

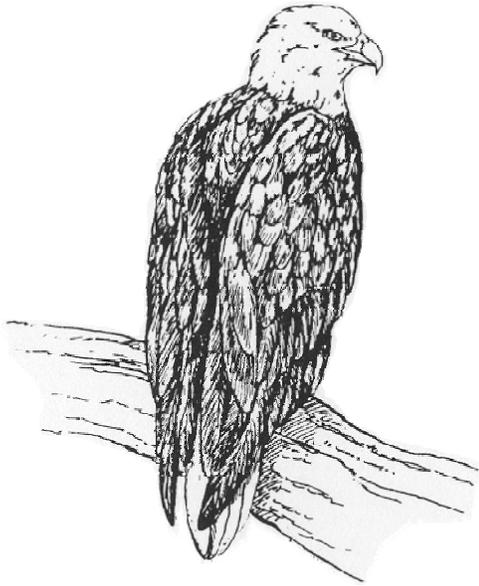
WILD NEWS

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Nature Program Calendar

January - March 2009

The Eagles Have Landed!



It's a sure sign that old man winter has returned to the Refuge with the arrival of our nation's symbol, the bald eagle. Bald eagles migrate to the Refuge when the weather in southern Canada and Montana turns colder and water freezes over making it more difficult for them to catch fish and find food. They are drawn to the Refuge by the abundance of prairie dogs and other small mammals. Their favorite Refuge hang-out is a line of cottonwood trees along the eastern shore of Lake Lower Derby. Eagles spend winter nights roosting in these huge trees and daylight hours hunting for food. Up to a dozen can be spotted in a single tree at one time when they get settled in for the night. As dusk sets in, Refuge biologists conduct roost counts which have reached into the high 30's over the past few years during peak eagle viewing season.

Visitors can view and photograph these magnificent birds by participating in tours and programs that focus on bald eagles such as *Where Eagles Soar* and the very popular *Frosty Photo Tours*.

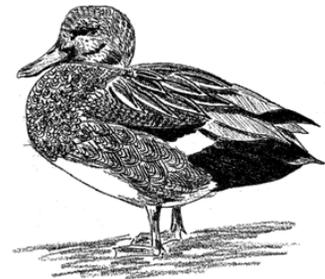
Sightings have been reported along hiking trails and during the numerous nature programs offered throughout the winter months. Bald eagles can be seen at the Refuge from December through early March. Don't let old man winter keep you inside – bundle up, enjoy the great outdoors and catch a glimpse of our wintering raptors!

Attention Students K –12

The Junior Duck Stamp Program is in full flight again this year and all kids K-12 are welcome to participate in this *free* art and science opportunity, designed to teach wetlands habitat and waterfowl conservation. The contest begins each fall through spring when students submit their artwork to a state coordinator. Students at the state level are judged in four groups according to grade level: Group I: K-3, Group II: 4-6, Group III: 7-9, and Group IV 10-12. Three first, second, and third place entries are selected for each group. Also, a "Best of Show" is selected by the judges from the twelve first-place winners regardless of their age group. Each state's "Best of Show" is then submitted to the Duck Stamp Office in Washington D.C. and entered into the national contest.

This program involves more than 40,000 students from across the country. It offers children a unique opportunity to apply their artistic skills while learning more about the conservation of wildlife. The Service welcomes any student, grades K-12, to submit their artwork.

Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2009 and the award ceremony will be held in May. For information contact Seth Beres at (303)289-0867 or Seth_Beres@fws.gov. Visit the national Junior Duck Stamp website: <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/ArtContest.htm>



WILD TREKS PROGRAM

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Saturdays and Sundays

Refuge Hours

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Visitor Center Hours

7:30 am – 4:00 pm

WILD RIDES

Wednesdays, Saturdays and
Sundays

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Experience the Refuge on this
two-hour guided wildlife viewing
tour! Reservations are required.

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
303-289-0930

TUESDAY TOTS

Offered the first Tuesday of each
month from 10:00 - 11:00 am, this
one hour program is for the young
naturalist 2 to 5 years old. Parent
or guardian must accompany all
children.

