

Birding the Habitat Way

The entire series of *Birding the Habitat Way* is published in the journal *The Passenger Pigeon*, which is available on-line at the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections (<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/EcoNatRes/>). Here is the list of articles in the series:

Wisconsin's bird habitats: Introducing a new series. M.J. Mossman and P.M. Matthiae. 1988. v. 50:43-53.

Birds of wet-mesic and wet prairies in Wisconsin. R.M. Hoffman and D.W. Sample. 1988. v. 50:143-152.

Wisconsin wetlands of importance to migrant waterbirds. M.A. Martin. 1988. v. 50:213-220.

Birds of southern Wisconsin floodplain forests. M.J. Mossman. 1988. v. 50:321-335.

Birds of northern mesic forests. R.M. Hoffman. 1989. v. 51:97-110.

Birds of dry-mesic and dry prairies in Wisconsin. D.W. Sample and R.M. Hoffman. 1989. v. 51:195-208.

Birds of tall shrub communities: alder thickets and shrub-carr. R.M. Hoffman. 1989. v. 51:263-273.

Birds of southern Wisconsin upland forests. M.J. Mossman and R.M. Hoffman. 1989. v. 51:343-358.

Birds of Wisconsin sedge meadows. M.J. Mossman and D.W. Sample. 1990. v. 52:38-55.

Birds of Wisconsin boreal forests. M.J. Mossman, E. Epstein and R.M. Hoffman. 1990. v. 52:153-168.

Birds of Wisconsin's deep marshes and shallow open-water communities. R.M. Hoffman. 1990. v. 52:259-272.

Birds of northern Wisconsin pine forests. R.M. Hoffman and M.J. Mossman. 1990. v. 52:339-355.

Birds of Wisconsin pine and oak barrens. M.J. Mossman, E. Epstein and R.M. Hoffman. 1991. v. 53:137-163.

Birds of Wisconsin's northern swamps and bogs. R.M. Hoffman and M.J. Mossman. 1993. v. 55:113-137.

Birds of Wisconsin lake beaches and dunes. S.W. Matteson. 1996. v.58:335-413.

Some websites relevant to birds of Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois:

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wso/> WSO emphasizes all aspects of birding and supports the research and habitat protection necessary to preserve Wisconsin birdlife. It alerts members and the public to threats against bird populations. It publishes a quarterly journal (*The Passenger Pigeon*) and newsletter (*Badger Birder*), and hosts an annual convention, field trips, and birdwatching chat and web sites. Members include those who enjoy birds attracted to their homes by feeders and bird houses, those who pursue field study or bird banding as a hobby, and those who engage in ornithology professionally.

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wbba/> A project of WSO, the WBBA was a massive effort of volunteers and professionals to survey the state systematically for breeding birds and better understand the distribution, status and abundance of all bird species breeding here. A book is in press, and the website provides a wealth of maps and other information.

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/> The National Bird Conservation Initiative (see <http://www.nabci-us.org/>), attempts to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships, and WBCI is Wisconsin's part of this. WBCI includes two very active and important programs: Important Bird Areas (IBA) and Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail.

Madison Audubon Society. <http://www.madisonaudubon.org/audubon/> MAS's mission is "to educate members and the public about the natural world and the threats that natural systems are facing, to engage in advocacy to preserve and protect these systems, and to develop and maintain sanctuaries to save and restore natural habitat." It has a very active membership and sponsors many excellent evening programs in Madison and field trips throughout southern Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Dep. of Natural Resources. <http://dnr.wi.gov/> This agency, like those in Iowa and Illinois, is charged with vast responsibilities for the state's natural resources, for instance "to protect and enhance the ecosystems that sustain all life" as well as "to ensure the right of all people to use and enjoy these resources". It is responsible for, or a partner in, many conservation programs, from forestry to water quality, endangered species, and the management of State properties. From the Home page, click on Natural Resources, then investigate topics such as Ecological Landscapes, Endangered Resources, Forestry, Invasive Species, and Wildlife.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union. <http://www.iowabirds.org/> IOU was organized over 80 years ago to encourage interest in the identification, study and protection of birds. Today members of all interest and skill levels share birding experiences and news at twice yearly meetings and through newsletters and journals. Members share rare and unusual sightings. Publishes the journal *Iowa Bird Life*. Includes links to other good Iowa websites regarding birds, other fauna and flora.

Iowa Dep. of Natural Resources. <http://www.iowadnr.com/> Look especially at section on threatened and endangered species.

