



Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival

May 18 – 20, 2023
Activity Descriptions

Wednesday, May 17 – SPECIAL PRE-FESTIVAL OPPORTUNITY!

FULL Stockton Island Cruise (FT-3)

7:45 am – 3:00 pm

Enjoy a scenic cruise aboard the Ashland Bay Express to Stockton Island, the largest and most biologically diverse island in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Join leaders for four hours of birding amid the forests, dunes, savannahs, bogs, lagoons, and beaches along the Tombole Trail. The island has pit toilets but few other facilities, so bring potable water and lunch, dress in layers, wear stout water-resistant footwear and prepare to pack out what you pack in.

Meet at the Apostle Islands Cruises office by the Bayfield City Dock at 7:45 am. Return to Bayfield at 3 pm. *Additional Cost: \$55*

Thursday, May 18 – Morning

1. FULL Bibon Swamp Birding (FT-3)

6:30 am – 11:00 am

The Bibon Swamp is one of the area's best places to find Golden-winged Warblers. This trip will walk a very lightly traveled, dead-end dirt road through sedge meadow, alder, ash, and mixed lowland forest while enjoying a few Golden-wings amidst a potpourri of birds in a peaceful setting. Tim Oksiuta, local birding expert, will help participants find and pick out numerous species, including various warblers.

Optional: Meet leader at Grand View general store at 7:00 am.

2. FULL Birding Copper Falls State Park (FT-3)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

Ancient lava flows, deep gorges, and spectacular waterfalls make Copper Falls one of Wisconsin's most scenic parks. Retired DNR Forest Ecologist Colleen Matula will lead participants of all ages and skill levels along the park's trails to absorb the spectacular scenery and glimpse the many warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other forest birds that call Copper Falls home.

Optional: Meet at Copper Falls State Park at 7:15 am.

**Note:* Expect some stair climbs and uneven terrain on trail.

Additional Cost: Parking fee per car (\$8 WI plates, \$11 out-of-state plates)

3. Birds & Wildlife of the Moquah Pine Barrens (FT-4)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

The Moquah Pine Barrens offer a dramatic change to the local landscape – dry uplands with rolling hills of openings, pines, oaks and various shrubs. Join a U.S. Forest Service biologist to look for birds such as Sharp-tailed Grouse, Vesper Sparrows, Brewer’s Blackbirds, Eastern Towhees, and more. Also learn how and where to find unique plants and other wildlife in this interesting landscape, including gray wolves, American badgers and small mammals such as the 13-lined ground squirrel.

4. A Bird in the Hand... (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

In this free activity, any festival registrant can come and go as they please within the listed timeframe to experience the wonders of bird banding from expert researchers. Marvel at the beauty of warblers, sparrows, finches, and other birds up close and personal – an unforgettable experience for all ages. Learn identification features, natural history, and research techniques as leaders demonstrate the how’s and why’s of bird banding. If you want to see birds up close, then this is the trip for you!

5. FULL Birding Along Pikes Creek (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

This walk will start at the Les Voigt Fish Hatchery and follow Pikes Creek as it wanders inland for about one mile. Led by local birding expert Neil Howk, the hike will pass through a variety of bird habitats, including holding ponds, a beaver pond, and old growth pines. Possible species include waterfowl, 10-15 species of warblers, Common Ravens, woodpeckers, Bald Eagles, Ruffed Grouse, Winter Wrens, thrushes, and more. *Optional:* Meet at Les Voigt Fish Hatchery at 7:30 am.

