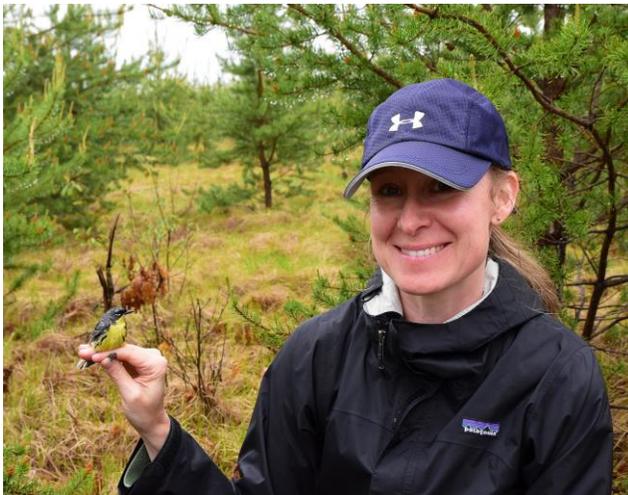


## **Guide Team Banders**

### **Sarah Warner**

Works in the Madison, Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office and is involved with multiple projects across the Midwest that focus on endangered species recovery, habitat management, and environmental contaminants. The primary species that Sarah works on are Kirtland's Warbler, Poweshiek skipperling, monarch butterfly, rusty-patched bumble bee, and the Whooping Crane. For the Kirtland's Warbler conservation, Sarah leads the adult and nestling color banding activities, works with USDA Aphis on cowbird control, collaborates with the Department of Natural Resources on project coordination, and partners with landowners on habitat management. When she is not working, Sarah enjoys birding, bumble being, botanizing, photography, and especially hiking and spending time in Wisconsin's Nature.

**Favorite Bird:** Kirtland's Warbler



### **Cindy Samples**

I grew up in southern Illinois. My career as a Park Ranger took me to Iowa, Idaho, and Minnesota. I was given a pair of binoculars when I was 5 years old, watching birds with my grandpa. In 1986 when in Pella, Iowa I obtained my bird banding license. I have banded every spring since. My favorite bird banded was in Idaho a White-winged Crossbill. I live in Winona, Minnesota with my Park Manager husband Rick. My goal is to band a Henslow Sparrow at the park. I retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2016. I challenged myself to do something new each month that I had never done before. Last year it was banding birds on Plum Island

**Favorite Bird:** American Redstart



**Dustan “Dusty” Hoffman**

I was born and raised in Green Bay, WI, though I feel I really “came to be” in Winona, MN where I spent fourteen years of my adult life. Being in Minnesota’s Driftless Area, and surrounded by trout streams, I was able to pursue my greatest passions in life; fly fishing, harvesting wild edibles, and anything outdoors. Eventually my love for the outdoors landed me at the Saint Mary’s University in

Winona, MN, where I completed an undergraduate degree in Environmental Biology, and a Master's of Science in GIS (mapping). In 2012 I began my first internship with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After three and a half years, was fortunate to be placed in a permanent position.

As a Park Ranger for the Green Bay and Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuges my role involves working with the public, holding events on the refuge, working with the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (FOPPI), working with other volunteer groups, and working with the University students doing research. The USFWS is responsible for conserving the wildlife and habitat of the refuge islands, as well as restoring the historic structures of the islands. Working with the natural world, and historic and cultural resources in Door County is a fulfilling job.

When I'm not up at the islands, I'm working out of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge office, where the USFWS manages five refuges including lands in 34 counties. Other tasks on my plate are; updating the refuge website and Facebook, implementing a deer nuisance program, helping staff with prescribed burns, helping with other refuges events, and planning (which involves writing documents that are required for activities on refuge lands).

**Favorite Bird:** American Kestrel



## Guide Communications Director

### **Randy Holm**

In birder lingo I'm an SOB or "Spouse of Birder." I'm a self-proclaimed "birder heckler" and do birding by default for the most part "driving Miss Birdy (Melody) by car and boat. Since retiring from Rock Island State Park I salmon fish, hunt, hike the state natural areas and take care of my 10 acre wildlife area. I was pleased that a Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, and Northern Bobwhite all chose my place to nest this past year. Of course Melody's song birds get fed there and some nest there as well. Highlights of my non-birding include spotting the Crested Caracara in my yard, finding Bald Eagle nests and participating in banding the young and lately keeping an eye on the Rock Island Peregrine nest and participating in the banding of those young. With my natural resources background I'm interested in habitats which is why I offered to work in the Communications Center for the bird festival. Besides it suits my nature to tell birders where to go!

