



Da Lower Wisconsin Scan da Avians outstandin' in der field, havin' der mid-morning coffee 'n lefse on Russell Hill wit da bobolinks. L-R: Mike Hedemark, Jeb Barzen, Barb Barzen, and Arlyne Johnson.

2017 Lower Wisconsin Scan da Avians birdathon

At 6:00 pm on Sunday, May 7, we parked at Point Overlook in Wyalusing State Park and started our 24-hour birdathon. At 5:53 pm on Monday, we parked at the Prairie du Sac dam with **120 bird species on our list**, smiles on our faces, and renewed appreciation for the Lower Wisconsin Riverway's beauty, biodiversity, expanse, and champions. It was great to see so much active management going on throughout the Riverway, particularly prescribed burning.

Although consistent lack of south winds and high water limited the size and scope of our list, **we ended our day with 20 warblers and 22 birds that are Species of Greatest Conservation Need and/or on the Partners in Flight Continental Watch List**. Among these are woodcock, whip-poor-will, red headed woodpecker, wood thrush, grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows, bobolink, and Cerulean, prothonotary, and golden-winged warblers.

Where Chicago has its "magic hedge", we found Wisconsin's "magic mounds and monument". Wyalusing's passenger pigeon monument and the linear mounds above it were "dripping with warblers", as Arlyne put it. This bluff-top grove of oaks and bank of shrubs is where migrants reach the busy intersection of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers - ravenous warblers at sunrise, roosting vultures at sunset.

By the time we forced ourselves to leave Wyalusing, we had observed 75 species. Other highlights upriver were the **Woodman Lake Sand Prairie and Dead Lake State Natural Area** (prothonotary warbler), **Blue River Sand Barrens SNA** (various prairie, marsh and pine plantation birds), **Bakkens Pond** (Forster's terns), and **Sauk City** (pelicans galore and chimney swifts). Playing beat-the-clock made us bypass Cruson Slough, Avoca Prairie, Blue River Bluffs, and other spots we hoped to hit.

A very sincere THANK YOU to those who have supported our team and our birds. Tusen takk!



Bird species observed by Lower Wisconsin Scan da Avians

Date: May 7-8, 2017 (6:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

Observers: Arlyne Johnson, Mike Hedemark, Jeb Barzen, Barb Barzen

Sites: Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Wyalusing State Park, County C, Hwy 133, Millville Unit-Russell Hill, Woodman Lake Unit, Boscobel, Blue River Sands State Natural Area, Spring Green Preserve, Hwy 23 bridge, Arena boat landing, Foxglove Savanna, Cassell Prairie, Sauk City boat landing, Sauk City, Prairie du Sac dam

120 Species Observed *

Canada goose	blue-headed vireo	American redstart
trumpeter swan (SGCN)	warbling vireo	prothonotary warbler (SGCN, CWL)
wood duck	red-eyed vireo	ovenbird
mallard	blue jay	mourning warbler
blue-winged teal (SGCN)	American crow	common yellowthroat
hooded merganser	horned lark	scarlet tanager
ring-necked pheasant	tree swallow	Eastern towhee
wild turkey	Northern rough-winged swallow	chipping sparrow
pied-billed grebe	bank swallow	clay-colored sparrow
American white pelican	cliff swallow	field sparrow (SGCN)
double-crested cormorant	barn swallow	vesper sparrow (SGCN)
great blue heron	black-capped chickadee	lark sparrow (SGCN)
turkey vulture	tufted titmouse	grasshopper sparrow (SGCN, CWL)
bald eagle (SGCN)	red-breasted nuthatch	Henslow's sparrow (SGCN, CWL)
broad-winged hawk	white-breasted nuthatch	song sparrow
red-tailed hawk	house wren	Lincoln's sparrow
sora	sedge wren	swamp sparrow
American coot	marsh wren	white-throated sparrow
sandhill crane	ruby-crowned kinglet	white-crowned sparrow
killdeer	blue-gray gnatcatcher	Northern cardinal
spotted sandpiper	Eastern bluebird	rose-breasted grosbeak
American woodcock (SGCN)	veery (SGCN)	indigo bunting
ring-billed gull	Swainson's thrush	Bobolink (SGCN, CWL)
Forster's tern (SGCN)	wood thrush (SGCN, CWL)	red-winged blackbird
rock pigeon	American robin	Eastern meadowlark (SGCN)
mourning dove	gray catbird	Western meadowlark (SGCN)
great horned owl	brown thrasher (SGCN)	common grackle
barred owl	European starling	brown-headed cowbird
Eastern whip-poor-will (SGCN, CWL)	American pipit	Northern oriole
chimney swift	golden-winged warbler (SGCN, CWL)	house finch
ruby-throated hummingbird	Tennessee warbler	American goldfinch
belted kingfisher	orange-crowned warbler	house sparrow
red-headed woodpkr (SGCN, CWL)	Nashville warbler	
red-bellied woodpecker	Northern parula warbler	
yellow-bellied woodpecker	yellow warbler	
downy woodpecker	chestnut-sided warbler	
hairy woodpecker	magnolia warbler	
northern flicker	yellow-rumped warbler	
pileated woodpecker	black-throated green warbler	
Eastern wood pewee	blackburnian warbler	
least flycatcher (SGCN)	pine warbler	
Eastern phoebe	palm warbler	
Eastern kingbird	Cerulean warbler (SGCN, CWL)	
yellow-throated vireo	black and white warbler	

*SGCN – designated a *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (includes listed species)

CWL - one of 86 species on the Partners in Flight *Continental Watch List*