6. FULL Birding by the Bay (FT-3)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

WDNR Conservation Biologist Ryan Brady will lead participants to multiple lakeshore points near Ashland and/or Washburn to search for waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Interspersed will be short hikes along shoreline trails to find warblers, orioles, sparrows, and other migrating landbirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

7. FULL Birding at Beaver Hollow (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:30 am

The headwaters of North Pikes Creek are an expansive area comprised of marshes, ponds, shrub thickets, and wetland forests teeming with wildlife. Thanks to a local Friends group, portions can be accessed via boardwalk and community outdoor education area known as Beaver Hollow. Join birding expert Barb Moldenhauer and Friends group President Kathy Wendling, to glimpse a heron rookery, explore beaver-created wetlands, look for migrating warblers, and learn how this 410-acre property became protected in perpetuity. Knee-high waterproof boots are recommended.

8. FULL Loon Pontoon (FT-2)

7:30 am – 11:30 am

Search for nesting loons and other birds on Lake Namekagon during this pontoon trip led by Cable Natural History Museum Naturalist, Emily Stone, and renowned loon expert Dr. Jim Paruk. Learn all about loons, threats to their populations, and what you can do to help them survive, all while soaking up the birds and scenery of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Optional: Meet at the Cable Natural History Museum at 8:15 am.

Note: The car caravan from NGLVC will first stop at the Museum before continuing to the trip destination.

Additional Cost: \$20

Thursday, May 18 – Afternoon

9. Birding by the Bay – Washburn (FT-2)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Local birding expert Rick Burkman will lead participants to multiple lakeshore points in and near Washburn to search for waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Interspersed will be short hikes along shoreline trails to find warblers, orioles, sparrows, and other migrating landbirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

10. FULL Hiking the Jerry Jolly Trail (FT-3)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

The Jerry J. Jolly Trail is an extensive trail system meandering throughout the beautiful woodlands of the Bayfield Peninsula and Pikes Creek. Search for thrushes, warblers, Winter Wrens, and other forest birds on this scenic northwoods excursion with local expert, Neil Howk.

**Note:* Be prepared for short bouts of hilly terrain.

Optional: Meet at Les Voigt Fish Hatchery at 1:00 pm to carpool to trailhead, or meet directly at trailhead at 1:15 pm.

11. Natural Connections – North Country Trail (FT-4)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Join Emily Stone, Naturalist at the Cable Natural History Museum, to learn about the volcanic origins and glacial sculpting that created the foundation for delightful spring flowers and their animal neighbors. We'll hike a narrow, hilly section of the North Country Trail 0.7 m to the Juniper Rock Overlook with a view of the Marengo River Valley. Intrepid hikers can continue to the river or farther yet to the Swedish Settlement—the farmstead ruins of a very tough family. In addition to birds and other critters, we'll hope to find a great variety of spring wildflowers. Emily is the author of two Natural Connections books, and by using science to tell stories, she wields a magic that makes the whole world feel more alive.

12. FULL Northwoods Nature Hike at Houghton Falls (FT-2)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

The 76-acre Houghton Falls Nature Preserve north of Washburn is one of the most unique sites in Bayfield County. This trip will hike the mile-long nature trail to view Echo Dells, Houghton Falls, and ultimately a shoreline view of Lake Superior! Along the way, U.S. Forest Service ecologist Eric North will help identify various flora and fauna among the beautiful hemlocks, majestic pines, and rock outcrops, including birds, plants, and even land snails!

Optional: Meet at Houghton Falls trailhead/parking lot at 1:15 pm.

13. Paddling Lower Chequamegon Bay (FT-3)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Take a kayak trip along Lake Superior's coast to explore Fish Creek and Whittlesey Creek Estuaries with US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, Mitch Baalman. Look for ducks, shorebirds, and other waterbirds while learning what makes lower Chequamegon Bay special for fish, birds, and other wildlife. EQUIPMENT NOT PROVIDED: Participants should have their own equipment and basic paddling skills.

14. FULL Wildflower Walk - Spring Ephemerals (FT-3)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Steven Spickerman, US Forest Service Plant Ecologist, leads you on a hike in search of spring ephemeral wildflowers among a northern hardwood forest en route to Morgan Falls. Species that may be seen include Spring Beauty, Large-flowered Trillium, Wild Ginger, Bloodroot, Dutchman's Breeches, and Bellwort.

