



Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Info and Media Packet May 16-19, 2019 Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

IDBF Mission Statement: To celebrate the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities to create a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors and residents to the Indiana Dunes region.

Festival Contact Info:

All festival inquiries: (219) 928-6905

Email: info@indunesbirdingfestival.com

Indiana Dunes State Park Contact: (219) 926-1390

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Contact: (219) 395-1608

Festival website: www.indunesbirdingfestival.com

Contact us via social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/indunesbirdingfestival>

<https://twitter.com/indunesbirdfest>

Festival Headquarters:

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitors Center

C/O Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

1215 N. IN 49

Porter, IN 46304

IDBF Planning Committee

Brad Bumgardner- Chair

Penny Starin- Executive Committee

Kim Ehn- Executive Committee

Jean-Pierre Anderson- Executive Committee

Jim Starin – Executive Committee

Kristin Stratton

Bruce Rowe

Scott Namestnik

Matt Beatty

Erica Luchik

Rafi Wilkinson

Cookie Ferguson

Lindsay Grossman

Cathy Martin

2019 Keynote Presenter: Laura Erickson

Laura's Best Bird EVER! I went looking for birds, and found joy, love, redemption, and more.

Saturday, May 18, 5:30pm-9pm / Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton, IN

Have you ever had such a perfect look at a bird, or watched it in such perfect circumstances, that you thought it had to be the best bird ever? Laura Erickson has found herself saying exactly that on many occasions, from special glimpses at abundant chickadees to her one and only glimpse at one of the rarest birds on the planet, the Horned Guan. Some of the birds she's seen in her travels to four continents made the grade, but so did some of the special individuals she's seen in her own backyard. Sometimes looking for the best bird ever can open our minds and hearts to much, much more.

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Registration Pricing 2019

| May 16-19, 2019 | Youth | Adults |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Indiana Audubon Priority 4 Day Registration | \$25.00 | \$35.00 |
| Keynote Presentation Dinner | \$20.00 | \$26.00 |
| <i>February 24-March 2* no single day available</i> | | |
| Early Bird 4 Day Registration | \$32.00 | \$44.00 |
| Single Day Registration | \$15.00 | \$25.00 |
| Keynote Presentation Dinner | \$20.00 | \$26.00 |
| <i>March 3-April 6</i> | | |
| Regular 4 Day Registration | \$37.00 | \$49.00 |
| Keynote Presentation Dinner | \$20.00 | \$26.00 |
| Single Day Registration | \$25.00 | \$35.00 |
| <i>April 7-May 9</i> | | |

All registrations include full access to all festival presentations, headliners, evening socials, migration marketplace, youth and family birding day, and free entry to both the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and State Park. Field trips, Saturday night keynote presentation, and workshops require additional fee.

Youth rates are for individuals 17 years and younger. Contact the bird festival planning team for group rates (10 or more participants)

Refund requests must be sent in writing. Refunds postmarked on or before April 7, 2018 will be fully refunded less a \$5.00 administrative fee. Refunds postmarked on or before May 9 will be refunded 50% less a \$5.00 administrative fee. No refunds will be given after May 10, 2019.

Refund requests are to be sent to info@indunesbirdingfestival.com or Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, 85 Old Hickory Lane, Valparaiso, IN 46385

For immediate release: November 28, 2019

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival comes to region May 16-19, 2019

Celebrate the migration of birdlife through the Indiana Dunes region this May 16-19 at the fifth annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. The festival is a partnership with the region's major environmental groups highlighting the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities to create a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors and residents to the Indiana Dunes region. The event is being organized by the Indiana Audubon Society and includes both the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park as site hosts.

The four-day festival will include over 60 guided field trips and car pool tours to view migrating birds within the dunes area, over 50 bird related programs, from live bird of prey talks to species ID workshops, and special workshops for both new bird watchers and educators. Evening events include special excursions for night birds, a special art exhibition open house, and a family friendly "birds and brew" social event.

Registration for priority Indiana Audubon Society members begins February 24, with general early-bird registration beginning March 3. Registration costs for the entire four-day festival run as low as \$35 for adults and \$25 for youth under 18. Registration can be found online at www.indunesbirdingfestival.com.

Over 30 partners have come together to make the festival a reality. Additional signature sponsors include, First State Bank of Porter, Chesterton Feed and Garden, Northwest Migratory Bird Association, The Nature Conservancy, and the Dunes-National Park Association.

In addition to the festival website, more information can be obtained at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, located at 1215 N. State Road 49, just south of the intersection of 49 and US 20 in Porter, Indiana. Interested participants can also contact the information desk at 219-395-1882 or the State Park Nature Center at 219-926-1390. Visit the park's on the web at www.nps.gov/indu or www.dnr.in.gov/parklake/2980.htm.

