

# Let's go birding!



## Early Spring Group Birding Events - 2019

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](mailto:lovecreek@berriencounty.org) a day or two in advance.

**Saturday, March 9, 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 check the marsh at Galien River County Park and "The Ponds at Three Oaks" for other ducks and waterfowl. Bring warm, wind resistant clothing and meet at the New Buffalo Public Beach.

**Saturday, March 9, 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 16, 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 23, 9:00 a.m. Southwest Berrien Waterfowl Watching.** See *March 9* 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 30, 8:30 a.m. Michiana Marsh Meander.** Today we intend to explore wetlands on both sides of the Stateline for waterfowl and wetland birds. We'll start at Galien River County Park, where we'll check for birds from the canopy walkway and marsh boardwalk. From here we'll head south into Indiana to explore the Beverly Shores area of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, where public access to the Great Marsh is available. Meet at Galien River County Park.

**Tuesday, April 2, 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.)

**Saturday, April 6, 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 9, 9:00 a.m. Southwest Berrien Birding.** See March 9 for description.

**Saturday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. "North" Warren Dunes State Park.** 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/trailhead 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 16, 9:00 a.m. "Central" Warren Dunes State Park.** Today we'll meet at the Picnic Shelter parking area (along road between the park office and campground entrance) to explore the nearby open dune areas, wooded trails and campgrounds for mid-April landbird migrants. State Park entry fee or Recreation Passport may be required for parking.

**Saturday, April 20, 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. Later we may check inland locations along the Galien River. Meet at the main trailhead in the parking lot.

### **Important Berrien Birding Club News!**

- For 2019 there will be NO membership fees requested for the Berrien Birding Club. (Send your contact info to [lovecreek@berriencounty.org](mailto:lovecreek@berriencounty.org) if you're not currently a member and we'll add you as one!)
- **This will be the last issue of our events available in a print format.** All future outing notices will be sent via email *and* posted on BBCChat and the BBC Facebook page. Please make sure we have your email address, subscribe to BBCChat, or "like" our Facebook page so you don't miss updates on our outings!



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>