

Spring Migration Celebration 2020

Workshop & Field Trips

Friday, April 24th-Sunday, April 26th

Detailed Information

***Must pre-register online for workshop & field trips**

Spring Migration Workshop Sat. 4/25 & Sun. 4/26

It may not look much like spring in Northern Minnesota in late April, but spring in the Northland has an amazing diversity of birds! Some are still hanging out because they stay here in the Arctic Riviera all winter, while others are just arriving from the south. Let the birds convince you that it's spring regardless of the color of the surrounding landscape. Join us for an exploration of who's out there in Duluth and along Lake Superior in this exciting spring migration workshop! We will seek to find migratory species and residents at a variety of birding hotspot locations and especially highlight the amazing diversity of raptor species moving through at this point in the year.

Field Trip – Friday, April 24th

Nature at Night Field Trip

Friday, April 24, 2020 (LIMIT 12)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members, \$10 for Spring Migration Workshop Participants

Meeting Location: 4809 Miller Trunk Highway, Hermantown - Meet in the back portion of the parking lot across from Kwik Trip gas station.

Meeting Time: 8:30 pm **Duration:** approx. 4-5 hours

Description: Who's Awake? Me Too! Calling all night owls to join us for night owls and Sounds of the Night! Join us to find owls and other denizens of the late evening (rails, bitterns, woodcocks, snipes, sparrows, frogs, and more)! As day fades into night after sunset, some active courtship remains among the creatures of the day, others are just beginning their courtship efforts, and still others wait for full dark to get things started. This is a time we humans rarely venture out. We will explore this transition time with our ears more than our eyes and attempt to determine Who's Awake. Participants will carpool to Sax-Zim Bog area, but if the weather is uncooperative - we will plan to meet for a substitute indoor presentation.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers. **Leaders:** John Richardson, Margie Menzies

Field Trip – Saturday, April 25th

St. Louis River Estuary Birding Trip

Saturday, April 25, 2020 (LIMIT 20)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members, \$10 for Spring Migration Workshop Participants

Meeting Location: Heading south on Hwy 23 in West Duluth turn left on Pulaski St. just after the Willard Munger Inn. Meet at the Munger Trail/Western Waterfront Trailhead parking area just past the railroad tracks. **Meeting Time:** 6:30 am **Duration:** 2-3 hours (walking)

Description: We invite the early birds to view the early birds with us, as we take a spring hike along the Western Waterfront Trail in the Indian Point area (local birding hotspot) to yield all sorts of wonders! It's an amazing transition time in the northland - some of the birds who winter in the Duluth area are possibly still here such as Arctic region gulls, and Bohemian Waxwings, while other migrants are arriving from points south - some already nesting and defending territories, some just arriving, and lots still in transit depending on weather conditions. So anything goes! We will search for and learn about early spring migrants (waterfowl, thrushes, sapsuckers, creepers, kinglets, and more)! Find who's still here, who's back, and who's freshly arrived on the latest breezes!

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers

Leader(s): John Richardson and Margie Menzies

2-Day Workshop – Saturday, April 25th & Sunday, April 26th

Spring Bird Migration 2-Day Workshop

Saturday, April 25 & Sunday, April 26, 2020 (LIMIT 12, Minimum 5)

Cost: \$100 members/students/MN Master Nats, \$150 non-members

Meeting Location: Twin Ponds parking area on West Skyline Parkway (directions will be sent to participants)

Meeting Time: 10:00am on Sat. 4/25 with additional optional field trips on Friday evening 8:30pm and Saturday morning 6:30am (more info on field trips below)

Duration: concludes at 1:00 pm on Sun. 4/26

What to Bring: Binoculars, portable chair and dress in layers. Bring your own snacks and drinks and bag lunch

Leader(s): Margie Menzies with assistance from other Hawk Ridge Staff.

Description: Have you ever wondered about differences in spring migration versus fall? Do birds use the same route in the spring that they used in the fall? Do adult birds and immature birds travel at the same time? Can you age and sex a bird in flight? How does weather impact migration patterns – what is fallout and is there raptor fallout? This workshop will address all of these questions, as well as the overall science of spring migration, learning basic ID skills, and counting essentials, and exploring first hand one of the top spring raptor migration sites in the US. This field-oriented program will explore different locations based on what is happening with the weather, and we will try to go where the birds are!

At 10:00 AM on Sat. we'll begin the formal workshop, and concentrate on the world of spring raptor migration until about 4:30 PM, when we will break for dinner. In the evening, as part of our spring festival participants can attend the evening presentation at 7pm presented by University of Minnesota Graduate Students conducting their bird research in conjunction with Hawk Ridge. Sunday morning will come bright and early with a field trip at 6:30 AM to Park Point and see who's on the lake, who's in the harbor, and who's present on the land between. We will plan to end early afternoon about 1:00 pm. We will carpool to different locations as needed. Weather may play a role in determining what portions of the workshop happen when and where, but our goal is to see as many spring birds as we can over the 2-3 day span.

P.S. Warm up before the actual workshop with optional field trips on Friday evening and Saturday morning (see info above). John Richardson, professional bird guide and the Hawk Ridge Spring Count Interpreter/Fall Count Director, will also join us as a guide for both of these field trips. *NOTE: These are additional field trips at a discounted cost (\$10/trip) for workshop participants.*

Field Trip – Sunday, April 26th

Park Point Birding Field Trip

Sunday, April 26, 2020 (LIMIT 20/trip)

Cost: \$15 members/students, \$25 non-members, Free for Spring Migration Workshop Participants

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:** 6:30 am **Duration:** 2-3 hrs (walking)

Description: Park Point is one of the longest sand spits on earth and provides an interesting mix of land and water birds. Visit one of Minnesota's beloved birding hotspots with us as we search the lake and harbor side for ducks, grebes and gulls, and check the wooded areas along the dunes for sparrows, early season warblers, kinglets, creepers, and other passerines. Blue Jays and Northern Flickers are often seen here in large numbers this time of year.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers **Leader(s):** John Richardson and Margie Menzies

FIELD TRIP LEADER BIOS

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 Education Program Director 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.

John Richardson hails from East Yorkshire in the UK, but has called Northern Minnesota home for over 20 years. Enjoying his life-long passion for birds, he is a professional bird guide. John joined the Hawk Ridge staff in 2016 as the Fall Count Interpreter and currently is the Spring Count Interpreter and Fall Count Director. John resides in Duluth with his wife and 3 boys.