

WEDNESDAY BIRD WALKS



The Elkhart County Parks is excited to announce a new program: the Wednesday Bird Walks! Every first and third Wednesday, join experienced bird guides for an informative walk in the park in search of resident and migratory species found in our area.

The program also offers information on proper identification, tips to help spot birds, and a chance to find rare and migratory species. Every walk offers something different, so grab your hiking boots and binoculars and come discover the fascinating lives of birds!

Wednesday walks take place 8–10 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of every month.



UPCOMING WALKS

November 2
Lieber Nature Preserve

November 16
Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

December 7
Cobus Creek County Park

December 21
Ox Bow County Park

January 4
River Preserve County Park

January 18
Bonneyville Mill County Park

February 1
Cobus Creek County Park

February 15
Ox Bow County Park

1 Nature Nuts: Turkeys

Learn all about wild turkeys, what they eat, and where they can be found. Participants will learn through stories, crafts, and snacks. Space is limited.

Date: Tuesday, November 1

Time: 9:30–11 a.m.

Age: 3–5

Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling

Preregister by: Tuesday, October 25 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter,
Ox Bow County Park



2 Wednesday Bird Walk

With protected habitats, such as grassland and wetland areas, Lieber Nature Preserve provides a crucial stopping point for migratory birds. Enjoy a beautiful fall walk viewing waterfowl, grassland sparrows, and raptors flying overhead. Warm outdoor clothing, good walking shoes/boots and binoculars are recommended.

Date: Wednesday, November 2

Time: 8–10 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum
(Due to parking limitations, we will carpool to walk site)

12 The Union's Youngest: Avery Brown and his Drum

At age 8, Avery Brown is believed to be the youngest person to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War. This program will chronicle his 18-month journey during the war, and unveil a new display at the museum showcasing one of Brown's drums.

Date: Saturday, November 12

Time: 1 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum



5

Holiday at the Mill

Celebrate the holidays
the old-fashioned way with merry festivities at the Mill.



Location: Bonneyville Mill County Park

Date: Saturday, November 5

Time: 10 a.m.–3 p.m. **Age:** All

Hot cocoa, locally-crafted gifts, and horse-drawn carriages around the park are just a sampling of the many seasonal treats we have in store at the annual holiday celebration at Bonneyville Mill. Kids can meet Santa and personally deliver their lists (he may check them twice), while gift shoppers can cross some items off their own lists by visiting our gift shop. With so many exciting activities in store, you will not want to miss this special holiday event.

16 Wednesday Bird Walk

Join us for a walk on the Pumpkinvine Trail and encounter winter birds in our county. Likely birds this time of year include: sandhill cranes, bluebirds, and a variety of hawk species. Bring along binoculars, good walking shoes, and make sure to dress for the weather.

Date: Wednesday, November 16

Time: 8–10 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Parking lot off of County Road 43, Middlebury (1/2 of a mile north of County Road 16)

17 Hiking Club 2016 Party

This party is for individuals who participated in the 2016 Hiking Club. Anyone who attended at least one of our Hiking Club events is welcome to attend and be recognized. Come out to help celebrate this great event and share stories and memories of this year's hikes with the club. Snacks and memorabilia will be available.

Date: Thursday, November 17

Time: 6 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park



18 Day in a One Room Schoolhouse

The One Room Schoolhouse program will portray life in the early pioneer days. Children as well as adults are invited to come and learn about how Laura Ingalls and other children endured in the early pioneer times. Come as you are or come dressed for this historic period. This program takes place in a mid to early 1800's classroom setting. The class will enjoy pioneer games, toys and crafts.

Date: Friday, November 18

Time: 6 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: \$2/person (Limit 25)

Preregister by: Thursday, November 17 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Baldwin One Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park

21 Science Sleuths: Natural Dyes

Explore the rainbow of colors the natural world supplies. A cloth to be dyed will be provided to all participants. Space is limited.

Date: Monday, November 21

Time: 1:30–3 p.m.

Age: 6–9

Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling

Preregister by: Monday, November 14 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

30 Weekday Warriors: Ox Bow Firewood

Get involved and help support your Elkhart County Parks – become a Weekday Warrior. This month volunteers will work on splitting and stacking firewood for use throughout the parks.

Date: Wednesday, November 30

Time: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Age: Adult

Cost: Free

Preregister by: Wednesday, November 23 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Service Center, Ox Bow County Park

DECEMBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

2 Christmas Ornaments

Handmade ornaments lend a special holiday charm to the Christmas tree. Join us as we learn to make beautiful handmade ornaments your whole family can admire. All materials will be provided.

Date: Friday, December 2

Time: 6 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: \$3/person (Limit 13)

Preregister by: Thursday, December 1 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park



6 Nature Nuts: State Symbols

Enjoy a story about Indiana's state bird, the Cardinal; make a craft with the leaf of Indiana's state tree, the Tulip tree; and other fun activities to celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial. Space is limited.

