

Hawk Weekend 2018 Field Trips & Workshops

Detailed Information

***Must pre-register online for all field trips/workshops**

Festival wristband required for event registration

NOTE: Prices increase by \$5 after 9/1

Offered Fri. 9/21 ONLY!

Lake Superior Mississippi Railroad Birding and Natural History by Train

Friday September 21, 2018 (Minimum 20 participants required)

Cost: \$35 members/students, \$45 non-members

Meeting Location: 6930 Fremont St (Munger Boat Landing), Duluth, MN (off Grand Ave, www.lsmrr.org)

From I-35 S - Take Exit 251B from I-35S, Follow MN-23 W/Grand Ave to Clyde Ave, Left on Clyde Ave, travel .3 mile through residential area, Pass railroad track - Parking on left above second railroad track (Upper parking lot)

From I-35 N - Exit Midway Rd - Right on Midway Rd/Becks Rd, Left on Grand Ave., Right on Clyde Ave., travel .3 mile, Pass railroad track - Parking on left above second railroad track (Upper parking lot)

Meeting Time: 3:00pm (boarding at 3:15pm) **Duration:** 1.5-2 hours

Description: This field trip is back by popular demand! Ride the scenic Lake Superior Mississippi Railroad to learn about the exciting natural history of the St. Louis River, while birdwatching! The trip follows the shoreline of the St. Louis River estuary, Spirit Lake and Mud Lake. This historic route provides a chance to view wildlife in its natural environment, while enjoying the majestic beauty of the river and surrounding area.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers (possible rain gear). Snacks and drink are available for purchase on train. Please note only service dogs are permitted (pets and comfort animals are not allowed).

Leaders: Laura Erickson and Deanna Erickson

Offered Sat. 9/22 ONLY!

Park Point Birding Field Trip

Saturday September 22, 2018 (LIMIT 15/trip)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members (\$5 increase after 9/1)

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: Visit one of Minnesota's beloved 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.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers

Leader(s): Laura Erickson

St. Louis River Estuary Field Trip

Saturday September 22, 2018 (LIMIT 15)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members

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

Meeting Time: 7:00 am

Duration: 3-4 hours

Description: Spend a relaxing morning visiting a birding hotspot in Duluth. The morning along the St. Louis River Estuary (Audubon Important Bird Area) will take you birding along the riverfront searching for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, warblers and other passerines.

Leader(s): TBD

Lester River & North Shore Birding Field Trip

Saturday September 22, 2018 (LIMIT 15)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members

Meeting Location: Meet at the Lester Park parking lot, one block north of Superior St. To get there, travel east on Superior Street and turn left on the Lester River Road, located 2 blocks past 60th Ave East.

Meeting Time: 7:00 am

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

Description: This is 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/Kitchi Gammi Park and the McQuade Road Public Access.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers

Leader(s): Bill Tefft

Vista Boat & Birding Dinner Cruise

Saturday September 22, 2018 (Min 30 participants required, max 40)

Cost: \$65 members/students, \$75 non-members

Meeting Location: 323 Harbor Dr, Duluth, MN (www.vistafleet.com for parking info)

Meeting Time: 4:00pm (boarding at 4:15pm)

Duration: 2 hours

Description: Welcome aboard for a special evening of delicious food, narrated birding/natural history cruise, and beautiful views, as we cast off for a fabulous cruise on Lake Superior and the Duluth Harbor. Bon Appetit- Enjoy a delicious lasagna dinner buffet provided by the famous Duluth Grill. Relax- Take your complimentary drink (1 token/person, then cash bar) and relax on the outdoor observation deck, while listening to our naturalist guide point out birds and interesting natural history facts, as we enjoy the stunning panoramic views of the exquisite Duluth skyline.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers (possible rain gear).

Narrator(s): Laura Erickson & Vista Staff; Hawk Ridge volunteers will help with spotting birds on boat

Offered Both Saturday 9/22 & Sunday 9/23

Advanced Hawkwatching Workshop

Saturday September 22 & Sunday September 23, 2018 (LIMIT 25/workshop)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members

Meeting Location: Main Overlook Education Lecture Area at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve (*indoor location TBD pending inclement weather*)

Meeting Time: Choose from 2 sessions (Sat. 9/22 3pm; Sun. 9/23 1pm); Duration: 45 minutes – 1 hour

Description: The Advanced Hawk Identification Workshop will cover the many classification techniques such as using shapes, wing and tail length and shapes, flight behavior, size and plumage details and other tricks of the trade that professional hawk counters use to make quick, real time, and correct identifications of what's flying regardless of distance and altitude.

What to Bring: Bring binoculars and reference books (if you'd like)

Leader(s): Steve Kolbe and/or Clinton Nienhaus

Offered Sun. 9/23 ONLY!

Songbird Banding

Sunday September 23, 2018 (LIMIT 12)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members, FREE full-weekend registrants

Meeting Location: Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve

Meeting Time: 7:00 am, Duration: 1-2 hours

Description: Learn all about songbird banding at Hawk Ridge. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to see all aspects of songbird banding, as well as the importance of banding as a research tool for bird conservation.

