



Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival *Guided Bus & Satellite Tour Descriptions* *Tour Guide Biographies* June 9-13, 2010

What to expect on the bus tours:

All tours will depart from the Chieftain Conference Center, Carrington, ND, festival headquarters, (701) 652.3131. Tour capacity will vary.

TERRAIN: Although some bus travel will be on pavement, the majority will be on gravel roads. Buses will make frequent stops (based on the guides' discretion), where birders will have the opportunity to get out and observe a variety of bird species. Expect some off-trail walking through tall grass over varied, but mostly flat terrain.

WHAT TO WEAR: Wear comfortable, waterproof/resistant boots or shoes. Because of the heavy dew which coats the grass in the mornings, we do advise that you bring your (preferably knee-high) rubber boots, if you've got them. Also, it is recommended that birders dress in layers, as the weather varies from cold (mornings) to hot (midday).

BUGS: Come prepared for insects (including ticks and mosquitoes), sun or rain!

FACILITIES: *'Guided Bus Tours,'* (as indicated), will be equipped with lavatory facilities. *'Satellite Tour' buses are not always equipped with lavatory facilities;* there will be designated rest stops during those tours. Due to the fact that these tours are in extremely rural areas, the somewhat limited facilities will include local establishments such as cafes and gas stations. When done discreetly, it is also acceptable to utilize the great outdoors for this task.

EATS: Lunch and bottled water are included with the larger *'Guided Bus Tours.'*

Bottled water will be provided to birders taking the *'Satellite Tours,'* but lunch will be eaten at local cafes or eateries, where birders will be expected to pay for their meals.

Birders are welcome to, and encouraged to plan ahead and bring their own snacks along on the tours, as snacks will not be provided.

If you have any special dietary requests, require a vegetarian meal, have food allergies or any other concerns, please indicate that information at the bottom of your registration form.

Time, locations, and guides are subject to change. See registration form for fee schedule.

Guided Bus Tour & Satellite Tour Descriptions

Thursday, June 10, 2010

5 am – 2pm Guided Bus Tour: Birds of the Drift Prairie -

Guided by – Dr. David Lambeth

ABOUT THE TOUR – This tour is designed for birders looking for a wide variety of local birds found on the glacial drift plain that covers much of North Dakota. Habitats that will be visited include riparian woodlands, shelterbelts, native prairie, conservation plots, and a variety of wetlands. **Lake Juanita, the Sheyenne River, the James River and North Dakota State School Land** are all potential points of interest. The tour may also include **Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge**, which is located along the James River in east-central North Dakota. Shallow wetland areas will be searched for Willow Flycatchers and Marsh and Sedge Wrens. Deeper wetlands often harbor Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, American Bitterns, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Hooded Mergansers. In grassland areas, we will look for Sharp-tailed Grouse, Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpipers, Sedge Wrens, and Bobolinks. Other frequently seen species include Savannah, Grasshopper, and Clay-colored Sparrows. Dickcissels, Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows are not common, but can be seen on occasion. A variety of breeding waterfowl and upland game birds will also be seen.



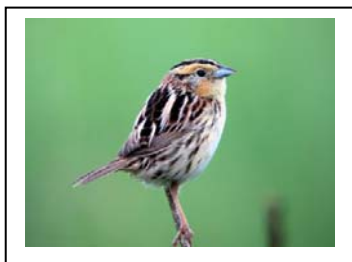
Sharp-tailed Grouse by rick bohn

4:30 a.m. – SATELLITE TOUR: North Dakota Specialty Birds

Guided by Dr. Robert Anderson

- 8-passenger limit.

ABOUT THE TOUR – A totally new and unique approach for a birding festival outing, our 'specialty birds' tour has a highly-focused objective of finding a select-few rare or more difficult-to-see North Dakota bird species. Limited to eight participants, this small-group approach ensures an intimate experience and a higher degree of success. Our entire itinerary will be decided by polling the small group of participants on the birds they most wish to see, then pursuing the birds that are most sought after by the group. Tour guide, Dr. Bob Anderson, will set the itinerary customized for the group, to put birders in the right place at the right time to see the specialty birds on the collaborative 'most wanted' list.



Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow by rick bohn



LeConte's Sparrow by bob anderson

5 am – SATELLITE TOUR: Birding & Wildlife at Arrowwood NWR

Guided by Bill Thompson, III

- 15-passenger limit.

ABOUT THE TOUR – This tour is designed for birders looking for a wide variety of local birds and other indigenous creatures. Along with other nearby destinations, the tour will venture to **Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge**, which is located along the **James River** in east-central North Dakota. The refuge is 15,934 acres in size and made up of lakes, marshes, prairie grasslands, wooded coulees, and cultivated fields. Along with other native wildlife, we anticipate that birders will get a good look at a local bison herd from a ranch adjacent to the refuge which often grazes the property. As for bird species, the shallow wetland areas of the refuge often produce Willow Flycatchers and Marsh and Sedge wrens. Deeper wetlands often harbor Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, American Bitterns, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Hooded Mergansers. In grassland areas, look for Upland Sandpipers, Sedge Wrens, and Bobolinks. Other frequently seen species include Savannah, Grasshopper, and Clay-colored sparrows. Dickcissels, Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows are not common, and can be seen on occasion. A variety of breeding waterfowl and upland game birds can also be seen.



Yellow-headed Blackbird by rick bohn

Friday, June 11, 2010

5 am – 2 pm – Guided Bus Tour to Chase Lake NWR

Guided by Dr. Robert Anderson & Clark Talkington

ABOUT THE TOUR –

For those in search of some of North Dakota's specialty birds like the Baird's Sparrow, don't miss this tour. The guided tour to **Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge** will take birders through rolling hills of the **Missouri Coteau region**. The mixed-grass prairie and agricultural land here is dotted with thousands of prairie wetlands of various sizes and permanency. This area provides a diverse blend of habitats that support a wide array of bird species. The highlight of this tour is the refuge itself, home to North America's largest American White Pelican nesting colony. Also, several hundred Double-crested Cormorants, Ring-billed and California gulls, and a few Caspian Terns typically nest here. Other common bird sightings might include Western, Clark's and Eared grebes, Cattle and Snowy egrets, Franklin's Gulls, Forster's Terns, and a wide variety of duck species. Birders will also have the opportunity to hear or see Virginia Rails, Soras, Marsh and Sedge wrens, and Swamp, LeConte's, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows. The popular Baird's Sparrow, along with Sprague's Pipits, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs are also usually present. Swainson's Hawks and Loggerhead Shrikes can be common sightings in tree rows.



Great Egrets by rick bohn

5 am – 4 pm – *SATELLITE TOUR: Pipits & Pie*

Guided by Julie Zickefoose

- 15-passenger limit.

ABOUT THE TOUR – This eye-opener trip to one of the best birding hotspots in North Dakota is bound to have you adding birds to your life list. Join naturalist, Julie Zickefoose, in a small group tour that will take you to prime birding locations. This trip will target the unique and difficult-to-find bird species of the **Potholes region**, including Sprague's pipit and Baird's sparrow. And, enjoy the unique ambiance of a town on the prairie with a slice of homemade pie at a local café.



Common Snipe by rick bohn

Saturday, June 12, 2010

5 am – 2 pm – *Guided Bus Tour to Horsehead Lake -*

Guided by Ron Martin & Dr. Davide Lambeth

ABOUT THE TOUR – Here is another opportunity for birders to add to their life lists. Guided by experts, birders will explore the **Horsehead Lake** area for more of the state's specialty birds, and will discover much more. Horsehead Lake is located in Kidder County, which is known as one of North Dakota's hottest birding spots. This is a premier example of the famous Prairie Pothole Region, especially the glacial outwash area which is teeming with an extreme diversity of breeding grassland and wetland bird species. Birders will have the chance to see American Bitterns, Franklin's Gulls, Yellow and Virginia rails, Sedge and Marsh wrens, and Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows. Drier prairie sites might offer sightings of Ferruginous Hawks, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Vesper, Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows, as well as one of the area's most sought after species, the Baird's Sparrow.



