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# 2020 NABS CONFERENCE

**HOSTED BY BLUEBIRDS ACROSS NEBRASKA**

**MARCH 11-15**

**HOLIDAY INN, KEARNEY, NEBRASKA**



**SANDHILL CRANE BLIND TRIPS**

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP**

**NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS  
& ENTERTAINERS**

**PRairie Culture Field Trip**

**WORKSHOPS**

**RAFFLE, LIVE  
& SILENT AUCTIONS**

# 2020 NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY CONFERENCE

## ITINERARY

### Wednesday, March 11

2 to 5 p.m. .... Registration, pre-function area  
4:45 to 9 p.m. .... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip

### Thursday, March 12

4:45 to 9 a.m. .... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip  
10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. .... Registration, pre-function area  
2 to 9 p.m. .... Vendors, exhibitors, raffle/silent auction setup  
2 to 3 p.m. .... Putting WOW in Your Cellphone Pictures  
3 to 4 p.m. .... What You Say in Kearney, Stays in Kearney!  
4:45 to 9 p.m. .... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip

### Friday, March 13

4:45 to 9 a.m. .... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip  
7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. .... Birding field trip, bus starts loading at 6:45 a.m.  
7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. .... Prairie culture field trip, bus starts loading at 7:15 a.m.  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. .... Registration, pre-function area, vendor, exhibitor and auction areas open  
3 to 4 p.m. .... Finding Beauty Everywhere  
4 to 5 p.m. .... Personal Habitat: The Bird-friendly Backyard  
4 to 6 p.m. .... NABS affiliates meeting  
6 to 7 p.m. .... Social hour with cash bar  
7 to 10 p.m. .... Dinner  
Live auction  
Entertainment by Al Batt

### Saturday, March 14

7:30 to 9:30 a.m. .... Registration, pre-function area  
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. .... Vendors' tables, education displays and raffle/silent auction areas open  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. .... BAN awards presented  
Conference speakers, including Al Batt, Bernie Daniel, Myrna Pearman, Bill Taddicken, Stan Tekiela and Julie Zickefoose  
6 to 7 p.m. .... Social hour with cash bar  
7 to 10 p.m. .... Conference banquet  
NABS awards presented  
Entertainment by Ron Cisar, Musical Reflections of Our Mother, the Earth

### Sunday, March 15

4:45 to 9 a.m. .... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip

*Note: Subject to minor changes prior to the start of the conference.*

## EVENTS

### SANDHILL CRANE VIEWING BLIND TRIP

The trips to the Audubon Society's Rowe Sanctuary begin at either 4:45 a.m. or 4:45 p.m. Be a witness to one of the birding wonders of the world! Half a million Sandhill Cranes descend to the Platte River Valley between late February and early April, constituting more than 80% of the world's population. It is the largest gathering of cranes anywhere in the world. All trips are guided by experienced staff and volunteers and last two to three hours. Dress warmly, as the blinds are not heated; and bring your camera and binoculars. The morning and evening experiences at the blinds are very different, so you may want to attend both times. No car? No problem. BAN volunteers will help facilitate carpooling. Space is limited, first come/first served.

### BIRDING TOUR

Hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and millions of ducks and geese pass through the Platte River Valley this time of year. Our tour will begin with a trip to Harlan County Reservoir. Along the way, we will view waterfowl, black-tailed prairie dogs, hawks and other species. The viewing of a prairie chicken lek may be a possibility, as the males arrive before dawn and quickly begin their unique courtship display, characterized by stomping feet, towering leaps and resonant booming calls created by inflated yellow-orange air sacs along both sides of their necks. On the way back, we will view other waterfowl areas in the rainwater basin. Some viewing is outside of the vehicle, so dress for possible cold weather and bring your binoculars and field guide. Breakfast and lunch are included in the cost. (Changes are possible due to weather.)

