

HawkWatch at Effigy Mounds

Schedule for 2008

Friday PM, October 3rd

• 7PM Evening Program at Effigy Mounds visitor's center • Kay Neumann of S.O.A.R. will present 'Lead Poisoning in Iowa Wintering Bald Eagles' • With up to one fifth of the lower 48 states' entire eagle population wintering in Iowa during the hunting seasons, lead poisoning has become an alarming problem. Of the 82 eagles admitted to Iowa wildlife rehabilitators over the last four years, over 50 % had abnormal lead levels. Getting the lead out of our recreational activities is the healthiest thing to do for our kids and our eagles! (indoor auditorium)

Saturday, October 4th

8:00 • Bird Hike with Dennis Carter. • Join Upper Iowa Audubon's birding expert Dennis Carter for an early morning hike to find different species of songbirds, ducks, raptors and others. This hike is a great warm up for HawkWatch!

9:00 • Video — 'Raptor Force' • Humans have had a unique relationship with raptors for more than four thousand years, first through the ancient sport of falconry, and, more recently, as scientists and engineers have turned to these mighty birds—from golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and turkey vultures, to great gray owls and the peregrine falcon—as the inspiration for the latest in aircraft design. (indoor auditorium)

10:00 • Begin HawkWatch presentations, kids activities and live bird programs!

10:00 • 'Hawk ID for Beginners' • Mike Havlik. This program will give you the basics on identifying different hawks in flight. Take this opportunity to learn some key fieldmarks in a fun atmosphere, and create your own id. guide. (indoor auditorium)

11:00 • 'Return of the Peregrine Falcon' • Bob Anderson, Director of the Raptor Resource Project, and special guest speaker at HawkWatch 2008. Returning the "Falcon of the rock" to the Mississippi River cliffs; a ten year review. Bob will speak about the efforts it took to return the Peregrine falcon to its historic haunts on the Mississippi River cliffs.

12:00 • Effigy Mounds designated priority Important Bird Area • The National Audubon Society has designated Effigy Mounds National Monument and Yellow River State Forest and surrounding northeast Iowa landscape as the priority Important Bird Area (IBA) along this stretch of the Mississippi River. Jon Stravers and Mark Peterson from Audubon will discuss the significance of this designation in terms of agency partnerships, and in terms of on the ground bird conservation and monitoring, and how activity at this IBA relates to other IBAs along the entire stretch of the Mississippi River.

1:00 • 'Hunters of the Sky' • Kay Neumann of SOAR (Save Our Avian Resources). Kay will talk about birds of prey basics. Keen eyesight, a specially equipped beak, and strong talons set raptors apart as hunters. Join Kay with live birds of prey for a closer look at what makes raptors unique and essential links in the natural food chain.

2:00 • 'Migration- around the world and back again with a bird's brain' • This multimedia presentation looks at migration and homing ability in birds. You'll get a glimpse of the winter vacation destinations of some North American raptors and a few other notable migrants. Insights from recent research will be shared probing the mysteries of how birds navigate, because they can, and do, go home again. (indoor auditorium)

3:00 • 'Return of the Peregrine Falcon' • Bob Anderson, Director of the Raptor Resource Project, and special guest speaker at HawkWatch 2008.

Kid's Activities will run from 10:00am — 12:00pm and 1:30pm — 3:30pm. All activities are free! So enjoy yourself & go WILD!!!

Sunday, October 5th

10:00 • 'What do the birds have to teach us?' Naturalist and educator, Mike Havlik, will explore what birds can teach us about living in the modern world. (indoor auditorium)

11:00 • The Iowa DNR will present a program on birds of prey in the state and their biology and habitat. (indoor auditorium)

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