

2017 Stony Creek Bird Walks

(Second Saturday of the month at 8:30am)

Saturday March 11, 8:30am – Winter Waterfowl and ...

Meet at 8:30am in the Lakeview parking lot. We will scan the open waters below the North Dam for winter waterfowl. Our second stop could be the Oakgrove area for Barred Owl, or the Inwood Road area for Northern Shrike, or more of Stony Lake – depending on lake ice, weather and bird sightings.

Saturday April 8, 8:30am – Loons, Grebes, Spring Waterfowl & Early Passerine Migrants

Meet at 8:30am on the point next to the boat launch docks, where we should be able to get nice views of early Common Loons, Horned Grebes, and such. Our second stop will be the Golf Course parking lot, to explore the SE corner of the Shelden Trails and adjacent open areas. There is a wide variety of habitat in this area, so hopefully we will find some early spring migrants.

BONUS WALK Saturday April 29, 8:30am – Bald Mountain State Recreation Area

Meet at the north end of the South Unit on Kern Road. Park on the EAST / north bound side of Kern only; roughly 2/3 of a mile south of its intersection with Clarkston Road. Look for the access gate on the west side of Kern. This hike is approximately 1.8 miles, involves a few elevation changes, goes through mature mixed forest dotted with scenic ponds, and is prime herptile habitat. Spring wildflowers and early migrants should be in good numbers.

Saturday May 13, 7:00am-12:00pm – Lake St. Clair Metropark Big Day Count, Leader: Julie Champion

This annual count demonstrates the importance of Lake St. Clair Metropark's various habitats as a vital migrating stop. Birders of all levels are needed to help. Call Julie at 586-463-4332 for information. Coffee and doughnuts are provided; bring a lunch. Meet at the Nature Center. If you are not able to assist in the Big Day Count at LSCMP, you are welcome to join our monthly walk; details are below.

Saturday May 13, 8:30am – Peak Spring Warbler Migration along the Clinton River

Meet at 8:30am in the Sterling Heights Nature Center Parking Lot. By popular demand, we will revisit this Clinton River migration corridor; I wonder if we will be lucky enough to find a singing Kirtland's Warbler again this year. ☺ We will walk a downriver loop, stop back at the Nature Center at 10am when they open, for a quick potty break, then walk upriver.

Saturday June 10, 8:30am – Nesting birds at Draper Twin Lake Park

Meet in the Draper Parking Lot at the corner of Inwood & Hadden. From this lot we will hike down to the lake to call rails. We will then walk the east half of the park, accessible from a small lot east of Hadden. Dr. Ben VanderWeide will co-lead the walk and review the prairie restoration efforts he is overseeing at this park.

Saturday September 9, 8:30am – Peak Fall Warbler Migration along the Clinton River

Meet at 8:30am in Dodge Park at the bridge over the river. We will walk up river to the Farmstead Park area, noted for its Prothonotary Warbler habitat. Stony birder Andy Weinrauch has installed PROW nest boxes in this area. We should see a good variety of warblers, some in their 'confusing fall plumage.'

Saturday October 14, 8:30am – Stony Creek's Snell Service Road and creek corridor

Meet / park at 8:30am on south side of Snell Road, just west of the tall white communications tower that overlooks the park. Pull as far out of the traffic lane as possible. The West Branch of Stony Creek runs through this area, which hosts one of the last healthy bat populations in the park. Our bats have been nearly wiped out by WNS - White-nose Syndrome (fungus), as elsewhere across the eastern U.S.

Saturday November 11, 8:30am – Fall Waterfowl Migration and Upland Birding at Ridgeview

Meet at 8:30am in Ridgeview Parking Lot C. We will scope Upper Stony Lake for waterfowl and hike around the Ridgeview environs which includes hardwood hills and stands of White Pine.

Saturday December 16 – Christmas Bird Count – Please consider participating!