

# 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

**January 4**  
River Preserve County Park

**November 16**  
Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

**January 18**  
Bonneyville Mill County Park

**December 7**  
Cobus Creek County Park

**February 1**  
Cobus Creek County Park

**December 21**  
Ox Bow 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 200<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:rdecaire@elkhartcounty.com)

**JANUARY** 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

**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.

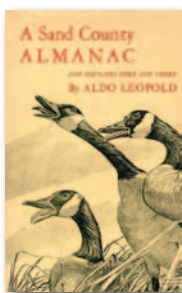
**Age:** Adult

**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