Baird's Sparrow by rick bohn

5 am – 4 pm – *SATELLITE TOUR: Bill Thompson's Big Day*

Guided by Bill Thompson, III

- 15-passenger limit.

ABOUT THE TOUR – Are you coming to see many species of North Dakota birds! Spend a Big Day with renowned birder, Bill Thompson, III, and you are sure to rack up a big list. The 2009 festival Big Day trip netted more than 100 species and that's the goal for this year, too. Bill and his co-leader will tailor the trip itinerary "on the fly" to maximize the day's list of species seen and heard. Special attention will be given to life birds for trip participants and to some of North

Dakota's special species such as Sprague's pipit and Baird's sparrow. If you love Big Day birding, or you'd like to give a Big Day a try, this is the trip for you. Prepare to have fun! No wussies allowed!



Grasshopper Sparrow by rick bohn

Sunday, June 13, 2010

5 am – 4 pm – SATELLITE TOUR: North Dakota Specialty Birds

Guided by Dr. Robert Anderson

- 8-passenger limit.

ABOUT THE TOUR – A totally new and unique approach for a birding festival outing, our 'specialty birds' tour has a highly-focused objective of finding a select-few rare or more difficult-to-see North Dakota bird species. Limited to eight participants, this small-group approach ensures an intimate experience and a higher degree of success. Our entire itinerary will be decided by polling the small group of participants on the birds they most wish to see, then pursuing the birds that are most sought after by the group. Tour guide, Dr. Bob Anderson, will set the itinerary customized for the group, to put birders in the right place at the right time to see the specialty birds on the collaborative 'most wanted' list.



Orchard Oriole by rick bohn

5 am – 4 pm – SATELLITE TOUR: Dawn Birding in Kidder County

Guided by Julie Zickefoose & Bill Thompson, III

- 15-passenger limit.

ABOUT THE TOUR – This trip will target the unique and difficult-to-find bird species of the **Potholes region**, including Sprague's pipit and Baird's sparrow. We'll drive directly to Kidder County's special birding spots, then make our way back eastward to Carrington, hitting other birdy spots along the way.

As a naturalist, Julie Zickefoose is happiest when she not only sees birds but watches them. This eye-opener trip to one of the best birding hotspots in North Dakota is bound to have you adding birds to your life list. Join naturalist, Julie Zickefoose, in a small group tour that will take you to prime birding locations.

Julie's husband, Bill Thompson, III, will serve as co-leader and will attempt to keep the group focused on birds when Julie is paying too much attention to plants and insects and animal scat.

► Much of the information describing Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Horsehead Lake area was drawn from “North Dakota Birding,” a guide by Dan Svingen and Ron Martin, with permission of the authors.



Pelicans by rick bohn

ABOUT THE TOUR GUIDES –

Dr. David Lambeth has traveled all over North Dakota observing and photographing birds. He enjoys doing “Big Day” counts where identifying birds by ear is an important asset. For 17 years, David compiled North Dakota bird records for the *Northern Great Plains* and, for more than ten years, wrote seasons reports for *American Birds*. He is a retired professor of biochemistry at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, and founder of the Grand Cities Bird Club. David says his favorite bird is always the last bird he has seen! But if he had to choose one, the species he finds most intriguing is the Yellow Rail. (Tours: BIRDS OF THE DRIFT PRAIRIE; HORSEHEAD LAKE REGION)



Dr. Robert Anderson, from West Fargo, ND, having grown up on a farm in the southeastern part of the state, has been a birder for as long as he can remember. But, over the last 15 years, he has taken his birding pursuit much more seriously. Dr. Anderson received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from South Dakota State University in 2005, having researched waterfowl migrations. For nine months of the year, he is an associate professor at Valley City State University, and a full-time birder the remaining three months. He offers his own guiding business, [ND Birding](#), specializing in finding North Dakota target birds. He teaches courses in ornithology, mammalogy, ichthyology, as well as wildlife and fish management. He is a private consultant in the summer, carrying out avian studies, and studies for proposed wind farms. He is a member of the American Birding Association and The North Dakota Birding Society. (Tours: NORTH DAKOTA SPECIALTY BIRDS; CHASE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE)

