



Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
 W28488 Refuge Rd.
 Trempealeau, WI 54661

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge

Bird Festival



Saturday
May 16, 2009
9 AM to 4 PM

Welcome to Our 2009 Bird Festival

Every year the National Wildlife Refuge System celebrates International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) to encourage support for migratory bird conservation. This day focuses attention on the nearly 350 species of migratory birds that travel long distances between breeding and non-breeding sites throughout the Western Hemisphere.



This year we celebrate...
“Birds in Culture”

From the frozen ice caps to the tropical forests, everywhere there are people there are birds. In some cases, the fate of birds and human cultures may be intricately linked. The destruction of habitat that threatens birds may also threaten the survival of some native people. For example, as the rainforests of South America are destroyed and many bird species are endangered, so are the cultures of the people who have traditionally inhabited the same forests. Come celebrate Birds in our Culture and enjoy a day on the Refuge dedicated to Birds!

May 16, 2009



A BIT ABOUT THE CULTURAL CONNECTION

Celebrate Birds in Culture explores the role birds play in the lives of Native People throughout the Americas. Birds have been represented in Tribal life since ancient times in cave art, weavings, pottery, stories, religious ceremonies, and as a source of food. Today, birds continue to be important to Native cultures.

Hunting waterfowl and other birds during spring and fall migration as part of seasonal food cycles was important to Native People. Indeed, they were the first to use decoys to hunt waterfowl. Today, many tribes still rely on native wildlife for sustenance.

The hummingbird is a source of stories and dance throughout the Americas. To the Taino Tribe in the Caribbean, it is a sacred pollinator that brings new life. The Hopi and Zuni tribes of the American southwest believed hummingbirds could bring rain and decorated water jars with hummingbird images.

Finally, many tribes have long emulated the striking dance of the Sandhill crane. The crane is an important totem. For the Ojibwe people, clans of the crane tribe work to provide a balanced government. For others, the crane represents solitude and independence.

To find more information about **Birds in Culture** and about IMBD, please visit www.birdday.org/imbd2009.php



Special Hikes

“Early Bird” Gets The Worm!

7:00 AM Duration: 1.5 hours
Take an early morning walk with experienced birders to see who’s flitting around so early in the morning! *Meet at the big tent across from the Refuge Office to begin the hike.*

Birding Is For Everyone - Bird Hikes

9:00 AM & 2:00 PM Duration: 1 hour
Birding is for everyone. Available to all ages, this hour-long hike is leisurely and designed for the novice birder. Binoculars will be available. *Meet at the big tent across from the Refuge Office to begin the hike.*



Canoeing for the Birds!

9:00 AM Duration: 1.5 hours.
Take a canoe tour in search of birds on refuge pools – canoes and lifejackets will be provided or participants may also bring their own. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *Meet at the refuge boat ramp.*

Pre-registration required – call 608/539-2311 ext. 16.

Prairie Wildflower Walk

2:30 PM Duration: 1 hour
Take a walk in the prairie with Refuge volunteers to see what is blooming! *Meet at the big tent across from the Refuge Office.*

Owl Prowl – Night Hike

8:00 PM Duration: 1.5 hours.
Prowl around the Refuge at night with a Refuge guide. Enjoy the Refuge at night as it comes alive with sounds that will keep you curious along the way. *Meet at the big tent across from the Refuge Office.*

Pre-registration required – call 608/539-2311 ext. 16.

Special Guests

Meet A Raptor! 10:30 AM & 12:30 PM

Join us on the observation deck for a special presentation about birds of prey. Raptor handlers from University of Minnesota’s Raptor Center will have live raptors and will present a topnotch program about these spectacular birds. *Meet on the observation deck. Programs will start promptly on time.*



The Cultural Connection 1:30 PM

Preston Thompson Eagle King of the Ho-Chunk Nation will weave together the meaning behind his Ho-Chunk name and the rich cultural connection this area means to his people. *Meet on the observation deck.*



I Wish I Could Fly

7:00 PM Duration: 1 hour
Join us in the big tent to experience the joy of birds through digital photography presented by Alan Stankevitz. Alan has captured the pure beauty of these incredible birds and shares his passion through an awe-inspiring slide presentation put to music. *Meet at the big tent across from the Refuge Office.*

Warning: some of the photography you will see is breathtaking.

Bird Banding Demonstrations

9 AM to 2 PM
Watch how wild birds get banded and recorded for research purposes. Participants will get a band for joining in! *Meet next to the big tent across from the Refuge Office.*



**Programs are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.*

Festival Activities

All activities listed below are at the Big Tent across from the Refuge

What’s Your Wingspan?

Come learn about birds and their amazing wings! Glide, flap, soar, and hover...there are many ways birds fly and it is all about the wings! You will be AMAZED!

CSI - Critter Scooping Investigators!

Ever wonder about all the little creepy, crawly, squiggly critters living in the water? Be an aquatic critter investigator! A small pool will be set up with water from the Refuge pools. Come by and get a close up look at all the cool critters that make a healthy wetland!

Let’s Go Outside

Adventure backpacks will be available for check out all day long. Backpacks have binoculars, bird books, and other activities that make discovering the world of nature more fun!

Lights! Camera! Action!

During this mini session, shutter bugs (those who love taking pictures!) can get some tips from experienced photographers and then try it...bring your own camera or some will be available. After each session, you will get a chance to look at your photos! **Sessions will be on the hour and last only 20 minutes.**

Make A Face

Special bird faces painting activity! Stop by and have a special artist paint your face and enjoy the festivities along the way.

Art in the Refuge

Stop by this special station to help create a unique mural. A local artist will demonstrate how to bring nature to life on the canvas. Everyone can participate and be an artist for the day!



Eat Like A Bird! Tasty snacks will be on hand from our Friends Group while supplies last.

Displays on Parade...

Several exciting displays will be available for viewing at the Big Tent. Enjoy the Friends photo contest winners, Jr. Duck Stamp artwork, and migration projects from Trempealeau Elementary 3rd Grade will be here for the festival!

Books For Everyone!

Stop in at the Friends bookstore located inside the Refuge office to browse a wonderful line up of nature related books! Birds, bugs, frogs and more, you will find the perfect gift for yourself or someone special!

Bird-Song Education & Nature Products



Bird-Song will conduct a children’s bird song identification activity, using electronic calls and colorful plush birds to educate through a visual and audio birding experience. Bird-Song will also have a variety of wild bird and nature products on display for the young and not so young that want to enjoy our migratory birds in the National Wildlife Refuges or right in their own backyard.

Event Partners Thanks to everyone who made this special day possible!

- Friends of Trempealeau Refuge
- Refuge Volunteers
- University of MN – Raptor Center
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Bird-Song Nature Products
- Upper Miss Refuge
- Wisconsin DNR
- U.S. Geological Survey - La Crosse Office