### PRairie CULTURE FIELD TRIP

Learn about Nebraska's history and culture through a tour of nearby landmarks and other sightseeing. The tour includes the G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture, which offers a window into Kearney's past, its early rise and fall, and rebirth as a center for health and education. The Archway — a museum that spans I-80 — salutes the pioneers. The Museum of Nebraska Art celebrates visual artwork that reflects the state's culture. Both the birding and prairie culture tours include lunch at Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse Inn.

### WORKSHOPS

Don Brockmeier's greatest photography interest is in photographing wildlife. He has had photos published in magazines, websites, newspapers, calendars, and shown in galleries. Don recently became intrigued by the great pictures that can be taken with a cellphone with just a little know-how. Don will share his techniques with you at his workshop, **Putting Some WOW in Your Cellphone Pictures**.

Al Batt presents a show-and-tell workshop. We love birds and share our lives with them. Bring your stories on how you got interested in birds, what got you into bluebirding or how birds enhance your existence. With Al as the head of this workshop, everyone will leave, no doubt, with their sides aching from laughter. Remember, **What You Say in Kearney, Stays in Kearney!**

**Finding Beauty Everywhere:** Myrna Pearman will share photographs and stories from her new book, "Beauty Everywhere: Nature Photo Essays." She will share interesting information about lesser-known wildlife species and she will inspire participants to find beauty everywhere.

Julie Zickefoose presents **Personal Habitat: The Bird-friendly Backyard.** Simple habitat enhancements can take a backyard from bland to bustling with wildlife. Julie will show how she transformed an 80-acre farm into a wildlife sanctuary — a perfect personal habitat.

**“I plan to attend NABS 2020 in March. It has been on my bucket list to get out to that WONDER one more time. Next to the Galapagos, witnessing the crane migration and all the other amazing birds in Nebraska was the high point of my ‘birding’ life.”**

— Anne Sturm, Maryland, founding member and past president of NABS

# REGISTRATION FORM

BAN is looking for items to be donated for the silent auction and raffle.

All events have limited seating, first-come, first-served. Register early.	No. of people/tables	Price before Jan. 1	Price after Jan. 1	Total
<b>Saturday — speakers and lunch</b>		\$35	\$45	
<b>Field Trips</b>				
<b>Sandhill Crane blinds</b>				
Wednesday evening, 4:45 to 9 p.m.		\$45	\$55	
Thursday morning, 4:45 to 9 a.m.		\$45	\$55	
Thursday evening, 4:45 to 9 p.m.		\$45	\$55	
Friday morning, 4:45 to 9 a.m.		\$45	\$55	
Sunday morning, 4:45 to 9 a.m.		\$45	\$55	
<b>Birding tour (limited to 100 people)</b>		\$60	\$70	
<b>Prairie Culture Tour (limited to 50 people)</b>		\$60	\$70	
<b>Workshops</b>				
<b>Putting Some Wow in Your Cellphone Pictures</b> Don Brockmeier, Thursday, 2 p.m.		\$15	\$20	
<b>What You Say in Kearney, Stays in Kearney!</b> Al Balt, Thursday, 3 p.m.		\$15	\$20	
<b>Finding Beauty Everywhere</b> Myrna Pearman, Friday, 3 p.m.		\$15	\$20	
<b>Personal Habitat: The Bird-friendly Backyard</b> Julie Zickefoose, Friday, 4 p.m.		\$15	\$20	
<b>** All four workshops</b>		\$50	\$70	
<b>Friday evening dinner and entertainment</b>		\$25	\$35	
<b>Saturday evening dinner and entertainment</b>		\$40	\$45	
<b>Vendors</b> Sales tables (includes electricity)		\$35 + item for raffle	\$35 + item for raffle	
<b>Nonprofit organizations</b> Information display tables (includes electricity)		\$35	\$35	
<b>Grand total enclosed</b>				\$

You can view and print the registration form by going to [bbne.org](http://bbne.org) or [nabluebirdsociety.org](http://nabluebirdsociety.org).

