

WBCI Annual Meeting – March 19-21, 2015

MAKING OUR PRIVATE LANDS COUNT FOR BIRDS

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative 2015 Annual Meeting

Thursday-Saturday, March 19-21, 2015
Avalon Hotel & Conference Center
Chippewa Falls, WI

[Program Schedule and Speakers](#) (PDF file). **Nearly 100 participants attended.**

Privately owned lands across the nation are critical for bird conservation. Did you know that over 100 species of birds breeding in the U.S. have 50% or more of their breeding distributions on private lands? Over 80% of the distribution of both grassland and eastern forest breeding birds is on private lands, and about 90% of the U.S.'s most productive waterfowl breeding grounds (the "prairie pothole" region) is privately owned. Here in Wisconsin, 66% of forests and 75% of both grasslands and wetlands are in private hands, much of it in "working lands" that produce food, timber, and other resources while also providing valuable bird habitat. The need for creative partnerships and conservation strategies that effectively combine bird habitat needs with landowner goals is only increasing. *You* can make a huge impact for birds and other wildlife through the decisions *you* make about *your* land.

After an informal Birds & Beers gathering on Thursday evening, Friday featured a full-day of presentations and discussions (see link above). On Saturday morning, we'll see these practices in real life from landowners just like you. Join us as we explore the opportunities, challenges, and successes of bird conservation on private lands!

[2013 Wisconsin State of the Birds](#) (PDF file)