



Introduction to Birding Course

March 11 – April 12, 2025

Environmental Education Center

2401 Scott Blvd. SE, Iowa City

The Iowa City Bird Club is offering an Introduction to Birding Course consisting of five evening classes and five Saturday morning field trips to local hotspots. Classes are held at the Environmental Education Center at 2401 Scott Blvd. SE, Iowa City. The cost is free for ICBC members or \$5 per class for non-members, or join our membership on the first night of class for \$10 (digital newsletter subscription) or \$15 (print/mailed newsletter subscription). Participants may attend all sessions or pick one or more to attend. No registration is required! Just come!

Loaner binoculars will be provided for field trips. Trips may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Please check our website at iowacitybirdclub.org/events/ for updates. Updates will also be emailed to club members and posted on our Facebook page. For more information, contact iowacitybirdclub@gmail.com.

Tuesday, March 11, 7–8 p.m. BASICS OF BIRDING I CLASS. This will include field identification of birds, field guides, and equipment every birder needs.

Saturday, March 15, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Field Trip to KENT PARK. Beginning birder trip for current or past participants in the Introduction to Birding Course. We will explore the trails in this park looking for migrating songbirds and resident woodland birds. Meet at the Conservation Education Center in Kent Park, 2048 Hwy. 6 NW, Oxford.

Tuesday, March 18, 7–8 p.m. BASICS OF BIRDING II CLASS, including e-Bird, apps, and birdsong ID.

Saturday, March 22, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Field Trip to CONE MARSH. Beginning birder trip for current or past participants in the Introduction to Birding Course. Cone Marsh is an excellent place to view migrating ducks, geese, Sandhill Cranes, and other water birds. Wear boots for walking in wet areas, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at Fareway parking lot, 2765 Commerce Dr., Iowa City. From here we carpool to Cone Marsh, 3rd St., Conesville.

Tuesday, March 25, 7–8 p.m. BIRDING IN JOHNSON COUNTY CLASS. Covering eBird alerts, hotspots, recent photos and sightings, and Iowa City Bird Club field trips.

Saturday, March 29, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Field Trip to LAKE MACBRIDE. Beginning birder trip for current or past participants in the Introduction to Birding Course. Targets are water birds and other early spring migrants. We'll stop at various points around the lake. Meet at the North Liberty Community Center, 520 W Cherry St., on the north side of the building, and carpool from there. If you are familiar with Lake Macbride and feel comfortable, you can meet up with us at the Sailboat Shelter 1 parking lot in Lake Macbride State Park around 8:20 a.m.

Tuesday, April 1, 7–8 p.m. BACKYARD AND FEEDER BIRDS CLASS. This session will cover the common birds found in our backyards during the year, and what types of feeders and food to use to attract them.

Saturday, April 5, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Field Trip to HAWKEYE WILDLIFE AREA. Beginning birder trip for current or past participants in the Introduction to Birding Course. We expect to see ducks, geese, American White Pelicans, and other early spring migrants. Wear boots for walking in wet areas, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the Swan Lake parking lot (GPS coordinates 41.776081, 91.675009).

Tuesday, April 8, 7–8 p.m. BIRDS OF IOWA CLASS. Summer residents that nest here and birds that migrate through Iowa in spring and fall.

Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Field Trip to WATERWORKS PRAIRIE PARK. Beginning birder trip for current or past participants in the Introduction to Birding Course. Visit this Iowa City park with great trails for woodland, prairie, and wetland species. Meet at Waterworks Prairie Park, 2875 Dubuque St. NE, Iowa City.