Leader: Margie Menzies

Birding at Wisconsin Point

Sunday September 23, 2018 (LIMIT 15/trip)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members

Meeting Location: Perkins Restaurant, 103 E 2nd St, Superior, WI 54880 (US 53 South via I35 Duluth)

Meeting Time: 7:45 am, Duration: 2-3 hours (walking)

Description: Visit one of Wisconsin's beloved birding hotspots and known for great viewing of jaegers! We will search the lakeside for shorebirds, terns, gulls, and jaegers; and check the wooded areas along the dunes for warblers and other passerines.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers. Spotting scopes will be useful for this trip.

Leader: Clinton Nienhaus

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

Sunday September 23, 2018 (LIMIT 15)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members

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—tourism information center.

Meeting Time: 10:00 am Duration: 2 hours

What to Bring: Dress in layers (possibly raingear)

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.

Leader(s): John Green

Post-Festival Workshop Sun. 9/23 & Mon. 9/24

The Best of Hawk Ridge 2-Day Workshop

Sunday September 23 & Monday September 24, 2018 (LIMIT 12, minimum 5)

Cost: \$120 members/students, \$150 non-members

Meeting Location: TBD

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm on Sun. 9/23

Duration: concludes at 3:30 pm on Mon. 9/24

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers. Bring your own snacks and drinks.

Leader(s): Margie Menzies

Description: Planning on attending the Hawk Weekend Festival in 2018? Stay an extra day for a post-festival workshop designed to show off all the best of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in a less crowded smaller group setting! The North Shore of Lake Superior is one of the premier migratory routes for raptors and song birds in North America. Hundreds of thousands to millions of birds migrate via this route, and many of them pass directly over Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve.

In this workshop on location at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, we will explore the background of how this corridor developed and the forces behind such an exceptional migratory route. Participants will have the opportunity to observe the migration in motion, learn from expert staff members about specific types of birds, their life histories and adaptations, follow daily trends on how the 2018 migration season is progressing, and observe the research efforts in place at Hawk Ridge, including the passerine, raptor and owl banding stations. What an opportunity for up close views of a wide variety of bird species!

FIELD TRIP LEADER BIOS

Deanna Erickson is the Education Coordinator for the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve and enjoys sharing her passion for the river's ecology and interesting natural history facts.

Laura Erickson has been sharing her love of birds for decades, as an author, trip leader, public speaker, and as the creator and producer of the long-running radio show "For the Birds". Laura started her career as a school teacher and has been teaching about birds ever since in an amazing variety of venues and media. Some examples include several books over the years, including "Twelve Owls" and "Hawk Ridge: Minnesota's Birds of Prey", both by the University of Minnesota Press, magazine articles in "BirdWatching" and an editor for several years for "Bird Scope" for the Cornell Lab for Ornithology. She recently completed her own "Big Year" of birding identifying 604 species! In 2014, Laura was awarded the prestigious American Birding Association – Roger Tory Peterson award for "a lifetime of achievements in promoting the cause of birding".

John Green is a retired geology professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He is an all-around naturalist and author of "Geology on Display: Geology and Scenery of Minnesota's North Shore State Parks". John has been recognized for scouting approximately 100 miles of the nearly 300-mile Superior Hiking Trail!

Steve Kolbe has counted migrating birds at Bradbury Mountain, the Avalon Seawatch, Tussey Mountain, Holiday Beach, Kiptopeke, Derby Hill, and Hawk Ridge (fall 2014 & spring 2018). He recently completed his Master's degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth studying the migration of Common Nighthawks and is currently working for the Natural Resources Research Institute. Steve will be returning as a volunteer for his 4th season to help with the fall bird migration count at Hawk Ridge. Steve loves watching and taking photographs of migrating birds.

Margie Menzies is one part educator, two parts naturalist, and two parts bird nerd! Who says slow and steady wins the race? After years in the formal classroom, this educator has abandoned the indoors for the great outdoor classroom. Margie Menzies joined Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in 2011 as a fall naturalist and is currently an Education Manager at Hawk Ridge. She has a passion for birds and has been involved in songbird banding for more than 25 years. She is also the naturalist at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center up the North Shore in Schroeder, MN. She has a BA from Bethel University and a MA from University of St. Thomas. She loves birds, loves learning, and loves sharing the natural world with people of all ages.

Clinton Nienhaus joined Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory as the Count Interpreter in 2014 and is currently an Education Manager for Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. Clinton also works as the Head Naturalist for the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog. Clinton completed his Master's of Education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and is on the board of the Duluth Audubon Society. Birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, plants, and dragonflies are his passions, but really, for a naturalist everything is exciting! Clinton is a native of Southern Minnesota and currently lives in Duluth.

Bill Tefft is naturalist and a retired community college instructor that grew up in southern Michigan, but has been living in Ely, MN for the past 38 years. Bill has taught raptor ecology at Hawk Ridge for many years in addition to bringing college students and community members for fall hawk and owl migration visits. Bill has led groups to local, national and international destinations, writes a local weekly nature column, and works to connect all ages to nature.