Join the Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society for a fun weekend of birding, camping, picnicking, and hanging out with other bird lovers. We'll work in teams to collect breeding bird data in the forests and fields along the Chippewa River. Data will be submitted to the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. **Come for a few hours or stay for a few days! Birders of all ages and abilities are welcome! This is a great opportunity for beginning birders to improve their skills by teaming up with veteran birders.** When not looking for birds, there will be ample time to relax during picnic dinners and campfires -- a great way to meet up with other birders. The weekend’s activities will be centered in and around beautiful Brunet Island State Park.

**Where:** Brunet Island State Park, Cornell, WI  
**When:** Friday, July 15th – Sunday, July 17th, 2016  
**Contact:** Bill Hogseth, 715-839-3771 or william.hogseth@wisconsin.gov

**Friday July 15th**  
11:00am: Kick-off Meeting/Team Assignments (Base Camp)  
12:00-5:00pm: Birding (In the field)  
6:00pm: Grill-out Style Dinner (Stone Pavilion)  
8:00pm: Around the Campfire (Social Hour) or Nocturnal Birding (Optional)

**Saturday July 16th**  
5:00am-11:00am: Birding (In the field)  
12:00pm: Check-in meeting/Lunch (Stone Pavilion)  
1:00-5:00pm: Birding (In the field)  
6:00pm: Dinner on your own  
8:00pm: Around the Campfire (Social Hour) or Nocturnal Birding (Optional)

**Sunday July 17th**  
5:00am-11:00am: Birding in the field  
12:00pm: Wrap-up Meeting (Base Camp)

**Time Commitment:** Time commitment is flexible. Birders can participate for a few hours or all weekend long. Participants may arrive and leave the event whenever suits their schedule.

**Base Camp:** “Base Camp” will be located at Campsite #45 and will be staffed from 10am-5pm throughout the weekend. Someone will always be available at base camp to answer questions, offer training, provide maps/data sheets, or help with data reporting. **When first arriving or finally leaving for the weekend, please check-in and check-out at Base Camp.**

**Camping Details:** Overnight camping is optional and not required. A limited number of non-electric campsites have been reserved and can be claimed at $8/night. Limit 6 people/site.

**Meals:** Dinner will be a grill-out picnic on Friday night. Meat, buns, sides will be provided ($6); bring your own drink. During the weekend, provide your own lunch, snacks, and water. Dinner on your own Saturday night.

**Beginning Birders:** Mentoring opportunities will be available. Beginning birders can team up with experienced birders in the field to learn more about bird identification and behavior.

**Registration/Payment:** To register, visit this link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPMMP5T](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPMMP5T) Advance payment is not necessary. Payment can be made via check once you check-in at base camp.

**Park Rules:** State park sticker required on vehicles. No pets. No firewood from outside 10 miles of park.
Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II
2016 Chippewa County Blockbuster Weekend

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Basics

What is the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II?
The Atlas is a comprehensive field survey that documents the distribution and abundance of birds nesting in the state. It updates and improves upon the first atlas survey, which ran from 1995 to 2000. Information from this new effort will allow us to see changes in bird populations since the last survey, give us a yardstick to measure future changes, and help shape land management decisions and conservation efforts for the coming generation.

Getting current, comprehensive information is critical because anecdotal information and smaller surveys suggest that while some bird species have shown strong gains in the last 20 years, many continue to decline and need serious attention. Habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, environmental pollutants, and climate change are main factors affecting bird survival and distribution. This new survey will help us know and respond to birds’ needs to assure they remain a beloved fixture in our backyards and beyond.

Go big
This second Atlas survey is expected to be one of the largest avian “citizen science” projects ever in Wisconsin, with several thousand volunteers and up to 10,000 participating. The first survey was the largest field ornithology project at that time. More than 1,600 field observers participated. This time, organizers expect at least double that based on the number of people who filed Wisconsin bird records in 2013 via eBird, the popular web-based bird reporting platform.

Birds of a feather…
The survey is a cooperative project that brings bird enthusiasts together with partnering organizations and agencies. The first survey was largely mounted by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and its members. This time around, the society is teaming up with the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to carry out the survey.

Why is the Breeding Bird Atlas so important?
The Atlas survey is important because it’s comprehensive and looks for birds that call Wisconsin home by virtue of their breeding, nesting and raising their young here. We get a true picture of what’s going on with Wisconsin birds. We learn about their status and trends, their geographical distribution, and their timing for when they establish their territories, court, build nests, raise broods, and fledge their young.

Understanding changes in bird populations and their habitats will help guide property and species management in the state, the region and continent-wide. The first Atlas results are widely used by DNR and other land managers in master planning for public properties and in developing the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan that guides efforts to conserve nongame species, and more.

Birding with a purpose and patience
Volunteers participating in the Atlas, also known as “Atlasers,” are encouraged to sign up through wsobirds.org/Atlas and commit to surveying one or more 3 x 3 mile blocks of land. They count the birds and watch closely for behavior that indicates birds may be breeding in the local area (such as singing, building nests, feeding young birds). They record their observations online using a special customized version of the website eBird. County coordinators check in with volunteers to offer help and support and make sure that all the appropriate areas are being covered. The data collected by volunteers will be analyzed and displayed online and in an Atlas book. Volunteers do not need to be birding experts to participate; the online data entry and numerous online bird identification tools make it easier than ever to join in!
Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II
2016 Chippewa County Blockbuster Weekend

Cornell CE Atlas Block: Topographic Map

Block Name: Cornell - CE

Legend
- WBBA2 Blocks
- Tribal Lands
- Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
- Other Federal Lands
- Private Lands
- State Natural Areas
- DNR Managed Lands
- National Forest
- County Forest

- Roads

- ELEVATION 300
Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II
2016 Chippewa County Blockbuster Weekend

Cornell CE Atlas Block: Aerial Map

Block Name: Cornell - CE

Legend
- WBBA2 Blocks
- Tribal Lands
- Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
- Other Federal Lands
- DNR Managed Lands
- Private Lands
- National Forest
- County Forest

2010 Air Photos (WROC)
Campground Information

BASECAMP MAP: North Campground, Campsite #45
Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II
2016 Chippewa County Blockbuster Weekend

Brunet Island State Park grounds and facilities

Stone Pavilion at Brunet Island State Park (Location for Friday night grill-out and Saturday lunch)

Aerial view of Brunet Island along the Chippewa River

Campsite at Brunet Island along the shores of the Chippewa River