Iowa Audubon. <http://www.iowaaudubon.org/main/default.asp> The Mission of Iowa Audubon is to identify, protect and restore Iowa's bird habitats, to educate Iowa's citizens toward a greater level of conservation awareness, and to promote enjoyment and greater pride in Iowa's natural ecosystems, birds, other wildlife. Includes Iowa Important Bird Areas program.

Illinois Ornithological Society. <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/> The IOU promotes research and education in order to improve knowledge and awareness of birds in Illinois; publishes *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*; keeps a permanent historical record of Illinois bird life; maintains an up-to-date state checklist of Illinois birds; supports the well-being of birds and birding in Illinois; and encourages others to become interested in birds and birding in Illinois. Lots of good information, links and references on this site.

Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas. <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/pub/ifwis/birds/> Excellent information on distribution, breeding status and habitats of Illinois breeding birds. This site, sponsored by INHS, is currently under construction.

Illinois Natural History Survey. <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/> INHS's mission is to investigate and document the biological resources of Illinois and other areas, and to acquire and provide natural history information that can be used to promote the common understanding, conservation, and management of these resources. Describes past and present research on Illinois birds and habitats.

Bird Conservation Network. <http://www.bcnbirds.org/index1024BK.html> This is a coalition of 20 bird groups and other conservation organizations, which advocates for the perpetuation and appreciation of the native birdlife of the Chicago region, with its associated native flora and fauna, and the habitats that support them.

Partners In Flight. <http://www.partnersinflight.org/> PIF focuses resources on bird conservation through a cooperative partnership among government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals. Its central premise is that the resources of public and private organizations in the Western Hemisphere must be combined, coordinated, and increased in order to conserve bird populations in this hemisphere. The power of PIF lies in the synergy that builds when diverse, committed groups who care about birds work together for a common goal.

American Birding Association. <http://www.americanbirding.org/> The ABA represents a wide range of birding interests, from identification and education to listing and conservation. It actively promotes the economic and environmental values of birding, and encourages the conservation of birds and their habitats. Through publications, website and field trips it helps people learn more about birds, develop birding skills, and bring them together with other birders.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <http://birds.cornell.edu/> This excellent site covers a broad range of birdwatching and conservation topics, and bridges the gaps between recreation, science and action. It provides information on bird finding, feeding, housing, identification, ecology and conservation, updates readers on bird-related news, and provides links with original information sources.

BirdSource. <http://www.birdsource.org/> A joint venture of the Cornell Lab and National Audubon, BirdSource is about "birding with a purpose". It offers ways in which citizens can contribute to studies with important conservation implications, from their own backyards and further afield, for example, Project FeederWatch and the annual Christmas Bird Count.

National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/index.cfm> This program encourages everyone - homeowner, teacher, community leader - to plan their landscape with the needs of wildlife in mind, and provides the tools they need to make it happen. It certifies thousands of backyard habitats in North America.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Bird Website. <http://birds.fws.gov/> The USFWS supports research, large-scale initiatives such as WBCI, and cost-sharing programs that encourage wise resource use and management. This website describes myriad federal programs dealing with bird-related research, conservation, regulations, management, recreation. It also has a lot of information on birds, including photo images, links to related sites, etc.

USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/> Information on the distribution, status, population trends and life histories of all North American birds, including home pages for the North American Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count. Click on "Bird Identification Info Center" to get photographs, songs, videos, identification tips, maps, and life history information for North American birds.

Some books on birds of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin

The Birds of Illinois. H.D. Bohlen. 1989. Indiana Univ. Press. 221p.

Birds of Illinois. S. Devore, S.D. Bailey and G. Kennedy. 2004. Lone Pine Publ. 352p.

Birds in Iowa. T. H. Kent and J.J. Dinsmore. 1996. Kent and Dinsmore. 391p.

Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas. L.S. Jackson, C.A. Thompson, and J. Dinsmore. 1996. Univ. Iowa Press. 544p.

Wisconsin Birdlife. S.R. Robbins. 1991. Univ. Wis. Press. 702p.

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. Wis. Soc. Ornithology. 2006, in press. Univ. Wis. Press.

A Bird's Eye View: A guide to Managing and Protecting Your Land for Neotropical Migratory Birds in the Upper Mississippi River Blufflands. M. Ehresman. 2003. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Online at <http://www.inhf.org/neotropbook.htm>

Managing Habitat for Grassland Birds: A guide for Wisconsin. D.W. Sample and M.J. Mossman. 1997. Wis. Dep. Natural Resources. 154p. Online at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/2002/wiscbird/wiscbird.htm>