



Bird School Syllabus

Friday-Sunday, April 28th-30th

Hosted by Beaver Creek Reserve and Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society

Welcome to “Bird School”! We hope this class will be a fun and memorable experience in which you will have the opportunity to interact with a great group of knowledgeable teachers as well as other beginning birders just like you. The class is a combination of classroom learning and high-quality field experiences that will leave you with a lasting curiosity about birds.

Class Schedule

Friday, April 28th

- 4:30pm: Arrive/Registration
5:00pm: Presentation: “Bird Identification for Beginners” *Bill Hogseth*
6:00pm: Dinner (provided) + Group Discussions
7:00pm: Presentation: “Birding by Ear” *Steve Betchkal*
8:00pm: Adjourn

Saturday, April 29th

- 6:30am: Field Trip: Augusta Wildlife Area
8:30am: Return to Beaver Creek Reserve
9:30-10:00am: Presentation: “A year in the life of an American redstart” *Bill Hogseth*
10:00-10:10am: Break
10:10-10:55am: Group Discussions
11:00am-12:00pm: Keynote Presentation: “Around the world with a thousand birds” *Bill Volkert*
12:00-12:30pm: Lunch (Bring your own)
12:30-1:00pm: Bird Jeopardy
1:00-2:00pm: **Breakout Sessions**
“Identifying warblers”
“Keeping a field journal”
“Bird migration”
“How birds are built”
“Optics 101: Intro to binoculars and scopes”
2:00-2:30pm: Break
2:30-3:00pm: Field Trip: Beaver Creek Reserve (Savannah Loop)

Sunday, April 30th

- 6:30am: Optional Field Trip: Beaver Creek Reserve (River Loop)
8:00-9:00am: Presentation: “Introduction to Bird Banding” *Jeanette Kelly*
9:00-9:10am: Break
9:10-11:00am: Breakout Sessions: “Bird Banding Demonstration” *Beaver Creek bird banders*
11:10am-12:00pm: Final discussion: “Why do birds matter?”

Locations

Locations: Classroom activities will be at the Wise Nature Center at Beaver Creek Reserve (S1 County Hwy K, Fall Creek, WI 54742). An outdoor field trip will be held at the Augusta Wildlife Area (see below for directions and maps).

Student Survey

Before the course begins, please complete the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJCKB7G>

Food

A full catered dinner will be provided on Friday night. Students should provide their own lunches on Saturday. Snacks and warm drinks will be provided Saturday and Sunday.

Class Homework

You will receive details about a simple homework assignment (if you don't receive them, please let us know). Please have the homework project finished and completed before the course. The homework is important as it provides a foundation for group discussions during the class. Be prepared to share what you have learned.

Recommended Text

The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America: Second Edition, Sibley, David. Knopf, 2nd edition. 2016.

Lodging

If you are traveling and require overnight accommodations, there are several options to choose from. Travel time to Beaver Creek Reserve is shown in parentheses for each option.

Hotels

- GrandStay Residential Suites, 5310 Prill Rd, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, 800-491-6126 (15 minutes)
- Fairfield Inn & Suites, 1666 Princeton Crossing, Eau Claire, WI, 54703, 855-239-9483 (13 minutes)
- Hampton Inn & Suites, 12707 30th Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI, 54729, 855-238-1591 (18 minutes)

Camping

- Beaver Creek Reserve (tent camping only): contact Jeanette Kelly: csc@beavercreekreserve.org (0 minutes)
- Coon Fork County Campground: <https://www.eccountyparks.com/parks/camping/> (28 minutes)
- Harstad County Park: <https://www.eccountyparks.com/parks/camping/> (16 minutes)

What to bring

Please bring binoculars and a field guide (unless you requested to borrow one) for all portions of the class, including indoor presentations. For the field trip, please bring extra water, snacks, sunscreen, and bug repellent.

Parking

When parking at Beaver Creek Reserve, use the north campus parking lot near the Citizen Science Center on the north side of Highway K. Once parked, walk through the tunnel to the Wise Nature Center. See map below.