Optional: Meet at Morgan Falls parking lot at 1:30 pm.

15. Butterflies, Bugs, & Blooms (Indoor Program)

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Expert naturalist Larry Weber is author of several regional books, including *Butterflies of the North Woods* and *In a Patch of Goldenrods*. In this presentation, Larry will introduce you to identification, phenology, and life history of local butterflies, as well as the diverse assemblage of insects, spiders, frogs, and other visitors to the northwoods' dozen species of flowering goldenrods.

16. Native Landscaping & Butterfly Gardens (FT-1)

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Both beautiful and beneficial, native plants can bring more than just vibrant color to your gardens. Enjoy birds, wildlife, and butterflies from spring to fall with the right mix of native plants. Susan Nelson, Interpretive Specialist with the US Forest Service, will take the group on an informative tour of the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center's gardens to help participants get ideas for their own backyards. Joined by expert naturalist and author of several books on butterflies and native plants, Larry Weber!

17. Piping Plovers in the Apostle Islands (Indoor Program)

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (AINL) provides critical nesting and resting habitat for hundreds of bird species, including the endangered Piping Plover. Peggy Burkman, National Park Service Biologist, will discuss why the AINL is one of only two nesting sites for this charismatic shorebird in the entire state, how the Park Service and its partners monitor and protect the birds, and potential impacts of a changing climate on their unique dune habitat.

Thursday, May 18 – Evening

18. FULL Owl Prowl & Other Night Sounds (FT-2)

7:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Venture to the Long Lake and Birch Grove areas of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to listen for Barred and N. Saw-whet Owls, Whip-poor-wills, Common Loons, frogs, coyotes, and other night sounds. The trip will briefly start out near NGLVC to listen for American Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, frogs, and perhaps even a Le Conte's Sparrow. Bring a flashlight or headlamp.

19. FULL Woodcock Walk (FT-2)

8:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Venture on a nocturnal foray in search of American Woodcock performing their spring courtship flights along the NGLVC's boardwalk trail. There's also potential to hear Wilson's Snipe, Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, and several frog species. Bring a flashlight or headlamp to help guide the way.

Friday, May 19 – Morning

20. FULL Birding at Bark Bay (FT-3)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

This two-part trip will feature visits to Bark Bay Slough State Natural Area and nearby Bark Point. Bark Bay Slough SNA is an exceptional coastal wetland hosting a wide variety of birds. Bark Point is a peninsula of land jutting into Lake Superior and can sometimes host spectacular concentrations of migrant landbirds, including a great diversity of warbler species. You never know what you might find here. If time allows, we'll venture to the Herbster or Cornucopia lakefronts for some additional birding.

Optional: Meet at the Bark Bay canoe launch at 7:15 am.

21. FULL Birds of Morgan Falls & St. Peter's Dome (FT-4)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

Hike through beautiful northern hardwood forest to the lush, scenic cascades of Morgan Falls with retired DNR Forest Ecologist Colleen Matula. Watch for Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Mourning, and other warblers, as well as vireos, thrushes,

flycatchers, and other forest species. If time allows, we'll continue farther on trail toward St. Peter's Dome, yielding a 4-mile round trip hike. Also expect a diverse plant community including wildflowers such as Spring Beauty, Wild Ginger, Bloodroot, Dutchman's Breeches, and more.

Optional: Meet leader at Morgan Falls parking lot at 7:00 am.

22. Sea Caves Nature Hike (FT-4)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

Retired park ranger Neil Howk will lead participants on this rugged trail at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Look for warblers, woodpeckers, and other birds amid beautiful birch and fir forests ultimately leading to spectacular views of sandstone cliffs and caves along Lake Superior.

Optional: Meet at the Lakeshore's Meyers Beach parking lot at 7:15 am.