**Favorite bird:** Black-capped Chickadee that supervises me filling the feeders in the morning.



## **Guide Team Bird**

### **Dale & Glenys Bird**

We have been birding for approximately 30 years. It gives us the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and what it has to offer. Our project the last two years is to help collect data on nesting Roseate Spoonbills in the Vero Beach, Florida area. The nesting Roseate Spoonbills have been monitored over the last 20 years. When they started to move out of the Everglades, it initiated a search as to their new destinations. A colony was found at Stick Marsh north of Feldsmere, Florida. This is the site we have been collecting data. It has been estimated there are over 100 Roseate Spoonbill nests in the rookery along with Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets Tricolored Herons, Little Blue Herons, Double-crested Cormorants Anhinga, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, and Cattle Egrets. We also have been extensively involved in the Wisconsin Bald Eagle and Osprey Nest Survey and the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project on Washington Island.

**Favorite Bird:** Reddish Egret is one of the birds we find most interesting because of the erratic dancing behavior while it is searching for food.



### **Donna Benson**

Grew up in the Chicago, Illinois area and once married, traveled and hiked extensively throughout the southwest area of the U.S., and Western and Eastern Europe. Started birding occasionally in 1978, while hiking the Portal

and Patagonia areas of Arizona, but in earnest in 2010 when we moved to Washington Island full time. We built our house on the island in 1980. Have participated in Breeding Bird Atlas', Great Backyard Bird Counts, Christmas Bird Counts, regularly use eBird. I monitor my own Bluebird boxes and have participated in Eagle bandings here and on Rock Island. Increased my life list while attending a Road Scholar Birding Tour in the Florida Everglades, the Keys and the Dry Tortugas.

**Favorite bird:** Eastern Bluebird



## **Guide Team Cuckoo**

### **Melody Walsh**

Retired on Washington Island after a 32 year career with the Department of Natural Resources. Always enjoyed fishing, hiking, camping, hunting morels, photography, and being outdoors.

I became a Bird Nerd in 2013 and enjoy the camaraderie of birding. Observing, identifying, photographing, and sharing the sightings are what is appealing. I am an avid e-Bird user, which led me to the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II program in 2015. The majority of my birding is done through a camera lens.

**Favorite Bird:** Bobolink, but basically anything with feathers!



### **Terrie Cooper**

I grew up in Ellison Bay and have had the pleasure of working for the Door County Land Trust for the past 18 years. I've been birding for 20+ years, but prefer scoping for waterfowl on the lake. For many years I worked as a bird rehabilitator.

**Favorite Bird:** Raptors of all types



**Jeff Bahls**

Jeff lives in rural Dodge County, Wisconsin where he put up his first bird house at age 7. He is very familiar with Horicon Marsh where he works part time for the Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources. Jeff has been a member of Horicon Marsh Bird club for the past 22 years and is the current President. He currently sits on the board of the Wood Duck Society, a nationwide organization devoted placement and care of wood duck boxes and wood duck habitat. Jeff was a member of Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2007 search team, for Ivory Billed Woodpecker in Arkansas. He also spends time hunting, fishing and paddling his kayak.

**Favorite Bird:** Wood Duck



### **Steve Waldron**

Taught school on Washington Island for twenty-five years. Retired he now has time to pursue his passions which include writing and illustrating children's books, making intaglio prints, and making displays for the Art and Nature Center. As a naturalist for the Art and Nature Center, Steve knows the island well and is happy to lead hikes. His favorite birds include chickadees and nuthatches due to their chipper demeanor in the depths of winter.

**Favorite Bird:** Black-capped Chickadee, White & Red-breasted Nuthatch





## **Guide Team Raptor**

### **Seth Cutright**

I have been watching birds for thirty years. Much of my early birding included observing migratory raptors. For several years, I even traveled around as a paid hawk counter. I also enjoy bird photography, including birds and raptors in flight. Over the years I have helped educate the public about birds in several ways including giving presentations about birds and guiding bird watching tours. While birding is my main hobby, I have an interest in landscape and horticulture. I ended up studying landscape design at Milwaukee Area Technical College, with a focus on designing with native plants.

**Favorite bird:** Peregrine Falcon



### **Rebecca Sher**

I have always enjoyed exploring the natural world. One of my first hobbies was astronomy. Since then I have gotten into birding the last several years. With this I am now currently president of the Sheboygan County Audubon Society. When not watching birds, you will likely find me viewing and enjoying all other wildlife.

**Favorite bird:** Chimney Swift

## **Stephen Winter**

Grew up in Nebraska and at a very early age developed an interest in birds, especially waterfowl, and other wetland birds. I attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was fortunate to take a field ornithology course with the famed ornithologist Paul Johnsgard. By happenstance I was able to see Paul in the spring of 2017 when both he and I were at the Audubon Society's Rowe Sanctuary near Kearney, Nebraska, to watch Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River. I consider "home" to be the Great Plains so I have a special fondness for grassland birds. My career with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service includes working at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in South Texas where I was able to attend many birding festivals and meet birders from around the world, including some of the top listers in the American Birding Association. While in South Texas, I took full advantage of my proximity to Mexico and enjoyed many birding trips around that country. My current job at the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge is particularly enjoyable because the refuge is situated along a continentally-important bird migration corridor. The upper Mississippi River is a birder's paradise with wonder birds to see in all seasons of the year.

