



Festival Guide

May 16-19, 2024



Welcome!

With its rich biodiversity, varying habitats, and miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, the Indiana Dunes are a hotspot for migrant and resident birds. The annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival celebrates the area’s various birding habitats and birding opportunities. Our mission is to positively impact visitors and residents of the Indiana Dunes region through conservation and environmental education.



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Registration

All registrations include free access to afternoon presentations, headliners, the migration marketplace, youth and family birding day, and entry to the Indiana Dunes State Park. Field trips, Saturday night keynote presentation, Friday night Bids & Brews, Thursday night trivia, and workshops require additional fees.

Registration is easy! Simply visit www.indunesbirdingfestival.com and choose the “Registration” tab at the top. You can also find a YouTube video walkthrough of our registration process to help you prepare. Early registration for Indiana Audubon members is opens March 1 at 10am CT and the general public starts at 10am CT on March 3.

		Youth	Adult
March 1 - March 31	Early bird 4-day registration	\$45	\$65
	Early bird single day (Thurs.-Sun.) registration	\$20	\$35
	Wednesday pre-fest or keynote dinner only registration	\$10	\$10
April 1 - April 30	Regular 4-day registration	\$50	\$75
	Single day (Thurs.-Sun.) registration	\$25	\$45
	Wednesday pre-fest or keynote dinner only registration	\$10	\$10

Youth rates are for individuals 17 and younger. Please contact the birding festival organizers for group rates of 10 or more. Walk-in registrations are available but field trip and session availability cannot be guaranteed.

Refund information is available on the festival website.

CONTACT US

For festival questions via phone, call: 765-205-1255
General Inbox: info@indunesbirdingfestival.com
Dunes Birds In Art: dunebirdsinart@gmail.com
Migration Marketplace: idbfmigrationmarketplace@gmail.com
Facebook: [@indunesbirdingfestival](https://www.facebook.com/indunesbirdingfestival)

Find information about hotels, dining, and more on our website:
WWW.INDUNESBIRDINGFESTIVAL.COM

Plan Your Trip

The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is packed with tons of sessions and events! Make sure to plan your schedule ahead of time by getting a feel for our daily schedule below and browsing each days offerings.

5am-12pm

Morning Field Trips and Workshops

11am-4pm

Migration Marketplace & Plant Sale Open

12:30pm-1:30pm

Daily Headliner at Visitor Center

1:30pm-2pm

Live Raptor Demonstration in Marketplace Tent

2pm-3pm

Afternoon Presentations at Visitor Center & Nature Center

2pm-5pm

Afternoon Field Trips & Workshops

6pm-9pm

Evening Socials & Activities

Main Festival Locations



1 Festival Headquarters

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
1215 N. State Road 49, Porter

2 Presentation Location

Nature Center
Indiana Dunes State Park
1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton

3 Saturday Keynote Location

Sand Creek Country Club
1001 Sand Creek Dr., Chesterton

4 Festival Host Hotels

Best Western Indian Oak
558 Indian Boundary Rd.
Chesterton
and

5 Hilton Garden Inn- Chesterton
501 Gateway Blvd.
Chesterton

6 Workshop Location

Humane Indiana Wildlife
570 N 450 E., Valparaiso

For an interactive map of all field trip
meeting locations, scan the QR code or visit

bit.ly/idbf24-locations



Pre-Festival Events (May 15)

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
6am-4pm	Dunes Big Day	Van Trip
6am-4pm	Birding the Best of Chicago's Migrant Hotspots	Van Trip
6:15am-4pm	Behind the Scenes at the Chicago Field Museum	Van Trip
6:15am-4pm	Kankakee Sands: Prairie Birds and More	Van Trip
6:30am-4pm	Third Coast Birding Journey	Van Trip
6-8pm	Dune Birds In Art: Exhibition Opening Reception	Social
6-6:30pm	Festival Fine Art Reveal Party	Social
6:30-8pm	Flyways Documentary Screening	Social
7:30-9:30pm	Women's Tour: Dunes After Dark	Van Trip
7:30-9pm	Woodcock Sky Dance Tour	Meet Onsite Trip
7:45-9:15pm	Owl Prowl	Van Trip
8-9:30pm	Nothing Adventures	Meet Onsite Trip
8-9:30pm	Dunes After Dark	Van Trip
8-9:30pm	Whip-poor-will Wander Tour	Carpool Trip

Visit Our Vendors!

Festival Migration Marketplace

11am-4pm | Location: Visitor Center parking lot

Held in the big tent outside the festival headquarters, the Migration Marketplace is your one-stop-shop for birding related gear, artwork, and more. You'll find optics vendors, artwork, bird-feeding specialists, and state and regional conservation organizations all on hand to answer your questions or provide you with the latest in birding equipment. ***Closes at 2pm on Sunday.**

Dunes-Calumet Audubon Native Plant Sale

11am-4pm | Location: Visitor Center parking lot

What better way to help the birds than with native planting! The local Audubon chapter will host this special native plant sale in the Migration Marketplace tent. Plants available may include milkweed, wild columbine, and black-eyed Susan. Payment includes cash, check, or card. Stock up on your native plants for your backyard garden to feed the birds! ***Closes at 2pm on Sunday.**

Thursday, May 16

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
6-11:30am	Wolf Lake 100	Meet Onsite Trip
6am-12pm	Dunes Big Morning	Van Trip
6-11:30am	Kankakee Sands	Van Trip
6-10am	West Beach Pineries and Prairies	Carpool Trip
6:30-11am	Michigan Canopy Tour	Van Trip
6:30-10:30am	Cowles Bog	Van Trip
6:30-10:30am	Explore the Dunes with Tykee James	Carpool Trip
6:30-10:30am	Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2	Meet Onsite Trip
7-11am	Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours!	Carpool Trip
7-10:30am	Eggers Grove	Meet Onsite Trip
7-11am	Dunes Bird Banding 101	Meet Onsite Trip
7-11:30am	Richardson Preserve	Carpool Trip
7-11:30am	Lake County Wetlands	Van Trip
7:30-10:30am	Brincka-Cross Gardens	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-11:30am	Gibson Woods Nature Preserve	Van Trip
7:30-11:30am	Pinhook Bog	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-11am	Reynolds Creek	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Find the Birds with Birdchick!	Carpool Trip
8-11am	Dunes Heron Rookery	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Miller Woods	Meet Onsite Trip
8-11:30am	Beverly Shores Birding	Van Trip
8-11am	Chasing the Melody: Wood Thrush (Re)Search	Meet Onsite Trip
8:30-11:30am	Coffee Creek	Carpool Trip
8:30-11:30am	Intro to the Dunes: Accessible Nature Hike	Meet Onsite Trip
9-11:30am	National Park Ranger Birding	Carpool Trip
12:30-1:30pm	Kirtland's Warbler Perseverance : An Endangered Species Success Story	Headliner
1:30-2:30pm	Live Birds of Prey! The Subtle Differences of Hawks, Owls, and Falcons	Presentation
2-5pm	Birding Potpourri	Van Trip
2-3pm	Great Marsh Restoration Story	Presentation
2-3pm	Monarch Butterflies	Presentation

Thursday (cont.)

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
2-4:30pm	IDSP Trail 2: Mindful Birding	Meet Onsite Trip
2-4:30pm	Pinhook Bog in the Afternoon	Meet Onsite Trip
2-4:30pm	Heron Rookery: Birds & Photography	Carpool Trip
2-5pm	Dunes Afternoon Warblers	Van Trip
2-5pm	Night Heron Watercolor Art Workshop	Meet Onsite Trip
2-4pm	Sparrow ID Workshop with Birdchick	Meet Onsite Trip
2:30-5pm	Great Marsh Afternoon Birding	Van Trip
3-4:30pm	Find the Fungi: Mushroom Walk	Meet Onsite Trip
6-9pm	Dunes Big Evening	Van Trip
6-9pm	Audubon Great Lakes: Trivia Night	Social
7-9pm	Dunes After Dark	Van Trip
7:30-9:15pm	Owl Prowl	Van Trip
7:30-9pm	Woodcock Sky Dance Tour	Meet Onsite Trip
8-9:30pm	Mothing Adventures	Meet Onsite Trip
8-9:30pm	Whip-poor-will Wander Tour	Carpool Trip

Friday, May 17

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
5-10am	Sunrise Birding at Michigan City Harbor	Meet Onsite Trip
5:30am-12pm	Illinois Big Morning	Van Trip
6-10:30am	Cowles Bog	Carpool Trip
6am-12pm	Indiana Big Morning	Van Trip
6-11:30am	Kankakee Sands Prairie Birding	Van Trip
6-10am	West Beach Pineries and Prairies	Carpool Trip
6:30-11:30am	Michigan Canopy Tour	Van Trip
6:30-11:30am	Lake County Wetlands	Meet Onsite Trip
6:30-11am	Meadowbrook Nature Preserve	Carpool Trip
6:30-10:30am	Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2	Meet Onsite Trip
6:30-10:30am	Warblers of the Dunes with Jim Bull	Carpool Trip
7-11am	Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours!	Carpool Trip
7-11am	Dunes Bird Banding 101	Meet Onsite Trip

Friday (cont.)

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
7-11:30am	Richardson Preserve	Carpool Trip
7-11:30am	Michiana Marsh Meander	Van Trip
7:30-11:30am	Women Bird the Dunes	Carpool Trip
7:30-10:30am	Brincka Cross Gardens	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-11am	Pinhook Bog	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-11:30am	Reynold's Creek Wetlands and Prairie	Carpool Trip
7:30-11:30am	Beverly Shores and Great Marsh	Van Trip
8-11:30am	Scholarship Recipient Hike	Meet Onsite Trip
8-11:30am	Find the Birds with Birdchick!	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Dunes Heron Rookery	Carpool Trip
8-11am	Miller Woods and Swale	Meet Onsite Trip
8:30-11:30am	Birding Photography Up Close	Meet Onsite Trip
8:30-11:30am	Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve	Carpool Trip
9-11:30am	National Park Ranger Birding	Carpool Trip
12:30-1:30pm	Building Bridges With Birds	Headliner
1:30-2pm	Live Birds of Prey! Conservation Efforts Supporting our States Raptors	Presentation
2-4:30pm	Dunes Heron Rookery Plants & Birds	Carpool Trip
2-5pm	Let's Just Go Birding in the Afternoon	Van Trip
2-4:30pm	Pinhook Bog in the Afternoon	Meet Onsite Trip
2-5pm	Dunes Afternoon Warblers	Van Trip
2-5pm	Night Heron Acrylic Painting Workshop	Meet Onsite Trip
2-4:30pm	IDSP Trail 2 in the Afternoon	Meet Onsite Trip
2-3pm	Shrooms of the Dunes: They're Really Fun(gi)!	Presentation
2-3pm	The Birdy Bunch Podcast LIVE with the Festival Planning Team	Presentation
2-4pm	Warbler ID Workshop	Meet Onsite Trip
2:30-5pm	Beverly Shores Great Marsh	Van Trip
6-9pm	Birds and Brews and 8th Annual Bird Calling Competition	Social

Saturday, May 18

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
5am-11:30am	Cowles Bog 100	Meet Onsite Trip
6am-12pm	Dunes Big Morning	Van Trip
6-10am	The Longshore Tower Big Sit	Meet Onsite Trip
6-11:30am	Kankakee Sands Prairie Birding	Van Trip
6-10am	Little Calumet River Bottom and Mnoke Prairie	Meet Onsite Trip
6:30-11am	Dunes State Park Warblers	Carpool Trip
6:30-11:30am	Berrien County Birding	Van Trip
6:30-10:30am	Migrant Traps of Wolf Lake and Forsythe Park	Meet Onsite Trip
6:30-10:30am	Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2	Meet Onsite Trip
6:30-11am	Sauk Trail Birdy Blitz	Meet Onsite Trip
7-11:30am	Bendix Woods Wildflowers & Warblers	Meet Onsite Trip
7-11:30am	Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours	Carpool Trip
7-11:30am	Cowles Bog	Van Trip
7-11am	Dunes Bird Banding 101	Meet Onsite Trip
7-11:30am	Everglades of the North: Kankakee River FWA	Van Trip
7-11:30am	Richardson Preserve	Carpool Trip
7:30-10:30am	Brincka Cross Gardens	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-10:30am	Harbor Country Kayak Birding	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-11:30am	Gibson Woods Nature Preserve	Van Trip
7:30-11:30am	Indiana Dunes State Park	Carpool Trip
7:30-11:30am	Reynolds Creek Gamebird Habitat Area	Carpool Trip
7:30-11:30am	Beverly Shores and Great Marsh	Van Trip
8-11:30am	Birds & Blooms of the Dunes	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Dunes Heron Rookery	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Pinhook Bog	Meet Onsite Trip
8-11:30am	Miller Woods and Swale	Meet Onsite Trip
8:30-11:30am	Coffee Creek	Carpool Trip
9-11:30am	National Park Ranger Birding	Carpool Trip
12:30-1:30pm	Today's Office	Headliner

Saturday (cont.)

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
1:30-2pm	Live Birds of Prey! Owls of Indiana and the Threats They Face	Presentation
2-5pm	Birding Bonanza	Van Trip
2-3pm	It's A Hurricane of Flamingos!	Presentation
2-3pm	Gardening for the Birds: Native Plants	Presentation
2-4:30pm	IDSP Trail 2	Meet Onsite Trip
2-5pm	Wilderness Survival for Birding Gone Wrong	Meet Onsite Trip
2-4:30pm	Heron Rookery	Carpool Trip
2-4:30pm	Pinhook Bog in the Afternoon	Meet Onsite Trip
2-4pm	Learn About Trees to Find More Birds!	Meet Onsite Trip
2-5pm	Dunes Afternoon Warblers	Van Trip
2-5pm	Birds and Crafts at Art Barn	Meet Onsite Trip
2:30-5pm	Beverly Shores Great Marsh	Van Trip
6-9pm	From City Kid to National Park Superintendent: An Accidental Birder Story	Keynote Dinner Event

Sunday, May 19

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
5-10am	Sunrise Birding at Michigan City Harbor	Meet Onsite Trip
6-10am	Cowles Bog	Carpool Trip
6am-12pm	Dunes Big Morning	Van Trip
6-10am	Longshore Tower Big Sit	Meet Onsite Trip
6-11:30am	Kankakee Sands Prairie Birding	Van Trip
6:30-11am	Michiana Marsh Meander	Van Trip
6:30-11am	Explore the Dunes with Tykee James	Carpool Trip
6:30-10:30am	Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2	Meet Onsite Trip
6:30-11am	Beverly Shores	Carpool Trip
7-11:30am	Womens Warbler Tour	Van Trip
7-11:30am	Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours!	Carpool Trip
7-11:30am	Best of the Dunes	Van Trip
7-11am	Spicer Lake Nature Preserve	Meet Onsite Trip

Sunday, May 19 (cont.)

Time	Session Name	Program/Trip Type
7-11am	Richardson Preserve	Carpool Trip
7-11am	Seidner Dune and Swale	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-11:30am	Bike Birding the Indiana Dunes	Carpool Trip
7:30-10:30am	Brincka-Cross Gardens	Meet Onsite Trip
7:30-11:30am	Cowles Bog Birding with the Festival Founders	Van Trip
7:30-11:30am	Reynolds Creek	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Find the Birds with Birdchick!	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Heron Rookery	Carpool Trip
8-11:30am	Pinhook Bog: Plants & Birds	Meet Onsite Trip
8-11:30am	Miller Woods	Meet Onsite Trip
8:30-11am	Breakfast with the Birds	Meet Onsite Trip
8:30-11:30am	Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve	Carpool Trip
9-11:30am	National Park Ranger Birding	Carpool Trip
12:30-1:30pm	Saving Costa Rica Rainforest, One Dance At A Time	Headliner
1:30-2pm	Live Birds of Prey! Protecting Raptors In Our Region	Presentation
2-3pm	Big Bend Birding	Presentation
2-3pm	The Birding Experience in Uganda	Presentation

All carpool and van trips meet at the festival headquarters (Dunes Visitor Center). For an interactive map and coordinates of all other meeting locations, scan the QR code below or visit bit.ly/idbf24-locations



Please note that due to early printing deadlines, this schedule is subject to changes. Please refer to our website for the most accurate information. Changes to sessions that occur after registration will be communicated via email to participants.

Discover Guatemala's Avian Treasures in the Shadow of Volcanoes

WITH INDIANA AUDUBON

February 1-10, 2025

Join Indiana Audubon for an exciting birding adventure in Guatemala, the northernmost country in Central America. Discover the country's rich avian diversity with nearly **750 bird species**, including **35 Mesoamerican endemics**. From lowland rainforests to high-elevation cloud forests, explore Guatemala's stunning landscapes featuring volcanoes, lakes, Mayan culture, and ancient ruins. This tour takes you through misty cloud forests, colonial Antigua, and offers glimpses of specialty bird species like the **Horned Guan**, **Resplendent Quetzal**, and the captivating **Pink-headed Warbler**. Don't miss this spectacular trip to one of Central America's most diverse nations!

Included in the tour experience:

- IAS leader and guide coordinating trip logistics before and during the tour, including all eBird checklist submissions.
- Specialized Natural Selections Driver and local guides.
- Transportation with fuel included.
- All lodging for 10 days, 9 nights in listed hotels.
- All meals, beginning with dinner on day 1 and ending with breakfast on day 10.
- All entrance fees to reserves and national parks.

LEARN MORE



This tour is organized by Indiana Audubon in partnership with Natural Selections Tours.

\$4,538.00 per person • \$250 Single supplement



Resplendent Quetzal by Francesco Veronesi/Wikimedia Commons



El Quetzal boat by Wesley Homoya



Resort by Wesley Homoya

Wine-throated Hummingbird by Wesley Homoya





SAVE THROUGHOUT THE DUNES WITH AN INDIANA DUNES DEALS PASS

Shake off the sand south of the Indiana Dunes and dig up real savings with a free Indiana Dunes Deals Pass. With discounts ranging from a free scoop of ice cream to savings on exciting attractions, you're sure to find something to enjoy. How many local businesses can you redeem your discounts at?

HOW IT WORKS



Receive a text or e-mail with a link to your passport



Redeem your discounts at local businesses



Show your phone at local businesses to redeem savings



Scan the QR code to sign up OR visit
indianadunes.com/experiences to get your pass



Meet our Artist



Kristina Knowski is a local illustrator and fine artist depicting primarily avifauna and is best known for her portfolio of extinct bird species. As a birder herself, Kristina prefers to work from life and spends most of her time sketching and researching species in the field. Since graduating Valedictorian from the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Kristina has participated in numerous shows nationwide and has expanded into holding bird drawing and painting workshops to encourage using art to enjoy nature.

Dune Birds *in Art*

An art exhibition celebrating the beauty of Indiana's native birds
as part of the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival



Artist Reception

Wednesday May 15th from 6- 8 pm CDT

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center - Activity Room
1215 IN-49 Porter IN 46304

www.indunesbirdingfestival.com/pages/art

Schedule 2024

Each day consists of tour options and afternoon sessions at our various festival locations. Events and presentations labeled “FREE” are included with the price of general registration. Additional fees apply for most tours, workshops, and socials.

DON'T FORGET:
the Indiana Dunes
are on Central
time!

Please remember that information in this guide is subject to change, and the website has the latest information.

Birding Pace



Easy. Slow pace and minimum walking (< 2 miles) on easy terrain



Medium. Average pace and 1-3 miles of variable terrain may be required



Hard. Faster pace and 2+ miles in rough terrain may be required

Field Trip Type



Van/bus trip. Participants meet at the Visitor Center. Lunch ticket (AM) or snack (PM) included.



Carpool trip. Participants meet at the Visitor Center and follow guide in personal vehicles.



Meet Onsite. Participants meet the guide at the destination. See trip descriptions for coordinates.

Other Icons



Accessible. Location has accessible options for persons with disabilities.



Extended Travel Time. Location is more than 45 minutes away from Visitor Center.



Live Bird Program. Session features live, captive or wild birds.



Spotting Scope Useful. Guides will have scopes, but participant scopes are helpful.



Beginner Birder Friendly. Designed for or accomodating to beginners.



Indoor Presentation. Guest speakers located at Visitor Center or State Park Nature Center.



Restroom Available. Session has restrooms available during at least one stop.

Wednesday, May 15

Dunes Big Day

\$95 | 6am-4pm | Leader: Richard Garrett & Stuart Tower

It's a birding-blitz tour with state birding experts Richard Garrett and Stuart Tower. These two top notch birders will navigate you through the best birding locations in the Dunes to log as many bird species as possible in a single day. The goal: over 100 species of waterfowl, raptors, warblers, vireos, tanagers, and more! This pre-festival tour fills fast each year and is a good chance to preview what's to come this weekend.



Birding the Best of Chicago's Migrant Hotspots

\$95 | 6am-4pm | Leader: Matt Igleski & Steve Huggins

On this tour we will visit some of the hottest migrant hotspots along the Chicago Lakefront. We'll plan to visit locations like Montrose Point—which boasts a site list of nearly 350 species. After lunch, we'll stop by the nesting night-heron colony in Lincoln Park. The rest of the agenda we'll keep flexible so that we can go to where birds are being reported.



Behind the Scenes at the Chicago Field Museum

\$95 | 6:15am-4pm | Leader: Kim Ehn

Join this unique tour for a behind-the-scenes look at the birds of the Chicago Field Museum. We'll have close-up looks at a few of the thousands of bird specimens in the museum's collection including extinct species like the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and favorites like the Snowy Owl. After a traditional Chicago dog box lunch, we'll head on foot a short distance through Burnham Harbor grounds for some migrant trap birding.



Kankakee Sands: Prairie Birds and More

\$95 | 6:15am-4pm | Leader: Matt Kalwasinski

The Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands is a unique birding location in Northwest Indiana with its extensive prairie habitat. More than 7,000 acres host an amazing array of birds and plants, and the reintroduction of bison to the site is reinvigorating the ecosystems that support Henslow's and Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels, Northern Bobwhites, and more. After birding Kankakee Sands, the group will check out nearby Willow Slough FWA for warblers, waterfowl, and more.



Wednesday (cont.)

Third Coast Birding Journey

\$95 | 6:30am-4pm | Leader: Wesley Homoya

Join Wes Homoya, everyone's favorite IDBF guide (who wrote this? his mother?!), for an day- long adventure north into Michigan to explore a series of trails that feature canopy birding for eye-level warblers, orioles, and more. Places slated for visit include the Galien Canopy Tower, the Sarrett Canopy Tower trail, and the new Paw Paw River birding trail which includes a new pedestrian bridge and river overlooks. We'll enjoy a midday break at Journeyman Distillery in Three Oaks.



