



Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Info and Media Packet May 4-7, 2017, Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

IDBF Mission Statement: To celebrate the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities to create a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors and residents to the Indiana Dunes region.

Festival Contact Info:

Phone Registrations & Sponsor Inquiries: (219) 926-1390
Media/ Marketing Inquires: (812) 936-7446
Email: info@indunesbirdingfestival.com
Indiana Dunes State Park Contact: (219) 926-1390
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Contact: (219) 395-1608
Festival website: www.indunesbirdingfestival.com

Contact us via social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/indunesbirdingfestival>

<https://twitter.com/indunesbirdfest>

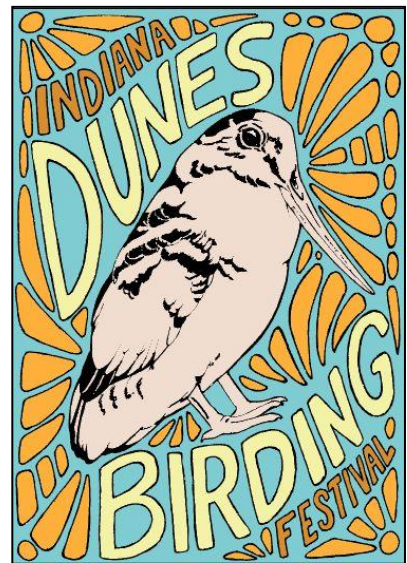
Festival Headquarters:

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitors Center
C/O Indiana Dunes Birding Festival
1215 N. IN 49
Porter, IN 46304

IDBF Planning Committee

Brad Bumgardner- Chair
John Lindsey- Vice-Chair
Penny Starin- Executive Committee
Kim Ehn- Executive Committee
Jean-Pierre Anderson- Executive Committee
Karen Lindsey
Kristin Stratton

Bruce Rowe
Jim Starin
Scott Namestnik
Beth Dixon
Matt Beatty
Katie Rizer
Rafi Wilkinson
Cookie Ferguson



**2017 Keynote Presenter: Sharon “Birdchick” Stiteler
Saturday, May 6, 6pm – 10pm / Sand Creek Country Club**

Join us for our Saturday night event. Join hundreds of birders for an evening social including a fabulous dinner, drinks, an exhaustive silent auction selection and a chance to spend the evening with our keynote presenter, Birdchick. When your main goal is to get paid to go bird watching, your office can be in the middle of the Kazakh Steppes or flying 100 feet above the Mississippi River counting ducks. Sharon “Birdchick” Stiteler will chronicle her many adventures finding things and share her experiences finding Horned Guans in Guatemala, Sandwich Terns in a nudist colony, and not to mention suitable bathrooms!

2017 Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Registration and Timelines

May 4-7, 2017	Child	Adults
Indiana Audubon Priority Registration		
Basic 4 Day Registration	\$29.00	\$39.00
Saturday Keynote Dinner Presentation	\$15.00	\$25.00
<i>February 12-18</i>		
Early Bird Registration		
Basic 4 Day Registration	\$39.00	\$49.00
Basic Single Day Registration	\$25.00	\$30.00
Saturday Keynote Dinner Presentation	\$15.00	\$25.00
<i>February 18-March 31</i>		
Regular Registration		
Basic 4 Day Registration	\$49.00	\$59.00
Basic Single Day Registration	\$30.00	\$35.00
Saturday Keynote Dinner Presentation	\$15.00	\$25.00
<i>April 1-April 30</i>		

Van tour field trips and specialty workshops may have additional fees.

Refund requests must be sent in writing. Refunds postmarked on or before April 1, 2017 will be fully refunded less a \$5.00 administrative fee. Refunds postmarked on or before May 1, 2017 will be refunded 50% less an additional \$5.00 administrative fee. No refunds will be given after May 1, 2017.

Refund requests are to be sent to info@indunesbirdingfestival.com or Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, 1600 N 25. Chesterton, IN 46304.



For immediate release: November 16, 2016

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival comes to region May 4-7, 2017

Celebrate the migration of birdlife through the Indiana Dunes region this May 4-7 at the third annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. The festival is a joint partnership with the region's major environmental groups highlighting the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities to create a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors and residents to the Indiana Dunes region. The event is being organized by the Indiana Audubon Society and includes both the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park as site hosts.

The four-day festival will include over 50 guided field trips and car pool tours to view migrating birds within the dunes area, over 30 bird related programs, from live bird of prey talks to species ID workshops, and special workshops for both new bird watchers and educators. Evening events include special excursions for night birds, and a family friendly "birds and brew" social event on multiple nights.

Registration for priority Indiana Audubon Society members begins February 12, with general early-bird registration beginning February 18. Registration costs for the entire four day festival run as low as \$39 for adults and \$29 for youth under 18. Registration can be found online at www.indunesbirdingfestival.com.

Twenty partners have come together to make the festival a reality. Additional signature sponsors include, Tropical Birding, First State Bank of Porter, Chesterton Feed and Garden, Northwest Migratory Bird Association, Starin Marketing, and Indiana Dunes Tourism.

