

## **Hawk Weekend 2009 Field Trips** **Detailed Schedule**

### **Field Trips Offered Both Saturday (9/12) & Sunday (9/13)**

#### **Lester River/North Shore Field Trip**

**September 12 and 13, 2009 (offered both Sat/Sun)**

**Cost: \$5 non-registrants, FREE registrants**

**Leader:** Jim Lind, local birder and Duluth Rare Bird Alert compiler

**Meeting Location:** Lester Park. Travel east on Superior Street and turn left on the Lester River Road, located 2 blocks past 60<sup>th</sup> Ave East. Meet at the Lester Park parking lot.

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am

**Duration:** 3.5-4 hours (walking and carpool for North Shore portion)

**Description:** Join Jim Lind for an exciting field trip along the Lester River and North Shore. We will bird around the southern portion of Lester Park, the grounds of the E.P.A. lab, and the Lester River. Depending on migration conditions, we will then caravan up the North Shore of Lake Superior with potential stops at Brighton Beach/Gitchi Gami Park and the McQuade Road Public Access.

#### **Park Point Field Trip**

**September 12 and 13, 2009 (offered both Sat/Sun)**

**Cost: \$5 non-registrants, FREE registrants**

**Leader:** Kim Eckert, author of A Birder's Guide to Minnesota, former Hawk Ridge naturalist, Minnesota Birding Weekends director

**Meeting Location:** Main parking lot at the Park Point Recreation Area. From Canal Park, travel across the lift bridge and continue on Lake Avenue / Minnesota Avenue approximately 3.75 miles to the Park Point Recreation Area.

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am

**Duration:** 2-3 hours (walking)

**Description:** Join avid birder Kim Eckert on a visit to one of Minnesota's birding hotspots. We will search the lakeside for shorebirds, terns, gulls, and possible jaegers (spotting scopes useful); and check the wooded areas along the dunes for warblers and other passerines.

## **Songbird Banding Seminar – “5W’s of Songbird Banding”**

**September 12 and 13, 2009 (offered both Sat/Sun)**

**Cost: \$5 non-registrants, FREE registrants**

**Leader:** Dave Grosshuesch began working at Hawk Ridge in 1995 as a raptor bander. A year later he started his passerine study and bands an average of 5,400 birds each fall season. He continues to coordinate the passerine banding operation while finishing up his master's degree in biology at the University of Minnesota Duluth and working full time for the US Forest Service.

**Meeting Location:** Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve

**Meeting Time:** 8:00 am

**Duration:** 1-2 hours

**Description:** Learn the who, what, where, when and why about songbird banding at Hawk Ridge. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to see all aspects of songbird banding, as well as learn why songbirds are an important part of the migration at Hawk Ridge.

## **Indian Point/Erie Pier Birding Field Trip**

**September 12 and 13, 2009 (offered both Sat/Sun)**

**Cost: \$5 non-registrants, FREE registrants**

**Leaders:** Paul Dolan and Annie Bracey. Paul is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota Duluth, working toward a Master's degree in Biology, with an emphasis in ornithology. Paul also works as a research assistant at the Natural Resources Research Institute. He is an avid birder who has volunteered at Hawk Ridge for several years. For the last two years, Paul has also been involved with the Minnesota Forest Bird project surveying breeding birds across three national forests as well as other research projects, including the study of the fall migration of birds along Lake Superior's North Shore. Annie is also a graduate student at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has worked on the Breeding Bird Atlas project and other projects at the Natural Resources Research Institute.

**Meeting Location:** Perkins Restaurant. Take the 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue West exit off I35 and meet in the Perkins Restaurant parking lot.

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am

**Duration:** 3-4 hours

**Description:** Join Paul and Annie for a relaxing morning visiting two birding hotspots in Duluth. The morning will begin with a search along the riverfront for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, warblers and other passerines, then we'll head over to Erie Pier to search for shorebirds and grassland species.

## **Field Trips Offered Sat (9/12) ONLY!**

### **Birds and Berries Field Trip**

**Saturday September 12, 2009**

**Cost: \$5 non-registrants, FREE registrants**

**Leaders:** Matt & Julie Etterson. Matt Etterson is an ornithologist and population ecologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Duluth. His areas of research include avian reproductive ecology and population biology. Julie Etterson is an evolutionary ecologist at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Her area of expertise is plant evolutionary response to global climate change.