Dune Birds In Art: Exhibition Opening Reception

FREE | 6-8pm | Location: Visitor Center

Join us at festival headquarters from 6-8pm for the opening reception of the annual Dunes Birds in Art Exhibition. This exhibit features local and regional artists showcasing native bird species in a diversity of art mediums, including 2D and 3D work. Artists will be on hand to discuss their work during this special reception. The exhibit will be available to view every day of the festival.

Festival Fine Art Reveal

FREE | 6-6:30pm | Location: Visitor Center

Every year festival artist, Kristina Knowski, creates a gorgeous fine art piece for this year's festival. What will be the feature species and landscape? Find out on Wednesday night as we kick off the festival with this fine art reveal party at the Visitor Center.

Flyways: The Untold Story of Migratory Shorebirds Documentary

FREE | 6:30-8pm | Location: Visitor Center

Shorebirds fly thousands of miles each year along ancient and largely unknown migratory routes called Flyways. More than 200 species, such as Far Eastern Curlews, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knots and Hudsonian Godwits, travel from feeding grounds in the southern hemisphere to breeding grounds in the Arctic and back again, flying up to nine days non-stop without food or water. But their populations are crashing amidst climate change and urban development. Follow a conservation movement of bird-loving experts and citizen scientists as they mobilize to the challenge of understanding and saving shorebirds. You won't want to miss this special screening event!

Women's Tour: Dunes After Dark

\$40 | 7:30-9:30pm | Leader: Julie Bonnema & Libby Keyes

It's a women's night out! A night of birding, that is. Kickstart the festival with a Dunes After Dark trip with the ladies. We'll be looking for dusk specialties, including Woodcocks, owls, and Whip-poor-wills. Who knows what we will find!



Woodcock Sky Dance Tour

\$20 | 7:30-9pm | Leader: Dan Barriball

The bird with many names! Whether you call it the timberdoodle, bog sucker, Labrador twister, or more simply the woodcock, its spring dance is a sight to behold. If you've never seen the incredible sky dance, join us to watch the evening this performer. Meet at the State Park Observation Tower (41.66015, -87.06561).



Owl Prowl

\$40 | 7:45-9:15pm | Leader: Stuart Tower & Richard Garrett

Finding popular birds of the twilight is the goal this evening. We will target the amazing and stealthy world of owls throughout the Dunes. Based on local observations, we'll try to find species such as the Barred and Great-horned Owls and look at the adaptations they need to survive.



Nothing Adventures

\$20 | 8-9:30pm | Leader: Jeanette Jaskula

"More moths please" is something you probably never thought you'd say. But you're going to be saying it when you join Jeanette for a nothing adventure! Imagine an enormous Cecropia becoming the buzz of the bird fest, but mostly because your friends are going to be saying Cecropi-what? Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).



Dunes After Dark

\$40 | 8-9:30pm | Leader: Steve Huggins

It's three night hikes in one! Take the longer challenge and search for all the specialty birds of the night in the Dunes. We'll seek out whip-poor-wills, woodcocks, nighthawks, and owls in this couple hour special.



Whip-poor-will Wander Tour

\$20 | 8-9:30pm | Leader: Cookie Ferguson

To find the most vociferous bird of the dunes, you need not set your alarm early. We will seek out the loud Eastern Whip-poor-wills of the dune forests. If we're lucky, we'll have close looks at this highly territorial forest-floor dweller.





Thursday, May 16

Wolf Lake 100

\$20 | 6-11:30am | Leader: Matt Kalwasinski

Did you know that there was an automobile race track in the middle of Wolf Lake in Hammond in the 1930s? Join trip leader, Matt Kalwasinski, for the inaugural Wolf Lake 100! Matt will take participants to a variety of locations around Wolf Lake “racing” towards the goal of recording 100 species during this special big morning. The birding will be action packed with warblers, ducks, shorebirds, and more. Thursday morning is the official start of the festival, so take the green flag with Matt and go birding! Meet at Wolf Lake parking lot (41.679528, -87.514638).



Dunes Big Morning

\$50 | 6am-12pm | Leader: Wesley Homoya

Here is your chance to enjoy the fast-paced birding of a Big Day, but all before lunch! Speed around on a fast and furious morning to rack up a morning goal of 100 species. Our guides will choose the best route for a variety of migrating birds each day. This morning adventure is great for festival returnees and those looking to rack up a big list of dunes migrants and breeding birds.



Kankakee Sands

\$40 | 6-11:30am | Leader: Josh Engel

The Nature Conservancy’s Kankakee Sands is a birder’s and wildflower enthusiast’s paradise. The more than 7,000 acres hosts an amazing array of birds, plants, and animals that fills the prairie with song and sights to behold. Recent reintroduction of bison is rebuilding the natural ecosystems that support Henslow’s and Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels, Northern Bobwhites, and more that will be visible on this tour.



West Beach Pineries and Prairies

\$10 | 6-10am | Leader: Sarah Barnes

West Beach is a prime example of the contiguous dune ecosystem that stretched from Chicago and up the eastern Lake Michigan shoreline. This National Park site contains open dune grass, oak savanna, and northwoods pineries. A wide diversity of birds can be found between the different undisturbed habitats and beautiful vistas found here.



Michigan Canopy Tour

\$40 | 6:30-11am | Leader: Stuart Tower

Explore some birds-eye level birding this morning at two canopy birding locations just across the Michigan state line. We'll visit Galien River County Park for a look at two special wetlands that play host to herons, rails, and bitterns. Galien River County Park is also host to a great birding canopy tower overlooking the Galien River. Afterwards we'll visit Sarett Nature Center and their 220 foot long canopy, rising over 50 feet above the maple forest below.



Cowles Bog

\$40 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: Matt Igleski

Cowles Bog is a birding treasure trove and an 8,000-year-old fen. This National Park Service site is home to the birthplace of ecology and is also a varied habitat for a diverse set of migrating birds. The swamp edges can host many migrating warblers, including Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler.



Explore the Dunes with Tykee James

\$10 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: Tykee James & Frederick Ruckersfeldt

It's another guide's choice trip where you'll be led by our festival headliner, Tykee James. Explore the Dunes with Tykee to find warblers, vireos, thrushes, and more. Who knows what we'll find but you're sure to be in good company!



Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2

\$10 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: David Rupp

This amazing 3 mile flat loop boardwalk through the backdunes is famed for its diversity of neotropical migrants, including some of the most reliable Cerulean Warblers in the Dunes. Other reliable species include Red-headed Woodpeckers, Prothonotary Warbler, and maybe Barred Owls. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).



Thursday (cont.)

Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours!

\$10 | 7-11am | Leader: Juan Diego Vargas



Coming back from Costa Rica to join us again, Juan Diego Vargas of Lifer Nature Tours will lead you around the Dunes to see some amazing birds. This is a guide's choice trip but don't worry- these guides are so familiar with the Dunes, it's become their home-away-from-home. You're bound to have a superb time finding birds and getting to know the Lifer guides! Español options are available on this tour, too.

Eggers Grove

\$10 | 7-10:30am | Leader: Ian Sarmiento



Cook County Forest Preserves and The Field Museum have done active restoration to restore Eggers Grove as a unique habitat, combining dry, wooded ridges where spring wildflowers thrive with long, narrow wetlands filled with sedges, marsh grasses, emergent forbs and waterfowl. The varied woodland and wetland landscape attract spring and fall migrations of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and songbirds. Expect an assortment of total species. This trip may involve toll road fees depending on the route participants take. Egger's Grove is located on the Southeast side of Chicago on the IL/IN border. Meet at Grove 2 (41.68819, -87.52832).

Dunes Bird Banding 101

\$5 | 7-11am | Leader: Stephanie Beilke & Audubon Team



Join experienced bird bander Stephanie Beilke and friends for a peek into the secret migration moving along Lake Michigan. Participants will have a chance to tour the mist-netting banding site and see bird banding up close and in person (and maybe even help release birds). Techniques of bird banding will also be discussed. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Richardson Preserve

\$10 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Scott Namestnik



This bicentennial nature trust property includes a diverse mix of dry forested oak-hickory uplands and swampy wetlands, with streams, seeps, and springs throughout, making it an excellent spot for migrating and resident songbirds. The spring wildflowers and opportunity to see a few amphibians and reptiles make this a true naturalist's dream. A well-maintained dirt trail with a couple of boardwalks and bridges allow for a fairly easy walk, and being with a botanist/birder means that the hiking pace will be very relaxed.

Lake County Wetlands

\$40 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Cookie Ferguson

Explore two popular wetland sites of Lake County. The morning will begin at Grant Street Marsh in Gary looking for a variety of marsh birds, including rails and other wading birds. Next, the group will head to the Highland Rookery in Highland to search for more species of marsh birds and other migrating species.



Brincka-Cross Gardens

\$10 | 7:30-10:30am | Leader: Kim Ehn

Developed as a horticulturalist's landscaped dream, this Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home, garden, and accompanying forestland is a wonderful place to seek out migrating birds. Many songbirds, like the Yellow-throated Vireo, and migrating warblers, like the Nashville Warbler, have been observed among the many cedars and hemlocks on the property. The trails are flat and easy with accessible boardwalks. Meet at Brincka Cross (41.65885, -86.98647).



Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

\$40 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Caryn Corriere

On this tour, you'll be whisked away to explore the unique and globally rare dune and swale ecosystem at Gibson Woods. This location hosts numerous plant communities, which attract a wide variety of migrating birds.



Pinhook Bog

\$10 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Whitney & Jonathan Yoerger

Pinhook Bog is one of few "true" bogs in the southern Great Lakes. Among the tamarack, blueberries, and insectivorous plants there is also unique birding. This site has both upland forests as well as the lowland floating bog mat that we will explore. The site is normally closed to the public and sometimes produces Connecticut Warblers. Meet at Pinhook Bog (41.6212, -86.84926).



Reynolds Creek

\$10 | 7:30-11am | Leader: Steve Huggins

Reynold's Creek is a newly created gamebird habitat area just miles from Lake Michigan. The recent restoration of warm season grasses has brought an explosion of grassland birds, including Bobolinks, Dickcissels, and Henslow's Sparrows. Potholes are also being dug for wetland species such as shorebirds and waterfowl.



Thursday (cont.)

Find the Birds with Birdchick!

EASY



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Sharon Stiteler

Explore the Dunes and look for birds with our headliner, Sharon Stiteler, aka the Birdchick! She'll take you to some of her favorite locations in search of warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and more. This is a guides choice trip and you'll go wherever the best birding is happening during the festival!

Dunes Heron Rookery

MEDIUM



\$10 | 8-11am | Leader: Bill Sharkey

Named for the Great Blue Herons that formerly nested at this inland National Park property, the Heron Rookery is well known for its outstanding display of spring wildflowers. It is also an excellent place to find uncommon migrating songbirds such as Golden-winged Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler, but also deep-woods specialties such as Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl. Expect an array of warblers and thrushes. The trail may be muddy.

Miller Woods

EASY



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Michael Topp

The forested dune and swale in the Miller area sits at a unique location, right on the southern tip of Lake Michigan. The National Park's Miller Woods and Douglas Center are a prime spot for migrating warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and more. This is a unique tour with a guide who is well-versed with this birding hotspot. Meet at Miller Woods (41.6064, -87.26867).

Beverly Shores Birding

MEDIUM



\$40 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Richard Garrett

Visit the woodlands and wetlands that make up the Beverly Shores area in pursuit of nesting and migrant species. Highlight birds may include both Pine and Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanagers, rails, and Sandhill Cranes down near the wetlands. Other woodland, marsh, wetland, and waterfowl species can be expected.

