



Sunrise Birding LLC

Birding in Connecticut SPRING Field Sessions 2026!

To register, email Frank Gallo at fgallo@sunrisebirding.com

Northwest Highlands: The River Road, Kent Tour

Sunday, May 10, 2026 (Mother's Day)



Today we'll explore one of Connecticut's premier inland sites, the River Road area in Kent, tucked within the Housatonic Valley's heavily forested northwest highlands, and sits adjacent to the Housatonic River. It is uniquely situated between steep-sloped forested ridgelines and moist riparian woodlands. The river and ridgelines create a major north-south migration corridor for birds. Within this vast and largely undeveloped region are a mosaic of numerous microhabitats which support a rich variety of birds, including such less common and local nesters as **Cerulean,**

Hooded, Canada and Prairie Warblers, and a fine array other species. Everything from Cliff Swallows to Common Raven occurs; it's a place where species such as Winter Wren, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker meet southern cousins such as Fish Crow, and Black Vulture.

After lunch in Kent (not included), we will visit N. Kent Road in search of Shrubland species, including Orchard Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Field Sparrow, and Prairie Warbler, and we'll stop for Hooded Warbler

This is a wonderful day of birding. The River Road alone can produce 90 species of birds in a day. Imagine what we'll discover. **Photos of Cerulean & Worm-eating Warblers by Mark S. Szantyr.*

Fee: \$75 in advance. \$85 the day of the program. Meet at: 8:00 at the start of the River Road, Kent
These birding workshops last 4-6 hours.

The Northeast Highlands: Boston Hollow, Ashford Tour

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Back by popular demand - Boston Hollow in Ashford is a 2-mile-long ravine through Yale Forest. A small stream runs its length shaded by hemlocks, with steep forested hills and scattered cliffs. It is a place to hear and see such beauties as singing Winter Wrens, Northern Waterthrushes. Canada, and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** sing from its hillsides and Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers reside in its hemlocks. It's a place where Common Ravens nest on the cliffs, Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, and Cooper's Hawks nest in its forests. Northern Goshawks even hunt the deep woods here.

A visit to Boston Hollow is a chance to explore lush northern forests rich with birdlife. It's the only place in Connecticut that I've found Red Crossbill in June. It's a place where Hermit Thrushes sing their ethereal song and Canada Warblers nest. Its Spruce stands may hold nesting Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian, or Magnolia Warblers. Acadian and Least Flycatcher's breed here, and Blue-headed Vireo, and Brown Creeper are heard along much of its length. It's a beautiful place to explore. Time permitting, we'll visit other local sites for a chance to see Cerulean Warbler and Indigo Bunting. This is always a fun one.



Fee: \$75 in advance. \$85 the day of the program. Meet at: 8:00 on Boston Hollow Road, Ashford.
These mini birding workshops last 4-6 hours.

Southeast Specialties: Hartman Park, Lyme Tour (New!)

Sunday, May 24, 2026



Hartman Park in Lyme is nestled within a huge track of mostly undisturbed forest, beside a lovely wetland and adjacent open powerline cut. Ecologically diverse, this lovely reserve is one of the premier birding sites in the Southeast and boasts a vibrant nesting population of **Worm-eating** and **Cerulean Warblers** and other goodies! Other forest and field-loving breeders here include such beauties as Indigo Bunting, Prairie and Blue-winged Warblers, Field Sparrow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, Acadian Flycatcher, and secretive Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos. Red-shouldered

Hawks and both Waterthrushes frequent the wetlands. Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Thrush, and Veery patrol the forests. Its varied habitats have attracted 160+ species. It's a great place to spend a day birding. I hope you can join us. There are also areas nearby for breeding **White-eyed Vireos** and possibly **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

Fee: \$75 in advance. \$85 the day of the program. Meet at: 8:00 at the Hartman Park parking lot, at 122 Gungy Rd, Lyme. These mini birding workshops last 4-6 hours.

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Northwest Highlands: Mohawk Mountain, Cornwall Tour

Saturday, June 13

Explore Cornwall's incredible Mohawk Mountain. The park holds an amazing array of colorful breeding warblers, including Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, **American Redstart**, Chestnut-sided, Pine, and Worm-eating. Migrating Mourning Warblers have been consistently found here in June.

The park's black spruce bog gives us opportunities to find such treasures as breeding Canada Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Purple Finch, Northern Waterthrush, Cedar Waxwing, and Winter Wren. Other northern breeders include Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and Hermit Thrush. It is an incredibly rich area with many other bird species. This is a rewarding park to explore, and the views from the summit are breathtaking. (Please bring a picnic lunch.)



Nearby Coltsfoot Valley give us the opportunity to see nesting Bobolinks, American Kestrels, Accadian and Willow Flycatchers! Eastern Meadowlarks nest in the valley in some years.

Fee: \$75 in advance. \$85 the day of the program: Meet at: 8:00 at the entrance parking lot, the start of Toomey Road, Route 4, Cornwall. These mini birding workshops last 4-6 hours.

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"I always look forward to birding these sites each spring. I hope you can join me. There's always something to see!!" FG.