



Lower Wisconsin Scan da Avians -- 2018 Report for the Great Wisconsin Birdathon

So last year, Mike and Arlyne forgot their tent poles and slept in their car. This year, Barb and Jeb forgot their sleeping bags (!) and spent seven cold, miserable hours attempting to sleep in their tent. Good thing they suffer well, ya know. They toughed it out, and were really happy to get up at 4:00 a.m., in the dark and fog, to look for birds. And did we ever find them – **125 species** by the time we toasted a phenomenal 24 hours at the Vintage Brewery in Sauk City. During our 2017 & 2018 birdathons, we've seen 146 species of birds in the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, a wonderful testament to its value for wildlife.

Highlights from the day:

- Great warblers at the Wyalusing boat landing
- stunning looks at Kentucky and black poll warblers
- Pond west of Wauzeka, at Gran Grae Creek, with 12 trumpeters, 3 great egrets, a lone female canvasback, peeps galore and a Caspian tern flyover
- Lefse and coffee at Spring Green Prairie
- Peregrine falcon cruising flooded farm fields between Lone Rock and Spring Green
- Surround-sound bobolinks at Mill Creek Unit - Russell Hill
- Nighthawk fly-by at the Passenger Pigeon monument
- Mike & Arlyne's bird feeder on the riverbank
- 30+ pelicans huddled next to the roaring (!) spillway at the Prairie du Sac dam
- Noticeable increase in Swainson's thrushes, scarlet tanagers, lark sparrows and Henslow's sparrows
- Lots of bird activity despite temps in 40s & 50s
- The incredibly beautiful Lower Wisconsin Riverway

Species of Concern that we saw in the Riverway:

Endangered: Caspian tern; peregrine falcon

Threatened: Henslow's sparrow, Kentucky warbler, Cerulean warbler, great egret

Special Concern: Lark sparrow, prothonotary warbler, Swainson's thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet, purple martin, common nighthawk, American white pelican, trumpeter swan

Tusen takk!!

Your gift is supporting three coordinators of important statewide bird conservation projects, the largest data collection project in the state (WI Breeding Bird Atlas), wintering ground conservation in Peru and Costa Rica, protection of migratory stopover sites, and much more.

It takes a village to care for the birds that matter so much to our lives and our world. The Birdathon is all about rallying together on their behalf. Our sincere thanks for your support!

Arlyne Johnson, Mike Hedemark, Jeb and Barb Barzen