Date: Tuesday, December 6

Time: 9:30–11 a.m.

Age: 3–5

Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling

Preregister by: Tuesday, November 29 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park



7 Wednesday Bird Walk

Winter is a wonderful time for bird watching. Along with our area's year-long residents, such as chickadees, woodpeckers, and sparrows, northern migrants have joined the mix as well. Discover birds wintering in our county as we tour Cobus Creek. Bring binoculars if you have them, and dress for the weather and hiking.

Date: Wednesday, December 7

Time: 8–10 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Cobus Creek County Park

8 Elkhart County's Top 10 Moments in History Series I

With Indiana celebrating its 200th birthday, we are taking a look back at the history of Elkhart County and picking our top ten moments that most impacted the community's history. In the first of this two-part series, we will share some of our top picks and engage in an open discussion, exploring their historical significance.

Date: Thursday, December 8

Time: 7 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum

10 Cross Country Ski Workshop

Cross country skiing is a great way to enjoy the snow. In this workshop, learn what cross country skiing is all about, including what equipment is needed to get started, and lessons on basic maneuvers. Visitors are welcome to observe, or bring along their own skis to participate in the lessons.

Date: Saturday, December 10

Time: 10 a.m.

Age: 10–Adult

Cost: Free

Preregister by: Friday, December 9 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Baldwin One Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park



Learn more about cross country skiing on page 11.

19 Science Sleuths: Recycled Toys

Recycle common household items into unique toys to play with or give as a gift. Space is limited.

Date: Monday, December 19

Time: 1:30–3 p.m.

Age: 6–9

Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling

Preregister by: Monday, December 12 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

21 Wednesday Bird Walk

The feeders are filled, and wintering birds are flocking to Ox Bow County Park to grab a bite. Observe feathered visitors up-close at the feeding station, and along our walk. Woodland species we may encounter include pileated woodpeckers, cedar waxwings, and wild turkeys. Bring a camera or binoculars, winter boots, and make sure to dress for the weather.

Date: Wednesday, December 21

Time: 8–10 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

31 21st Annual Elkhart County Christmas Bird Count

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society and the Elkhart County Parks are calling for volunteers for this year's annual citizen science project. Observers will have the option to count birds from their yards or assist with field counts in assigned area parks or along roadsides. Bird watchers may choose to gather data all day or as little as one hour. Registered participants will receive an information packet in the mail.

Date: Saturday, December 31

Time: Dawn–Dusk

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Throughout Elkhart County

Preregister: Call 574-535-6458

or email rdecaire@elkhartcounty.com

JANUARY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
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4 Wednesday Bird Walk

Warm up with hot drinks, snacks, and fellow bird watchers at DeFries Gardens in the newly built Winter House. See birds up close at the winter feeders, and join experienced birders on a guided tour in the gardens. Bring binoculars if you have them, and dress for the weather and a short hike.

Date: Wednesday, January 4
Time: 8–10 a.m.
Age: All
Cost: Free
Location: Winter House, DeFries Gardens

10 Nature Nuts: Pinecones

Get creative with pinecones! Learn about the types of cones, their purpose, and how to turn them into unique gifts. Space is limited.

Date: Tuesday, January 10
Time: 9:30–11 a.m.
Age: 3–5
Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling



Preregister by: Tuesday, January 3 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

13 Winter Astronomy

In winter, there are more stars in our hemisphere than any other season, and the cool atmosphere acts as a magnifying glass for the stars, making them easy to spot. Join us for an evening program studying the stars. Activities include a talk about the Roman and Greek mythology behind the constellations, a star chart workshop, and snacks around the campfire.

Date: Friday, January 13
Time: 9 p.m.
Age: All
Cost: \$3/person (Limit 25)
Preregister by: Thursday, January 12 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Briar Patch Shelter, Bonneyville Mill County Park



18 Wednesday Bird Walk

Enjoy a beautiful winter stroll through Bonneyville Mills looking for sparrows, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and finches. In late winter, these hardy birds are easy to spot, providing birders the chance to observe their interesting foraging and social behavior. Outdoor clothing, good walking shoes/boots and binoculars are recommended.

Date: Wednesday, January 18
Time: 8–10 a.m.
Age: All
Cost: Free
Location: Briar Patch Shelter, Bonneyville Mill County Park



19 Elkhart County's Top 10 Moments in History Series II

Want to know the biggest moment in Elkhart County History? Come find out at the museum as we reveal the top pivotal events that have shaped our county in the exciting conclusion of our top 10 countdown.

Date: Thursday, January 19
Time: 7 p.m.
Age: All
Cost: Free
Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum

21–27 37th Annual Photo Contest Exhibit

The 37th Annual Elkhart County Parks Photo Contest entries will be on display in the Conference Center of the Concord Mall. View photos from local amateur photographers or attend one of the informative programs that take place during this annual event. Be sure to check our Facebook page later this fall for announcements and the full program lineup.