**Meeting Location:** Eastern trailhead for Amity Creek Trail (at the top of Seven Bridges Rd). Continue on Skyline Parkway past the Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge for a few miles until the first bridge over Amity Creek. Parking is in the pullout on the left just before the bridge.

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am.

**Duration:** 1-2 hours (walking)

**Description:** This field trip will be a relatively relaxed walk through some of the forested habitats on the Amity Creek Trail behind Hawk Ridge. Overall bird diversity will likely be low, but we'll cover broad features of the natural history of Hawk Ridge that are important to the non-raptors that breed and winter on the ridge. One topic we'll discuss informally, but at length, is the importance of fruit to our resident birds and the change in their diet that occurs in the autumn as insect food becomes less abundant.

## Lake Superior Birding Boat Trip

Saturday September 12, 2009

Cost: \$32 registrants, \$35 non-registrants (max. 20 people)

**Note:** The Birding Boat Trip is full. You can be added to the waiting list by emailing [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto: jlong@hawkridge.org), or calling 218-428-6209.

**Leader:** Mike Hendrickson, local bird guide. Since the 1980's, Mike has been guiding individuals all throughout Minnesota and the U.S. He currently leads trips for OBserve Bird Tours and organizes the Sax-Zim Birding Festival. Check out Mike's website at: <http://webpages.charter.net/mmhendrickson/>

**Meeting Location:** Army Corps of Engineer Building. Directions: from Interstate 35 heading north OR south, take the Lake Avenue exit and turn toward Canal Park (toward the lake side) at the top of the exit. At the stoplight, turn right onto Railroad Street. Drive one block and take a left at the stoplight on Lake Avenue. Drive along Lake Avenue over the aerial lift bridge for two blocks and take a right on 9th Street. The Army Corps of Engineers building is directly in front of you. Park in front of the brick building.

**Meeting Time:** No later than 7:30 am (boat departs at 8:00 am)

**Duration:** 4 hours (boat returns at 12:00 pm)

**Description:** Join Mike on the L.L. Smith for four hours of birding to search the western tip of Lake Superior for arctic species during the fall migration. We will search for gulls (Sabine Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls and Little Gulls) and most importantly scan the back of the gulls for jaegers. The route is to head along the North Shore of Lake Superior for 14 miles (Lakewood Rd/Lakewood Pumping Station) and then turn and head due south towards Wisconsin south shore for 5-6 miles. We will then turn and head due west and head for the Superior Entry Way, which is the area where Wisconsin Point and Minnesota Point are separated by a canal. We will search this area and chum it hard as hundreds of gulls roost on the break walls along the canal. After spending some time searching through all these gulls, we will head along Minnesota Point/Park Point back to Canal Park and go under the aerial lift bridge to our dock.

**What to Bring:** Bring binoculars, rain gear in case the forecast is for a light drizzle, warm hat and gloves, warm coat, reference books, camera if you wish to take photos and MOST important bring POPCORN! We need popcorn for chumming. We will provide coffee, water and snacks for the trip, but feel free to bring your own as well. Do NOT bring a scope for safety reasons.

**Weather Cancellation:** If weather plays a part in cancelling the trip (rain, high winds, surf), we will still meet at the same location. If weather is still ok for birding, Mike will guide people at Park Point to look for jaegers and gulls. The cost for birding with Mike, in lieu of the boat trip, will be \$2 for registrants, \$5 for non-registrants.

**Field Trip Offered Sun (9/13) ONLY!**

**Geology Field Trip – “Ancient Volcanic Geology of Duluth's Shoreline”**

**Sunday September 13, 2009**

**Cost: \$5 non-registrants, FREE registrants**

**Leader:** John Green, retired geology professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth

**Meeting Location:** Lester River Tourism Information Center. Directions: travel east on London Road and just after crossing the Lester River, park in the parking lot for the little blue building—the tourism information center.

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 am

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Description:** Join John Green, an all-around naturalist and scouter for the Superior Hiking Trail, on a journey along Duluth’s shoreline. We will visit several interesting outcrops between the information center and downtown Duluth to reveal the story of ancient volcanic geology in the area.