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Birding festival returns to Island

By Laura Waldron

The Art & Nature Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will once again hold the Washington Island Birding Festival, after a two-year hiatus. The festival is set for May 13 to 15.

Lake Michigan is a flyway with thousands of migrating birds passing through this time of the year. In 2018 the Island recorded 139 species of birds and in 2019, 129 species.

This year's festival will be scaled back, without trips to Rock and Plum Islands, however, there is plenty of wonderful birding on Washington

Island. The festival will feature bird banders from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a program by Open Door Bird Sanctuary, birding with expert guides at various locations on Washington Island, and new this year will be an Owl Prowl.

This year, festival participation is limited to 40. To register online, go to www.wianc.org, or mail to Art & Nature Center, 1977 Main Rd., Washington Island, WI 54246. Any questions, call Laura Waldron at 920-535-0554.

Spring feeding



PHOTO BY SUSAN ULM

A blue jay stops at an Island feeder.

Free webinar features bird conservation strategies for Great Lakes

Submitted by GLIA

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance is hosting a free webinar for Great Lakes island leaders, residents, and advocates. Birding enthusiasts and anyone interested in learning about birds and how to support their conservation on islands is encouraged to attend the virtual meeting.

Great Lakes islands are critically important places for a variety of bird species, such as land birds, waterbirds, and waterfowl. Unfortunately, these species face a variety of threats on a local, regional, and global scale. Maintaining a variety of habitats – forests, wetlands, grasslands, beaches, and even residential backyards – will play a role in bird conservation by providing feeding,

nesting, wintering, and migratory stopover sites.

This meeting will feature a leading international organization, Audubon Great Lakes, providing a general overview of the status of Great Lakes bird species and why islands are seen as key places for conservation.

Two Great Lakes island communities will be showcased, explaining how they are working to support bird conservation. Islands are also witnessing an increased interest in birding which can have an added economic benefit.

The webinar is scheduled for April 7 at 11 a.m. To register, email phuston@stewardshipnetwork.org for the link.

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