



# Audubon National Wildlife Refuge

## 2009 Calendar of Events

*\*Connecting People with Nature\**

### Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Participate in an educational program that teaches wetland habitat and waterfowl conservation to youth. Students in grades K-12 learn about a species of waterfowl and create artwork as an individual project at home, or in a school classroom setting. Participants must submit their entry to Audubon Refuge by March 15, 2009. Artwork will be judged later in March, with a banquet honoring all 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Bismarck. To learn more about the Junior Duck Stamp Program or to get contest guidelines and an entry form, visit <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>.

### Duck Nest Adventures

Enjoy a pontoon ride to Lake Audubon's "Pancake Island" for an up-close look at duck nests and young ducklings. Participants will have the opportunity to candle eggs and learn about incubation. Life jackets, binoculars, and field identification guides are provided. Boat tour will be cancelled if winds exceed 15 mph. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to get your feet wet while walking through island grassland. **Pre-registration is required** by calling 701/442-5474 ext. 17. **Boat tour limit:** 18 visitors

**Dates:** *Wednesdays, June 3, and 17, 2009* **Time:** 9:00am – 10:30am **Age:** Any **Meet at Boat Ramp located 1 mile in along auto tour route**

### Cormorant Colony Island Tour

A leisurely pontoon ride to Cormorant Colony Island provides visitors with a great view of the double-crested cormorants that congregate on the island to build nests of sticks and raise their young. Along the way, participants will learn about Refuge history and management, as well as view various birds including gulls, terns, and pelicans. Life jackets and binoculars are provided. Boat tour will be cancelled if winds exceed 15 mph. **Pre-registration is required** by calling 701/442-5474 ext. 17.

**Boat tour limit:** 18 visitors

**Dates:** *Wednesday, June 10, 2009* **Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am **Age:** Any **Meet at Boat Ramp located 1 mile in along auto tour route**

### Blue Goose Day (formerly known as Greenwings Day)

Spend a family-oriented evening learning about hunting, fishing, wildlife conservation, and outdoor skills. Kids receive door prizes and educational materials. Following the event, a picnic lunch is served by the Douglas Sportsmen's Club. **No pre-registration required.**

**Date:** *Friday, August 14, 2009* **Time:** 5:00pm – 8:30pm **Age:** Any **Meet at Visitor Center**

### American Kestrel Nest Box Workshop

Pre-cut lumber is provided for youth to nail nesting boxes together to provide nesting habitat for our smallest falcon, the American kestrel. Participants learn about kestrels and other birds that will utilize the box for nesting, as well as good nest box placement, and annual maintenance of the box.

**Pre-registration is required** by calling 701/442-5474 ext. 17. **Class Size Limit:** 100 participants

**Date:** *Thursday, September 24, 2009* **Time:** 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Age:** 4–18 **Meet at Visitor Center**

# Audubon National Wildlife Refuge Recreational Opportunities - 2009

**Audubon Refuge Visitor Center** – This is an ideal place to begin your visit. Displays and exhibits feature wetlands, native prairie, and wildlife that can be observed on the Refuge. Brochures are available to provide information on Refuge management, recreational activities, and wildlife. The visitor center is open from 7:30am – 4:00pm, Monday – Friday, except Federal holidays.

**Prairie Hiking Trail** - A 1-mile self-guided trail begins near the entrance of the auto tour route. The trail winds through grasslands and along wetlands, allowing visitors to observe many species of plants, birds, and other animals. A wildlife checklist is available for reference.

**South Shore Auto Tour Route** – The 8 mile route begins near the visitor center and winds along the scenic south shoreline of Lake Audubon. Highlights include views of the lake, prairie wetlands, grasslands, and a chance to observe many species of animals and plants. You are welcome to leave your vehicle and stroll through the prairie or along the wind-blown shoreline of Lake Audubon. An auto tour route brochure corresponds with numbered signs along the route.

**Wildlife Observation and Photography Blind** – Enjoy peaceful moments observing or photographing waterfowl and shorebirds on a quiet bay of Lake Audubon. A westerly view from the blind offers a glimpse of a beautiful sunset over Lake Audubon.

**Hunting** - Deer hunting and a late season upland bird (pheasant, grouse, and partridge) hunt are held on the refuge. Special regulations apply. A hunting information sheet and map are available. Opening dates in 2009 are as follows:

- Deer Bow – September 4
- Deer Gun – November 6
- Upland Bird – November 23
- Deer Muzzleloader – November 27

**Ice Fishing** - Ice fishing on the Refuge is permitted when ice covers the water through March 31. Special regulations apply. An informational ice fishing brochure with map is available.

The office and visitor center is located 3 miles north of Coleharbor on Highway 83 and 1 mile east.

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