Beaks n' Feet January 6

Beaks and feet can tell us a lot
about a bird's habitat and lifestyle.
Team up with us to learn about
the fascinating adaptations of
these animals in an interactive
lesson. Then make a craft and
meet one of our animal
ambassadors during a wildlife
encounter of your very own!

Early Owl Gets the Mouse February 3

Learn some cool facts about the
largest owl in North America, the
Great Horned Owl!



March Hares March 3

Hop along with us! Learn about
hares (rabbits) and how they
spend their days on the prairie.
Make a hare-tastic craft and dance
to the Bunny Hokey Pokey!

Nature Programs January - March 2009

*Reservations are required for
these FREE popular programs.
Space is limited. Call 303-289-
0930 to register. Please dress for
the weather. All children must be
accompanied by an adult.
Assistance dogs are welcome.
Refuge staff reserves the right to
cancel or reschedule programs
due to unforeseen circumstances.*

JANUARY

Where Eagles Soar

Saturday Jan 10

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Take advantage of this opportunity
to see our national symbol - the bald
eagle! After a short presentation,
board our trolley tram and keep your
eagle eyes peeled for these majestic
birds that spend the winter along the
Front Range. Recommended for all
ages.

Frosty Photo Tour

Tuesday Jan 13 8:00 - 11:00 am

Saturday Jan 17 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Explore the Refuge for that perfect
shot, with your camera that is, of
remarkable winter wildlife and
breathtaking views. Bring your
camera and zoom lenses.
Recommended for adults.

Building Backyard Habitats

Saturday Jan 24

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Join David Menough from Wild Birds
Unlimited and learn how to create
your own backyard habitat to attract
more winged residents!
Recommended for families.

Disappearing Treasures

Tuesday Jan 27

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

This is a rare and exciting
educational exploration of the
National Eagle and Wildlife Property
Repository. Learn about illegal
wildlife trade throughout the world,

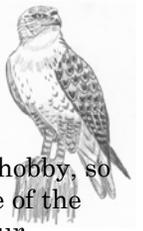
the Native American Eagle Feather
Program and how this unique facility
benefits wildlife and the public.
Space is limited! Recommended for
families.

Friends of a Feather

Saturday Jan 31

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Birdwatching is a popular hobby, so
join the flock and add some of the
Refuge's winter birds to your
checklist. Bring your binoculars or
borrow a pair of ours! Recommended
for adults.



FEBRUARY

Sky Tigers

Sunday Feb 8

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Great horned owls are the largest
owl and they are magnificent silent
hunters. Explore the Refuge in
search of these tigers of the sky.
Be sure to bring your binoculars and
cameras! Recommended for families.

Special Valentine's Day Tour

Saturday Feb 14

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

This tour is full of heart! Have some
refreshments, make a special
valentine craft to take home, and see
spectacular wildlife.

Home on the Range

Saturday Feb 21

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Come and meet
our most popular
Refuge residents -
the American
Bison. Learn
some amazing
facts about these
tough animals and learn about their
history of survival on the Great
Plains. Recommended for families.



Frosty Photo Tour

Tuesday Feb 24

8:00 - 11:00 am

See January Description

Our Furry Friends

Saturday Feb 28

1:00 - 3:00 pm

How do mammals survive in the wild? How do they find food or protect their young? Discover the answers and learn all about the adaptations of some of our furry creatures on an interpretive tour of the Refuge. Recommended for all ages.

MARCH

Refuge Manager Tour

Sunday Mar 8

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Here's your chance to get the inside scoop on what's happening at the Refuge! Steve Berendzen will lead this special tour and give first-hand experience of what it's like to be an urban Wildlife Refuge Manager and an update on the work being done at the Refuge.

