

Here is the current field trip line up for 2018. We are always looking for additional field trips. Call Becky Kuhn at 616-437-9205 if you have an idea for a trip you would like to lead. Watch the **Caller** for future trip announcements.

### **Safety hazards for GRAC field trips**

Always be aware that driving in a caravan can be hazardous. Get directions from the leader and exercise caution on the road at all times. Have a passenger handle all radio or phone communications. Dress and drive for the weather particularly in the event of hazardous winter weather. Be aware that bad weather may cancel a trip. Unique or special safety hazards for some of our field trips will be included with the trip details.

### **Millennium Park Hikes (*recurring*)**

**Leaders: Katie Bolt, Jeanne Griffin or Kathy Haase**

**Thursdays 8:00 AM or 9:00 AM**

(starting time varies depending on time of year. See [http://graud.org/field\\_trips.html](http://graud.org/field_trips.html) for current start time.) Hike Millennium Park to see what's hanging around. Flat 2.0 or 3.0 mile loops are planned to see whatever might show up. Many birds have been reported from this varied habitat near the river. There are ponds, swampy ponds, lowland forest and various secondary growth. This can lead to a good variety of birds.

Essentials: Meet at the end of the dead-end section of Veterans Memorial Drive east of Maynard at 8:00 AM or 9:00 AM. Take Collindale south from Lake Michigan Drive. Take a right (west) on O'Brien for about a half-mile. Go left (south) on Maynard past the beach entrance to Millennium Park. Turn left (east) on Veterans Memorial Drive and park near the end of the road.

Safety Hazards: Always dress for the expected weather conditions. Paved trails have bike traffic and the trail may cross roads. So, watch for auto and bike traffic. Please exercise caution on the roads driving to and from the meeting place.

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**July 7, 2018, Saturday, 8:00 AM**

**Leader: Steve Minard**

### ***Summer Marsh Field Trip***

This is planned as a summer trip to the marsh at Lane's Landing in the Muskegon State Game Area. We usually have a spring marsh field trip when many of the migrants are just back on territory. By July, they have settled in and many of them should be attending to their young. It is one of the better times of year to see Least Bitterns in flight. They are present in this marsh and if you are watching carefully, and you are lucky, you may see one make a brief flight from one spot to another in the marsh. Rails, ducks and cranes are also possible. Depending on time, we may visit other nearby birding areas.

Essentials: Meet at the Boy Scout Headquarters west off Walker Road just north of I-96 at 8:00 AM. We plan to bird until noon; you may want to bring a snack to hold you over until lunch.

Safety Hazards: Driving in a caravan can be hazardous. Get directions from the leader for travel to the next stop. Please exercise caution on the roads at all times and watch the car ahead of you when driving in a caravan. Please have a passenger handle all radio or phone communications while in a car.

**Saturday, August 25, 8:00 AM**

**Leader: Becky Kuhn**

### ***Fall Shorebirds: Muskegon Wastewater Area***

This trip will focus on clues to identifying migrating shorebirds that are primarily in their winter plumage. With the challenges of dwindling bird numbers, this location is a consistent stopover for shorebirds and other birds migrating south. We'll be able to spend as much time as needed to use binoculars and spotting scopes to compare and evaluate shorebirds at relatively close proximity. In past years, we have seen seven "you can count on them" species and a variety of seven or more others, covering plovers, dowitchers, phalarope, snipe and all sizes, from Greater Yellowlegs to the Least Sandpiper. Of course, you can plan on viewing a collection of waterfowl and field birds as well.

Essentials: Meet at the main entrance to the Muskegon Wastewater on the east side of Maple Island Road (a mile or so north of Apple Avenue). Bring binoculars, scope (if you have one), drinks and snacks as needed. Call Becky if you get lost or want to meet later in the morning: (616) 437-9205.

**Saturday, September 15, 2018, 7:30 AM**

**Leader: Lizzy Kibbey**

***Huff Park Fall Trip***

Meet at the Aberdeen St parking lot near the playground at 7:30 AM (north end of the park). We will check out what's hanging out in the parking lot while we wait for other participants. We'll then head south through the woods, making our way around the trails, checking out the marshlands, too. Possibilities here are migrating passerines, particularly fall warblers, and others such as flycatchers and sparrows. Marsh birds of interest include wrens such as Sedge Wren. I've had Sedge Wrens in the past at this time of the year, and they are always nice to see. Rails are also a possibility. Bring good hiking/mud boots and bug spray, water, and maybe even a snack. The hike should only be an hour or two, depending on the weather, bugs and birds.

Essentials: Meet at the Aberdeen St parking lot near the playground at 7:30 AM. Dress for the conditions, bring binoculars and wear good hiking boots or waterproof footwear. Insect repellent, water and a snack would be useful.

**Saturday, September 29, 8:30 AM**

**Leader: Doug Klein**

***Paul Henry Trail, Middleville***

We'll meet in Middleville in the parking lot behind the Village Offices in Middleville. Head south on M-37 through Caledonia and into Middleville. Turn left at the only traffic light in town and go about ¼ mile to the bridge over the Thornapple River. Turn right on the drive immediately after the river and the parking lot will be visible. We'll hike a total of about 1.5 miles on a level, paved trail through woods and waters. Bring a spotting scope if you normally use one; binoculars are a must. Trip length will be approximately two hours. This trip is handicap-accessible. If folks are interested, we'll follow up with lunch in Middleville at the Riverdog Restaurant across the street from our parking lot.