Chasing the Melody: Wood Thrush (Re)Search

\$10 | 8-11am | Leader: Libby Keyes



Explore science in action this morning as we invite researchers from the Chasing Melody Wood Thrush conservation project. Learn about the international collaboration that is tracking the full scale, life-cycle of these amazing flute singers. Participants will venture off-trail to nearby field stations where arriving territorial Wood Thrush will be outfitted with the radio telemetry that they will take to the tropics later this fall. Participation is limited, and participants should plan on muddy trail conditions. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Coffee Creek

\$10 | 8:30-11:30am | Leader: Julie Bonnema



This one-of-a-kind, mixed-development features over 150 acres of preserved forest, wetland, and prairie restorations. The open meadows and prairies have become home to high numbers of breeding Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, and Purple Martins. The woodlands in the Spring offer great birding for warblers and other songbirds. The wetlands at the preserve often feature calling wading birds and rails such as Sora and Virginia Rail. This hike is an ideal opportunity for close-up looks for beginning birders and photographers on well manicured trails.



Intro to the Dunes: Accessible Nature Hike

\$10 | 8:30-11:30am | Leader: CJ Greco



Are you new to birding? Looking for a more accessible outing to join? Want to learn more about the site of the festival? Join CJ on this accessible beginning birding adventure. Starting from the Indiana Dunes Longshore Tower, we will talk about all things natural history and environment of the Indiana Dunes and - of course - birds! See you there! Meet at the State Park Observation Tower (41.66015, -87.06561).



National Park Ranger Birding

\$10 | 9-11:30am | Leader: NPS Ranger



Are you new to birding or looking for a more relaxed birding opportunity? Take part in these daily morning bird walks with the rangers from the Indiana Dunes National Park. Each morning this tour will meet at the Visitor Center and walk the often-productive nearby grounds and bike trail. No carpooling required. Binoculars are also available for borrowing if needed.



Thursday (cont.)

Kirtland's Warbler Perseverance : An Endangered Species Success Story

FREE | 12:30-1:30pm | Leader: Jim Bull | Location: Visitor Center

Learn about the incredible story of one of North America's most famous species: the Kirtland's Warbler! This presentation will lead you on a journey, starting with the Native American and Anglo discovery of the species, its path to population decline and near extinction, and then its successful comeback to the point of being taken off the endangered species list. You'll also learn about the Kirtland's wintering and breeding habitats, and it's natural history. This story is also a personal odyssey that Jim Bull has been on with this species, from his father helping launch the first census of the species, to his extensive volunteer work on behalf of this beautiful Jackpine songster including in the process of writing a book about the species.



Live Birds of Prey! The Subtle Differences of Hawks, Owls, and Falcons



FREE | 1:30-2:30pm | Location: Marketplace Tent

Every birder can recognize raptors, but there are subtle distinctions between the different types of birds of prey which make each one unique. From body size to wing shape to feeding habits, raptors are diverse. Understanding the differences between the various types can help birders more quickly identify the birds of prey they see. Join Humane Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to discuss these subtle differences and see some of them first hand through the use of the centers' LIVE hawks, owls, and falcons!

Birding Potpourri

\$40 | 2-5pm | Leader: Stuart Tower



Are you the kind of person that just enjoys being surprised? Then this trip is for you. It's a mixture of spots and birds while we adventure around the Dunes. Trust that your guide is one of the best when it comes to sniffing out good birding sites, so he's sure to find you at least 2 or 3 interesting birds on this wildcard afternoon birding trip.

Great Marsh Restoration Story



FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: Dan Mason | Location: Visitor Center

Join National Park Service botanist Dr. Dan Mason as he shares the remarkable story and science of the ongoing restoration of the Great Marsh and Cowles Bog Wetland Complex. Historically the entire complex was a magnificent composition of various wetland types including, bog, fen, swamp forest, sedge-meadow, wet-mesic prairie, shallow-marsh, and a floating mat intertwined within a small geographic area. The remarkable ecology was a major reason that early advocates called on Congress to establish a national park. Using personal experience, scientific data and historical aerial photos, Dr. Mason will share the science and stewardship that has been guiding the decision-making and actions behind this ambitious 20 year restoration story.

Monarch Butterflies

FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: Jim Starin | Location: State Park Nature Center



Come learn about the magnificent monarch butterfly! Jim is an avid monarch enthusiast, from tagging and tracking to planting natives and enjoying them on his property. He'll talk about their life cycle and their long journeys to the north and Mexico. You'll also get some tips on how to attract monarchs to your yard and citizen science projects for you and your family.

IDSP Trail 2: Mindful Birding

\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Whitney Yoerger



Join Whitney Yoerger at Wilson Shelter for a peaceful exploration of nature on Trail 2 at the Indiana Dunes State Park, where we'll focus on observing and appreciating the avian wonders that inhabit this tranquil trail. This slow-paced experience will include an introduction to deep listening to engage your sensory awareness, simple exercises for intentional observation, and group reflection toward the end of our birding. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Pinhook Bog in the Afternoon

\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Cookie Ferguson



Pinhook Bog is one of few "true" bogs in the southern Great Lakes. Among the tamarack, blueberries, and insectivorous plants there is also unique birding. This site has both upland forests as well as the lowland floating bog mat that we will explore. The site is normally closed to the public and sometimes produces Connecticut Warblers. Meet at Pinhook Bog (41.6212, -86.84926).

Thursday (cont.)

Heron Rookery: Birds & Photography

\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Shari McCollough



Take this tour if you're looking for a slower, more relaxed afternoon of birding! Join photographer, Shari McCollough, to find some warblers, thrushes, and other birds for some great photography opportunities. She can give you some tips, too! A camera is not required but please note that this trip will be a slow pace to accommodate the photographers.

Dunes Afternoon Warblers

\$40 | 2-5pm | Leader: Matt Igleski



Warblers are everywhere in the dunes, but sometimes they aren't. So on this tour we're going to wait to hear where everyone is finding the most warblers and head there for the afternoon--thanks friends! We may go to the state park, or we might go to the Heron Rookery--we just won't know until we ask.

Night Heron Watercolor Art Workshop

\$30 | 2-5pm | Leader: Kristina Knowski



Join watercolor and bird artist Kristina Knowski with a hands on painting workshop at the Chesterton Art Center. This class includes all supplies and instruction on a simple watercolor painting of our festival bird, the Black-crowned Night Heron. Meet at The Chesterton Art Center (41.6105966, -87.055719).

Sparrow ID Workshop with the Birdchick

\$20 | 2-4pm | Leader: Sharon Stiteler



Brown birds are the best birds. They can be intimidating at first but with a little practice and patience you can id some of these lurky brown wonders like a pro. You'll learn some tips and tricks to help you master these skills and then go for a short walk to practice! Meet at Humane Indiana Wildlife Education Center (41.51643, -86.97918).

Great Marsh Afternoon Birding

\$40 | 2:30-5pm | Leader: Frederick Ruckersfeldt



Explore the wetlands that make up the Beverly Shores area in pursuit of nesting and migrant species. Targets this afternoon will be the secretive rails, bitterns, and cranes that can lurk in the Great Marsh of the dunes. Other wetland species may include Prothonotary Warbler, Alder Flycatcher, and Olive-sided Flycatchers.

Find the Fungi: Mushroom Walk

\$10 | 3-4:30pm | Leader: Rob Hallock



Meet local mycologist Rob Hallock for a slow walk to find our common springtime fungi in the Indiana Dunes. You'll learn about the different species and get some great tips on how to find them, too. Meet at the State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Dunes Big Evening

\$40 | 6-9pm | Leader: Mark Welter & Jeremiah Oden



Who doesn't love some evening birding?! On this whirlwind tour, you'll be jetting around the Dunes to try and log as many species as possible. This is a first-of-its-kind tour and you never know how many species we'll find! Owls? Rails? Woodcocks? Join us to find out!

Audubon Great Lakes: Trivia Night

\$5 | 6-9pm | Location: Marketplace Tent



Join Audubon Great Lakes for an evening of bird trivia and bingo in the Marketplace Tent! Test your bird knowledge with lots of entertaining questions – everything from science and history to pop culture – and build camaraderie with fellow birders. Form a team or sign up when you get there. There will be prizes for the top teams and all attendees will qualify for a door prize drawing. Pizza from Val's Famous Pizzas and Grinders provided by Audubon Great Lakes. Bring your own beverage and try to win some bragging rights during this social event!



Thursday (cont.)

Dunes After Dark

\$40 | 7-9pm | Leader: Steve Huggins



It's three night hikes in one! Take the longer challenge and search for all the specialty birds of the night in the Dunes. We'll seek out whip-poor-wills, woodcocks, nighthawks, and owls in this couple hour evening tour.

Owl Prowl

\$40 | 7:30-9:15pm | Leader: Richard Garrett



Finding popular birds of the twilight is the goal this evening. We will target the amazing and stealthy world of owls throughout the Dunes. Based on local observations, we'll try to find species such as the Barred and Great-horned Owls and look at the adaptations they need to survive.

Woodcock Sky Dance Tour

\$20 | 7:30-9pm | Leader: Dan Barriball



The bird with many names! Whether you call it the timberdoodle, bog sucker, Labrador twister, or more simply the woodcock, its spring dance is a sight to behold. If you've never seen the incredible sky dance, join us to watch the evening curtain rise on this quite punctual performer. Meet at the State Park Observation Tower (41.66015, -87.06561).

Mothing Adventures

\$20 | 8-9:30pm | Leader: Jeanette Jaskula



"More moths please" is something you probably never thought you'd say . . . ever. But you're going to be saying it when you join Jeanette at the Wilson Shelter in the state park for a mothing adventure! I'm already imagining an enormous Cecropia becoming the buzz of the bird fest, but mostly because your friends are going to be saying Cecropi-what? Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Whip-poor-will Wander Tour

\$20 | 8-9:30pm | Leader: Libby Keyes



To find the most vociferous bird of the dunes, you need not set your alarm early. Meet Libby for a carpool tour to seek out the loud Eastern Whip-poor-wills of the dune forests. If we're lucky, we'll have close looks at this highly territorial forest-floor dweller.





Friday, May 17

Sunrise Birding at Michigan City Harbor

\$10 | 5-10am | Leader: Bill Sharkey

Dawn birding is amazing in the dunes. Wake up with your guide for some sunrise surprises on the beaches along the eastern Indiana Dunes National Park lakefront. From there we'll explore the dawn chorus in the best migrant hotspots nearby. Meet at Michigan City Harbor (41.72841, -86.90243).



Illinois Big Morning

\$50 | 5:30am-12pm | Leader: Carl Giometti & Matt Igleski

It's time for some friendly competition between the neighboring states! Head out early to begin your quest to find more species than the Indiana Big Morning tour.



Indiana Big Morning

\$50 | 6am-12pm | Leader: Amy Kearns & Jeremiah Oden

It's a Big Morning in the Dunes... but there's a catch! We'll be racing around Indiana to find more species than the Illinois Big Morning trip. Who will prevail?!



Kankakee Sands Prairie Birding

\$40 | 6-11:30am | Leader: Barb Lucas

The Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands is a birder's and wildflower enthusiast's paradise. The more than 7,000 acres hosts an amazing array of birds, plants, and animals that fills the prairie with song and sights to behold. Recent reintroduction of bison is rebuilding the natural ecosystems that support Henslow's and Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels, Northern Bobwhites, and more.



Cowles Bog

EASY



\$10 | 6-10:30am | Leader: Steve Huggins

Cowles Bog is a birding treasure trove and an 8,000-year-old fen. This National Park Service site is home to the birthplace of ecology and is also a varied habitat for a diverse set of migrating birds. The swamp edges can host many migrating warblers, including Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler.



