

KANE COUNTY AUDUBON PRESS RELEASE – JANUARY 2026

Thursday January 1, 9:00 a.m.

Bird Walk at Les Arends Forest Preserve, Batavia

Followed by lunch at Rookies Sports Bar & Grill, 1545 W. Main St., St. Charles

Start the new year with new birds! What will be your first bird of 2026?

If you have questions, contact leaders, **John & Regina**, at **630-715-0428**.

Saturday January 3, 8:00 a.m.

Bird Walk at Nelson Lake/ Dick Young Forest Preserve

Nelson Lake Road, Batavia. Meet in the parking lot by the silo.

Kane County Audubon invites you to their monthly bird walk around Nelson Lake, a leisurely walk to observe birds and nature in general. You don't have to be an expert to enjoy the outdoors in the company of fellow nature-lovers.

If you have questions, contact leader **Tim Klimowski**, at **630-802-1153**.

Wednesday January 14, 7:00 p.m.

Kane County Audubon Monthly Meeting, Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, St. Charles

Snowy Owl Irruptions, Edward Warden, COS

Every winter, birders and nature lovers cross their fingers and eagerly await the possible arrival of Snowy Owls in Northern Illinois from the Arctic. But will this be the year? Snowies and other arctic birds are driven South by a dramatic and mysterious process called "Irruptions" that mean every winter is different and hard to predict. Edward Warden from Chicago Ornithological Society will take us on a deep dive into everything we know about irrutions and how to find these rare visitors from the north!

Hickory Knolls Discovery Center is located in James O. Breen Community Park, at the intersection of Campton Hills and Peck roads in St. Charles, with entrances off both roads. The building is at the far west end of the parking lot.

If you have questions, contact **John Sprovieri**, at **630-776-0924**.

Saturday January 17, 8:00 a.m.

Bird Walk at Red Oak Nature Center, North Aurora

Come enjoy woods and Fox River views at this peaceful spot.

If you have questions, contact leader **Shelly Windett**, at **630-292-8036**.

Saturday January 24, 8:00 a.m.

Annual Jerry Hope Country Roads Driving Tour

Meet at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, St. Charles

In honor of long-time KCA member Jerry Hope who passed away in 2019, we'll drive the back roads looking for Lapland longspurs, horned larks, snow buntings and maybe a snowy owl if any are in the area. A suggested route will be published and sent out to the membership beforehand. Participants can either caravan the route on the day or drive the route at their leisure.

If you have questions, contact leaders, **John and Regina**, at **630-776-0924**.

Saturday January 31, 4:00 p.m.

Bird Walk at Brunner Family Forest Preserve, Carpentersville

In winter this preserve hosts Short-eared Owls! They are active at dawn and dusk, flying over the grasslands here as they hunt. We may see Northern Harriers hunting here before the short-ears are active. They hunt during the day in the same habitat.

If you have questions, contact leader, **Kim Plummer**, at **847-652-5859**.

For more information on Kane County Audubon call John Sprovieri at 630-776-0924 or visit the website, www.kanecountyaudubon.com

For information on Illinois Audubon Society call IAS at 217-544-BIRD (2473) or visit the website at www.illinoisaudubon.org