

Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club Spring Field Trip Offerings for 2025

Here are over 20 events to choose from, or be there for them all and really get your birding skills in tune.

- All events are open to Goss Club members, friends, and public.
- All trips are scheduled for Saturday unless otherwise noted. Note meeting time.
- All events are subject to change due to reasons beyond our control such as weather, water levels, access, etc., and depending on when birds show up or leave a location.
- Confirm field trip status before going.
- Bring binoculars and scopes as appropriate. Dress appropriately.
- Please sign the attendance sheet.
- Many areas have no restrooms.

Thanks to all those who are volunteering to lead these events, and to those who attend.

GOSS BIRD CLUB LED FIELD TRIP DATES FOR SPRING 2025

Watch for surprise “Pop-Up” trips to certain locations or where certain species are seen.

April 4 to June 13 Friday Bird Walks – 7:00AM – Retzer Nature Center: Meet in the parking lot for a 2- to 2½-hour hike around the property. We hope to see many different birds as they migrate through or return home. We have seen 50+ species on a single hike in the past. Bring binoculars.

MARCH – Finding where open water is located...

- **Sunday March 8 – 7AM – Phantom Lake (Little Muskego Lake...):** our quest: to spot and ID as many early migrants and waterfowl as are possible. Meet in Mukwonago, at the west end of Main Street. We will view birds from Lake Street, and then we will determine if the trip will continue to Little Muskego Lake.
- **Wednesday March 12 – 11AM – “Pop-Up” Vernon Marsh Frog Alley Dike South:** Ross’s Goose
- **Saturday March 15 – 7AM – Vernon Marsh Benson Road:** Meet in the 1st parking lot at the end of Benson Road, which goes west off of Hwy XX / Oakdale Drive. We might also go to Bear’s Den and Frog Alley. We will be hiking about ½ mile on even but wet/muddy ground – and keep in mind, there are no bathrooms in the area. This is part of the largest marsh in Waukesha County and a migratory hotspot with a vast variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and much more.
- **Saturday March 22 – 8AM – Pewaukee Area Where the Ducks Are:** Meet Tim Hahn at Brewers Two Coffee Shop on Wisconsin Ave in Pewaukee. Waukesha County is home to “Lake Country,” and many waterbirds use these lakes on their migration routes. We will check out Pewaukee Lake looking for ducks, geese, grebes, and loons. Depending on conditions we may check other areas as well.
- **Saturday March 29 – 7AM – Paradise Valley and School Section Lake:** Meet Joe Ruiz in the parking area located at the end of Kincaid Lane, two miles west of Dousman. We will gather at the viewing platform and scope for waterfowl, raptors, and early migrants before slow-walking 0.6 miles or so on level terrain out into the wetlands along old farm lanes. This is a fun and exciting location that can have many surprises.

APRIL

- **Saturday April 5 – 8AM – Pewaukee Lake Area Where the Birds Are:** Led by Tim Hahn. With the unique weather and migration patterns, Tim will select an area that week to investigate where it appears there is strong bird action. Tim will send a notice where to meet that day.
- **Saturday April 12 – 7PM – Wild Woodcock Walk:** This is an **EVENING** event at Scuppernong Prairie. This area is in the town of Eagle, close to Paradise Springs. Meet in the hunters' parking lot on Hwy N just south of Wilton Rd. Wilson's Snipe, American Bittern, and various owls are possible, and of course, the dancing American Woodcock. This low-key field trip is a fun and entertaining event not to be missed. Contact Spence with questions.
- **Saturday April 19 – 8AM – Fox River Sanctuary / E.B. Shurts:** Meet leader Ann Soderman at the city of Waukesha's E.B. Shurts building on 810 College Avenue for this urban gem of an area that moment to moment along the brushy river's edge houses surprises of migration with flying insectivores as well as warblers arriving in good numbers. Restrooms in the Shurts building should be open.
- **Saturday April 26 – 7AM – The Nature Conservancy's Lulu Lake Preserve:** Meet at the preserve, 9564 Nature Rd, Eagle, WI 53119. Parking is limited, so car-pooling is suggested. No parking is allowed on the road; however, there is a small parking lot on the west side of Nature Rd just a short distance south of the Lulu Lake entrance, if the lot is full. Birds seen include a nesting Osprey. Purple Martins may be there, and also many migrants that pass through here including cuckoos. This area has beautiful vistas, and a great diversity of 212 birds have been seen/heard at this hotspot. The Preserve paths are not always mowed, so be prepared for possibly wet grass. Paul Kinzer will lead this trip.
- **Tuesday April 29 – 7PM – Chimney Swifts at the Okauchee Old Norris School site:** Meet next to Okauchee US Post Office on Wisconsin Ave. This is an **EVENING** event to watch the gathering of these flying insectivores, with hundreds of birds going into the 100-year-old chimney to roost for the night during their spring migration north. Watch from a flat parking lot – no walking. No restrooms. Led by Spence Stehno.

