

OVER 30 DYNAMIC SESSIONS



Rediscovering the Wonders of Jack Miner

Mary E. Baruth

Kirtland's Warbler Conservation

David Ewert

Raving about Raptors

Kathy Bricker

Photographing Birds in Flight

Josh Haas

Bird Banding at Chippewa Nature Center

Mike Bishop

Winter Birding in Michigan

Daryl Bernard

Birding Across Michigan

Greg Bodker

Restoration is for the Birds... and Birders!

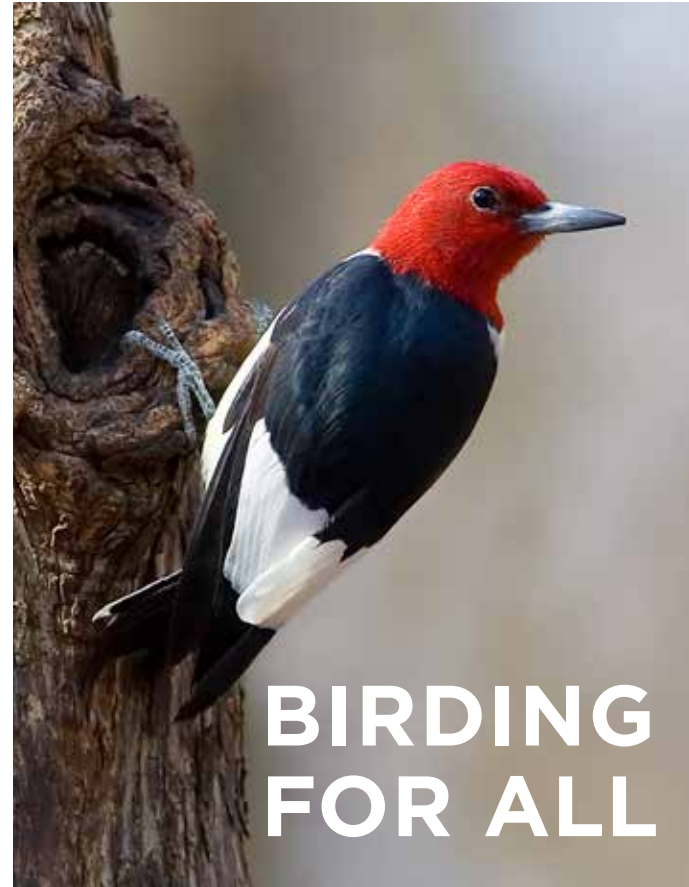
Panel session

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1018 W. Main Street
Midland, MI 48640
FOR MAILING ONLY



MAIN VISITOR CENTER ENTRANCE
1809 Eastman Ave., Midland, MI 48640 | 989.631.2677 | www.dowgardens.org



BIRDING FOR ALL

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2019
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN



OVER A DOZEN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

More than a dozen field trips, led by local experts, will offer guided experiences to wildlife refuges, nature centers, and conservancy properties throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Instructional workshops at Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens will be led by noted bird illustrator Catherine Hamilton, award-winning Michigan photographer David Stimac, and creative non-fiction and nature writing instructor, Dr. Kevin Koch.



Front cover:
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Images © 2019 David Stimac | www.davidstimac.com

THE FESTIVAL

Birders of all abilities and expertise are invited to Midland, Michigan for the inaugural Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens Birding Festival.

During the three-day event, attendees will enjoy concurrent sessions by more than 20 distinguished conservationists, researchers, photographers and environmental educators. Dynamic sessions offered include topics such as the best places for birding in Michigan, how to create a bird-friendly yard, wetlands conservation and rail migration. During the festival, experienced guides await to provide tours of wildlife refuges, nature centers, and conservancy properties throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.



A special evening reception at the recently-unveiled Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens will allow guests to join birds in the treetops on the nation's longest canopy walk, soaring up to 40 feet above the ground. Whiting Forest features 54 acres of woodlands, ponds, apple orchard, meadows and stream along 1.5 miles of accessible pathways and additional nature trails. Other features include a playground, apple orchard, Whiting Forest Café, Snake Creek restoration and two pedestrian bridges.




David Allen Sibley | Credit: Erinn Hartman

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The capstone of the festival is keynote speaker, David Allen Sibley, presenting *The Art of Identification*.

Sibley is the author and illustrator of the series of successful guides to nature that bear his name, including the *New York Times* best seller *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. He has contributed art and articles to *Smithsonian*, *Science*, *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Birding*, *BirdWatching*, and *North American Birds*, and wrote and illustrated a syndicated column for *The New York Times*.

View all speaker sessions at: dowgardens.org.



David Sibley Book Signing
Following the keynote presentation on **Saturday, 9/21**



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EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday | 9/19

Welcome activities for festival participants include free admission to Dow Gardens and the special sculpture exhibition, *Origami in the Garden*. A screening of the award-winning documentary, *The Eagle Huntress*, will also be shown in the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.

Friday | 9/20

Concurrent sessions will be held at the H Hotel and Chippewa Nature Center with meals and refreshments provided at the H Hotel. A Birding Hotspot Sampler in the lobby provides information about area preserves and nature centers, and a Dow Gardens book store table will offer a selection of Sibley Guides. An evening reception at Whiting Forest invites participants to join birds in the treetops on the nation's longest canopy walk.

Saturday | 9/21

Half day and full day field trips and workshops offer a wide variety of well-rounded opportunities to festival participants. Local experts will guide trips to wildlife refuges, nature centers, and preserves, along with opportunities to kayak the Chippewa River and experience Saginaw Bay aboard the Appledore IV. Learn the basics of field sketching with renowned artist, Catherine Hamilton, study the art of nature writing with Dr. Kevin Koch, or practice photography with professional nature photographer, Dave Stimac.

See the schedule of events at: dowgardens.org.



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ACCOMMODATIONS

Festival guests are invited to stay at the H Hotel, in the heart of Downtown Midland, where concurrent sessions, meals, and the keynote presentation will be held. The H Hotel is located within easy walking distance of restaurants, shops, parks, a Saturday farmer's market, and the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail.

Participants are responsible for making hotel reservations. A special discounted group rate of \$140/night (+ tax) is offered by the H Hotel for Birding Festival participants. Room fees are not included with Festival registration.

EVENT PARTNERS

Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens is pleased to partner with local organizations dedicated to conservation, nature education and sustainable living.



Festival registration is open!

Register today at dowgardens.org