**Note:* 4-5 miles roundtrip with some steep ravines and mud.

Additional Cost: Parking \$5/car

23. A Bird in the Hand... (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

In this free activity, any festival registrant can come and go as they please within the listed timeframe to experience the wonders of bird banding from expert researchers. Marvel at the beauty of warblers, sparrows, finches, and other birds up close and personal – an unforgettable experience for all ages. Learn identification features, natural history, and research techniques as leaders demonstrate the how's and why's of bird banding. If you want to see birds up close, then this is the trip for you!

24. FULL Birding by the Bay – Washburn (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Local birding expert Rick Burkman will lead participants to multiple lakeshore points in and near Washburn to search for waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Interspersed will be short hikes along shoreline trails to find warblers, orioles, sparrows, and other migrating landbirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

25. Birding Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge (FT-3)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge welcomes you to a little refuge with a big impact. The refuge hosts many terrestrial species as well as a spawning stream for coaster brook trout and other migratory fish from Lake Superior. Look for migratory birds and learn about their habitats during this guided tour and hike with US Fish and Wildlife Service staff.

26. FULL Grassland Birding (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

The northwoods typically don't conjure up thoughts of grassland birds but the rural areas of Ashland feature a variety of open habitats where Bobolinks, Upland Sandpipers, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, Northern Harriers, and other

grassland birds can be found. WDNR Conservation Biologist Nick Anich guides you in search of these open-country species.

27. FULL Discovering Caroline Lake State Natural Area (FT-3)

7:00 am – 11:30 am

Sitting at the headwaters of the Bad River, Caroline Lake is an undeveloped lake with a diverse mix of high-quality plant communities. Matt Dallman, Director of Conservation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), will share the story behind this important conservation effort and lead you on a beautiful hike in search of loons, eagles, ospreys, warblers, and other northwoods species. Learn about TNC's climate change forestry work and potential impacts of iron mining on this site.

Optional: Meet at Gilman Park in Mellen at 7:30 am.

Friday, May 19 – Afternoon

28. FULL Paddling Bibon Swamp (FT-3)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

The Bibon Swamp is a 10,000-acre State Natural Area bisected by the White River and hosting coniferous bogs, hardwood swamp, alder thickets, and other wetland habitats. Experience this remote, magical wetland via canoe/kayak with Tracy Hames, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, and naturalist Bill Heart, to appreciate the many plants, birds, and animals that call the Bibon home. EQUIPMENT NOT PROVIDED: Participants should have their own equipment and basic paddling skills.

29. FULL Spring Discovery Walk at the Lincoln Community Forest (FT-3)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Nearly 400 acres in size, the Lincoln Community Forest is comprised of a wild and scenic forest surrounding two miles of the Marengo River, a 10-acre wetland and lake complex, and 5 miles of nature-based recreation trails, all thanks to a partnership between local citizens, the Friends group, and Landmark Conservancy. Explore these habitats and their spring wildflowers, frogs, birds and more with biologists Adrian Wydeven and Colleen Matula. Tips on how to manage your property for wildlife such as songbirds, grouse, and deer will also be discussed.

30. Nature Hike to Lost Creek Falls (FT-4)

12:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Venture through meandering woodland trails lined with aspen, fir, and towering pine en route to the remote, serene, and scenic Lost Creek Falls near Cornucopia. Enjoy birds, flowers, and other jewels of nature in one of the region's most beautiful settings.

**Note:* Round trip hike around 3 miles; sturdy, waterproof footwear for rugged terrain recommended.

Optional: Meet at Lost Creek Falls parking lot at the end of Trail Road at 1:00 pm.