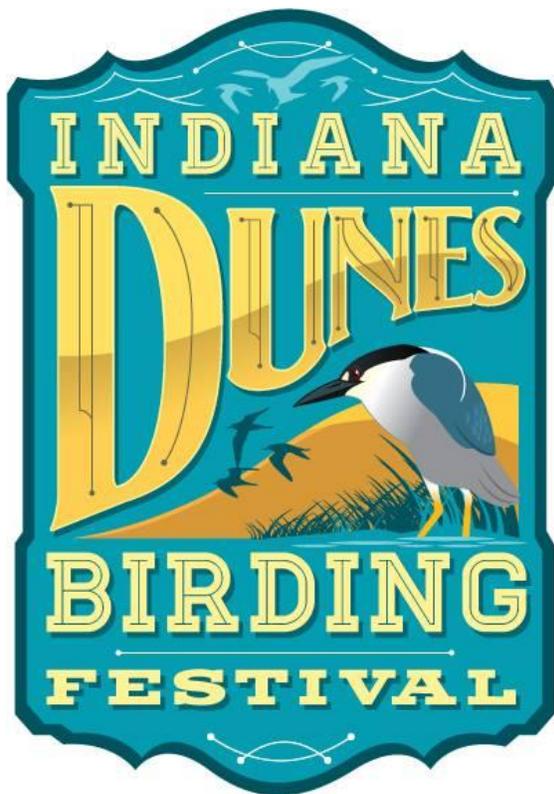
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Media contacts: Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Audubon Society (219) 928-6905.
Bruce Rowe, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (219) 395-1609

Festival Logo

Journalist may use the unaltered IDBF logo in context with Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. For higher resolution images or different file types, please contact info@indunesbirdingfestival.com.

Since the logo and related name are trademarked, only merchandise authorized by the IDBF Committee can be sold which contain the symbol and/or name. Therefore, any person, organization, or business outside of IDBF or Indiana Audubon Society cannot reproduce it in any form that might resemble it.



Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival?

Organized and hosted by the Indiana Audubon society, the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is a four day event to highlight the great birding and nature viewing in one of the greatest bird migration stopover sites in the Great Lakes region. Its proximity to Chicago and Indianapolis makes it a convenient place for both birders and nature enthusiasts.

Who sponsors the festival?

Aside from the Indiana Audubon Society, signature partners include the National Park Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Northwest Indiana Migratory Bird Association, Chesterton Feed and Garden Center, NIPSCO, Lake Michigan Coastal Program, and the First State Bank of Porter.

Can I register for a single day events?

Yes, pricing options allow for a single day registration.

Is festival merchandise available?

Absolutely. There is an assortment of themed merchandise on the festival website. You may also buy them the day of the festival at the Festival Headquarters and Trinity Hall (keynote event location) center Saturday night. Additional themed merchandise (magnets, key chains, patches, etc...) will be available for sale the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center before and during the festival through Eastern National.

How is the birding during this time?

Birding on the southern shore of Lake Michigan in May can be spectacular. Birding can be weather dependent, but early May can bring cool north wind rains as well as warm south winds pushing migrants in every few days. Warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and other songbirds are peaking in their migration. The beaches and open water can host shorebirds, waterfowl, and an assortment of other migratory species.

Are all the tours full?

Registration includes all activities, including one tour each day and all afternoon and evening presentations and social events. Though included in registration, you must pre-register for which tour you would like to attend, as each van or car pool only allows a set amount of people. Keep in mind certain tours offer extra amenities not covered in basic registration costs and may include a premium trip fee to cover these costs.

What birds will I see during this time?

The Indiana Dunes has hosted over 370 species of birds. In short, you should expect to see most if not all of the expected eastern neo-tropic migrants and resident birds native to the Chicago region. Because of the pile up effect along Lake Michigan, a good birding day should easily yield 20 or more warbler species, with peak days finding 30 warbler species. The wetlands also host an assortment of shorebirds, waterfowl, waders, and more.

Are there times of the day better than others?

Just as birding in general is usually better in the morning, so are the lakefront birding opportunities in May. The longshore flights often occur best in the first four hours after the sunrise. Late afternoons and early evenings can also see a pickup in bird activity.

What's the earliest and latest I can go birding in the dunes area?

For the most part, most birding sites are open dawn to dusk. The Indiana Dunes State Park has extended hours until 11pm for nocturnal birding. Your festival birding pass will get you access to all the birding sites for free.

What if we're new to birding and have no optics?

That is fine! There are backpacks for birders with binoculars available from many locations for free of cost. You can also use binoculars during the IYBC Family Birding Day at the State Park on Saturday of the festival.

Where can I eat and stay during the festival?

The festival website gives many great suggestions for both lodging and food services. The Indiana Dunes Tourism website also has resources available for folks new to the area. Each day of the festival features a food truck at the Festival Headquarters parking lot at the Indiana Dunes Tourism Visitor Center.

Where can I get sponsorship information?

For information on various sponsorships, visit the sponsorship information page at <http://www.indunesbirdingfestival.com/admindocs/sponsors.pdf>