

## Ornithology Courses

### General Interest Courses

#### SPRING BIRD WALKS

You're invited to a celebration of spring brought to you by nature's brightly colored pageantry of birds. Eastern bluebirds, rufous-sided towhees, and eastern meadowlarks are among the many birds that flock to Illinois in the spring. Join us to follow the spring migration through the season!

**Note:** *Held indoors and outdoors. Please dress for the weather.*

**Supplies:** *Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.*

**Activity level:** *Hiking on trails.*

**Registration:** *Open now until the start of the event. Register early to reserve your spot. Normal admission fees apply.*

◆DO011. **Saturdays**, 8 – 10:30 am. Thornhill Education Center/West Side. \$8 (non-members \$10, plus gate fee). Limit 20.

**Section a:** April 16

**Section b:** May 7

**Section c:** May 21

**Section d:** June 4

#### BIRDING AT INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

This Mother's Day weekend tradition is back! This is one of the most popular birding areas in the Chicago region. A prime wilderness area, the eastern portion of the Indiana Dunes State Park, with its protected, leeward trails through marsh and woods, offers sanctuary to migrating warblers and other species.

**Note:** *Held outdoors. Please dress for the weather.*

**Supplies:** *Please bring binoculars, a field guide, a lunch for a picnic after class, and water for the morning.*

**Driving Directions:** *Directions will be sent to participants; please note that there may be a park entrance fee.*

◆N024. **Saturday**, May 7; 8 am – 12:30 pm. Offsite. \$28 (non-members \$35). Limit 15.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOODED ISLAND TOUR

*Gloria Dobry, Arboretum Instructor*

Did you know that Wooded Island began as a tree display for the 1893 World's Fair? Today, it provides valuable habitat to migrant birds along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Surrounded by lagoons, it is also home to many waterfowl and wading birds. With over 237 species on record, your morning is sure to be a birding bonanza.

**Note:** *Held outdoors. Please dress for the weather.*

**Driving Directions:** *Directions for Jackson Park, Chicago, will be emailed to participants.*

**Supplies:** *Bring binoculars and field guides.*

**Activity level:** *Walking over uneven terrain.*

**Certificate Information:** *May be used as an Ornithology Certificate Elective (3 hours).*

◆O039. **Monday**, May 16; 8 – 11 am. Offsite. \$21 (non-members \$28). Limit 20.

**Register today on our website at  
[www.mortonarb.org/education](http://www.mortonarb.org/education)  
or by calling the Registrar's Office at 630-719-2468**

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## Ornithology Courses continued

### **NEW**

#### **EXPLORING THE MIDEWIN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE**

Established in 1996, the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is the nation's largest prairie preserve east of the Mississippi River. An Audubon Important Bird Area, Midewin supports the largest population of upland sandpiper in Illinois and provides refuge for other grassland bird species whose numbers are severely declining across the Midwest. Its sheer size (19,000 acres) fosters a variety of habitats required by endangered species, particularly those that require wide open spaces. Explore the site as the prairie begins to bloom with an expert guide, and go behind the scenes with a Forest Service expert to learn about the restoration work being done there. The day will begin with small group tours specifically geared towards birders, photographers, or artists. Then all groups will meet for lunch and an introduction to the site's restoration.

**Note:** *Held outdoors. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes.*

**Activity level:** *Walking on trails and over uneven terrain.*

**Supplies:** *Bring a lunch and a water bottle. Equipment recommendations for small group tours will be emailed to participants.*

**Driving Directions:** *Directions will be emailed to the participants.*

**Certificate Information:** *May be used as a BA&I, Photography, Ornithology, and Naturalist Certificate Elective (7 hours).*

◆N662. **Saturday**, May 21; 7 am – 2 pm. Offsite. \$55 (non-members \$69). Limit 15.

**Section a:** Field sketching tour

**Section b:** Photography tour

**Section c:** Birding tour

#### **THE ORNITHOLOGY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Enrich your birding adventures and embark on an organized, field-based study of Illinois birds through the Ornithology Program. Classes in the **Ornithology Certificate Program** are open to all students; you do not have to be enrolled in the Certificate to take classes.

Eight core courses form the foundation of the Ornithology Certificate Program. These core courses are divided into two groups: four seasons of Field Study courses and four courses on the Natural History of Birds. Field Electives (24 contact hours required) allow you to put your knowledge into practice and to build a program that matches your interests. Courses do not have prerequisites nor are they sequential.

#### **Introductory Courses**

No background is necessary for introductory classes. Courses are open to all, even if you are not working towards a Certificate.

#### **FIELD STUDY: BIRDS OF SPRING**

*Denis Kania, Manager of Natural Areas, St. Charles Park District*

Can you name that bird? If not, join other birders to learn how to identify Illinois' spring resident and migratory birds by sight and call. This course will meet primarily outdoors as we visit different habitats around the area to learn calls and identification of field marks. Indoors, we will discuss behavioral clues that help in identification, feather arrangement, and physical topography and review daily checklists from the prior field days.

