

Welcome to the 19th Great Adirondack Birding Celebration (GABC)!

June 2-4, 2023

Paul Smith's VIC, 8023 State Route 30, Paul Smiths, NY 12970

Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC)

Designated an Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy, the Paul Smith's VIC property contains every habitat type found in the Adirondack Park with the exception of alpine vegetation. Included on the property is a 60-acre marsh, five ponds, several brooks and swamps, bogs, fens, and varied forest types; most notably northern boreal forest. The 25-mile trail system traverses a variety of habitats with extensive boardwalks through wetland ecosystems. Common sightings at the Paul Smith's VIC include: Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Black-backed Woodpecker. Warblers include (Yellow) Palm Warbler, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Nashville Warbler. Other sightings may include Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Wilson's Snipe, Broad-winged Hawk, Hooded Merganser and Ring-necked Duck. Make sure to leave time to enjoy our trails.

As you read through the field trip descriptions, please pay careful attention to the date and times that are listed. Not all programs start at the same time. Please join us and happy birding!

Field Trip Schedule

Friday, June 2

- **7:30am – 4:30pm:**
 - Champlain Valley. Lead by Brian McAllister
 - Franklin County Hotspots (Duane Township). Lead by Rich Hanlon

Saturday, June 3

- **7am – 11:30am:** Whiteface Mountain. Lead by Brian McAllister
- **7:30 – 11:30am:**
 - Bloomingdale Bog. Lead by Rich Hanlon
 - Grassland Birds at Heaven Hill and Uihlein Farm. Lead by Michale Glennon—this trip has a research orientation – please see trip description
 - Loon Watching Paddle on Little Clear Pond. Lead by Jen Denny
 - Madawaska Flow / Search for Spruce Grouse. Lead by Angie Ross
- **8 – 10am:**
 - Beginner birding at the VIC building. Lead by Jesse Rock
- **12-5pm:** Enjoy a walk on the VIC trails, peruse vendors with bird-related goods, take in the art exhibit in Heron Marsh Gallery, plunk yourself down in front of one of the best views in the Adirondacks and see what's at our bird feeders.

- **12-2pm**: Adirondack Raptors with Mark Manske. Bird on hand demonstration
- **1:30pm**: Jesse Rock: Golden-winged Warbler Report
- **2:00-3:00pm**: **KEYNOTE WITH IVAN PHILLIPSEN (Science of Birds)**

Sunday, June 4

- **7:00am - 11:30am**: Whiteface Mountain. Lead by Brian McAllister
- **7:30 – 11:30am**:
 - Bloomingdale Bog Trip. Lead by Betsy Miner and Mar Bodine
 - Grassland Birds at Heaven Hill and Uihlein Farm. Lead by Michale Glennon—this trip has a research orientation – please see trip description
 - Madawaska Flow / Search for Spruce Grouse. Lead by Connor Vara
- **8 – 10am**:
 - Beginner birding at the VIC building. Lead by Jeff Biby

Field Trip Descriptions

Friday, June 2, 2023 ONLY:

Champlain Valley Full Day Field Trip. Leader: Brian McAllister. Trip runs from 7:30am ~ 4:30pm

Participants leave the VIC for an all-day field trip “down the mountain” to the beautiful shoreline of Lake Champlain in search of migratory birds. This field trip will feature stops at many birding hotspots as we look at a cross-section of bird life from high elevation to low. ***Preregistration required.*** Transportation included. Bring a bag lunch, plenty of water and bug dope if you use it. \$125 fee, 8 participants

Franklin County Hotspots (Duane Township) Full Day Field Trip. Leader: Rich Hanlon. Trip runs from 7:30am ~ 4:30pm

Enjoy a full day birding some of Franklin County’s least visited birding hotspots. Begin the day observing a Bald Eagle nest at a site also good for American black ducks and a variety of warblers and other songbirds. We’ll move on to state land composed of spruce-fir forest rich with a thick mossy carpet, and then visit a local park with some incredible pond and mountain views. We may see loons, eagles, and ospreys foraging as well as Mourning Warblers. Northern Goshawk was observed along our route last summer so we can hope! Debar Pond, our lunch spot, is also the location of the historic Debar Pond Lodge. From there we’ll round out the day on California Road which borders more spruce-fir forest and a couple of extensive marshes. The habitat along California Road is home to a great variety of songbirds including Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers. ***Preregistration required.*** Transportation included. Bring a bag lunch, plenty of water and bug dope if you use it. \$125 fee, 8 participants