West Beach Pineries and Prairies

MEDIUM



\$10 | 6-10am | Leader: Josh Engel & Adam Sell

West Beach is a prime example of the contiguous dune ecosystem that stretched from Chicago and up the eastern Lake Michigan shoreline. This National Park site contains open dune grass, oak savanna, and northwoods pineries. A wide diversity of birds can be found between the different undisturbed habitats and beautiful vistas found here.



Michigan Canopy Tour

EASY



\$40 | 6:30-11:30am | Leader: Libby Keyes

Explore some birds-eye level birding this morning at two canopy birding locations just across the Michigan state line. We'll visit Galien River County Park for a look at two special wetlands that play host to herons, rails, and bitterns. Afterwards we'll visit Sarett Nature Center and their 220 foot long canopy, rising over 50 feet above the maple forest below.



Lake County Wetlands

MEDIUM



\$10 | 6:30-11:30am | Leader: Matt Kalwasinski

Explore two popular wetland sites of Lake County. The morning will begin at Grant Street Marsh in Gary looking for a variety of marsh birds, including rails and other wading birds. Next, the group will head to the Highland Rookery in Highland to search for more species of marsh birds and other migrating species. If the birds are present, participants will be invited to head to a nearby site where Monk Parakeets nest. Meet on Chase Street at the SW corner of the marsh (41.559091, -87.375222).



Meadowbrook Nature Preserve

EASY



\$10 | 6:30-11am | Leader: David Rupp

Shirley Heinze's flagship property also hosts the official offices of this large northwest Indiana land trust. David Rupp will explore the diversity of habitats and spring migrants just south of the dunes. Spring warblers, vireos, and thrushes are always dependable here.

Friday (cont.)

Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2

\$10 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: Jake Vinsel & Ed Warden



This amazing 3 mile boardwalk loop through the backdunes is famed for its diversity of neotropical migrants, including some of the most reliable Cerulean Warblers in the Dunes. Other reliable species include Red-headed Woodpeckers, Prothonotary Warbler, and maybe Barred Owls. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Warblers of the Dunes

\$10 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: Jim Bull



It's another guide's choice trip but this time with our headliner, Jim Bull! As one of the founding members of the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance, Jim is fascinated with warblers. He'll take you around the Dunes searching for some great looks at these iconic spring migrants!

Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours!

\$10 | 7-11am | Leader: Juan Diego Vargas



Coming back from Costa Rica to join us again, Juan Diego Vargas of Lifer Nature Tours will lead you around the Dunes to see some amazing birds. This is a guide's choice trip but don't worry- these guides are so familiar with the Dunes, it's become their home-away-from-home. You're bound to have a superb time finding birds and getting to know the Lifer guides! Español options are available on this tour, too.

Dunes Bird Banding 101

\$5 | 7-11am | Leader: Stephanie Beilke & Audubon Team



Join experienced bird bander Stephanie Beilke and friends for a peek into the secret migration moving along Lake Michigan. Participants will have a chance to tour the mist-netting banding site and see bird banding up close and in person (and maybe even help release birds). Techniques of bird banding will also be discussed. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).



Richardson Preserve

\$10 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Scott Namestnik



This bicentennial nature trust property includes a diverse mix of dry forested oak-hickory uplands and swampy wetlands, making it an excellent spot for migrating and resident songbirds. The spring wildflowers and opportunity to see a few amphibians and reptiles make this a true naturalist's dream. A well-maintained dirt trail with a couple of boardwalks and bridges allow for a fairly easy walk.

Michiana Marsh Meander

\$40 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Mark Welter



Visit two great wetlands in two great states this morning. We'll head to both Beverly Shores and Galien River County Park for a look at two special wetlands that play host to herons, rails, and bitterns—if the water levels cooperate. Galien River County Park is also host to a great birding canopy tower.

Women Bird the Dunes

\$10 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Julie Bonnema & Lindsay Grossmann



Calling all female birders! Join two of our expert local female guides as they take you to some of their favorite birdings spots in the Dunes. We'll look for lots of warblers, thrushes, rails, and some other cool things that have been seen. We welcome anyone who identifies as a female.

Brincka Cross Gardens

\$10 | 7:30-10:30am | Leader: Kim Ehn

Developed as a horticulturalist's landscaped dream, this Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home, garden, and accompanying forestland is a wondrous place to seek out migrating birds. Many songbirds, like the Yellow-throated Vireo, and migrating warblers, like the Nashville Warbler, have been observed among the many cedars and hemlocks on the property. The trails are flat and easy with accessible boardwalks. Meet at Brincka Cross (41.65885, -86.98647).

Pinhook Bog

\$10 | 7:30-11am | Leader: Cookie Ferguson



Pinhook Bog is one of few “true” bogs in the southern Great Lakes. Among the tamarack, blueberries, and insectivorous plants there is also unique birding. This site has both upland forests as well as the lowland floating bog mat that we will explore. The site is normally closed to the public and sometimes produces Connecticut Warblers. Meet at Pinhook Bog (41.6212, -86.84926).

Reynold's Creek Wetlands and Prairie

\$10 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Austin Broadwater



Reynold's Creek is a newly created gamebird habitat area just miles from Lake Michigan. The recent restoration of warm season grasses has brought an explosion of grassland birds, including Bobolinks, Dickcissels, and Henslow's Sparrows. Potholes are also being dug for wetland species such as shorebirds and waterfowl.

Friday (cont.)

Beverly Shores and Great Marsh

\$40 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Richard Garrett



Visit the woodlands and wetlands that make up the Beverly Shores area in pursuit of nesting and migrant species. Highlight birds may include both Pine and Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanagers, rails, and Sandhill Cranes down near the wetlands. Other woodland, marsh, wetland, and waterfowl species can be expected.

Scholarship Recipient Hike

FREE | 8-11:30am | Leader: CJ Greco & Christina Harber



Calling all scholarship attendees! Join your fellow birders in search of Dunes specialty species, such as the Prothonotary Warbler, Virginia Rail, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and more. This trip is only available to those that receive an IDBF need-based scholarship. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Find the Birds with Birdchick!

\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Sharon Stiteler



Explore the Dunes and look for birds with our headliner, Sharon Stiteler, aka the Birdchick! She'll take you to some of her favorite locations in search of warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and more. This is a guides choice trip and you'll go wherever the best birding is happening during the festival!

Dunes Heron Rookery

\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Frederick Ruckersfeldt



Named for the Great Blue Herons that formerly nested at this inland National Park property, the Heron Rookery is well known for its outstanding display of spring wildflowers. It is also an excellent place to find uncommon migrating songbirds such as Golden-winged Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler, but also deep-woods specialties such as Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl. Expect an array of warblers and thrushes. The trail may be muddy.

Miller Woods and Swale

\$10 | 8-11am | Leader: Michael Topp



The forested dune and swale in the Miller area sits at a unique location, right on the southern tip of Lake Michigan. The National Park's Miller Woods and Douglas Center are a prime spot for migrating warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and more. Meet at Miller Woods (41.6064, -87.26867).

Birding Photography Up Close

\$10 | 8:30-11:30am | Leader: Shari McCollough

If you're looking for a special photography opportunity, this trip is for you! Join birding photographer, Shari McCollough, for a short introduction to birding photography and tips.

From there, we'll visit Humane Indiana Wildlife behind-the-scenes to get some close up shots of their birds in rehabilitation. Meet at Humane Indiana Wildlife Education Center (41.51643, -86.97918).



Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

\$10 | 8:30-11:30am | Leader: Matt Harmon

This one-of-a-kind, mixed-development features over 150 acres of preserved forest, wetland, and prairie restorations.

The open meadows and prairies have become home to high numbers of breeding Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, and Purple Martins. The woodlands in the Spring offer great birding for warblers and other songbirds.

The wetlands at the preserve often feature calling wading birds and rails such as Sora and Virginia Rail. This hike is an ideal opportunity for close-up looks for beginning birders and photographers on well manicured trails.



National Park Ranger Birding

\$10 | 9-11:30am | Leader: NPS Ranger

Are you new to birding or looking for a more relaxed birding opportunity? Take part in these daily morning bird walks with the rangers from the Indiana Dunes National Park. Each morning this tour will meet at the Visitor Center and walk the often-productive nearby grounds and bike trail towards the Indiana Dunes State Park in search of migrating birds. No carpooling required. Binoculars are also available for borrowing if needed.



Building Bridges With Birds

FREE | 12:30-1:30pm | Speaker: Tykee James

Tykee shares how his life's work was shaped by his passion for birds, from his start as an environmental educator in his own neighborhood to engaging in environmental advocacy on Capitol Hill and now leading his own non-profit to support birders and provide outdoor education. In his talk, he will share stories and examples of how you can foster community, illuminate the world, and build power when you build bridges with birds.



Friday (cont.)

Live Birds of Prey! Conservation Efforts Supporting our States Raptors



FREE | 1:30-2pm | Location: Marketplace Tent

Humane Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Valparaiso treats over 125 different species of wildlife each year, with roughly 100 of those species being avian patients. Whether common species, or those endangered in our state, HIW aims to return native wildlife back to the wild. Join the Humane Indiana Wildlife team to learn about their efforts to help injured and orphaned wildlife in NW Indiana and meet the centers' non-releasable Barn Owl and Peregrine Falcon. Staff will discuss conservation initiatives that are occurring to strive for population stability for each species.

Dunes Heron Rookery Plants & Birds



\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Roger Hedge

Explore the Heron Rookery in the afternoon with a twist: we'll be looking for both birds and special plants! This trip will be slower paced, looking at all of our natural surroundings in this rich and unique ecosystem.

Let's Just Go Birding in the Afternoon



\$40 | 2-5pm | Leader: Stuart Tower

Just get in the van, let's go birding! We'll look for some cool species and make your afternoon lull exciting.

Pinhook Bog in the Afternoon



\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Amy Kearns

Pinhook Bog is one of few "true" bogs in the southern Great Lakes. Among the tamarack, blueberries, and insectivorous plants there is also unique birding. This site has both upland forests as well as the lowland floating bog mat that we will explore. The site is normally closed to the public and sometimes produces Connecticut Warblers. Meet at Pinhook Bog (41.6212, -86.84926).

Dunes Afternoon Warblers



\$40 | 2-5pm | Leader: Steve Huggins

Warblers are everywhere in the dunes, but sometimes they aren't. So on this tour we're going to wait to hear where everyone is finding the most warblers and head there for the afternoon--thanks friends! We may go to the state park, or we might go to the Heron Rookery--we just won't know until we ask.

Night Heron Acrylic Painting Workshop

\$25 | 2-5pm | Leader: Jen Aitchison



Let's paint a Night Heron, with its large red eyes and elegant feather pattern, this stocky little marsh bird will look beautiful on your walls as a cherished memory of the festival. Your stretched canvas that you create will be ready to hang on the wall as is, or taken to your local framer. Teaching artist and local birder Jen Aitchison, an instructor from the Chesterton Art Center will guide you step by step through an acrylic painting of a night heron. All levels of artistic skill are welcome, and materials and supplies are provided. Meet at The Chesterton Art Center (41.6105966, -87.055719).

IDSP Trail 2 in the Afternoon

\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Andy Belt



Let's go explore this amazing boardwalk in the afternoon! This will be a more relaxed birding trip, but we're likely to find a variety of warblers, woodpeckers, and tanagers. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Shrooms of the Dunes: They're Really Fun(gi)!

FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: Rob Hallock | Location: State Park Nature Center



Learn about the mushrooms of the Indiana Dunes from Rob Hallock, Mycologist and Author. He'll talk about the life cycle of fungi, their role in the environment, and some common fungi of the region. Plus, you'll get some information on how birds take advantage of fungi in nest-building.

The Birdy Bunch Podcast LIVE with the Festival Planning Team

FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: CJ Greco

Location: Visitor Center



Hey there, Nature Lovers! The Birdy Bunch Podcast is LIVE from the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival! Come and listen to CJ chat with some of the Planning team for the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival! Learn what it takes to out on this massive event!



Warbler ID Workshop

\$20 | 2-4pm | Leader: Jim Bull



Did you know that Indiana has recorded over 30 warbler species and most of them can be seen in the Dunes?! Join headline speaker and founding member of the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance, Jim Bull, to sharpen your warbler identification skills. He'll go over some tips in the classroom and then take you on a walk to practice your skills. Meet at Humane Indiana Wildlife Education Center (41.51643, -86.97918).

Beverly Shores Great Marsh

\$40 | 2:30-5pm | Leader: Richard Garrett



Explore the wetlands that make up the Beverly Shores area in pursuit of nesting and migrant species. Targets this afternoon will be the secretive rails, bitterns, and cranes that can lurk in the Great Marsh of the dunes. Other wetland species may include Prothonotary Warbler, Alder Flycatcher, and Olive-sided Flycatchers.

Birds and Brews and 8th Annual Bird Calling Competition

\$15 | 6-9pm

Location: Marketplace Tent

It's our official birders social event! Join other participants for an evening of great food, drinks, trivia, prizes, and more. Try our special bird fest beer and cider or meet a new birder from around the Great Lakes region. Tonight, we will also feature the annual bird calling competition after 7pm. Bring your best call for hundreds of dollars in prizes! Registration includes food from George's Gyros and soft drinks. Alcoholic drinks and commemorative pint glasses are available for purchase via cash or card.





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Saturday, May 18

Cowles Bog 100

\$20 | 5am-11:30am | Leader: Stuart Tower

Join this group as it races around to try and find 100 species at Cowles Bog before lunch. Meet at Cowles Bog (41.6369916, -87.0868136).



Dunes Big Morning

\$50 | 6am-12pm | Leader: Josh Engel

Here is your chance to enjoy the fast-paced birding of a Big Day, but all before lunch! Speed around on a fast and furious morning to rack up a morning goal of 100 species. Our guides will choose the best route for a variety of migrating birds each day. This morning adventure is great for festival returnees and those looking to rack up a big list of dunes migrants and breeding birds.



The Longshore Tower Big Sit

\$5 | 6-10am | Leader: Adam Sell

One of the best big sit sites in the dunes, no matter the weather, the Dunes State Park Longshore Tower and nearby prairie and woodlands host a great variety of birds. From migrating raptors, forest edge warblers, and secretive skulkers, one never knows what might appear here. Register to join Red Hill Birding guide Adam Sell for a morning of bird watching. Meet at the State Park Observation Tower (41.66021, -87.06315).



Kankakee Sands Prairie Birding

\$40 | 6-11:30am | Leader: Barb Lucas

The Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands is a birder's and wildflower enthusiast's paradise. The more than 7,000 acres hosts an amazing array of birds, plants, and animals that fills the prairie with song and sights to behold. Recent reintroduction of bison is rebuilding the natural ecosystems that support Henslow's and Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels, Northern Bobwhites, and more



Little Calumet River Bottom and Mnoke Prairie

\$10 | 6-10am | Leader: Richard Garrett

The riparian lowlands and prairie uplands near the Chellberg Farm are ideal birding locations that often get overlooked. The deep ravines play host to thrushes, flycatchers, and warblers, while the grasslands can host Henslow's Sparrows and Dickcissels. Barred Owls are often reliable here in the day as well. Meet at the main parking lot on Mineral Springs Road (41.62466 -87.08891).



Dunes State Park Warblers

\$10 | 6:30-11am | Leader: Carl Giometti

36 regularly occurring warblers can be found during a day of birding the dunes. Your guides will seek to fill out our warbler punch card this morning with as many as possible on this specialty tour, visiting the best spots for warblers during morning trip



Berrien County Birding

\$40 | 6:30-11:30am | Leader: Matt Igleski

Southwest Michigan is a special funneling point for birds migrating along Lake Michigan. This morning we'll venture to a few of the more known hotspots, including Warren Dunes State Park, Galien County Park, the Three Oaks Sewage Ponds, and more.



Migrant Traps of Wolf Lake and Forsythe Park

\$10 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: Julie Bonnema

Explore a popular "migrant trap" in Lake County. The morning will begin at one of the local "traps" known as Forsythe Park (Wolf Lake) in Hammond to search for neotropical migrants along with any waterfowl in the waters of the lake. Depending on water conditions, the trip will visit the nearby 129th Street Wetland to search for shorebirds. Otherwise, the trip will seek out more neotropical migrants at another "migrant trap". Afterwards, participants will be invited to check out a nearby Monk Parakeet nest site. Meet at Wolf Lake parking lot (41.679528, -87.514638).



Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2

\$10 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: John Cassady

This amazing 3 mile flat boardwalk loop through the backdunes is famed for its diversity of neotropical migrants, including some of the most reliable Cerulean Warblers in the Dunes. Other reliable species include Red-headed Woodpeckers, Prothonotary Warbler, and maybe Barred Owls. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).



Saturday cont.

Sauk Trail Birdy Blitz

\$10 | 6:30-11am | Leader: Chicago Bird Alliance



Want to help with a community science project? This trip will be a survey of bird species at the Kings Grove/Sauk Trail/ Schubert's Woods complex near Steger, IL. These lesser-known birding sites are undergoing restoration by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Several notable species have been observed at these sites: Acadian Flycatcher, Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Ovenbirds, and much more. Participants will be split into small groups and assigned to a leader who will guide them through surveying one section of this large, wooded area on the south edge of Cook County. The pace of this trip will be relatively fast and may involve being off-trail to cover all areas of interest--so bring a sense of adventure! After the survey, all groups will meet back together for a light brunch to share what birds they observed. Meet at Sauk Trail, IL (41.48299, -87.65856).

Bendix Woods Wildflowers & Warblers

\$10 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Evie Kirkwood



Bendix Woods County Park is home to over 150 acres of woods, ponds, and fields. A state-dedicated nature preserve is contained within its borders. Bendix Woods can be a great location for migrating warblers, vireos, and thrushes during the spring (and a nice mix of spring ephemeral wildflowers, too). A portion of the trail is hilly. Participants will meet on location and be guided by Evie Kirkwood, naturalist and retired director of St. Joseph County Parks. Please note that this tour begins at 8am EASTERN time as the location is in Eastern time zone. Meet at Bendix Woods (41.665319, -86.506829).

Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours

\$10 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Juan Diego Vargas



Coming back from Costa Rica to join us again, Juan Diego Vargas of Lifer Nature Tours will lead you around the Dunes to see some amazing birds. This is a guide's choice trip but don't worry- these guides are so familiar with the Dunes, it's become their home-away-from-home. You're bound to have a superb time finding birds and getting to know the Lifer guides! Español options are available on this tour, too.

Cowles Bog

\$40 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Frederick Ruckersfeldt

Cowles Bog is a birding treasure trove and an 8,000-year-old fen. This National Park Service site is home to the birthplace of ecology and is also a varied habitat for a diverse set of migrating birds. The swamp edges can host many migrating warblers, including Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler.



Dunes Bird Banding 101

\$5 | 7-11am | Leader: Steph Beilke & Audubon Team

Join experienced bird bander Stephanie Beilke and friends for a peek into the secret migration moving along Lake Michigan. Participants will have a chance to tour the mist-netting banding site and see bird banding up close and in person (and maybe even help release birds). Techniques of bird banding will also be discussed. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).



Everglades of the North: Kankakee River FWA

\$40 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Bill Sharkey

The “Everglades of the north” covered 1/2 million acres of land across northern Indiana. Restored land within the basin, including Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area and Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area contain a diverse assortment of riparian and wetland bird species, and have a history of incredible bird finds.



Richardson Preserve

\$10 | 7-11:30am | Leader: David Rupp

This bicentennial nature trust property represents high-quality forested uplands and lowlands, with streams, seeps, and springs throughout that make it an excellent spot for migrating birds. In addition, the spring wildflowers make this a true naturalist’s dream.



Saturday cont.

Brincka Cross Gardens

\$10 | 7:30-10:30am | Leader: Sarah Barnes

Developed as a horticulturalist's landscaped dream, this Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home, garden, and accompanying forestland is a wonderful place to seek out migrating birds. Many songbirds, like the Yellow-throated Vireo, and migrating warblers, like the Nashville Warbler, have been observed among the many cedars and hemlocks on the property. The trails are flat and easy with accessible boardwalks. Meet at Brincka Cross (41.65885, -86.98647).



Harbor Country Kayak Birding

\$40 | 7:30-10:30am | Leader: Amy Kearns & Ed Warden

Join dunes guides Amy Kearns and Edward Warden, along with Harbor Country Adventures staff, on this one of a kind birding by kayak trip. Kayaks will be provided. Launching from the New Buffalo Harbor near the river's mouth, we will paddle up the slow moving Galien River, which meanders through marsh and forest habitats. Possible targets for this trip include shorebirds, herons, and secretive marsh birds in the marsh, and numerous warbler, woodpecker, and raptor species in the surrounding wet woodlands. Meet at New Buffalo Beach Harbor (41.80128, -86.749).



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Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

EASY



\$40 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Caryn Corriere

On this tour, you'll be whisked away to explore the unique and globally rare dune and swale ecosystem at Gibson Woods. This location hosts numerous plant communities, which attract a wide variety of migrating birds.

Indiana Dunes State Park

EASY



\$10 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Jeremiah Oden

One of the premier birding sites during the festival! The Dunes State Park is simply great migrant birding. An assortment of warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and more can be found here. The Wilson Boardwalk area also plays host to Prothonotary Warblers and the back-dune savannas host many Red-headed Woodpeckers. The terrain should remain flat.

Reynolds Creek Gamebird Habitat Area

MEDIUM



\$10 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Mark Welter

Reynold's Creek is a newly created gamebird habitat area just miles from Lake Michigan. The recent restoration of warm season grasses has brought an explosion of grassland birds, including Bobolinks, Dickcissels, and Henslow's Sparrows. Potholes are also being dug for wetland species such as shorebirds and waterfowl.

Beverly Shores and Great Marsh

EASY



\$40 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Steve Huggins

Visit the woodlands and wetlands that make up the Beverly Shores area in pursuit of nesting and migrant species. Highlight birds may include both Pine and Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanagers, rails, and Sandhill Cranes down near the wetlands. Other woodland, marsh, wetland, and waterfowl species can be expected.

Birds & Blooms of the Dunes

EASY



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Wesley, Barb, & Mike Homoya

Join the family team of Barb, Mike and Wes Homoya to seek out the diversity of birds, salamanders, and spring wildflowers at Moraine Nature Preserve, one of Indiana's largest state-dedicated nature preserves. This special area consists of rolling ridges, pot holes, mature beech-maple forest, and much more.



Saturday cont.

Dunes Heron Rookery



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Roger Hedge



Named for the Great Blue Herons that formerly nested at this inland National Park property, the Heron Rookery is well known for its outstanding display of spring wildflowers. It is also an excellent place to find uncommon migrating songbirds such as Golden-winged Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler, but also deep-woods specialties such as Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl. Expect an array of warblers and thrushes. The trail may be muddy.