Kid's Photo Tour

Saturday Mar 14

8:00 - 11:00 am

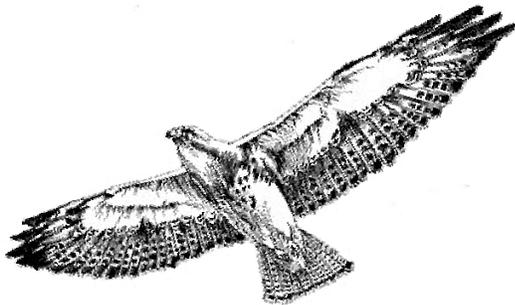
Calling all kids! Here's your chance to learn about wildlife photography! Join us for this hands-on photo excursion of the Refuge.

Friends of a Feather

Tuesday Mar 17

8:00 - 11:00 am

Birdwatching is a popular hobby, so join the flock and add some of the Refuge's winter birds to your checklist. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours! Recommended for adults.



Song Dogs

Saturday Mar 21

1:00 - 3:00 pm

A coyote's howl travels far on a cool and calm day on the prairie. Learn how this cunning carnivore communicates with its pack through a series of barks, yips and howls. Recommended for families.



Disappearing Treasures

Tuesday Mar 24

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

See January Description

Waterfowl ID

Saturday Mar 28

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Spring is nearly here and our feathered friends are flying north to their breeding grounds. Learn how to ID these dabblers and divers while they stop over on one of our numerous lakes or ponds.

NOTE: If severe weather conditions exist, the Refuge may close on short notice for the safety of our visitors and employees. We will make every effort to contact you if programs are cancelled. Please call ahead to ensure the Refuge is open!

303-289-0930



Fishing News for 2009

Attention Anglers!

The 2009 recreational public fishing season will begin on Saturday, April 15, 2009 and extend through Saturday, October 17, 2009.

Catch-and-release fishing opportunities at the Refuge are every Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 6:00 am to 5:30 pm. The Refuge lakes are home to various species of fish including large mouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, and northern pike.

A recreational fishing fee of \$3.00 per day/per angler 16 years of age and older, a Colorado fishing license, and a signed copy of the Refuge fishing rules and regulations is required. Check our website for additional fishing information including Fishing Frenzy kid's derby and other special fishing programs.

2009 Free Fishing Days

Tuesday June 2

Saturday June 6

National Trails and Fishing Week

Saturday September 26

National Public Lands Day

Saturday October 17

National Wildlife Refuge Day
Celebration



Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges

If you have a passion for wildlife, enjoy the great outdoors, and want to help make a difference at Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges, then becoming a member of Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges (FFRWR) is for you! Members enjoy many benefits and provide valuable volunteer service to help make our refuges a better place for people and wildlife. FFRWR already has had some successful fundraising projects including Fishing Frenzy, the Bluestem Banquet, and Refuge Roundup 2008. There are many more exciting projects and activities being planned for 2009, so don't miss the chance to get involved! Start the new year by becoming a member to support YOUR national wildlife refuges. To learn more call 303-287-0210.



Give Back To Others – Become A Refuge Volunteer!

Are you a nature enthusiast? Would you like to share your interest and knowledge? Then consider being an ambassador for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and become a volunteer! Volunteers play a vital role in helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fulfill its mission of conserving, protecting and enhancing America's fish, wildlife and habitats.

Volunteer opportunities available to match your skills and include—

- Leading/assisting with nature and environmental education programs and special events
- Guiding tours and providing interpretive information to public groups
- Staffing the Visitor Center front desk or operating the Bookstore
- Assisting with historical and cultural artifact collections
- Monitoring of natural resources and assisting with habitat restoration efforts
- Helping with maintenance and construction projects

Refuge volunteers enjoy—

- Flexible scheduling
- A variety of service opportunities and project options
- Belonging to a fun and diverse team of staff and volunteers with continuous learning opportunities and field trips

Interested? Don't delay – get involved! Contact Jamie Lanier at Jamie_Lanier@fws.gov to find out more about how you can help.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
5650 Havana St Bldg 121
Commerce City, CO 80022-1748

PRSR STD
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U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service
PERMIT G-77

Return Service Requested

DIRECTIONS TO THE REFUGE:

Enter the Refuge at 56th Avenue and Havana Street. Proceed 1.5 miles to the Visitor Center to check-in.



Visit our website at www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal or call 303-289-0930

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