reader and subscriber Gene McGarry and was taken in Sullivan County, NY, south of Wurtsboro on March 26. "This Sycamore is a frequent nesting tree for this species though the usual birds seen there are 'blue morphs,' (dark morph snow geese)," Gene writes. Gear: Canon EOS 7D camera, Canon EF 500mm, f/4L IS lens w/a Canon 2X Extender.

Birding Wire readers, if you have a favorite or interesting bird and nature photograph, we urge you to share it with thousands of our subscribers. Please send submissions to birdingwire@gmail.com, and be sure to include details about the location, species and technical data.

[\(Permalink\)](#)

GWB: 'A Walkathon With Binoculars and a Bird Book'

The spring morning is warm and sunny. In the backyard, chilled goblets of orange juice sit next to lawn chairs that face a table laden with a sumptuous feast of peanuts, beef suet, white millet and black oil sunflower seeds. Binoculars at the ready. Let the Great Wisconsin Birdathon begin!

Every spring since 2012, teams of birders have joined the Great Wisconsin Birdathon (GWB) to tally as many bird species as possible in a day while collecting pledges and donations for the Bird Protection Fund. Through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, the fund has supported Bird City Wisconsin, the second

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, Whooping Crane reintroduction, Kirtland's Warbler monitoring as well as habitat protection and restoration initiatives in Wisconsin and Costa Rica.

For many birders, the birdathon is an opportunity to find as many birds as possible in a 24-hour period between April 15 and June 15, and even engage in friendly competition with other teams. But it doesn't have to be intense. The point is to get outdoors, see birds, and raise funds, and there are many ways to do so. For a number of teams, the Birdathon is about birding small, locally and leisurely.

In 2014, John Kraniak wanted to see which species were in his own Madison-area neighborhood, so his team did their entire birdathon in his backyard. "I'm interested in urban ecology," Kraniak said. "Nature isn't something that's up there in the Northwoods, it's right here in the city."

When he announced his plan, teammate Florence Edwards-Miller cautioned him that they might be lucky to see 20 species of birds. When they wrapped up their bird count, they had seen 50—and it was only 11 a.m.

This year the Great Wisconsin Birdathon is working with Bird City Wisconsin and WSO to encourage communities all over the state to participate by birding backyards and neighborhoods, parks and public lands. Organizations and Bird Cities that participate receive half their team's earnings, to use for their own conservation projects. Birding locally allows people to connect with the very birds and habitats that they are helping to conserve.

Dr. Bryan Lenz, BCW director, describes it this way:

"Think of this as a walkathon with binoculars and a bird book. Participants will spend one day bird watching. Before heading out, participants collect pledges, either for the day as a whole or for each species seen, spend the day birding, and report the number of species seen so that the pledges can be collected. It's that simple! There's a web site www.WIBirdathon.org to do all the rest of the work and bookkeeping."

Last year's top Bird City team was the Muirland Merlins (Marquette County), who raised \$1,317. Fifty percent of the donations a team raises go to a local environmental organization, conservation club, birding or education group it selects, or to support its own local Bird City efforts. Or these funds can be donated directly to Bird City Wisconsin (through the Milwaukee Audubon Society) to support its state and regional conservation efforts. The other half goes to the Bird Protection Fund.

If you want to participate as an individual, you still need to join a team to register on the website. To join your community's team, look for it in the drop down list during your online registration. BCW has created 96 teams, one for each Bird City, so after joining the team from your community you will be all set to start seeking donations.

In addition to keeping half the money that a Bird City team raises, communities are being given an extra incentive in the form of prizes. BCW teams that raise over \$2,500 will receive a new BCW street sign. Those that raise \$1,000 to \$2,500 will receive a Bird City flag, and those raising \$500 to \$1,000 will receive a BCW mini-sign.

- Diane Packett, Great Wisconsin Birdathon Coordinator

[\(Permalink\)](#)



Calendar

Apr. 13 - Apr. 19	Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival <i>Arcata, Calif.</i>
Apr. 14 - Apr. 17	Galveston FeatherFest <i>Galveston, Tex.</i>
Apr. 14 - Apr. 17	14th Annual Featherfest <i>Galveston Island, Tex.</i>
Apr. 15 - Apr. 17	Great Louisiana Birdfest <i>Mandeville, La.</i>
Apr. 15 - Apr. 17	Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration <i>Grand Isle, La.</i>
Apr. 15 - Apr. 19	Chipola Feather Fest <i>Marianna, Fla.</i>

Apr. 16	41st Annual Midwest Crane Count
Apr. 21 - Apr. 24	Delmarva Spring Birding Weekend <i>Delmarva Peninsula (DE, MD, VA)</i>
Apr. 22 - Apr. 24	Balcones Songbird Festival <i>Marble Falls, Tex.</i>
Apr. 22 - Apr. 24	Owens Lake Bird Festival <i>Lone Pine, Calif.</i>
Apr. 23 - Apr. 24	Birds in the Hills <i>Camp Oty'Okwa, South Bloomingville, Ohio</i>
Apr. 27 - May 1	Shorebird Extravaganza <i>Jennings, La.</i>
Apr. 29 - May 1	Birding & Blues Festival <i>Pacific City, Ore.</i>
May 5 - May 8	Indiana Dunes Birding Festival <i>Porter, Ind.</i>
May 6 - May 9	Horicon Marsh Bird Festival <i>Horicon, Wis.</i>
May 6 - May 15	The Biggest Week in American Birding <i>Maumee, Ohio</i>
May 7	A Year in the Life of a Migratory Bird <i>Camp Amnicon, South Range, Wis.</i>
May 7 - May 10	Red Slough Birding Convention <i>Idabel, Okla.</i>
May 12 - May 15	Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival <i>Homer, Alaska</i>
May 12 - May 15	24th Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival <i>Homer, Alaska</i>
May 12 - May 16	Great Salt Lake Bird Festival <i>Farmington, Utah</i>
May 14	Global Big Day
May 19 - May 21	Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival <i>Ashland, Wis.</i>
June 2 - June 5	Acadia Birding Festival <i>Bar Harbor, Maine</i>
June 3 - June 4	Kirtland's Warbler Weekend <i>Roscommon, Mich.</i>
June 17 - June 19	30th Annual Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey <i>Eagle River, Wis.</i>

Copyright © 2016 The Birding Wire. All Rights Reserved.