Bill Thompson, III has been editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest* (www.birdwatchersdigest.com) since 1995, 17 years after his family began publishing the magazine in 1978. At the age of eight, he developed a keen interest in bird watching. A man of many interests, Bill has a degree in philosophy from Western College



at Miami University of Ohio. He is the author of numerous books on birds, including the award-winning “Young Birder’s Guide to Birds of Eastern North America” and the best-selling “Bird Watching For Dummies. Bill has trekked to the farthest reaches of North America, both as a birder and as a guide of birding field trips. He has birded throughout Europe, Africa, Central American, and the Middle East. His favorite bird is the Red-headed Woodpecker, and his favorite North Dakota bird is the chestnut-collared longspur. (BIRDING & WILDLIFE AT ARROWWOOD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE; BILL THOMPSON’S BIG DAY; DAWN BIRDING IN KIDDER COUNTY)

Clark Talkington, now retired, taught for 37 years in western North Dakota. He has been a birder for more than 12 years, birding all over the state, across the country and beyond. Currently, Clark is Regional Membership Coordinator for the American Birding Association. He has been secretary, treasurer, and president of the Bismarck/Mandan Bird Club, and has also been secretary and vice president of the North Dakota Birding Society. He has given many presentations on birding to a variety of clubs and has been a speaker at the Sullys Hill Birding & Nature Festival at Devils Lake, ND. He is presently working on a project compiling all of the migration, nesting, breeding bird surveys, Christmas counts and historical records for the Bismarck/Mandan checklist area. Clark’s list of favorite birds includes the Scarlet Tanager, Long-billed Curlew, Sprague’s Pipit, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and the Resplendent Quetzal! (Tours: CHASE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE)



Julie Zickefoose is an artist, writer and naturalist who has studied birds since the age of eight. As a contributing editor to *Bird Watcher’s Digest*, she has 17 cover paintings and more than 50 articles to her credit. Julie writes and records commentaries for National Public Radio’s *All Things Considered*. Her illustrated book of essays, *Letters from Eden: A Year at Home, In the Woods* was recently published by Houghton Mifflin. Julie’s bird of all birds is the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which she says would render her speechless upon sight! But, she also

favors the Eastern Bluebird and the Carolina Wren...the Chestnut-fronted Macaw and the Piping Plover are also in the running. Check out Julie’s article about the wonders of North Dakota: “North Dakota State of Mind,” at:

http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/travel/north_dakota.aspx (Tours: PIPITS& PIE; DAWN BIRDING IN KIDDER COUNTY)



Ron Martin is editor of the “Northern Great Plains Region” for the journal *North American Birds*. He is past president of the North Dakota Birding Society and chairman of the North Dakota Birding Society Records Committee. He has been state coordinator of the North American Breeding Bird Survey since 1983. Ron has also been the editor of the “Great Plains” section of the *North American Bird Report* since 1990. He co-authored a paper on the status of “Northern Mockingbirds in North Dakota,” and is co-editor of the *2003 Bird Finding Guide for North Dakota*. He has led birding tours for the ABA American Birding Association in North Dakota and Texas. Ron’s favorite birds are the Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague’s Pipit, Le Conte’s Sparrow, and gulls! (Tours: HORSEHEAD LAKE REGION)

ABOUT THE TOUR GUIDE ASSISTANTS:
Assisting on all Guided Bus Tours

Paulette Scherr, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist from the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Complex, is an experienced birder who has traveled throughout North Dakota seeking and studying the state's vast abundance of birds. She has conducted wildlife and bird surveys since her career with the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service began in 1979. If she had to pick a few favorites, Paulette would choose the Grasshopper and Clay-colored sparrows and American Bittern.



Stacy Adolf-Whipp, a manager with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife from the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Complex, is an avid birder who enjoys traveling to see new birds, as well as watching local birds visit her feeders at home. During her career, Stacy has surveyed threatened and endangered birds, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds throughout North Dakota. Although she would have liked to have picked ten, Stacy selected two bird favorites: the Piping Plover and the Chickadee!



by rick bohn

Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival 2007

