

Guidelines and Procedures for SLAS Field Trips and Beginner Walks

Effective March 2022

Beginning with the spring season, 2022, St. Louis Audubon Society is following the measures described here for its birding field trips. These reflect the general Covid-19 policy approved by the Board in February, 2022. See [here](#).

1. All participants on SLAS field trips and beginner bird walks must register in advance. Field trips and beginner bird walks are listed in the Calendar of Events found [here](#). Pre-registration allows us to contact everyone easily either before or after a trip, and to maintain limits on the size of the group.
2. Most field trips will be scheduled for about 4-5 hours and will not include lunch. Participants should bring their own snacks and drinks. Exceptions (longer trips) will be noted. Beginner bird walks are generally an hour and half to two hours in length.
3. Per the general policy linked above, and with a Covid-19 case rate that is now below 50, we still strongly recommend that participants in field trips be up to date in their vaccination status, but we do not require it or expect self-certification of it. If the case rate rises to 50 or higher, a vaccination requirement will be reinstated.
4. Social distancing will still be expected to the extent possible.
5. Masks will not be required but may be worn at the participant's discretion. We do urge everyone to bring a mask along for times when we visit an indoor location that may require it.
6. As noted in point 1 above, participants must register online, in advance. Participation in field trips will generally be limited to 20 registrants in addition to the leaders. Beginner bird walks often allow for larger groups. We urge you to sign up only for trips in which you fully intend to participate. Signing up for a trip just to "be sure you have a place if you decide to go" may block others from registering.
7. On-line registration will include the following: (a) contact information so we may keep registrants informed of various details before the trip (weather, location, etc.) and send them a report with bird lists after the trip. This information will also be used for contact tracing purposes in the event of an exposure to Covid-19. (b) A waiver releasing SLAS from liability.
8. In the case of field trips that involve driving from a meeting point to one or more other locations, carpooling from the first meeting point is optional. The leaders may request that you consider it, however, as it reduces the size of the "caravan" and sometimes the parking problem that results.