



COUNTY OF ANOKA

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces 2012 Birding Programs

Birding is becoming an increasingly popular recreational activity and Anoka County Parks and Recreation offers numerous classes and programs for everyone, from beginners to experienced ornithologists. **For more information on birding programs or to register, visit www.anokacountyparks.com or call 651-429-8007.**

January Bird Walk

Our area has many permanent resident bird species. In addition, a few species come south to the metro area during the winter so January is a perfect time to watch for them. For this program we will begin our observations from inside the Wargo Nature Center before heading outdoors. Ages 10 and up are welcome, with a maximum of 15 participants. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Time Offered:

Saturday, January 7, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Wargo Nature Center, Lino Lakes

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Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces 2012 Birding Programs – Add 1

Bird Walk Series

Join an experienced birder as he guides you through several Anoka County parks. Enjoy seeing and/or hearing 25-60 species of birds on each walk. A checklist of Minnesota birds and a map of each park will be provided. All ages and birding abilities are welcome. Pre-registration is suggested. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 612-209-5405.

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Times Offered:

Saturday, January 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids

Saturday, March 31, 9-11 a.m.

Rum River Central, Ramsey (meet at boat access)

Saturday, April 21, 8-10 a.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids

Saturday, April 28, 8-10 a.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Bird Hike

If you want to catch a glimpse of the early spring migrants, you need to get out in March. Some of our winter visitors are still around at this time of year too. This walk will be in Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park located just north of Centerville. Ages 10 and up are welcome, with a maximum of 15 participants. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Time Offered:

Saturday, March 17, 8-10 a.m.

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Campground Visitor Center, Lino Lakes

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Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces 2012 Birding Programs – Add 2

How to Make Bird Feeders and Nest Boxes

Attract birds to your area with simple feeders and seed. Get the birds to stay for the nesting season by supplying nest structures. Many examples will be on hand. Free!

Time Offered:

Saturday, March 31, 1-2 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids

Birds of the Wetlands: Ducks, Geese, and Swans

By mid-April many of our wetlands birds will have returned to the metro area. This program will use digital photos to help you identify these wetland species. All ages are welcome, with a maximum of 20 participants. Call 763-717-2723 for directions. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$6/person (plus tax)

Time Offered:

Tuesday, April 10, 7-8:30 p.m.

Blaine City Hall, Blaine

Looking For Ducks and Other Wetlands Birds

This program is a follow up to the April 10 **Birds of the Wetlands: Ducks, Geese, and Swans** program. We will search for ducks and other water birds that will have recently returned to our area. Ages 10 and up are welcome, with a maximum of 15 participants. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Time Offered:

Saturday, April 28, 8-10 a.m.

Wargo Nature Center, Lino Lakes

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Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces 2012 Birding Programs – Add 3

Birding with Bob

Join experienced Birder Bob Holtz as he explores the northeast metro area in search of shorebirds, woodland migrants, waterfowl, and more. He has led numerous bird hikes in Minnesota and throughout the world and has spent many hours in the field sharing his passion for birds. Sign up for each program individually or the series as a whole. Fee is \$7 per program or \$18 for the whole series (plus tax). Enrollment is limited.

Birding with Bob: Birding Carlos Avery

The thousands of acres in the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area feature a variety of habitats. This program includes a drive through Carlos Avery, making frequent stops and at times walking a short distance to observe birds. Birds usually found in Carlos Avery include trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, common loons, hooded mergansers, bald eagles, belted kingfishers, vireos, swallows, warblers, and pied-billed grebes. At this time of year we should also find a number of migrating ducks. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$7/program or \$18/whole series (plus tax)

Time Offered:

Saturday, April 21, 8-10:30 a.m.

Wargo Nature Center, Lino Lakes

Birding with Bob: Birding in AHATS (Arden Hills Army Training Site)

This unique site is not open to the public, making it a desired location for birders. The area supports nesting common loons, trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, great horned owls, grasshopper sparrows, wild turkeys, and many other species. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.cityofroseville.com/parks or call 651-792-7006.

Fee: \$7/program or \$18/whole series (plus tax)

Time Offered:

Saturday, May 12, 7:30-10 a.m.

Meet at AHATS. Take Hwy 96 to Hamline Avenue and go north a couple hundred yards to a gate on your right.

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Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces 2012 Birding Programs – Add 4

Birding with Bob: Birding at Tamarack Nature Center (Ramsey County)

Tamarack Nature Center has several hiking trails which pass through a variety of habitats, adding variety to the bird species found there. Birds nesting in the area include a variety of woodpeckers, great crested flycatchers, red-eyed vireos, eastern bluebirds, brown thrashers, American redstarts, field sparrows and rose-breasted grosbeaks. Pre-registration is required. Register in person at Tamarack Nature Center or call 651-407-5350.

Fee: \$7/program or \$18/whole series (plus tax)

Time Offered:

Saturday, June 9, 8-10 a.m.

Tamarack Nature Center, White Bear Lake

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