31. Birding by the Bay – Ashland (FT-2)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Local birding expert Tim Oksiuta will lead participants to multiple lakeshore points near Ashland to search for waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Interspersed may be short hikes along shoreline trails to find warblers, orioles, sparrows, and other migrating landbirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

32. Birding by the Bay – Washburn (FT-2)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

WDNR Conservation Biologist Nick Anich will lead participants to multiple lakeshore points in and near Washburn to search for waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Interspersed will be short hikes along shoreline trails to find warblers, orioles, sparrows, and other migrating landbirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

33. FULL Birds & Wildlife of the Moquah Pine Barrens (FT-4)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

The Moquah Pine Barrens offer a dramatic change to the local landscape – dry uplands with rolling hills of openings, pines, oaks and various shrubs. Join a U.S. Forest Service biologist to look for birds such as Sharp-tailed Grouse, Vesper Sparrows, Brewer’s Blackbirds, Eastern Towhees, and more. Also learn how and where to find unique plants and other wildlife in this interesting landscape, including gray wolves, American badgers and small mammals such as the 13-lined ground squirrel. Weather permitting, we’ll also look for early-season butterflies such as elfins, azures, and commas.

34. Reptiles & Amphibians of Wisconsin (FT-1)

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Learn about the identification, natural history, and breeding habits of frogs, toads, and various reptiles in the northwoods from Kevin Brewster of the Superior Rivers Watershed Association. After an indoor presentation, the group will step outside to ponds and marshes around the visitor center in search of these fantastic creatures. Knee-high waterproof boots helpful but not required.

35. Woodworking for Wildlife (Indoor Program)

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Native bees need your help! Discover our fascinating native bees and build a bee house to take home with you. All materials provided, including instructions for monitoring and maintaining your new bee house.

Additional cost: \$12.50



36. A Year in Birds (Indoor Program)

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Local birding expert Rick Burkman has the latest and greatest news on birds and birding. Enjoy a look at recent discoveries, hot topics, and unbelievable wonders revealed about our avian friends in the past year (or two (or three)). The more we learn, the more we realize that there's a lot we don't know!

37. Wrong Tree: Adventures in Wildlife Biology (Indoor Program)

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

During his 30+ year career in wildlife management, author and wildlife biologist Jeff Wilson found himself atop eagle nests, deep in bear dens, tracking furbearers on snow covered forest roads, and spending nights under the stars banding loons. Based on his memoir of the same name, Jeff uses masterful storytelling to share his adventures (or misadventures) in an incredibly informative, entertaining, and occasionally hilarious way.

Friday, May 19 – Evening

38. Silent Auction & Social

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Share stories, discuss birding tips, and meet some new friends all while enjoying a spectacular silent auction sponsored by Chequamegon Audubon and a refreshing cash bar featuring beer and wine. The perfect finale to your busy day of birding!

39. Dinner Banquet

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Celebrate the evening in style by taking advantage of our festival dinner at Northland College, featuring a mouth-watering buffet of herb-roasted chicken, stuffed acorn squash, steamed local carrots, roasted brussel sprouts, wild rice pilaf, dinner roll, tossed salad and dessert. Then stay for the rest of our exciting evening activities.

Additional Cost: \$22.50/person, plus optional beer and wine cash bar

40. Sightings of the Day & Welcome

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Discover the festival's most exciting finds so far and the stories behind them as we tally a master checklist of birds seen during the festival. A popular, can't-miss event! We'll also settle in for the evening's keynote presentation immediately following.

41. KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – Loon Lessons: Uncommon Encounters with the Great Northern Diver

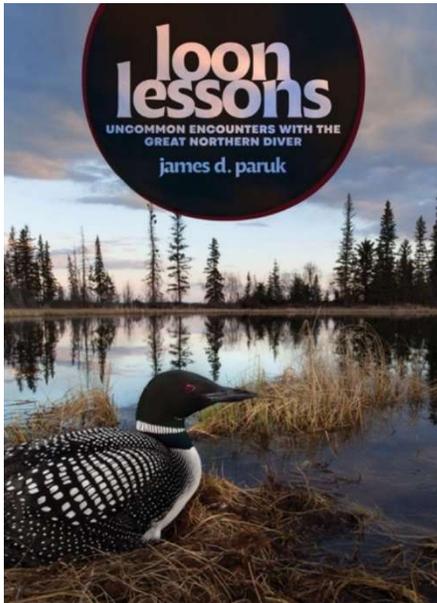
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Dr. James Paruk is a former professor of biology at Northland College in Ashland and one of the world's foremost experts on loons. In this presentation, Jim returns to the northland to share stories and expertise from his recent book of the same name, describing loon biology in an accessible and entertaining style that affords deeper