Saturday, June 3, and Sunday, June 4, 2023 field trips. These are all morning half day trips, *please note: The loon field trip only runs on Saturday the 3rd.*

Beginner Birder Field Trip at the VIC. Leaders: Jesse Rock (Saturday) and Jeff Biby (Sunday), 8-10am

You may feed the birds in your backyard and enjoy the beauty they bring, but lately you’ve been asking yourself what the other birds are that visit the trees in your neighborhood during the spring and summer months. Well now’s the chance to start learning those birds! Our Beginner Birder Workshop will

take you step-by-step through the intricate lives of birds. Leaders will introduce field identification and song identification skills in a relaxed manner so you can fully absorb the intricacies of the lives of birds. As students of bird study, you will then “graduate” from your Saturday course and join the other birders for your chosen Sunday field trip. This is a great spot to whet your teeth in the fun, challenging and enjoyable activity of birding. Join us and start your birding adventure. Free

Bloomingdale Bog. Leaders: Rich Hanlon (Saturday); Betsy Miner/Mar Bodine (Sunday), 7:30-11:30am

Walk roughly three miles of the level Bloomingdale Bog Rail Trail path bordering quintessential Adirondack boreal forest and spruce bog habitats. Some anticipated highlights include experiences with Canada Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, Nashville Warbler, and Lincoln’s Sparrow with a chance of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee and Sandhill Crane. Last year’s highlights included most of the above as well as some very good looks at an American Bittern. \$75

Grassland Birds at Heaven Hill and Uihlein Farm, Lake Placid. Leader: Michale Glennon, 7:30-11:30am

The Paul Smith’s College Adirondack Watershed Institute has been working since 2019 to understand the unique challenges faced by grassland birds in Essex County and to provide recommendations for management of these private-land dependent habitats. In partnership with the Uihlein Foundation, grassland birds are monitored at 2 sites on Bear cub Lane in Lake Placid. Heaven Hill farm hosts a hay meadow and efforts to manage mowing are focused around conservation of bobolinks and savannah sparrows that use this site. Uihlein Farm is a former potato research facility operated previously by Cornell University and now recovering from cultivation. It hosts abundant savannah sparrows as well as other grassland species, including a recently noted Short-eared Owl. We will visit both sites and learn about the research efforts of AWI and conservation management practices employed by the Uihlein Foundation to benefit grassland species. We will also visit the orchard at Heaven Hill which is used by numerous passerines. We are guaranteed to see Bobolink and Savannah Sparrow, and if luck is with us we may also find Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Short-eared Owl and other potential grassland specialists. Additional species commonly observed at both sites include Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Indigo Bunting, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow, American Goldfinch, and Northern Flicker. \$75

Loon Watching Paddle on Little Clear Pond. Leader: Jen Denny. **SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD, ONLY, 9am-1pm**

Little Clear Pond is a haven for Common Loons, with crystal clear water and abundant food sources. It is a great destination for watching the behavior of loon families. Jennifer Denny is the Education Coordinator at the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, and a certified NYS outdoor guide. Our guide will lead us on a slow-paced educational paddle to observe these beautiful symbols of Adirondack wilderness. The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation’s research has focused on using Adirondack loons as a sentinel species to better understand the impact of environmental contaminants on aquatic ecosystems. **Contact the VIC if you need to rent a canoe and paddling equipment. \$75. Preregistration required**

Madawaska Flow / Spruce Grouse Search. Leaders: Angie Ross (Saturday) Connor Vara (Sunday), 7:30-11:30am

Madawaska has been a favored boreal birding area for a half-century or more. The area encompasses conifer forest, mixed hardwood forest, a variety of wetlands, as well as Madawaska Pond. Sightings may include: (Yellow) Palm Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Parula, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Olive-sided Flycatcher. As the habitat changes to white pine forest, the Brown Creeper can be found nesting behind loose bark. Madawaska Pond may have Green-winged Teal, American Bittern and Bald Eagle. Join researcher Angie Ross (Saturday-NYSDEC) and Connor Vara (Sunday) to explore a large peatland complex in New York State. \$75

Whiteface Mountain. Leader: Brian McAllister (Saturday and Sunday), **7:00-11:30am**

The trip will begin with a flat, easy walk around Lake Stevens Tree Trail at the Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway toll house. Then participants will carpool up the toll road, stopping at pull-offs and searching for mountain birds. Sightings may include: Bicknell's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Boreal Chickadees. \$75

[Register for all field trips here:](#)