

Beginner Bird Banding Workshop

The Institute for Bird Populations at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Vermont

Thanks for your interest in the Beginner Bird Banding Class at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), instructed by the Institute for Bird Populations of Point Reyes, California, and hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Missisquoi NWR in Swanton, Vermont. The class dates are **June 10-15, 2018**. The class will begin with an early morning banding session on June 10 and end with a lecture session on the afternoon of June 15, 2018. *The fee for the class is a maximum of \$1,850 per person and includes all class materials, instructor's fees, and lodging. Please note: The cost may be less, depending upon the number of participants and the number of cottages rented. All meals are on your own. Cabins have a full kitchen. A grocery store and restaurants are conveniently located in the nearby town of Swanton.*

WHEN: Plan to arrive on Saturday, June 9, 2018. The class will begin with an early morning banding session on June 10, and end with a lecture session on the afternoon of June 15, 2018.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Each day, we'll be in the field at sunrise and work the nets for 5-6 hours. Lunch (bring your own) will be one hour, followed by a 2-3 hour classroom session. Dinner is on your own. Cabins have full kitchen facilities. The nearby town of Swanton (6 miles) has a grocery store and restaurants.

Proper field attire is necessary, including rain gear, mud boots, and layers for variable temperatures. Mosquitos, ticks, and other insects will be present in the woods and fields used for banding.

There will be some homework. Information and details of course materials can be found at the IBP website:

<https://www.birdpop.org/>

<https://www.birdpop.org/pages/birdBanderTraining.php>

WHERE: Missisquoi NWR is situated on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain, near the Canadian border, in Franklin County, Vermont. Established in 1943, the approximately 7,000-acre refuge includes most of the Missisquoi River Delta, the largest wetland complex in the Lake Champlain Basin, and an important international resource for the people of the United States and Canada. In 2013, the Missisquoi Delta and Bay Wetlands were recognized as a RAMSAR-designated "Wetland of International Importance," since they provide high quality habitat,

harbor rare birds, host the largest concentration of migratory waterfowl in Vermont, and provide critical staging, breeding, and migrating habitat for birds along the Atlantic Flyway.

The refuge has more than 12 miles of shoreline along the Missisquoi River, Dead Creek, Maquam and Black Creeks, First Creek, Maquam Bay, and Charcoal Creek. The Missisquoi River passes through the largest and highest quality silver maple floodplain forest in Vermont. Other varied habitats, such as grasslands, shrublands, northern hardwood forest, and pitch pine woodland bog, harbor a diverse array of bird species.

FACILITIES: Classroom activities will be held at the Missisquoi NWR Headquarters building, located at 29 Tabor Road, Swanton, Vermont. All bird banding will occur in habitats on the National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information about the refuge, visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/missisquoi/>

<http://friendsofmissisquoi.org/>

LODGING: Two cottages located on Lake Champlain's Missisquoi Bay, in West Swanton, Vermont, will be used for housing. Conveniently located about 5 minutes from the Refuge Headquarters, each cottage has an enclosed lakeside porch and back porch, a combination kitchen/dining/living area that's fully equipped for cooking, private and semi-private bedrooms, and a shared bath.

The "Maples" and "Pines" cottages are located within 50 feet of a sand/shale beach, have access to a shared dock, include a row boat and pedal boat, gas grill, and picnic table. Fishing and swimming are encouraged. A grocery store and variety of restaurants are located 10 minutes away in the town of Swanton, or about 20 minutes away in the larger town of St. Albans, Vermont.

For more information about the cabins, please go to:

<http://www.lakechamplaincottages.com>

REGISTRATION: Class is limited to 8 people, with a minimum of 5. Full payment is due upon registration. *The actual cost of the class may be less, depending on the number of participants.*

Please, do NOT book any flights until you receive confirmation that the class minimum is met (we will let you know ASAP).

For information and registration, contact Judy Sefchick Edwards, Missisquoi NWR, at (802) 868-4781 or judy_sefchickedwards@fws.gov