Pinhook Bog



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Cookie Ferguson

Pinhook Bog is one of few “true” bogs in the southern Great Lakes. Among the tamarack, blueberries, and insectivorous plants there is also unique birding. This site has both upland forests as well as the lowland floating bog mat that we will explore. The site is normally closed to the public and sometimes produces Connecticut Warblers. Meet at Pinhook Bog (41.6212, -86.84926).

Miller Woods and Swale



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Michael Topp

The forested dune and swale in the Miller area sits at a unique location, right on the southern tip of Lake Michigan. The National Park’s Miller Woods and Douglas Center are a prime spot for migrating warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and more. This is a unique tour with a guide who is well-versed with this birding hotspot. Meet at Miller Woods (41.6064, -87.26867).

Coffee Creek



\$10 | 8:30-11:30am | Leader: Lindsay Grossmann



This one-of-a-kind, mixed-development features over 150 acres of preserved forest, wetland, and prairie restorations. The open meadows and prairies have become home to high numbers of breeding Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, and Purple Martins. The woodlands in the Spring offer great birding for warblers and other songbirds. The wetlands at the preserve often feature calling wading birds and rails such as Sora and Virginia Rail. This hike is an ideal opportunity for close-up looks for beginning birders and photographers on well manicured trails.

National Park Ranger Birding

\$10 | 9-11:30am | Leader: NPS Ranger

Are you new to birding or looking for a more relaxed birding opportunity? Take part in these daily morning bird walks with the rangers from the Indiana Dunes National Park. Each morning this tour will meet at the Visitor Center and walk the often-productive nearby grounds and bike trail towards the Indiana Dunes State Park in search of migrating birds. No carpooling required. Binoculars are also available for borrowing if needed.



Today's Office

FREE | 12:30-1:30pm

Speaker: Sharon Stiteler

Sharon Stiteler has had many bird related jobs in her career and found herself in unusual situations from flying over the Mississippi River counting thousands of waterfowl, getting vomited on by pelicans, giving sober rides to drunk waxwings, and photographing birds in a nudist colony. Laughing along at her many birding adventures with this presentation about the many different offices that she's had.



Live Birds of Prey! Owls of Indiana and the Threats They Face

FREE | 1:30-2pm | Location: Marketplace Tent

Join Humane Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for a unique, up close, look at 5 owl species of the Indiana Dunes. Center staff will discuss species that can be found in and around the Dunes State and National Park, natural history of each species, and the unique threats each species face in our region. Humane Indiana Wildlife staff will be accompanied by the centers' LIVE Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Barn Owl, and Snowy Owl (weather permitting).



It's A Hurricane of Flamingos!

FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: Vickie Igleski & Brianna Joyce

Location: Visitor Center

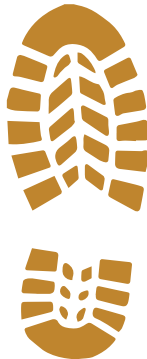
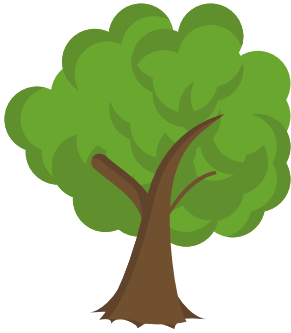
If you were intrigued by last year's flamingo fallout from Hurricane Idalia and want to know more about these fabulous birds, join two bird keepers from Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo to talk about all things flamingo! We'll review their biology and behaviors, look at migration patterns, discuss September's fallout, and share insights from our years of experience caring for these pink beauties.



**Saturday
May 18**

Youth & Family Day!

**Free Fun!
9am-4pm**



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Saturday cont.

Gardening for the Birds: Native Plants

FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: Mary Nell Murphy | Location: State Park Nature Center



Join Indiana Master Naturalist Mary Nell Murphy to hear tips on making your yard a bird magnet. Native plants of Indiana/Midwest will be highlighted, plus other features that can help bring in birds through all four seasons. Books, state-wide organizations, and other resources will be explored. We'll even tiptoe through the tulips with some helpful hints on dealing with HOAs.

Birding Bonanza

\$40 | 2-5pm | Leader: Matt Igleski



Everyone just wants to bird! It's a guide's choice tour to wherever the awesome birds are being seen. Who knows where Matt will take you to see!

State Park Trail 2 in the Afternoon

\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Cookie Ferguson & Andy Belt



Let's go explore this amazing boardwalk in the afternoon! This will be a more relaxed birding trip, but we're likely to find a variety of warblers, woodpeckers, and tanagers. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).

Wilderness Survival for Birding Gone Wrong

\$25 | 2-5pm | Leader: Jeremiah Oden



Join this first-of-its-kind birding trip where you'll learn some wilderness survival skills, in case you get stuck in the woods while birding! We'll go out birding for a bit and then pretend that we get lost in the woods. We will learn how to find food (and more importantly water), make a shelter, and build a fire- and then put our skills to the test! We'll also discuss different scenarios, helpful gear, and other tips for wilderness survival in unfortunate events. Jeremiah is a military Special Warfare survival instructor/ wilderness first responder with 8 years experience and 9 years as a prehospital and Level 1 Trauma ER paramedic. Meet at the State Park campground parking lot (41.6577642, -87.0554146).



Heron Rookery in the Afternoon

\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Steve Huggins



Named for the Great Blue Herons that formerly nested at this inland National Park property, the Heron Rookery is well known for its outstanding display of spring wildflowers. It is also an excellent place to find uncommon migrating songbirds such as Golden-winged Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler, but also deep-woods specialties such as Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl.

Pinhook Bog in the Afternoon

\$20 | 2-4:30pm | Leader: Frederick Ruckersfeldt



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Learn About Trees to Find More Birds! Workshop

\$20 | 2-4pm | Leader: Phil Lange & Steph Avalos-Bock



This session will teach tree identification to help you find more birds and help you describe where they are in a tree. We'll focus on common trees you'll see around the Dunes such as oaks, tulip tress, sassafras, dogwoods, and more. We'll also give you language to describe leaves, bark, shape, and size. After this session, attendees will be able to identify common trees around the Dunes, describe tree features to help others find birds, and know where to look for birds based on the types of trees they prefer. You'll be able to say fancy things like, “Oh look, there's a cerulean warbler in the tall and spreading tree with bark that has deep furrows and round, lobed leaves!” Ooolala! We'll spend 45-60 minutes inside with a presentation, and then do a bird walk and practice our skills! Meet at Humane Indiana Wildlife Education Center (41.51643, -86.97918).

Dunes Afternoon Warblers

\$40 | 2-5pm | Leader: Amy Kearns



Warblers are everywhere in the dunes, but sometimes they aren't. So on this tour we're going to wait to hear where everyone is finding the most warblers and head there for the afternoon--thanks friends! We may go to the state park, or we might go to the Heron Rookery—we just won't know until we ask.

Birds and Crafts at Art Barn

\$25 | 2-5pm | Leader: Shari McCollough



Come out for some causal birding and crafting at the Art Barn in Valparaiso! We'll explore the trails on the property, looking for birds and learning about the history of the habitat. Then we'll do a bird craft that's easy for everyone! You will also be able to see the rotating exhibit themed around birds. Meet at the Art Barn (41.53311, -86.98411).

Beverly Shores Great Marsh

\$40 | 2:30-5pm | Leader: Richard Garrett



Visit the woodlands and wetlands that make up the Beverly Shores area in pursuit of nesting and migrant species. Highlight birds may include both Pine and Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanagers, rails, and Sandhill Cranes down near the wetlands. Other woodland, marsh, wetland, and waterfowl species can be expected.

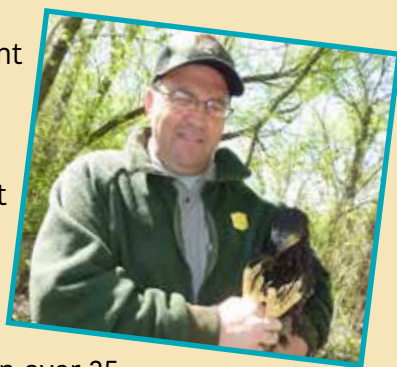
KEYNOTE DINNER EVENT

From City Kid to National Park Superintendent: An Accidental Birder Story

\$50 | 6-9pm | Leader: Paul Labovitz | Location: Sand Creek Country Club

Join us for this Saturday keynote presentation and dinner! The silent auction will also be available online and end during this time.

Paul is the recently retired Superintendent of Indiana Dunes National Park and a founding member of the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. Paul's almost 35-year National Park Service career included river conservation and trail development in over 25 states. His presentation will focus on his various experiences that led this city kid to his final position as Superintendent at Indiana Dunes National Park. Paul has a passion for public lands and making them accessible for everyone, which is evident in his involvement with our own Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. You will enjoy hearing his tale of against all odds, succeeding in a conservation career that has helped millions of others enjoy the great outdoors.



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Sunday, May 19

Sunrise Birding at Michigan City Harbor

\$10 | 5-10am | Leader: Julie Bonemma

Dawn birding is amazing in the dunes. Julie will guide you for sunrise surprises on the beaches along the eastern Indiana Dunes National Park lakefront. From there we'll explore the dawn chorus in the best migrant hotspots nearby. Meet at Michigan City Harbor (41.72841, -86.90243).



Dunes Big Morning

\$50 | 6am-12pm | Leader: Richard Garrett

Here is your chance to enjoy the fast-paced birding of a Big Day, but all before lunch! Speed around on a fast and furious morning to rack up a morning goal of 100 species. Our guides will choose the best route for a variety of migrating birds each day. This morning adventure is great for festival returnees and those looking to rack up a big list of dunes migrants and breeding birds.



Longshore Tower Big Sit

\$5 | 6-10am | Leader: Adam Sell

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Cowles Bog

\$10 | 6-10am | Leader: Bill Sharkey

Cowles Bog is a birding treasure trove and an 8,000-year-old fen. This National Park Service site is home to the birthplace of ecology and is also a varied habitat for a diverse set of migrating birds. The swamp edges can host many migrating warblers, including Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler.



Michiana Marsh Meander

\$40 | 6:30-11am | Leader: Stuart Tower

Here is your chance to enjoy the fast-paced birding of a Big Day, but all before lunch! Speed around on a fast and furious morning to rack up a morning goal of 100 species. Our guides will choose the best route for a variety of migrating birds each day. A box lunch is offered at the conclusion of the tour. This morning adventure is great for festival returnees and those looking to rack up a big list of dunes migrants and breeding birds.



Explore the Dunes with Tykee James

\$10 | 6:30-11am | Leader: Tykee James

It's another guide's choice trip where you'll be led by our festival headliner, Tykee James. Explore the Dunes with Tykee to find warblers, vireos, thrushes, and more. Who knows what we'll find but you're sure to be in good company!



Indiana Dunes State Park Trail 2

\$10 | 6:30-10:30am | Leader: John Cassady

This amazing 3 mile flat loop boardwalk through the backdunes is famed for its diversity of neotropical migrants, including some of the most reliable Cerulean Warblers in the Dunes. Other reliable species include Red-headed Woodpeckers, Prothonotary Warbler, and maybe Barred Owls. Meet at State Park Wilson Shelter (41.65755, -87.04706).



Beverly Shores

\$10 | 6:30-11am | Leader: Cookie Ferguson

Visit the woodlands and wetlands that make up the Beverly Shores area in pursuit of nesting and migrant species. Highlight birds may include both Pine and Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanagers, rails, and Sandhill Cranes down near the wetlands. Other woodland, marsh, wetland, and waterfowl species can be expected.



