

**MARCH  
2026**

## What's Happening in Our Community?

**March  
21st**

### **BLUEBIRD Presentation In-store at WBU Woodbury**

Join us in-store to learn about Bluebird nest boxes and nesting season followed by a Q&A with David of the Bluebird Program of Minnesota

**11:00am start time**

WBU - Woodbury, Minnesota

This is a FREE event and open to the public

**March  
28th**

### **HUMMINGBIRD Presentation In-store at WBU Woodbury**

Brenda from the Henderson Hummingbird Center will be on site to teach us all about Hummingbirds, and how you can attract these amazing birds to your yard

**11:00am start time**

WBU - Woodbury, Minnesota

This is a FREE event and open to the public

**March  
29th**

### **BIRD WALK with the WBU Woodbury Team**

9:00AM – 10:30AM

**Battle Creek Park** (meet at south end parking lot)  
2301 Lower Afton Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55119

This is a FREE event and open to the public

### What to Watch for This Month in Nature:

- Woodpeckers drumming on trees (and even aluminum house siding!) to attract mates and establish territory
- Migrating Tundra Swans and Snow Geese flying overhead
- Common Loons, Wood Ducks, and other migrating waterfowl begin returning as lakes continue to thaw
- Male Red-Winged Blackbirds returning before the females, singing to set up territory
- Eastern Chipmunks above ground following their winter torpor, a form of short-term hibernation
- The first Bald Eagle eaglets of the season hatching towards the end of the month
- Silver Maple blossoms could start to bloom by end of the month
- Wild Turkeys beginning courtship displays as toms (males) gobble, flare their tails, and strut
- Approximately one hour and 35 minutes of daylight will be gained from March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Average daily high temperatures will increase by approximately 17 degrees (F) by the end of the month

Secondary cavity nesters such as Eastern Bluebirds, Black-capped Chickadees, and House Wrens will soon be searching for nesting locations – have your nest boxes installed, clean, and ready for them! Monitor boxes and clean them out between broods, as some boxes may be used multiple times each season.

## Bird of the Month: Barred Owl

Barred Owls are forest dwelling birds that usually nest in tree cavities, but they're also known to use an old crow, hawk, or squirrel nest, along with human-made nesting boxes. They typically lay one to five eggs per brood, spend four+ weeks incubating, then another 4 - 5 weeks raising and feeding the owlets before they fledge and leave the nest site.

A bird originally found in the eastern United States, the Barred Owl has expanded their range into the Pacific Northwest and parts of California.

You may be able to find a Barred Owl roosting during the day, but they are heard more often than seen, typically at night. A mature forest near a riverbank or swamp makes excellent Barred Owl habitat.

The greatest predatory threat to the Barred Owl is another owl species, the Great Horned Owl. Barred Owls do not migrate and typically stay in a relatively small area (approx. six square miles), but they will move to another part of their territory when a Great Horned Owl is nearby.

The oldest Barred Owl on record was over 26 years old, being first banded in 1993 then caught again in 2019. Bird banding is a practice used by licensed individuals to safely catch, band (tag), and release a bird back into the wild. The bands are used to better understand migration and life cycles of the birds.



Barred Owls mostly eat small animals such as mice and voles, as well as reptiles, other birds (even birds the size of a grouse!), and will even wade in water to catch fish. They do most of their hunting right after sunset and at night and will sometimes store their food in a nest or another safe location and return to their meal at a later time.

Barred Owls (and other owl species) will swallow smaller prey whole, then later regurgitate a "pellet" that contains the bones, teeth, fur, and feathers that are indigestible.



International  
Festival of  
OWLS

### International Festival of Owls

March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> in Houston, MN

Join the folks from the International Owl Center for a weekend of events all about owls! Programs featuring *live* owls, crafts, owl nest box building, owl pellet dissection, kids' owl calling contest, and much more

Visit [www.festivalofowls.com](http://www.festivalofowls.com) for more information and full event schedule