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Medina Gazette Edition


medinacountyparks.com  
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# Leaflet

Your Connection to Nature  Medina County Park District

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## Spring on the Wing

By: *Natalie Dubiel, Naturalist*

Spring migration is well underway now. Birds are moving north, birders are flocking to their favorite birding hotspots, and citizen scientists everywhere are helping to track the progress of migratory songbirds by sharing their observations. There couldn't be a more exciting time to grab a pair of binoculars and a field guide (if available) and set out on an adventure.



*Indigo bunting*

The sheer volume and variety of birds during spring migration are hard to ignore. Even the backyard birder is likely to spot these vibrant and vocal visitors. On a good day during migration, it is not hard to find nearly every color of the rainbow from the blue of the indigo bunting to the orange of a Baltimore oriole. Spring migration can occur with such intensity that flocks of migrating birds actually show up on weather surveillance radar (which can be found at BirdCast). Follow these flocks on the radar, and it is not hard to see what direction many are headed – north.

The long journey north takes migratory birds to their much sought-after breeding grounds. In these locations, the habitat is more temperate, space and resources are more abundant, and days are longer, which help birds to successfully rear their young. The early bird gets the worm though. Birds push to be among the first to reach their species breeding grounds in order to have their pick of the best nest sites. In a push to do this, birds fly anywhere from hundreds to thousands of miles, and some species are even able to make this trip nonstop or nearly so. Many birds, however, find much needed stopover points along the journey to rest and feed by day before continuing the journey by night. The cover of night reduces impacts from real threats like daytime predators, overheating, and flight disturbances. The benefits of reaching ideal breeding grounds outweigh the risks of the journey for these migratory birds.

While park district volunteers lead spring bird walks on Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at River Styx Park through May 14, any of the Medina County Park District parks, preserves, and wildlife sanctuaries are sure to deliver interesting migratory songbirds. A pair of binoculars and a field guide or even a bird identification app on a phone like the free Merlin Bird ID app can be helpful, but little more is needed than a genuine interest in seeing and hearing nearby birds. It isn't too late to get out and start enjoying spring on the wing!



## Donation Corner

### Tree of Life

In Memory of P.M. Jones

Karen and Cary Blair

In Memory of Grace Clulow

Karen and Cary Blair

In Memory of Bernie Duncan

Scott G. Wolff

In Memory of Bob Cunningham

Jeanine Haney

Oenslager Nature Center

In-kind nature exploration items

Sue Vicari

In Memory of Marie Ann Buser

Louise Melnik

Thomas and Joann Boruvka

Anonymous

In Memory of Jeanne Kubis Irely

Linda and Andy Schultz

In Memory of Gordon Phillips III

Mary Louise Broggin

Jeffrey and Shirley Graham

Darlene Jbuck

John and Denise Van Verth

In-kind bird seed, lime, and a pipe

Anonymous

Visit [medinacountyparks.com](http://medinacountyparks.com) to download trail maps, make a shelter reservation, register for programs, and more!



Explore your Medina County parks on accessible trails! "Strolling Through Spring" is great for strollers, wheelchairs, and walkers of all abilities.

Complete five or more of the designated trails between now and June 30 to qualify for an award. Hikes are FREE for all participants. Out-of-county residents pay \$3 to receive their awards. The award for all hikers is a unique commemorative art print created by local artist and long-time park volunteer George Parmelee. Download the form at [www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com).



Get outside and fish at your Medina County parks this spring. This self-guided program is the perfect way to spend time with family and friends and can be completed at your convenience.

Participants who fish at five or more designated fishing areas between now and June 21 and turn in their completed forms to the Oenslager Nature Center from June 22, 2022 - July 10, 2022 will receive an award (while supplies last). This program is open to all ages. One award per person. Download the form at [www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com).