



2018 Cerulean Warbler Weekend Schedule

Festival Headquarters: Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary (3560 Havens Road, Hastings)
All tours except the Bus Full of Birders tour begin at Festival Headquarters.

Friday, June 1

4:30-8:30 p.m. | Welcome table and walk up registration open at festival headquarters

5-7 p.m. | Birding Otis Farm

This birding hike will take you on the trails of the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary. Habitats include wetlands, pine forest, hardwood forest, and grasslands. Possible species include cuckoos, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, and many others. *Tour Rating: Easy to Moderate*

8:30-10:30 p.m. | Whip-poor-wills Tour

Join us on a carpool caravan to hear the loud, distinctive call of the Whip-poor-will. Although the chances of actually seeing the bird are small, there's still nothing like hearing that classic sound of summertime nights often talked about in poems and folk songs. *Tour Rating: Easy*

Saturday, June 2

5:30-10 a.m. | Welcome table and walk up registration open at festival headquarters

Coffee and light snacks available.

6-9 a.m. | Henslow's Sparrow Tour

Search for the elusive Henslow's Sparrow. It takes a keen sense of hearing to find these secretive birds and our guides have that. This is a walking tour of the trails at Otis Farm. If the sparrows have not chosen nesting areas in the fields of Otis Farm, the trip will caravan to nearby fields where they have established territories.

Tour rating: Easy to Moderate - Walking mowed grass trails in hilly terrain.

8-11 a.m. | Cerulean Warbler & Flycatcher Tour

This is a carpool caravan to several Cerulean Warbler nesting territories within the Barry State Game Area. Other possible species include Least, Willow, Acadian, and Alder Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanager, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, Hooded Warbler, and deciduous forest species. *Tour rating: Easy*

8-10 a.m. | Birding Otis Farm

This birding hike will take you on the trails of the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary. Habitats include wetlands, pine forest, hardwood forest, and grasslands. Possible species include cuckoos, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, and many more species. *Tour Rating: Easy to Moderate*

9 a.m.-12 p.m. | Cerulean Warbler & Flycatcher Tour

This is a carpool caravan to several Cerulean Warbler nesting territories within the Barry State Game Area. Other possible species include Least, Willow, Acadian, and Alder Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanager, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, Hooded Warbler, and deciduous forest species. *Tour rating: Easy*

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Cerulean Warbler & Flycatcher Tour

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10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Otis Farm Family “Neat”ure Walk

Join Sarah Nelson, the property’s resident manager, to learn more about Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary and discover the incredible nature available on the property. *Tour rating: Easy to Moderate*

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Family Education Tent

Join us for bird and conservation activities for the whole family. Enjoy informational and hands-on displays, crafts, and activities from Michigan Audubon and other local organizations.

2-3:30 p.m. | Birder Social and Presentation

Join fellow birders and Michigan Audubon staff for a quick snack and networking. Take a break from the outdoors during a brief update on restoration and management work happening at Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary, followed by an overview of Michigan Audubon’s work.

6-8 p.m. | Dinner with the Birders

Join your fellow participants for dinner at one of Hastings’ finer restaurants, the Seasonal Grille. Dinner cost is not included with registration.

6:30-8:30 p.m. | Birding Otis Farm

This birding hike will take you on the trails of the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary. Habitats include wetlands, pine forest, hardwood forest, and grasslands. Possible species include cuckoos, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, and many more. *Tour Rating: Easy to Moderate*

9-11 p.m. | Movie at Otis Farm

Bring a lawn chair or blanket (if you have them) and join us for *The Big Year* projected on the house.

Sunday, June 3

7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | A Bus Full of Birders

Board the bus at the Hastings Library to head to the birding hotspots of Barry County with guide Caleb Putnam. After visiting Otis Lake to see the most southerly nesting pair of Common Loon in the country, we will make a stop at a Hastings restaurant for breakfast (cost not included in tour). After some nourishment we will head out to the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and the Hickory Corners area for grassland species. Other stops may be included on this fun tour, depending on birding reports. We will end back at the Library at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Tour Rating: Moderate

8:30-10 a.m. | Welcome table and walk up registration open at festival headquarters

Coffee and light snacks available.

9 a.m.-12 p.m. | Cerulean Warbler & Flycatcher Tour

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9:30-11:30 a.m. | Otis Farm Stewardship Activity

Spend some time giving back to the birds by participating in this short stewardship activity at the sanctuary.