Sunday cont.

Womens Warbler Tour

\$40 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Amy Kearns & Libby Keyes

Are you looking for some last-minute warblers or you just can't get enough of them?! Then join our expert female guides on this women's warbler tour to see them before you go!

EASY



Birding the Dunes with Lifer Nature Tours!

\$10 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Juan Diego Vargas

Coming back from Costa Rica to join us again, Juan Diego Vargas of Lifer Nature Tours will lead you around the Dunes to see some amazing birds. This is a guide's choice trip but don't worry- these guides are so familiar with the Dunes, it's become their home-away-from-home. You're bound to have a superb time finding birds and getting to know the Lifer guides! Español options are available on this tour, too.

EASY



Best of the Dunes

\$40 | 7-11:30am | Leader: Matt Igleski

So you haven't gotten enough of the Dunes birding, huh? Well, Matt never has enough either! Hop in the van and he'll take you to see some great birds and landscapes on the last day of the festival. If you're targetting something specific, let him know!

EASY



Spicer Lake Nature Preserve

\$10 | 7-11am | Leader: Michael Klingerman

Wetlands, woodlands, and fields welcome birders to this 300-acre nature preserve near the Indiana/Michigan state line just east of the dunes. Michael, from the St. Joseph County Parks will take folks through this unique birding location where an assortment of neo-tropic migrants can be expected. Meet at Spicer Lake Nature Center parking lot. Meet at Spicer Lake Nature Preserve (41.75473, -86.52202).

EASY



Richardson Preserve

\$10 | 7-11am | Leader: Roger Hedge

This bicentennial nature trust property represents high-quality forested uplands and lowlands, with streams, seeps, and springs throughout that make it an excellent spot for migrating birds. In addition, the spring wildflowers make this a true naturalist's dream.

EASY



Seidner Dune and Swale

\$10 | 7-11am | Leader: Matt Kalwasinski



Visit this unique and globally rare dune-and-swale habitat. Along the Grand Calumet River, this site boasts black oak savanna, prairies, and wetlands which have been restored and maintained by the Shirley Heinze Land Trust. A fantastic site to see Bald Eagles, egrets, herons, shorebirds, and more. If time permits, the group will walk east along the river to the Grand Calumet River Conservation Area. Meet at Seidner Dune (41.6113, -87.45661).

Bike Birding the Indiana Dunes

\$10 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Whitney & Jonathan Yoerger



BYOB (bring-your-own-bike) a casual bike-birding tour where Whitney & Jonathan will lead you from the Visitor Center and ride into the state park. You will cover approximately 12-miles on this ride, which will of course include looking and listening for birds along the way (It feels like looking for birds should be implied at a birding festival, but we still feel compelled to include it in every description). Only sign up for this trip if you have a bike to bring, otherwise it'll look silly when you're riding on someone's handle bars.

Brincka-Cross Gardens

\$10 | 7:30-10:30am | Leader: Kim Ehn



Developed as a horticulturalist's landscaped dream, this Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home, garden, and accompanying forestland is a wondrous place to seek out migrating birds. Many songbirds, like the Yellow-throated Vireo, and migrating warblers, like the Nashville Warbler, have been observed among the many cedars and hemlocks on the property. The trails are flat and easy with accessible boardwalks. Meet at Brincka Cross (41.65885, -86.98647).



Cowles Bog Birding with the Festival Founders

\$40 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Brad Bumgardner & Paul Labovitz



Indiana Dunes National Park superintendent and birder Paul Labovitz invites fellow birders to explore his favorite birding area in the dunes. A short carpool will go to Cowles Bog for a few hours of leisure birding while learning about this amazing 15,000+ acre National Park that Paul oversaw.



Sunday cont.

Reynolds Creek



\$10 | 7:30-11:30am | Leader: Steve Huggins

Reynold's Creek is a newly created gamebird habitat area just miles from Lake Michigan. The recent restoration of warm season grasses has brought an explosion of grassland birds, including Bobolinks, Dickcissels, and Henslow's Sparrows. Potholes are also being dug for wetland species such as shorebirds and waterfowl.

Find the Birds with Birdchick!



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Sharon Stiteler

Explore the Dunes and look for birds with our headliner, Sharon Stiteler, aka the Birdchick! She'll take you to some of her favorite locations in search of warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and more. This is a guides choice trip and you'll go wherever the best birding is happening during the festival!

Heron Rookery



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Jeremiah Oden

Named for the Great Blue Herons that formerly nested at this inland National Park property, the Heron Rookery is well known for its outstanding display of spring wildflowers. It is also an excellent place to find uncommon migrating songbirds such as Golden-winged Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler, but also deep-woods specialties such as Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl. Expect an array of warblers and thrushes. The trail may be muddy.

Pinhook Bog: Plants & Birds



\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Nathanael Pilla & Scott

Namestnik



Pinhook Bog is one of few "true" bogs in the southern Great Lakes. Among the white pine, tamarack, poison sumac, highbush blueberries, and insectivorous plants there is also unique birding. This site has both upland forests and the floating bog mat that we will explore via a boardwalk. Along the boardwalk we should see several species that are rare or uncommon in Indiana, including purple pitcher plant, sundews, bog arum, leatherleaf, bog buckbean, and several bog sedges. The site is normally closed to the public and sometimes produces Connecticut Warblers. Expect a lively hike with lots of banter and ecological discussions as you experience this gem of a natural area with the authors of Wildflowers of the Indiana Dunes National Park.

Meet at Pinhook Bog (41.6212, -86.84926).

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Miller Woods

\$10 | 8-11:30am | Leader: Michael Topp

The forested dune and swale in the Miller area sits at a unique location, right on the southern tip of Lake Michigan. The National Park's Miller Woods and Douglas Center are a prime spot for migrating warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and more. This is a unique tour with a guide who is well-versed with this birding hotspot. Meet at Miller Woods (41.6064, -87.26867).

EASY



Breakfast with the Birds

\$10 | 8:30-11am | Leader: Ed Warden

Likely the most famous feeder in the Dunes, the state park's bird feeders have played host to an assortment of rarities. We will see who is coming in while we enjoy some coffee and donuts from the indoor three-sided viewing room. Afterwards we'll venture out for a beginning birding hike near the nature center. Meet at State Park Nature Center (41.65981, -87.04888).

EASY



Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

\$10 | 8:30-11:30am | Leader: Lindsay Grossmann

This one-of-a-kind, mixed-development features over 150 acres of preserved forest, wetland, and prairie restorations. The open meadows and prairies have become home to high numbers of breeding Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, and Purple Martins. The woodlands in the Spring offer great birding for warblers and other songbirds. The wetlands at the preserve often feature calling wading birds and rails such as Sora and Virginia Rail. This hike is an ideal opportunity for close-up looks for beginning birders and photographers on well manicured trails.

EASY



National Park Ranger Birding

\$10 | 9-11:30am | Leader: NPS Ranger

Are you new to birding or looking for a more relaxed birding opportunity? Take part in these daily morning bird walks with the rangers from the Indiana Dunes National Park. Each morning this tour will meet at the Visitor Center and walk the often-productive nearby grounds and bike trail towards the Indiana Dunes State Park in search of migrating birds. No carpooling required. Binoculars are also available for borrowing if needed.

EASY



Saving Costa Rica Rainforest, One Dance At A Time

FREE | 12:30-1:30pm | Leader: Juan Diego Vargas | Location: Visitor Center

Juan Diego's home country, Costa Rica, has been using the most suitable bird habitat land, outside of national parks, extensively for cattle ranching and pineapple fields for many years. His frustration of this lead him to start his own initiative to save the rainforest and revert the situation. His story involves rethinking the way we traditionally do land conservation and it give us glimpses of how birding will be in a fossil-fuel free future. Learn about Juan's journey to save the Costa Rican rainforest, one dance at a time!



Live Birds of Prey! Protecting Raptors In Our Region

FREE | 1:30-2pm | Leader: Humane Indiana Wildlife

Birds of Prey play a vital role in maintaining a healthy, balanced ecosystem. In Northwest Indiana, birds of prey face incredible pressures to survive around dense human populations. Join Humane Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to learn about the pressure's raptors face and how our community can work together to support bird of prey populations. HIW will also delve into their findings in lead toxicity in their bird of prey patients and ongoing research in conjunction with Purdue Northwest and Indiana University Northwest for lead in the environment. Staff will be accompanied by LIVE, non-releasable birds of prey whose species can be found in and around our community.



Big Bend Birding

FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: James Cox | Location: State Park Nature Center

Many sources list Big Bend as the National Park with the most bird species. Located in West Texas on the international border with Mexico, the park sits in an area created by a dramatic turn in the Rio Grande River where it bends sharply from the southeast to the northeast. The river running through the desert and mountains provides some thrilling birding experiences: a Black Phoebe on an island in the middle of the river, a Gray Hawk perched in a tree on the Mexican side, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers feeding together on an ocotillo cactus, Roadrunners hunting lizards. Desert birds such as the Cactus Wren proliferate, and the sky islands of the Chisos Mountains are home to birds such as the Acorn Woodpecker and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay and, in the spring and summer, the elusive Colima Warbler.



The Birding Experience in Uganda

FREE | 2-3pm | Leader: Charles Etoru | Location: Visitor Center



Did you know that over half of all bird species in Africa can be found in Uganda? This makes it the richest birding destination in the continent! Charles will take you on a trip through the richly diverse habitats, from the scenic shores of Lake Victoria to the lush forests of the Albertine Rift and the banks of the mighty Nile River. From shoebills to turacos and gorillas to lions, you're bound to find something extraordinary in this presentation.



Photo courtesy of
Indiana Dunes National Park

FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes is proud to sponsor the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival and help sustain our two parks year-round. Your membership provides crucial support to enrich everyone's experiences at the dunes.

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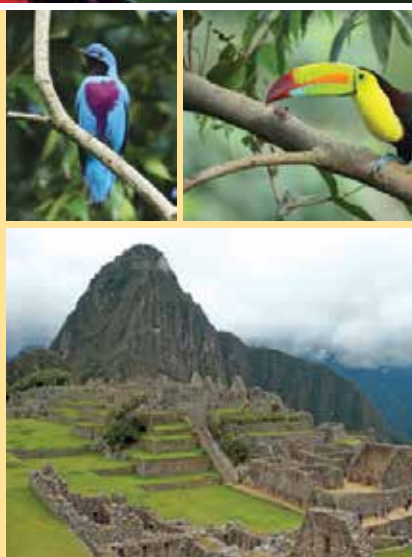
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Birding the Dunes

The presence of Lake Michigan is the single most important factor affecting the movement and distribution of birds in the Indiana Dunes. The lake is both an obstacle and a resource for migrating birds that use the enormous lake and shore as guidelines that control flight paths for birds of all kinds. The avian convergence at the southern end of Lake Michigan has been termed the “funnel effect,” while the massive spring migration that follows parallel to the shore is called the “longshore flight” or sometimes “morning flight.”

In total, the Indiana Dunes has recorded over 370 species of birds, with the Indiana Dunes State Park having harbored 300+ species, making it one of the top birding destinations in the Great Lakes. The micro-climates contained within the dunes provide harbor for both traditional southern nesting species, as well as more northern species. A single day of birding can find both Prothonotary and Worm-eating Warblers nesting alongside Canada and Blackburnian Warblers.



The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is hosted by the Indiana Audubon Society, whose mission is to promote birding and bird conservation throughout Indiana. For detailed information regarding Indiana birding locations, bird watching tips, and membership privileges, please visit them at indianaaudubon.org.