

Let's go birding!



Join us for one or more of the **Berrien Birding Club** outings listed below this spring. ***Our groups are friendly and fun!*** Park entry fees may be in effect at some locations, but otherwise there are no fees required to participate. If you have questions about an outing or need directions, please call (269) 471-2617 or send an email to lovecreek@berriencounty.org a day or two in advance.

Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m. Southwest Berrien Waterfowl Watching. We'll kick off the field trip season with a search for waterfowl at a couple of favored locations in southwest Berrien County. We'll start at the New Buffalo Public Beach with a check of the outer harbor and Lake Michigan for grebes and diving ducks. Then we'll head inland to "The Ponds at Three Oaks" to see what ducks are present on the middle and south lagoons. Bring warm, wind resistant clothing and meet at the New Buffalo Public Beach.

Saturday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. Woodcock Watch at Love Creek. Join us for an easy evening on the trails at Love Creek County Park watching the crazy courtship display of the American Woodcock. Always a fun way to kick off spring and if you've never seen this before—well, you ***need to see this!*** We'll start with a short "Woodcock 101" session in the nature center and then head out to a location on the trails. Bring binoculars, a small flashlight for the walk back, and wear warm, darkish colored clothing.

Saturday, March 17, 9:00 a.m. "Leader's Choice" Waterfowl Watch. Today we'll enjoy waterfowl watching at a few north and/or central locations in Berrien County. We'll begin at Silver Beach in St. Joseph where we'll be able to check Lake Michigan and the mouth of the St. Joseph River for diving ducks, grebes, gulls and others. From here we'll visit one or more "to be determined" locations. This could include additional lakefront parks, Sarett Nature Center's Brown Sanctuary, or the Grand Mere area's North Lake Park. Bring warm, wind resistant clothing and meet in the north parking lot at Silver Beach County Park.

Saturday, March 24, 9:00 a.m. Southwest Berrien Waterfowl Watching. See March 10 for outing description. In addition to the New Buffalo harbor and the Three Oaks ponds, we'll also likely check the marsh at Galien River County Park for dabbling ducks and other wetland birds. Meet at the New Buffalo Public Beach.

Saturday, March 31, 1:00 p.m. Three Oaks Afternoon Birding. Afternoon provides the best light for viewing birds on the Three Oaks water treatment ponds. Join us this afternoon for a relaxed scan of the ducks and other birds present. Meet at the Three Oaks ponds on Schwark Road.

Tuesday, April 3, 9:00 a.m. North Lake Park and Vicinity. This morning we'll check North Lake in Lincoln Township for waterfowl and early wetland species. From here we'll either explore locations in the adjacent Grand Mere State Park or along the entrance road of the nearby Lincoln Township Beach. Meet at North Lake Township Park. (Directly west of Exit 22 on I-94.)

Tuesday, April 10, 9:00 a.m. Southwest Berrien Birding. See March 10 for description. In addition to the New Buffalo harbor and the Three Oaks ponds, we'll check Galien River County Park for wetland birds and early woodland migrants. Meet at the New Buffalo Public Beach.

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. St. Joe Lakeshore and Riverview Park. We'll start by checking the lakeshore for migrant loons, diving ducks and others. Then we'll head inland to explore woodlands along the St. Joseph River at Riverview Park. The wet forest here can be good for both resident woodland species and early migrants. Meet in the north parking lot at Silver Beach County Park.

Tuesday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. Galien River County Park. For today's outing we'll search for early woodland and wetland migrants along the trails, walkways and boardwalks of Galien River County Park in New Buffalo Township. We'll start with a walk on the canopy walkway and a scan from the end of the 60' high marsh tower, before looping through the woods and down to the river's edge via the marsh boardwalk. Meet at the main trailhead in the parking lot.

Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. Warren Dunes State Park: A Morning on the Yellow Birch Trail. This is a good time to watch for mid-spring woodland migrants such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Winter Wren. Wind conditions permitting, we may also head into the open dunes to watch for migrating hawks. Meet at the youth camp parking lot on Floral Lane and note some muddy/wet trail conditions could exist. State Park entry fee or Recreation Passport may be required for parking.

Tuesday, April 24, 9:00 a.m. Topinabee Lake Preserve and Niles Riverfront Park Birding. Today we'll enjoy a couple of Niles area locations. We'll start at the Topinabee Lake Preserve looking for waterfowl, wetland species and others. After a stop to view the marsh on Weiser Road, we'll continue on to the Niles Riverfront Park, a popular birding location along the St. Joseph River. Meet at the Topinabee Lake observation platform (on Portage Road, north of US-12).

Mark Your Calendar Now!



30th Annual Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon Saturday—May 19, 2018

To receive details (available soon)
call 269-471-2617 or e-mail:
lovecreek@berriencounty.org.



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The **Berrien Birding Club** also sponsors two email lists: **BBCBirds** and **BBCChat**

Information available at: <http://lists.berrienbirding.org/lists>

Additional web resources of the **Berrien Birding Club**
available at: <http://www.berriencounty.org/434/Birding>