

Birding-By-Ear with Dr. Sarah Gutowsky

Harrison Lewis Centre, June 3-5, 2016

Learning bird songs can be daunting but even experienced birders spend time each spring tuning their ears to the songs they already know. This workshop will jump start your audio-recall by teaching the basics of how to listen, how to recognize song types for common bird families, and how to start building a song repertoire for Nova Scotia. Most importantly, our focus will be on in-the-field learning and on having fun outside!

Workshops will take place over the course of 3 days at the Harrison Lewis Coastal Discovery Centre. We'll arrive the first evening and get introduced and settled in, then we'll spend the next full day from dawn to dusk completely immersed in listening to the local songsters and learning techniques. Our second day will start again at the dawn chorus, where we'll spend the entire morning practicing our skills together. Cost is \$325 (includes 2-nights accommodation and full facilities access) and maximum number of participants for each workshop will be 15 to ensure the best possible learning experience. The 2016 workshop will be held June 3-5. Further details are below. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah via email (<mailto:sarahegutowsky@gmail.com>) or telephone (1-519-320-1611).

Workshop Details

These workshops are designed to cover the basics of how to listen, how to recognize song types for common bird families, and how to build a song repertoire for Nova Scotia. They're also ideal for anyone looking to re-tune their ear as our songbirds return for the breeding season. We will use 17 abundant species at the Harrison Lewis Center ([HLC website](#) and [HLC on Google Maps](#)) on the South Shore, including 10 warblers, 3 sparrows and 4 thrushes to begin, but we will of course learn others as opportunities arise. We will be a small group (maximum ~15 participants) and will work together to build our skills. We'll spend as much time outside as possible, walking and listening (and looking too of course) in different habitats. We'll use group discussions in-the-field and back at the research station to work out how different families and species sound to each of us, and tips and tricks for remembering. Field notebooks are encouraged, as are field guides and electronic devices equipped with bird song recordings for review upon return to the field station. There will also be ample opportunities to rest, practice or explore on your own between group activities. Further details will be made

available closer to the workshop date but a rough schedule for the weekend is included below. The workshop cost includes accommodation in rustic shared cabins equipped with bunk beds and/or cots, with mattresses, pillows and sheets. You will need to supply your own warm bedding (it can be cold on spring nights), or tenting equipment if you prefer. Meals and transportation are not included, but I will facilitate car-pooling opportunities where possible as well as the option for potluck-style dinners on both Friday and Saturday evening.

Pricing, registration and payment options

The full cost of the workshop is \$325.00 CAD with a 15% non-refundable deposit. Email confirmation will be sent from upon receipt of payments. *Interac*-transfer through your online banking is the simplest and preferred payment option (transaction fees are typically only \$1.50, and are not included in the prices). You can send your registration fee to <mailto:sarahegutowsky@gmail.com> with "birding" as the answer to whichever security question you choose. If you prefer to pay with Credit Card, you can use the following PayPal link (a 3% PayPal transaction fee applies and is not included in the base prices above). Click [here](#) to use PayPal for your Full Registration. If you have any questions or concerns regarding payment, please contact Sarah.

The cancellation policy is as follows: in the event of complete workshop cancellation due to severe weather or insufficient registration, full refunds will be issued (transaction fees are non-refundable). All refunds will be delivered via *Interac* e-transfer (less a \$1.50 transaction fee).

Rough Workshop Schedule

Day 1 - June 3

arrive to HLC ~1900
settle into accommodations 1900-2000
welcome, info and introductions 2000-2100
early to bed!

Day 2 - June 4

1 hour dawn chorus walk (15 min before to 45 min after sunrise)
1 hour for breakfast and wake-up (0630-0730)
morning round-table: common bird families in NS (0800-0900)
guided walk around the HLC property and area (0930-1200)
2 hours for lunch and free time (1200-1300)

Thomas Raddall Provincial Park afternoon walk (1300-1600)

Free time (1600-1700)

Dinner (1700-1930)

1 hour dusk chorus walk (1930-2030)

group list and discussion (2030-2100)

early to bed!

Day 3 - June 5

1 hour dawn chorus walk (15 min before to 45 min after sunrise)

1 hour for breakfast and wake-up (0630-0730)

morning round-table: building your skill set (0800-0900)

guided walk around the HLC property (0930-1200)

lunch and packing for departure (1200-1300)

depart HLC (1300)

(recommended to visit nearby Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct)