



Sunrise Birding LLC

# 2025 Birding in Connecticut Field Days with Frank Gallo

Advance registration and payment required. To register go to:

[https://www.sunrisebirding.com/register\\_Gallo.html](https://www.sunrisebirding.com/register_Gallo.html)

*Fee per person, per session: \$70 in advance. \$80 the day of the program.*

## **SCHEDULE:**

- **The Midlands: Durham Meadows, Wilson's Snipe & Migrants Sunday, April 27**
- **The Midlands: Tyler Mill, Wallingford Tour Sunday, May 4**
- **Northwest Highlands: The River Road, Kent Tour Saturday, May 10**
- **The Northeast Highlands: Boston Hollow Area, Ashford Saturday, May 24**
- **Northwest Highlands: Mohawk Mountain, Cornwall Tour Sunday, June 1**

## **The Midlands: Durham Meadows – Wilson's Snipe & Early Migrants**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025**

Durham Meadows/White's Farm in Durham has long been a local hotspot for area birders. Its diverse habits attract a wide variety of birds, including breeding American Kestrels, Eastern Bluebirds, and Bobolinks. During migration, the wetter areas may hold Spotted (breed) and Solitary Sandpipers, both Yellowlegs, American Woodcock (breed-best at dusk), and are known for attracting good numbers of **Wilson's Snipe** (target). Virginia Rail and Sora are possible. The valley in which the meadows nestle is great for raptors, including both vultures, Cooper's, Red-tailed, and Red-shouldered Hawks, and even the occasional Merlin or Peregrine. Common Ravens are often conspicuous. At least four species of swallows frequent the area including Purple Martin. Late April migrants such as Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Warbling Vireos, Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Phoebe's and Eastern Kingbirds are likely. Marsh Wren nest here, as do Swamp and Savannah Sparrows, and Field Sparrow is possible. April is the month for rarities so anything possible. There's always something to see. **Meet at: 8:00 at the old skating pond lot on Route 68 (Wallingford Road), Durham.**



## The Midlands: Tyler Mill, Wallingford Tour Sunday, May 4, 2025



The Tyler Mill Preserve beside the Muddy River is roughly 1,500 acres of forest and fields encompassing Tamarac Swamp, adjacent to McKenzie Reservoir in Wallingford. Ecologically diverse, this lovely reserve is one of the premier birding sites in the mid-State and boasts a vibrant nesting population of **Worm-eating Warblers** and other goodies! Other forest and field-loving breeders here include such beauties as Indigo Bunting, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and the secretive, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Red-shouldered Hawks and Barred Owls hunt its

wetlands, both Waterthrushes frequent the rivers, and Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Thrush, and Veery patrol the forests. Tyler Mill is a magnet for migrant songbirds. Its varied habitats have attracted more than 137 species, including twenty-six species of warblers, and provide a wonderful place to spend a day birding. We hope you can join us. **Meet at: 8:00 at the Tyler Mill parking lot, at the corner of Tyler Mill and Northford Roads.**

## Northwest Highlands: The River Road, Kent Tour

Saturday, May 10, 2025



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 rub shoulders with their 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.*

**Meet at: 8:00 at the start of the River Road, Kent**

## The Northeast Highlands: Boston Hollow Area, Ashford

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**

Back by popular demand - Boston Hollow in Ashford is a 2-mile-long ravine through Yale Forest lands. A small stream runs its length, shaded by hemlocks, with steep forested hills and scattered cliffs on either side. It is the place to hear and see such beauties as singing Winter Wrens, Canada Warblers, and Northern Waterthrushes. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** sing from its hillsides and Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers reside in its hemlock groves. It's a place where Common Ravens nest on the cliffs, and 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 Nashville Warblers have nested. Its Spruce stands may hold nesting Golden-crowned Kinglet or Magnolia Warbler. Evidence of Pileated Woodpeckers can be found throughout the hollow, and Least Flycatcher, 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. **Meet at: 8:00 on Boston Hollow Road, Ashford.**



## Northwest Highlands: Mohawk Mountain, Cornwall Tour

**Sunday, June 1, 2025**

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 early 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.



Nearby Coltsfoot Valley give us the opportunity to see nesting Bobolinks, American Kestrels, Accadian and Willow Flycatchers! Eastern Meadowlark's nest in the valley in some years. This is a rewarding park to explore, and the views from the summit are breathtaking. (Please bring a picnic lunch.)

**Meet at: 8:00 at the entrance parking lot, the start of Toomey Road, Route 4, Cornwall.**

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**Questions? Contact Frank at [fgallo@sunrisebirding.com](mailto:fgallo@sunrisebirding.com)**