**Recommended Text:** *Sibley's Birding Basics by David Allen Sibley; available at the Arboretum Store.*

**Note:** *Held indoors and outdoors. Please dress to be outdoors each day.*

**Supplies:** *Bring a water bottle, binoculars, and field guides.*

**Driving Directions:** *Several sessions will meet off-site; driving directions will be provided in class*

**Activity level:** *Walking on trails and uneven terrain.*

**Certificate Information:** *Satisfies an Ornithology Certificate Requirement; may be used as a Naturalist Certificate Elective (18 hours).*

◆O602. **5 Sundays**, March 20 – April 17; 8 am – 11:30 am. Thornhill Education Center/West Side. \$176 (non-members \$209). Limit 12.

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## Ornithology Courses continued

### **SPRING WARBLERS**

*Denis Kania, Manager of Natural Areas, St. Charles Park District*

Brightly colored warblers are one of the highlights of spring – but they can often be difficult to tell apart! In this course, enjoy the spring warbler migration while learning about identification, arrival dates, migration patterns, habitat preferences, and daily feeding techniques.

**Note:** *Held indoors and outdoors. Please dress for the weather.*

**Supplies:** *bring binoculars and a field guide.*

**Activity level:** *Spring hiking on trails and uneven terrain*

**Certificate Information:** *May be used as an Ornithology and Naturalist Certificate Elective (12 hours).*

◆O209. **4 Mondays**, April 18 – May 9; 8 – 11 am. Thornhill Education Center/West Side. \$138 (non-members \$169). Limit 12.

### **NEW**

### **BUMPS IN THE NIGHT**

*Denis Kania, Manager of Natural Areas, St. Charles Park District and  
Rena Frigo, Environmental Educator*

Those moths fluttering around your porch light are not the only things bumping in the night. The things we can hear, but not see in the dark have intrigued and frightened us for hundreds of years. But how do human lights, traffic, and noise affect our nocturnal neighbors? In this program, take a closer look at the natural history of some of the local denizens of the night, and explore how our daily lives impact theirs. Whinnying screech owls and trilling toads will resonate in your ears as we explore the Arboretum's wetlands, woods, and fields after sunset. While frogs, owls, and rails will be our main focus, insects, bats and other mammals may take the stage while we are in the field.

**Note:** *Held indoors and outdoors. Please dress for the weather.*

**Supplies:** *Please bring a water bottle, clipboard, and writing tools. Binoculars will be useful.*

**Activity level:** *Walking over uneven terrain, walking off-trail, and uphill.*

**Certificate Information:** *May be used as a Naturalist Certificate, Ornithology Certificate and WSTP Elective (5 hours).*

◆N372. **2 Tuesdays**, April 19 – 26; 7 – 9:30 pm. Thornhill Education Center/West Side. \$48 (non-members \$59). Limit 15.

### **NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS: CONSERVATION**

*Carol Fialkowski, Arboretum Instructor*

Join us as we explore the issues surrounding the preservation of bird life and diversity in Northern Illinois. Investigate how bird populations are naturally affected by habitat, competition, and predation; then apply those basics of population dynamics to conservation threats. Field work, observing the birds nesting in local grasslands, savannas, and wetlands, will focus on regional conservation plans developed to increase nesting and reproductive success for at-risk species.

**Recommended Text:** *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior by David Allen Sibley; available in the Arboretum Store.*

**Note:** *Held indoors and outdoors. Please dress for the weather.*

**Activity level:** *Walking over uneven terrain.*

**Certificate Information:** *Satisfies an Ornithology Certificate Requirement; may be used as a Naturalist Certificate Elective (15 hours).*

◆O640. **5 Tuesdays**, May 10 – 17 & May 31 – June 7; 6 – 9 pm & **Saturday**, May 24; 8 – 11 am; Thornhill Education Center/West Side. \$176 (non-members \$209). Limit 20.

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## **Ornithology Courses continued**

### **DRAWING BIRDS**

*Nancy Halliday, Freelance Artist and Naturalist*

Learn the "secrets" of drawing birds from a professional artist-naturalist. Focusing on anatomical features, you will study skeletal support systems, feather tracts, and wing design. Films will demonstrate flight. You will draw from a mounted skeleton, museum specimens, and living birds at Willowbrook Wildlife Preserve and Cosley Zoo.

**Note:** *Prior experience in drawing is recommended.*

**Supplies:** *A materials list will be emailed to registrants.*

**Field Trip Directions:** *Driving directions will be sent for the two local offsite sessions.*

Prerequisite: BA&I: Pencil (A110) or equivalent.

**Certificate Information:** *May be taken as an Ornithology elective (15 hours).*

♦A350. **5 Saturdays**, April 16 – May 14, 1 – 4 pm.

Thornhill Education Center/West Side. \$187 (members \$160). Limit 15.



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**or**

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