understanding of this beautiful and mysterious bird's natural history and annual life cycle. What do loon calls mean? What gives them such diving prowess? Where do they spend the winter? For these and so many other mysteries, *Loon Lessons* provides evolutionary and ecological explanations that are curious and compelling. Join us to learn all about the Common Loon!

Additional Cost: \$10

**Note:* Space is limited. Guests also attending the Dinner Banquet (#39) will receive reserved seating.



Saturday, May 20 – Morning

42. FULL Birding at Port Wing (FT-3)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

WDNR Conservation Biologist Nick Anich leads the group to Port Wing in search of a wide diversity of birds at the beautiful coastal town. Visit the harbor for waterbirds like shorebirds, gulls, terns, loons, and waterfowl. Hike among towering pines in the Port Wing Boreal Forest State Natural Area, where warblers, thrushes, woodpeckers, and other forest birds abound. Scan the Michele Wheeler Wetland Restoration for ducks, cranes, rails, bitterns, swans, and more! Dress warm and bring a scope if you have one.

43. FULL Birding the Porcupine Lake Wilderness Area (FT-3)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

“Simplicity in all things is the secret of the wilderness and one of its most valuable lessons.” – Sigurd Olson. It’s been over 50 years since the signing of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Leave the gadgets behind and absorb the serenity of our local Porcupine Lake Wilderness Area with local birding expert Brian McCaffery. Black-throated Blue Warbler and Swainson’s Thrush are possibilities, along with a suite of other northwoods bird and wildlife species.

Optional: Meet leader at Grand View general store at 7:00 am.

44. Sea Caves Nature Hike (FT-4)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

Peggy Burkman, National Park Service Biologist, will lead participants on this rugged trail at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Look for warblers, woodpeckers, and other birds amid beautiful birch and fir forests ultimately leading to spectacular views of sandstone cliffs and caves along Lake Superior.

Optional: Meet at the Lakeshore's Meyers Beach parking lot at 7:15 am.

**Note:* 4-5 miles roundtrip with some steep ravines and mud.

Additional Cost: Parking \$5/car

45. FULL Wetland & Woodland Birds of Iron River (FT-4)

6:30 am – 11:30 am

WDNR Conservation Biologist Ryan Brady guides you in search of woodland and wetland birds around the Iron River area. The trip will first seek out American Bittern, Sora, and Virginia Rail, then turn to landbirds such as Golden-winged Warbler, Sedge Wren, and more. Finish up with a trail hike at the beautiful Iron River National Fish Hatchery where migrating warblers and a few grassland species are possible.

46. A Bird in the Hand... (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

In this free activity, any festival registrant can come and go as they please within the listed timeframe to experience the wonders of bird banding from expert researchers. Marvel at the beauty of warblers, sparrows, finches, and other birds up close and personal – an unforgettable experience for all ages. Learn identification features, natural history, and research techniques as leaders demonstrate the how's and why's of bird banding. If you want to see birds up close, then this is the trip for you!

47. Birding Bayfield's Big Ravine (FT-4)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

The 250-acre Big Ravine Preserve is a natural gem in the heart of Bayfield defined by 1.5 miles of a deep ravine and the stream that runs through it. We will follow the Gil Larsen trail a half mile along the stream with views of the Old Iron Bridge, waterfalls, and towering tree covered slopes. Then we'll climb the Pine Bluff spur trail to the ravine's East Rim and hike along the rim back to the trailhead, along the way looking for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other forest birds. Be prepared for two stream crossings and a gradual yet steep climb to the rim of the ravine.