Date: Saturday, January 21-27
Time: 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Age: All
Cost: Free
Location: Conference Center, Concord Mall

23 Science Sleuths: Snow

Learn about the intricate delicate snowflake. Participants will learn how to create their own crystals and enjoy a "snowy" snack. Space is limited.

Date: Monday, January 23
Time: 1:30–3 p.m.
Age: 6–9
Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling
Preregister by: Monday, January 16 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park



28 People of Elkhart: E. Hill Turnock

You may have walked past the works of E. Hill Turnock and never noticed. Learn about how this overlooked architect left his mark on Elkhart County, and the iconic buildings he designed found throughout our area.

Date: Saturday, January 28
Time: 11 a.m.
Age: All
Cost: Free
Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum

FEBRUARY 1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 **15** 16
17 **18** **19** 20 21 22 23 24 **25** 26 **27** **28**

1 Wednesday Bird Walk

Winter may not be over, but the bustle of activity from birds such as golden-crowned kinglets, Carolina wrens, and red-tailed hawks provide a get reason to step out for a walk. Join us as we explore Cobus Creek and discover the unique birds that winter here. If weather conditions shorten the walk length, we will have some fun bird-themed activities by the fire.

Date: Wednesday, January 1

Time: 8–10 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Cobus Creek County Park

3 Indiana Wildlife

The State of Indiana has more wildlife today than it did in the early 1900s. Learn about the history of Indiana’s wildlife and the many wildlife species that call Indiana its home today. See wildlife artifacts, such as taxidermy mounts, skulls and pelts, and hold a live box turtle.

Date: Friday, February 3

Time: 6 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Preregister by: Thursday, February 2 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park



5 Leopold Education Project

Natalie Haley, Environmental Educator from Allen County Parks, will lead this workshop on how to define “land ethic”, get to know your own land ethic and learn effective ways to instill a land ethic in our youth. Participants will receive a number of resources, including a copy of *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold.

Date: Saturday, February 5

Time: 2–5 p.m.

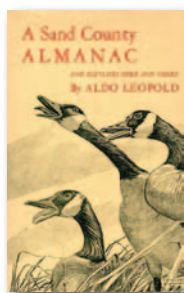
Age: Adult

Cost: \$30/person

Preregister by: Friday, January 13 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Baldwin One Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park



7 Nature Nuts: Animal Tracks

Discover the fun and excitement of tracking animals by following their footprints. Participants will also make an animal tracks book and have a snack. Space is limited.

Date: Tuesday, February 7

Time: 9:30–11 a.m.

Age: 3–5

Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling

Preregister by: Tuesday, January 31 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park



15 Wednesday Bird Walk

Join us for a morning walk at Ox Bow County Park as we encounter hawks, sparrows, juncos, and other species in early spring migration. Warm outdoor clothing, good walking shoes and binoculars are recommended.

Date: Wednesday, February 15

Time: 8–10 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

18 People of Elkhart: Charles Gordone

Born in Cleveland, but raised in the city of Elkhart, Gordone was the first African-American to win a Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Learn about the man as an actor, playwright, and director and his efforts to achieve racial unity through the arts.

Date: Saturday, February 18

Time: 11 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum

19 Homemade Dog Treats

Celebrate “National Love Your Pet Day” by learning the in’s and out’s of making healthy dog treats from scratch. Tips and recipes will be shared and all participants will make and take homemade treats. Space is limited.

Date: Sunday, February 19

Time: 2 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: \$3/person

Preregister by: Friday, February 17

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Baldwin One Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park



25 Backyard Maple Syrup Workshop

Just a few dollars’ worth of equipment and a single maple tree are all that is needed to make delicious maple syrup right from home. In this workshop, learn the art of making maple syrup. Pancakes, maple syrup, sausages, and drinks will be included in the program, and sugarin’ kits will be available for purchase.

Date: Saturday, February 25

Time: 9:30–11 a.m.

Age: All

Cost: \$4/person
(Kits available for \$15 each)

Preregister by: Friday, February 24 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Baldwin One Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park

27 Science Sleuths: Maple Syrup

Participants will learn to identify a sugar maple, how to tap a tree and how to turn sap into real maple syrup. Space is limited.

Date: Monday, February 27

Time: 1:30–3 p.m.

Age: 6–9

Cost: \$4/child
\$3/additional sibling

Preregister by: Monday, February 20 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

28 Did the Underground Railroad Stop in Elkhart County?

Decades before the Civil War, many slaves journeyed northward to freedom through the secret network known as the Underground Railroad. In this program, we will explore the historical myths and facts surrounding this movement in Elkhart County, and the people and places that may have been involved.

Date: Tuesday, February 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Age: All

Cost: Free

Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum

