



Tour Guide Biographies

Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival

June 13-17, 2012



Dave 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, Dave 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. Dave 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; Night-Singing Birds)



Bob Anderson, from Valley City, 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. 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 is 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, and other fisheries and wildlife management courses. He also is an avian consultant in the summer, carrying out avian studies for wind farm and pipeline developments. He is a member of the American Birding Association and The North Dakota Birding Society. (TOURS: Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge; North Dakota Specialties Tour)

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, the best-selling Bird Watching For Dummies, and his latest 40 Years of Bird Feeding: How My Life as a Bird Watcher Went to Seed.



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 America, and the Middle East. His favorite bird is the Red-headed Woodpecker, and his favorite North Dakota bird is the Chestnut-collared Longspur. (TOURS: Dueling Big Day; Birding the Sheyenne Valley & Beyond)



Julie Zickefoose started off as an illustrator of natural history subjects as a college freshman in 1976. A six-year stint as a field biologist with The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter proved a strong motivator both to learn more about ecosystems and to go back to drawing as a career of sorts. (The pay was bad, and it was a lot harder than drawing). Along the way, Julie began to write her own essays, studded with observations of birds and animals, and writing slowly crept into the forefront of her interests. *Bird Watcher's Digest* has been the major print venue for her writing since 1986, and she's painted 21 covers for the magazine.

Julie's first book of illustrated essays, *Letters from Eden*, was published in 2006. Her current book, an illuminated memoir about birds, is due out from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in spring 2012.

In 2004, Julie was asked to contribute short commentaries to National Public Radio's afternoon news program, *All Things Considered*. Most amount to critter stories, making her the Ellie May Clampett of National Public Radio. It is a continual astonishment to her that anyone would want to know what is going on in Whipple, Ohio, where Julie and her family live in a ranch house topped by a 42 foot tall bird watching tower. 183 species of birds and 78 butterfly species have graced the 80-acre sanctuary to date, the latest being an errant Virginia rail and a Harvester. With a dozen species of breeding warblers and more gardens than any one person should probably try to take care of, Indigo Hill has everything Julie needs to keep writing and drawing for a very long time.

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: Dueling Big Day; Prairie Ramble)



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 past chairman of the North Dakota Bird Records Committee. He has been the ND state coordinator of the North American Breeding Bird Survey since 1983. He has co-authored papers on the status of White-faced Ibis, Burrowing Owl, and Northern Mockingbird in North Dakota, and is co-author of the bird finding guide “Birding North Dakota”. He has led birding tours for the American Birding Association in North Dakota and Texas. Ron's favorite birds are Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague's Pipit, Le Conte's Sparrow, and gulls. (TOUR: Horsehead Lake Region)



Alex Galt is a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in southeastern Iowa. He grew up in Carrington, ND and was introduced to bird watching as an undergraduate at North Dakota State University. Since that time, he has been an avid birder and ornithologist focusing his graduate research at Fort Hays State University (FHSU) on nesting success and diversity of bird communities in restored prairie pothole wetlands in western Minnesota. Alex has experience with a variety of bird surveys and managed a songbird banding station at FHSU while pursuing his graduate degree. He also guided several shorebird tours at Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area while in central Kansas. (TOUR: Hawks Nest Region)



Keith Corliss is a West Fargo native with over 30 years of birding experience. He has served as a voting member of the North Dakota Bird Records Committee and writes a bi-weekly outdoors column for his hometown newspaper—the West Fargo Pioneer. He maintains a birding blog at kcorliss.areavoices.com

Keith's background includes over 23 years of military aviation experience. Currently he serves as a corporate pilot for a Fargo-based company.

“Favorite bird? Hmmm. None stick out but I've been asked this many times. I hold all raptors in very high regard. Among those, of course, you can't be untouched by the beauty and grace of the swallow-tailed kite. Secondly, I really like swallows and swifts; as a pilot I truly admire their flying skills.” (TOUR: Prairie Ramble; Night-Singing Birds Tour)



Christopher 'Chris' L. Wood is the project leader for eBird and Neotropical Birds at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. eBird is an online bird checklist project that gathers millions of observations made by birdwatchers to provide real-time information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. Neotropical Birds provides comprehensive life history accounts of all birds in the neotropics. He and Jessie Barry host the Cornell Lab's popular online video series, *Inside Birding*. He is widely recognized as a leading authority on bird identification and distribution has written and consulted on various books, popular literature and scientific literature on birds. In his free time and for fun, Chris leads bird watching trips for the bird watching tour company WINGS. Chris now lives in Ithaca, New York, but visits North Dakota almost every year either to lead trips or simply enjoy birding with a few friends. (TOUR: Birding the Missouri Coteau)

ABOUT THE TOUR GUIDE ASSISTANTS:

Assisting on all Guided Bus Tours



Paul Halko, Deputy Project Leader for Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Complex, has worked at multiple locations across North Dakota working to conserve and protect wetland and grassland habitat in the heart of the prairie pothole region. When not working with habitat, he enjoys experiencing the outdoors with his family through hiking, hunting and fishing. Birding and wildlife observation is fit into all their family activities from a short evening canoe trip to a jaunt across the state playing hockey. His favorite birds are many but he is most inspired by the belted king fisher and the sand hill crane.

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!