

✧ 2019 Cerulean Warbler Weekend Schedule ✧

Festival Headquarters – Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary (3560 Havens Rd., Hastings)

Friday, May 31

4:30-7:30 p.m. | Registration and information 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 more. **Tour Rating: Easy to Moderate**

9-11 p.m. | Whip-poor-wills Tour

Join us on a carpool caravan to hear the loud, distinctive call of the Eastern 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 1

6:30-10 a.m. | Registration and information open at festival headquarters

Coffee and light snacks will be available.

7-10 a.m. | Warner Sanctuary Tour

This tour will carpool caravan to the nearby Warner Sanctuary (park at the end of Hart Road) to bird for wood warblers and other mature forest species. Because of the dense nature of the forest, this is largely an auditory walk where participants can work on identifying birds by ear. Possible species include Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Blue-winged Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Red-shouldered Hawk. **Tour rating: Moderate** - A long walk on dirt 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**

9 a.m.-Noon | 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**

10 a.m.-12 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**

12-1 p.m. | Lunch

Join Michigan Audubon, volunteers, and your fellow birders for a refreshing outdoor lunch. Lunch is included with registration.

1-2:30 p.m. | Keynote: Restoration Efforts for Plant and Bird Communities in Tallgrass Prairies Using Prescribed Burning and Mowing: Lessons from Iowa on the responses of two management techniques in fragmented tallgrass prairies by Dr. Fred Van Dyke

Recent losses and fragmentation of tallgrass prairie habitat to agriculture and urban development have led to corresponding declines in diversity and abundance of bird and plants associated with such habitat. Mowing and burning are two management strategies for restoring and rejuvenating prairies in fragmented landscapes, but their specific, comparative effects are the subjects of ongoing evaluation. In this presentation, you will see comparative results of responses of plant and bird communities on four sets of mowed, burned, and untreated sites of small (3–10 ha), fragmented tallgrass prairies at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa during bird breeding seasons and learn the implications of the results for conservation of both grassland plants and birds.

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.

Sunday, June 3

7 a.m.-1 p.m. | Birding at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (Additional charge of \$30-\$35)

Join guide Josh Haas to explore the variety of birds at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (PCCI). Meet in the parking area of PCCI and enjoy part of the property before heading to the Visitor Center for a nice hot breakfast. Breakfast is included. After some nourishment, hit the trails to add more species to your daily total. This activity is co-sponsored by Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. **Tour Rating: Moderate**

7:30-10 a.m. | Welcome table and walk up registration open at festival headquarters

Coffee and light snacks will be available.

8:30-10 a.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 massive amount of nature available on the property.

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**

10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Otis Farm Stewardship Activity: Dame's Rocket Pull

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