Optional: Meet at trailhead parking lot in Bayfield on Washington Avenue opposite Broad Street by 7:30 am.

48. Birding by the Bay (FT-2)

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Local birding expert Tim Oksiuta will lead participants to multiple lakeshore points near Ashland and/or Washburn to search for waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Interspersed will be short hikes along shoreline trails to find warblers, orioles, sparrows, and other migrating landbirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

49. Bibon Swamp Birding (FT-3)

7:00 am – 11:30 am

The Bibon Swamp is one of the area's best places to find Golden-winged Warblers. This trip will walk a very lightly traveled, dead-end dirt road through sedge meadow, alder, ash, and mixed lowland forest while enjoying a few Golden-wings amidst a potpourri of birds in a peaceful setting. Brad Gingras, local birder and naturalist, will help participants find and pick out numerous species, including various warblers.

Optional: Meet leader at Grand View general store at 7:30 am.

Saturday, May 20 – Afternoon

50. FULL Birding at Long Lake & Birch Grove (FT-3)

12:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Situated less than 10 miles from Washburn in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Long Lake Day Use Area and Birch Grove (Twin Lakes) Campground provide beautiful scenery and excellent birding opportunities. Join our keynote speaker Dr. James Paruk on hikes at both locations to scope the waters for loons, ducks, beavers, and otters and scan the treetops for warblers, grosbeaks, flycatchers, vireos, sapsuckers, and more.

51. Fire & the Ecology of the Pine Barrens (FT-3)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

The ecosystems of the sand plains of Northwest Wisconsin have been shaped over the millenia by frequent fires, which many species of plants and the animals depend upon to create the conditions they need to thrive. Certified Wildlife Biologist Scott Posner will lead a tour of sites being restored to the pine barrens ecosystem through prescribed burning and other treatments. Participants will learn about the relationship of fire and birds such as the black-backed woodpecker, clay-colored sparrow, and brown thrasher, as well as the very rare Chryxus Arctic butterfly and numerous other animals and plants. Weather permitting, this trip should yield a good mix of bird, insect, and mammal sightings!

52. Tracking Mammals in the Field (FT-4)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Visit the woodlands and coastline of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to learn the basics of identifying mammal tracks from wildlife biologists Adrian Wydeven and Andy Edwards. From squirrels to hares and foxes to wolves, they'll share their decades of experience in deciphering the strides, gaits, and patterns of footprints left behind by our furred friends. Finding wolf tracks is a good possibility on this trip!

53. Beginning Birding by Ear (FT-1)

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Bird songs are a grand part of nature's symphony. Step outside with a local birding expert to start putting sights and names to the bird songs you hear. Even if you have never gone "birding" before, this enjoyable walk has the sweet sounds and smells of spring along nearby trails. Learn how to pick out bird sounds and develop clever ways to remember the birds and their songs.

54. Shorebirds Made Simpler (FT-3)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Shorebirds are among the most difficult groups of birds to identify. WDNR Conservation Biologist Nick Anich will point out key identification features while this trip visits shorebird hotspots along Chequamegon Bay. Depending on available habitat, which varies each year, up to 10 species of shorebirds are possible, with potential to spot locally uncommon species such as American Golden-Plover, Willet, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, and other waterbirds.

55. FULL Wildflower Walk - Spring Ephemerals (FT-2)

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

U.S. Forest Service Botanist Caitlin Hoenig leads you on a hike to the Les Voigt Fish Hatchery in Bayfield in search of northwoods spring ephemeral wildflowers. Species that may be seen include Spring Beauty, Trout Lily, Wild Ginger, Bloodroot, Dutchman's Breeches, and Bellwort.

Optional: Meet at Les Voigt Fish Hatchery at 1:30 pm.