**Favorite Bird:** Upland Sandpiper



## **Guide Team Raven**

### **Eric Howe**

Serves as an eBird reviewer for Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties. He is on the board of the Hoy Audubon Society ([hoyaudubon.org](http://hoyaudubon.org)) and the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund ([chiwaukee.org](http://chiwaukee.org)). Eric coordinates the Racine and Palmyra Christmas Bird Counts, volunteers with point counts for the Wisconsin Marshbird Survey and runs the Paris, Raymond, and Washington Island Breeding Bird Survey routes. He is involved with the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II as an atlaser, Racine county coordinator, and volunteers with the WBBA II point counts. Eric's interest in birding began in the mid-90s soon after joining Hoy (thanks to several mentors) and has developed over the years into a passion he now shares with his wife, Kristin Wegner. They enjoy birding new regions but also love birding locally.

**Favorite Bird:** Eastern Screech Owl



### **Kristin Wegner**

Interest in birds began one day in May when she was hiking and found herself surrounded by colorful, unfamiliar birds hopping through the trees. Driven to figure out what they were she bought a bird guide, then binoculars, then before long she was roaming forest preserves just to look for birds. In her quest to see new species, Kristin attended a Hoy Audubon Society beach birding event, where she met her future husband, Eric Howe. Birding led to friendship, then partnership, and they were married on Washington Island. Kristin has a talent for finding birds in odd places, such as the Common Ground-Dove she found on Rock Island during their honeymoon!

**Favorite Bird:** Eastern Screech Owl

**Barbara Siebel**

1962 High School Senior Girl Scouts

Waterfrontcamp Minocqua, Wisconsin

Lake Big Muskellunge

1975 Married Bill Siebel

Honeymoon trip 9 days canoeing in the Boundary Waters

And Quetico Canada

1976 Joined Chicago Audubon Society and Chicago Ornithological Society

**Favorite Bird:** Common Loon



## **Guide Team Vireo**

### **Brian Pierce**

Avid lover of all things Nature, especially birds, plants, and streams. A naturalist at heart, and is most at home when taking refuge in nature away from our industrialized world. Lately, Brian has been seeding native flowering & seed producing plants on several acres of undeveloped corridors along I-43 in Green Bay, converting fallow fields and invasive choked creek bottoms into bird and insect friendly habitat. Lives in Green Bay. Has been birding for 10 years. Spring migration is his most anticipated time of the year!

**Favorite Bird:** Black-capped Chickadee



### **Paul Noeldner**

Born on a farm in Clark County, Wisconsin. I've birded my whole life since a kid (60+ years!). Barb and I live in Maple Bluff where I help organize and lead year round bird & nature outings, after school kids outings, and teach a Master Naturalist Class in Dane County, Wisconsin.

**Favorite Bird:** Red-bellied Woodpecker



### **Kristy Larson**

Madison, Wisconsin in Dane County is my hometown. Took annual trips to Washington Island and Rock Island. For the past 5 years I've rented a house on Washington Island in the winter. One afternoon in January of 2014, I was asked by Melody Walsh if I wanted to see a Snowy Owl on the ice shoves of Washington Island. I've been immersed in birding ever since. COMPLETELY Melody Walsh's "fault"! I will be grateful the rest of my life.

**Favorite Bird:** Snowy Owl



## **Guide Team Wandering Warblers**

### **Mike Wanger**

“Mike loves birds.” So his Mom wrote in his baby book. Now semi-retired in Milwaukee, he’s been able to enjoy his passion almost daily for the last six years. Mike is presently a reviewer for eBird and is the Milwaukee County coordinator for the State of Wisconsin’s five-year Breeding Bird Atlas II survey. He enjoys exploring this beautiful planet and is always excited to introduce others to the joy of birding.

**Favorite Bird:** “The one I’m looking at right now!”



### **Jesse Koyen**

Jesse is the Land Protection & Stewardship Specialist at the Door County Land Trust. His general interests include agriculture, conservation biology, and restoration ecology. He is a native of Washington Island where he helped with various family businesses, including organic farming and commercial fishing. Jesse received a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology & Environmental Studies from the



University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2013. Following a year as a GIS certificate student and research assistant in a climate change ecology lab at UW, Jesse served two years in AmeriCorps with the stewardship department of a regional land trust west of Boston, Massachusetts. Prior to joining the land trust in May 2017, Jesse completed a M.S. in Sustainability Science with a concentration in Water Conservation at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He started

birding with his Grandma Barb at the kitchen window feeder when he was four, but the interest really took off after Ornithology class at UW in 2012. When he isn't birding or reading about birds, Jesse enjoys spending time with friends and family around a campfire.

**Favorite Bird:** Snowy Owl

## **Sam Rock**

Was born and raised in Central, Massachusetts, and moved to Wisconsin in 2017. She has always enjoyed observing birds and only recently started to bird. Prior to living in Wisconsin she has worked with the University of Massachusetts, studying nest predation in suburban and rural Massachusetts. Currently Sam lives with Jesse Koyen in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin where she works as a wetland ecologist.

**Favorite Bird:** Brown Creeper



8