

Here is the current field trip line up for 2017. We are always looking for additional field trips. Call Becky Kuhn at 616-785-7072 if you have an idea for a trip you would like to lead. Watch the **Caller** for future trip announcements.

Millennium Park Hikes (recurring)

Leader: Katie Bolt

8:00 AM or 9:00 AM (starting time varies depending on time of year)

Wednesdays and Thursdays

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. 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.

For the **Hansen Nature Trail** hikes meet at the corner of Butterworth St. and Riverbend Dr. Park along Riverbend Dr.

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.

August 26, 2017, Saturday 7:30 AM

Leaders: Lizzy Kibbey, Becky Kuhn and James Fyfe

Fall Shorebirds: Muskegon Wastewater Area

This trip will focus on what clues to use in identifying migrating shorebirds that now 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 will be able to spend as much time as needed to use binoculars and spotting scopes to compare and evaluate shorebirds at relative 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. We will start our birding at the Wastewater and then head to lunch and the Muskegon Nature Preserve (hopefully meeting up with Brian Johnson and observe him banding birds). We will then move on to Muskegon State Park (north side of the channel) to see if the Piping Plovers that nested this year are still there with any of their five offspring. If other rare or "interesting" birds have been reported in the area, we will discuss tracking them down 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 Ave) at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, drinks and snacks to hold you over, before and after where we stop for lunch (traditionally at the bagel place but there are many options). Since this is a longish day, feel free to join us as able. Becky's cell phone is 616-437-9205. Call me if you get lost or want to meet up with us later.

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.