Saturday Field Trip

Saturday's field trip will start at 6:30am sharp, so we suggest arriving 10 minutes early (travel time from Eau Claire is approximately 35 minutes). We recommend getting a good night sleep on Friday night so that you are fresh for Saturday's activities. The trip will go rain or shine, so please dress appropriately for the weather (including rain gear if necessary). After the field trip, we'll transition right into presentations and group activities.

Directions to the Augusta Wildlife Area from Fall Creek, WI (Saturday field trip)

The field trip will be in the Augusta Wildlife Area. Proceed east on Highway 12 for 5.5 miles. Turn east (left) on County Highway V; proceed for 2.5 miles. Turn north (left) on Highway 27; proceed for 1.2 miles. Turn east (right) on Highway GG. After one mile, continue straight onto Highway G (do not turn!); proceed for 1.5 miles. Turn south (right) onto Kelly Road; proceed for one mile. Turn west (right) onto Wildlife Road; proceed for 1.5 miles. We will meet at the

dead end of Wildlife Road where the road terminates at a parking lot. GPS Coordinates for our meeting location: 44.726939, -91.092348. See map below.

Directions to Beaver Creek Reserve from Augusta Wildlife Area (16 miles)

Depart from the wildlife area by traveling east on Wildlife Road. Turn north (left) on Kelly Road; proceed for one mile. Turn west (left) on County Highway G; proceed for 2 miles until you reach Highway 27. Turn north (right) on Highway 27; proceed 2 miles. Turn west (left) on County Highway N; proceed 5.5 miles. Continue straight onto County Highway D for 0.5 miles. Turn west (right) on S 140th Ave; proceed for 2.5 miles. Turn left on Rossman Drive; proceed for one mile. Turn left on County Highway K (aka N 130th Ave) and Beaver Creek Reserve will be on your left.

Cell Phones

We ask that cell phones be silenced during presentations.

Photo Release

We are planning to take photographs during the class. As such, we may take a picture of you! The photo could appear on our website, social media, or in our newsletter. If you are interested in staying anonymous or not being photographed at all, please let us know.

Membership

This class was brought to you by Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society and Beaver Creek Reserve. If you enjoy the class, please consider becoming a member. Membership forms will be available during the class or online at <http://www.gaylordnelsonaudubon.org> or <https://www.beavercreekreserve.org/>

Meet the Teachers

Emily Lind: Emily is the citizen science technician at Beaver Creek Reserve where she works on multiple bird monitoring projects. She has a degree in wildlife ecology from UW-Madison. She has worked with the Wisconsin DNR monitoring Kirtland's warbler and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife monitoring greater sage grouse in northern California. She lives in Eau Claire.

Paula Kleintjes Neff, Ph.D.: Paula is biology professor at UW-Eau Claire. She is a field biologist with a strong interest in wildlife ecology and habitat conservation. She has also been a longtime collaborator with government agencies and non-profit organizations to conserve wildlife habitat on public and private lands. She earned her doctorate degree from UC-Berkeley. She lives in Eau Claire.

Steve Betchkal: Steve is the current President of Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society. An amateur ornithologist and master birder, Steve is the originator of the Martin Mart initiative, a program that monitors purple martin colonies in northwest Wisconsin. He is a veteran of four USGS Breeding Bird Surveys. He lives in Eau Claire.

Jeanette Kelly: Jeanette is the Director of Citizen Science at Beaver Creek Reserve. She has a degree in wildlife ecology from UW-Madison and a master's in environmental education from Lesley University. Jeanette has 20 years of experience surveying and banding birds across the country on topics including lead poisoning in swans, raptor migration routes, grassland birds and their relationships to prairie dogs, Spotted Owl nest success, and monitoring the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. She oversees the bird banding program at Beaver Creek Reserve.

Robin Maercklein: Robin is a lifelong birder and biologist, who has been studying birds in Wisconsin since 1968. He has conducted bird surveys for University of Minnesota, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wisconsin DNR and the National Park Service. He currently serves as Polk County Coordinator for Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas and is an eBird reviewer for northwest Wisconsin.