MAY

- **Saturday May 3 – 8AM – Monches Woods John Winze Property:** John and Tim Hahn leaders. Topography in the Monches Hills is quite hilly and hiking there can be difficult for some folks. BUT we will be guided by John Winze, whose family owns property in the hills, lending us a "back door" entrance with fewer hills to climb. Monches Woods is a unique area containing both the Oconomowoc and Little Oconomowoc Rivers. Regular breeders include Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, and Red-shouldered Hawk, so this is a bird hike you don't want to miss!
- **Saturday May 10 – Ben Goss Spring Bird Count:** Jasonn Weber is the coordinator of this annual event covering a 15-mile-diameter circle divided into many sections with leaders for each. This a great way for less experienced birders to go out and learn from the veterans and share in our common joy of birding. This event technically starts at midnight for those birders who seek owls, and it goes until 11:59 that night – but come for whatever part you want. Most birders begin in the morning and bird until they have covered the area or run out of steam.
- **Tuesday May 13 – 8AM – Fox River Sanctuary / E.B. Shurts:** Led by Colleen Resendiz. Meet at the city of Waukesha's E.B. Shurts building on 810 College Avenue for this urban gem of an area that moment to moment along the brushy river's edge houses surprises of migration with flying insectivores as well as warblers arriving in good numbers. Restrooms in the Shurts building should be open.
- **Thursday May 15 – Oconomowoc Spring Bird Count:** contact Paula Stich if interested.
- **Friday-Saturday-Sunday May 16-17-18 – WSO convention, La Crosse**

- **Sunday May 18 – 7:30PM – Whip-poor-will Walk Piper Rd. horse trails:** This is an **EVENING** event. Meet at the horse trail crossing on Piper Rd., 1.3 miles east of Hwy 67. Anne Moretti will lead us in our annual quest to find Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, along with a couple of other species. The chances of hearing an Eastern Whip-poor-will is a special treat. In 2020 Anne and the group heard 3 and possibly 5 of them, so don't miss this one.
- **Saturday May 24 – 7AM – Vernon Marsh Benson Road, Frog Alley:** Meet in the Benson Road first parking lot (Benson Road goes west off of Hwy XX / Oakdale Drive). After listening there, we'll move to the inner parking lot, where we'll look for warblers and other open and woods birds. This area can present a panoply of bird species on a good day. Then we'll walk on the dike checking for waterfowl and other birds, and then we'll drive to Frog Alley for some rural hiking along bumpy pathways looking for flycatchers, warblers, and bush birds before walking around the ponds checking for waterfowl, shorebirds, and flying insectivores. No restrooms at Benson; before Frog Alley we'll stop at a gas station or restaurant for a break.
- **Saturday May 31 – 7AM – Beaver Dam Lake and Adjacent Property, Hwy ZZ & Hwy CI:** Kyle Drake, a retired DNR worker from our club, will share the Beaver Dam Lake and then a large patch of mixed habitat area north of Hwy CI west of Hwy Z. It's exciting to see what varied species lurk in this area from hardwoods, wetlands, and evergreens.

JUNE

- **Saturday June 7 – 8AM – Horicon Marsh:** Meet at the park-n-ride lot at Hwys 67 & 16 north of Oconomowoc. Details to come.
- **Saturday June 14 – 7AM – Fox River Park South: Hwy I & H:** This area is a mixture of hardwoods, prairie, marsh, pond and pathways through old growth trees right along the Fox River. This was an area of great diversity used by the Milwaukee Public Museum for a BioBlitz 5 years ago. Several viewing stations. Meet at the first parking lot by the boat launch, near the access / permit gate and restrooms.
- **Saturday June 21 ??**
- **Saturday June 28 – MPM BioBlitz ??:** June 27-June 28, 3PM – 3PM, Aldo Leopold, Baraboo

Options: Where the birds are! Planned or Pop-Up opportunities for yourself or groups to bird.

Other Recommendations:

1. County Parks: Minooka Park, Fox River Parkway, Menomonee Falls
2. DNR areas: Lapham Peak Delafield, Rainbow Springs Mukwonago, Menomonee Falls, Fox River Parkway, Paradise Springs, Ice Age Trail Merton/Monches
3. Merton Mill Pond
4. Wind Lake Sod Farms: shorebirds, European Goldfinch, pipits
5. McMahan Road and Pennsylvania Avenue Hwy 67 Marsh Oconomowoc area: shorebirds, ducks
6. Johnson Creek Kohl's: gulls
7. Lake Park Ravines, Milwaukee County Parks: brushy warblers, waterthrushes