

2018 Stony Creek Metropark – SPRING Bird Walks

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

Saturday March 24, 8:30am – Early Spring Waterfowl and ...

Meet at 8:30am in the Lakeview parking lot. We will scan the open waters of the north end of Stony Creek Lake for waterfowl, and hike the short distance over to Oakgrove for Barred Owls. Depending on weather, lake conditions, and recent bird sightings, we may drive to another vantage point on the lake, or the Inwood Road area for Northern Shrike / Rough-legged Hawk.

Saturday April 28, 8:30am – Early Warblers and other spring migrants

Meet at 8:30am on Kennebunk Road off of Sheldon Road. We will walk the SW corner of the park. Target species include Pine Warbler, Black-throated Green and a few other warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pine Siskin, and other species of northern Michigan.

Optional / tentative: After the walk, some of us might go back to our cars to don our rubber boots and grab our walking sticks, in order to slog into Sheldon Pond. This is a challenging walk. The last time we did this, we lost at least 2 in the deep mud, but saw beaver, Hooded Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks up close. Virginia Rail and other marsh birds are possible.

(Maybe bring a change of clothes, if you plan to attempt the pond. ☺)

Request for birdwatching volunteers:

Saturday May 12, 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.

Bonus Walk: Clinton River – Sunday May 13, 8am

Meet at 8am in the Sterling Heights Nature Center parking lot for a walk along the Clinton River, a prolific migration corridor. We were lucky enough to get Kirtland's Warbler here two springs ago. Endangered species aside, there is typically a great variety of passerines that use the Clinton River corridor.

Saturday May 26, 8:30am – Not-so-common Grasslands Birds

Meet at 8:30am in the Inwood Trails Parking Lot. Thanks to grassland rehabilitation efforts by the HCMA, the northern section of the Habitat Trail is now attracting some of the most sought open country birds such as Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark and Yellow-breasted Chat. Just east of here, Dickcissels, Henslow's and Clay-colored Sparrows, and others have been found in recent years. We will bird this general vicinity, relying heavily on hearing, so brush up on your grassland bird calls in advance.

Tentative Bonus Walk: MDEQ Wetland Mitigation Bank, 29 Mile Road – May/June evening viewing

If the spring rains come, and the shorebirds follow, we will plan a spur-of-the-moment viewing with scopes of the relatively recently created wetlands for the MDEQ banking program. Decent rains are required to flood this area and bring in the shorebirds. Watch for a separate email notice in the spring.

Fall Bird Walk Schedule – To Be Determined.