Augie Wirkus: Augie is a retired high school biology teacher. He taught for 32 year in the Chicago suburbs, Baraboo and Eau Claire. In 1966 he received his bird banding permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and spent two winters in the marshes of northeastern IL studying the winter survival of the American Tree Sparrow. He has been involved with the bird banding program at Beaver Creek Reserve since 1997, a program which has banded more than 60,000 birds.

Bill Hogseth: Bill is a wildlife biologist at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Bill was formerly the stewardship manager of West Wisconsin Land Trust and a wilderness technician for the US Forest Service in northern Minnesota. He studied ecological restoration at Northland College in Ashland, WI. He lives in Downsville.

Contact Information

Questions? Needs? More information? You can contact Bill Hogseth at billhogseth@gmail.com or Jeanette Kelly at csc@beavercreekreserve.org

Web Links

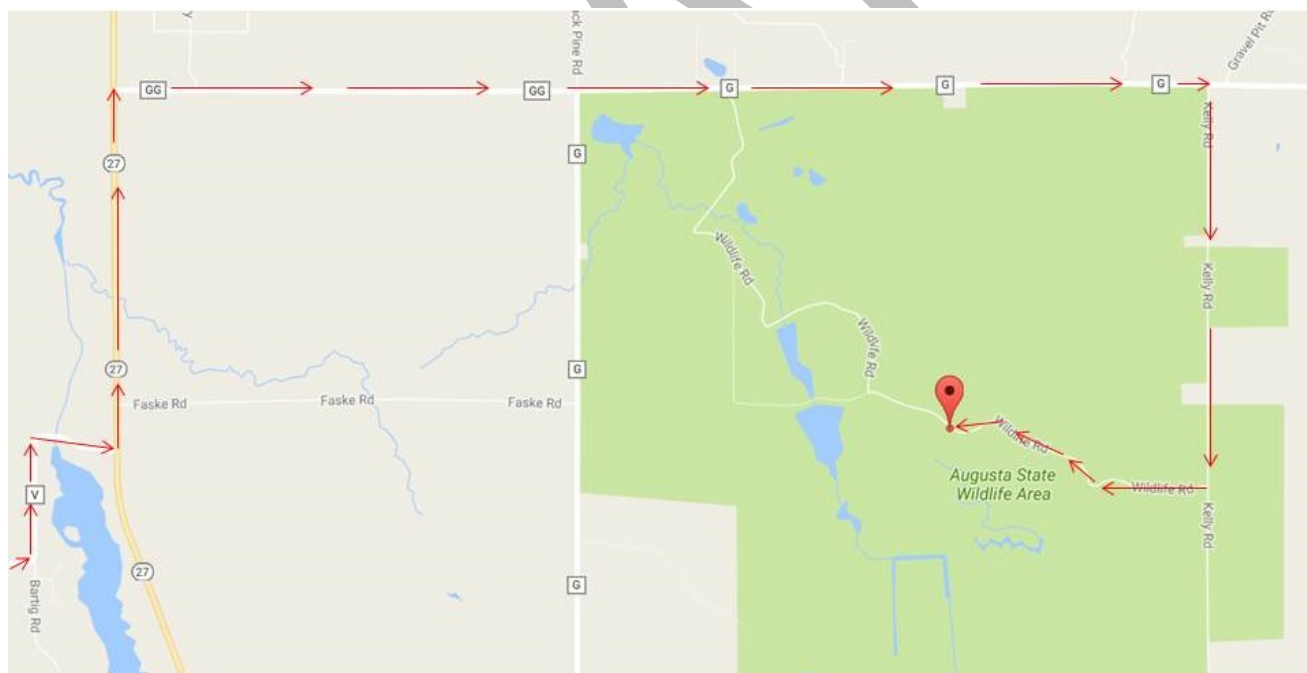
Augusta Wildlife Area: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildlifeareas/augusta.html>

Beaver Creek Reserve: <https://www.beavercreekreserve.org>

Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society: <http://www.gaylordnelsonaudubon.org>

Maps

Augusta Wildlife Area (Saturday Morning Field Trip)



Beaver Creek Campus Map

