

## Whitefish Point Bird Observatory's Spring Fling: April 29, 30 and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### Dear WPBO Family and Friends,

This April marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> *Spring Fling* when WPBO members and their guests "migrate" to Paradise, Michigan and the Whitefish Point area to visit with old friends, both human and avian. Many activities have been planned for another refreshing weekend of birding experiences. Below is a list of important things you can do before you arrive. Further down are listed a few of the activities planned for your enjoyment and learning.

### Your Mission for a Superior Weekend

- Mark your calendar for this special annual birding event: April 29, 30, May 1, 2011. Call several friends and invite them to attend the weekend with you.
- Fill out the enclosed Registration Form.
- Make your own motel reservations. See the list below or go online.
- Find your birding equipment: binoculars, scope, and bird books and get them in working order. Review the raptors, waterbirds, and songbirds you expect to find.
- Visit the Observatory's website, [www.wpbo.org](http://www.wpbo.org). You will find recent bird sighting and information on the weekend.

### Food

- The Upper Peninsula's favorite food, a Pasty Dinner will be hosted by the United Methodist Church of Paradise, Friday 5:00-7:30 PM. Pay at the door.
- Hot beverages and muffins at the Point, Saturday and Sunday 6:30 AM. Pay at the tent.
- Lunch Saturday 12 noon to 2 PM. Purchase Soup, Sandwich and beverage at the community school, benefiting the Paradise Senior Class of 2011.
- Banquet with scrumptious food provided by Paradise Party Planners at the Paradise Community Center, Saturday 4:45 PM

### Special Events

- Owl program early Saturday morning & owl viewing at dusk and dawn all weekend.
- Birding walks around the Point Sat. and Sun. mornings.
- Workshops: Saturday mid-morning and early afternoon.
- Educational Displays in Education Center.
- **Owl's Roost Gift Shop** open for business.
- Winner's Choice Raffle fundraiser at banquet.

### Spring Fling 2011 Co-Chairs

#### Jerry Sadowski

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#### Mary Wise

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### Area Lodging (906)

\* WPBO Member Discount 2011 varies

Best Western Lakefront Inn & Suites,  
877-477-5817, 492-3770

Cloud Nine Cottages (Cabins),  
492-3434

Curley's Paradise Motel \* (Motel & Cabins), 800-236-7386, 492-3445

Freighter's View on the Bay\*,  
492-3266

Harmon's Birchwood Lodge\* (Cabins),  
492-3320

Lakeview Cabins\*, 492-3368

Mile Creek Cabins, 492-3211

Paradise Inn \* (Motel), 492-3940

Paradise On The Bay, 492-3568

Traveler's Motel\*, 492-3364

Vagabond Motel\*, 492-3477

Saunders Sunrise Cottages\*, 492-3378

### Keynote Address: "The Life of a Bird Guide"

#### With Christian Boix

Partner and bird guide with "Tropical Birding, Bird Wildlife and Photography Tours.

[www.tropicalbirding.com](http://www.tropicalbirding.com)

Christian grew up in Spain and soon traced an ancestral song line, a few swallows and a lust for discovery that led him to settle in South Africa. After completing his Ornithology studies at the University of Cape Town he became a partner of Tropical Birding, and with 20 years of African travel experience under his belt is now a linchpin of the African operations in Cape Town. His infectious enthusiasm has ensured a faithful following, revered by some...feared by others. In the field Christian is tireless, hungry and passionate about finding birds. He nurtures a healthy and strange interest in bird and animal behavior, he has been known to get drunk on bird trivia, and when he is not guiding he is either enjoying time with his family or meditating under the Handbook of the Birds of the World. Author of *Birding Ethiopia*, a book about where to find Birds in Ethiopia, he is busy writing another one, and has a wealth of other behavior and travel articles published.

### Workshop I:

#### *Michigan Dragonflies: A Primer on Identification*

**Learn about the basics of dragonfly identification, families, habitats and migration.**

#### With Mike Kielb.

Mike Kielb teaches Anatomy & Physiology and Neuroanatomy at Eastern Michigan University. He has studied birds and dragonflies in Michigan, Ontario and Mexico for 30 years. He was a founding member and organizer of the Michigan Odonata Survey (MOS), worked for the Museum of Zoology in the Insect Division where he worked with the Odonata. He has published a variety of papers on Odonata including work with Mark O'Brien in the Huron Mountains (Odonata of the Huron Mountains). Currently he is re-writing "The Birds of Washtenaw County, Michigan (University of Michigan Press).

### Workshop II:

#### *Keweenaw Raptor Survey*

**A report on the annual spring migration of raptors past Brockway Mountain in the Keweenaw Peninsula.**

#### With Skye Christopher G. Haas.

Skye is a naturalist and contract biologist living in Marquette, MI. He has worked the last 8 years for the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas II as a field biologist, author and technical editor. He has also done work with The Nature Conservancy, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Northern Michigan University, Michigan Audubon Society leading bird tours, and was a former waterbird counter at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. Skye is also the vice-chairman of the Laughing Whitefish Audubon Society, founding member of the Keweenaw Raptor Survey management committee, and is a member of the Michigan Bird Record's Committee.