



Introduction to Birding Course March 20 – May 1, 2012 at Kent Park



The Iowa City Bird Club and the Johnson County Conservation Department are offering a 7-week Introduction to Birding Course at the Conservation Education Center in Kent Park. There will be seven Tuesday evening sessions along with

six weekend field trips to area birding hot spots, plus two field trips for kids ages 7-12.

Tuesday evening sessions are \$5 for adults and free for children accompanied by an adult. Iowa City Bird Club members receive free admission (a one-year membership is \$15 per household or \$10 for students). Participants may attend all seven sessions or pick one or more to attend. Classes can hold 30, and advanced registration is requested – please call Brad Freidhof at 645-1011 by noon of the Tuesday session. Handouts and refreshments will be provided. Come to class early and bird the loop path near the Conservation Education Center.

Weekend field trips are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring binoculars to all field trips; if you don't have a pair let us know in advance and loaners can be arranged. If you have a spotting scope, you are welcome to bring it. Club members will have several scopes available on those field trips requiring one. All field trips will depart from the Dodge Street Hy-Vee in Iowa City unless otherwise noted – meet in the SW corner of the parking lot. For more information on field trips, call Karen Disbrow at 339-1017.

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m. BASICS OF BIRDING I by Rick Hollis. This will include field identification of birds, field guides, and equipment that every birdwatcher needs, or might someday need.

Sunday March 25, 8 a.m. Field Trip to CONE MARSH. Located about 25 miles SE of Iowa City, Cone Marsh is an excellent place to view migrating ducks, geese, and other water birds. Wear boots for walking in wet areas, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. **Meet at the Fin & Feather parking lot.**

Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m. BASICS OF BIRDING II by Rick Hollis. Continuation of first session topics.

Saturday, March 31, 8 a.m. Field Trip to KENT PARK near Tiffin. We will explore the trails in Kent Park looking for migrating songbirds and resident woodland birds. **Meet at the CEC in Kent Park.**

Tuesday, April 3, 7 p.m. WHERE TO BIRD IN JOHNSON COUNTY by Rick Hollis. Well known, lesser known and secret places to watch birds and study nature in and around Johnson County.

Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m. Field Trip to HAWKEYE WILDLIFE AREA near North Liberty. We expect to see ducks, geese, American White Pelicans, and other early spring migrants. Wear boots for walking in wet areas.

Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m. BACKYARD AND FEEDER BIRDS by James Scheib. This Session will cover the birds found in our area's backyards during the year, and what types of feeders and food to use to attract them.

Sunday, April 15, 8 a.m. Field Trip to MACBRIDE NATURE-RECREATION AREA. Visit the Raptor Center, observe birds up close from the bird blind, and hike the nearby trails. **Meet at the Macbride Raptor Center parking lot.**

Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m. BIRDS OF HICKORY HILL PARK AND WATERWORKS PARK IN IOWA CITY by Jim Scheib. Learn the variety of birds that are found throughout the year at these nearby parks.

Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m. Approaches to Learning Birdsong by Jerry White.

Friday, April 27, 6 p.m. NIGHT SOUNDS Field Trip. Local areas for American Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, frogs, owls, and anything else that calls at night.

Saturday, April 28, 8 a.m. - Noon. Field Trip for Kids age 7-12 with Rick Hollis. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Meet at the CEC in Kent Park.**

Tuesday, May 1, 7 p.m. WARBLER IDENTIFICATION AND SHOREBIRD REVIEW by Karen Disbrow. Warblers are coming! Warblers are among our most colorful birds. Compare and contrast similar warblers.

Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m. - Noon. Field Trip for Kids age 7-12 with Rick Hollis. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Meet at the CEC in Kent Park.**

Sunday, May 6, 8 a.m. Field Trip to HICKORY HILL PARK. This park is a great place to view warblers and other migrating songbirds.