In addition to the festival website, more information can be obtained at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, located at 1215 N. State Road 49, just south of the intersection of 49 and US 20 in Porter, Indiana. Interested participants can also contact the information desk at 219-395-1882 or the State Park Nature Center at 219-926-1390. Visit the park's on the web at www.nps.gov/indu or www.dnr.in.gov/parklake/2980.htm.

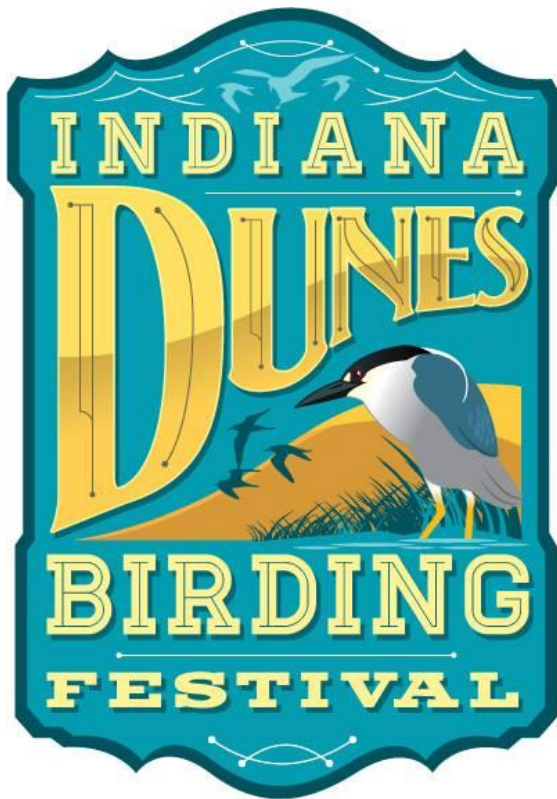
-30-

Media contacts: Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Dunes State Park, (219) 926-1390.
Bruce Rowe, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (219) 395-1609

Festival Logo

Journalist may use the unaltered IDBF logo in context with Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. For higher resolution images or different file types, please contact info@indunesbirdingfestival.com.

Since the logo and related name are trademarked, only merchandise authorized by the IDBF Committee can be sold which contain the symbol and/or name. Therefore, any person, organization, or business outside of IDBF or Indiana Audubon Society cannot reproduce it in any form that might resemble it.



Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival?

Organized and hosted by the Indiana Audubon society, the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is a four day event to highlight the great birding and nature viewing in one of the greatest bird migration stopover sites in the Great Lakes region. Its proximity to Chicago and Indianapolis makes it a convenient place for both birders and nature enthusiasts.

Who sponsors the festival?

Aside from the Indiana Audubon Society, signature partners include the National Park Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Northwest Indiana Migratory Bird Association, NIPSCO, Lake Michigan Coastal Program, and the First State Bank of Porter.

Can I register for a single day events?

Yes, pricing options allow for a single day registration.

Is festival merchandise available?

Absolutely. There is an assortment of themed merchandise on the festival website. You may also buy them the day of the festival at the Festival Headquarters and Trinity Hall (keynote event location) center Saturday night. Additional themed merchandise (magnets, key chains, patches, etc...) will be available for sale the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center before and during the festival through Eastern National.

How is the birding during this time?

Birding on the southern shore of Lake Michigan in May can be spectacular. Birding can be weather dependent, but early May can bring cool north wind rains as well as warm south winds pushing migrants in every few days. Warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and other songbirds are peaking in their migration. The beaches and open water can host shorebirds, waterfowl, and an assortment of other migratory species.

What birds will I see during this time?

The Indiana Dunes has hosted over 370 species of birds. In short, you should expect to see most if not all of the expected eastern neo-tropic migrants and resident birds native to the Chicago region. Because of the pile up effect along Lake Michigan, a good birding day should easily yield 20 or more warbler species, with peak days finding 30 warbler species. The wetlands also host an assortment of shorebirds, waterfowl, waders, and more. We provide a birding checklist in the Birding Guide found at: <http://www.indianadunes.com/assets/Birding-Guide-2015.pdf>

Are there times of the day better than others?

Just as birding in general is usually better in the morning, so are the lakefront birding opportunities in May. The longshore flights often occur best in the first four hours after the sunrise. Late afternoons and early evenings can also see a pickup in bird activity.

What's the earliest and latest I can go birding in the dunes area?

For the most part, most birding sites are open dawn to dusk. The Indiana Dunes State Park has extended hours until 11pm for nocturnal birding. Your festival birding pass will get you access to all the birding sites for free.

What if we're new to birding and have no optics?

That is fine! There are backpacks for birders with binoculars available from many locations

for free of cost. You can also use binoculars during the IYBC Family Birding Day at the State Park on Saturday of the festival.

Where can I eat and stay during the festival?

The festival website gives many great suggestions for both lodging and food services. The Indiana Dunes Tourism website also has resources available for folks new to the area. Each day of the festival features a food truck at the Festival Headquarters parking lot at the Indiana Dunes Tourism Visitor Center.

2017 Sponsors

For information on various sponsorships, visit the sponsorship information page at <http://www.indunesbirdingfestival.com/admindocs/sponsors.pdf>