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this form and return with full payment to:**

Sandy Seibert, 2115 S. 114th St., Omaha, NE 68144.  
Checks should be made payable to Bluebirds Across Nebraska.  
Cancellation policy on next page.

Profits from this conference go to Bluebirds Across Nebraska's recovery efforts for bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds and to help offset some of the expenses of the conference.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Our host hotel is the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 110 2nd Ave, Kearney, Nebraska, exit 272 off Interstate 80. The room rate is \$109.95 per night. Due to severe flooding in Kearney, the hotel is unable to accept reservations until November 15, 2019. We have a block of rooms reserved for this conference so there should be no problem getting a room if you register as soon as possible after Nov. 15. You should make your reservation by calling the hotel directly at 308-237-5971. Please specify that you are with the NABS/BAN conference to get the group rate. The hotel is providing a 24-hour reservation cancellation policy. Please check with the hotel for complete cancellation information.

## CAMPING INFORMATION

Complete hookups are available for RVs at Fort Kearny State Recreation Area at South Hwy 10 and 44. Make reservations at [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com).

## CONVENTION SPEAKERS AND ENTERTAINERS:

### AL BATT



Performing double duty as Friday night's entertainment, Al ([albatt.com](http://albatt.com)) also will lend his nature-related storytelling skills as a Saturday speaker. A writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist, Al is also known

for his cartoon strips, radio show and Bird Watcher's Digest column.

### BERNIE DANIEL



A retired environmental research scientist who has been bluebirding since 1953, Bernie serves as NABS' president. He will discuss distribution and trends for the population of the three bluebird species based on data from the Breeding Bird Survey.

### RON CISAR



An Iowa Western Community College professor, Ron teaches environmental science. He has helped educate groups of all ages for more than 30 years. The singer/songwriter shares his message through his Earth Music program.

### MYRNA PEARMAN



Myrna will give a short history of Ells Bird Farm, a conservation, research and education center founded by Alberta farmers, Charlie and Winnie Ellis. She will talk about how the farm has been developed to improve biodiversity and how the natural assets of the old homestead have been creatively used to address engaging children in nature.

### BILL TADDICKEN



The director of Rowe Sanctuary's Iain Nicolson Audubon Center ([rowe.audubon.com](http://rowe.audubon.com)), Bill will discuss the Sandhill Cranes' annual migration to the Kearney area. He oversees all programs on the 2,400-acre sanctuary and has worked extensively on conservation of the Platte River for Sandhill Cranes, Whooping Cranes and other wildlife.

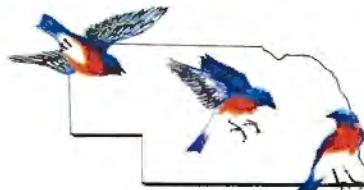
## CANCELLATION POLICY

Due to the advanced commitments and expenses incurred by BAN, the following cancellation policy will be used:

- Before Jan. 1, 2020, a full refund will be issued.
- From Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, a full refund will be issued, excluding the cost for Sandhill Crane blinds.
- From Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, one-half refund will be issued for workshops, Friday night dinner, Saturday program and Saturday night dinner. No refund will be issued for Sandhill Crane blinds, or the birding or prairie culture field trips.
- After March 1, refunds will be issued on a case-by-case review only for illness or family issues.
- No refunds will be issued for inclement weather.

Download Registration Online At:

**bbne.org**



**Bluebirds**  
*Across Nebraska*

### STAN TEKIELA



A naturalist, wildlife photographer, radio show host and writer of more than 130 field guides, nature appreciation books and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the nation, Stan ([naturesmart.com](http://naturesmart.com)) will present "Captivating Bluebirds."

### JULIE ZICKEFOOSE



A widely published natural history writer and artist, Julie adopted an orphaned blue jay. She will discuss her book, "Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-luck Jay." More than a wildlife rehab story, it's a story of life, love and dealing with great loss; and finding grace and redemption in bonding with a wild bird.