

CHOICE OF ONE AM FIELD TRIP 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Powell Marsh Wildlife Area Hike

Join your experienced guides Linda Winn, WNDR Wildlife Biologist, and State Ecologist Colleen Matula for an exploration into one of the true gems of the Northwoods. This hike offers participants insight into the past, present, and future management of the area, as well as providing greater insight into the species of concern that birders may encounter upon their journey through one of the largest marshes in the state. Signature species include Sandhill Cranes, Yellow Rail, LeConte's Sparrow, Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, American Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlins, Sharp-tailed Grouse and White-rumped Sandpipers.

Little Turtle Flowage Hike

Join birding enthusiast Amber Roth and naturalist Troy Walters on a hike around the Little Turtle Flowage, which is part of the Little Turtle Waterfowl Management Area. Participants are guided along on an exploration of a hidden treasure and birding hotspot in the Northwoods. The diverse habitat of the flowage promotes a wide variety of migratory and resident wildlife species such as Black Terns, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. Other species include Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, Great Blue Herons, Trumpeter Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, Merlins, American Kestrel, Common Snipe, Sora, Yellow Rail, Eastern Kingbird, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and Song, Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows.

Presque Isle Rearing Ponds Hike

The Presque Isle Rearing Ponds were traditionally known as the largest Walleye Rearing Ponds in the state. More recently, and with the ponds now back in the hands of the Town of Presque Isle, they have become a locally favored birding spot. Join Wisconsin DNR Research Scientist Ryan Brady and Northland College Biology Professor Jim Paruk for this mile-long walk around the ponds and through a nearby mixed conifer/hardwood forest, this makes for an excellent morning trip. A great variety of migrating waterfowl congregate at the ponds, gathering up small fry to continue their journey north. Northern Harriers, Merlins and Coopers, Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawks are frequent visitors/residents to the ponds and the nearby wooded areas. As well as a number of shoreline birds, the wooded areas running along the entry water into the pond can bring with it a nice diversity of migrating wood warblers.

Rice Creek Paddle

The Rice Creek Paddle takes participants to a treasured area, located along a 2-mile stretch between Round and Big Lakes in Boulder Junction, WI. Recently designated as a State Natural Area (in 2007), this unique paddle will find you winding your way through diverse shoreline habitats including conifer swamps, boreal rich fens, sedge meadows, and northern wet-mesic forests. A wonderful variety of breeding and migrating birds can be found in this richly diverse habitat, with some of the more notable birds including Gray Jays, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Winter Wrens, and Black-backed Woodpeckers. As well, a high density of Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles utilize both Round and Big Lakes making these likely sightings as well.

Van Vliet Old Growth Hike

While there are no birds that are obligate nesters in midwestern old-growth forests, there are still a number of birds that clearly prefer to nest in large conifers or which do best in the understory shrub community beneath old-growth. We'll briefly explore an old-growth hemlock-hardwood stand adjacent to Van Vliet Lake and see what the morning brings. Join naturalist and author John Bates, along with author and artist Mary Burns on this great morning hike.

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Pontoon

Participants will hop aboard a pontoon and spend the morning on the picturesque Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. This Scenic Waters Area is an area rich in diversity of wildlife habitats, providing important migratory and breeding habitat for many species of birds, and offering the highest number of nesting loons, eagles, and osprey in the state. ***In the event of inclement weather, participants will have the choice of joining in on either the Powell Marsh hike, Little Turtle Flowage hike, or the Presque Isle Rearing Ponds hike.***

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area Auto Tour

This tour will give you a glimpse of the spectacular resources of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. We will be stopping at a wide variety of habitats that surround the Flowage from bogs to red pine plantation and old growth hemlock hardwood forests. The tour highlights will include stops at an osprey and loon nest, and will focus on species such as shorebirds, waterfowl and warblers.