



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

April 29, 2009
For Immediate Release
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Special Birding Hikes and Birds of Prey Program at the Preserve

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announced today that a special weekend for bird lovers is scheduled for May 9 and 10.

The weekend begins on May 9th at 7 a.m. with a 60 minute International Migratory Bird Count and Hike starting from the Bottomland Trail area (weather permitting). Visitors will count different species of birds, while learning about bird conservation and bird watching methods. On both Saturday and Sunday, ninety- minute birding hikes are offered at 8 a.m. at the same Bottomland Trail location. The trail is located two miles south of the historic ranch headquarters and 1/3 mile east on the gravel county road near St. Anthony cemetery. Hikers are encouraged to wear protective clothing, use sunscreen and insect repellent, and bring drinking water, binoculars, and birding guidebooks.

Birding's Not Just For the Birds: Getting a Good Start in Birding will be presented both days at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the historic ranch headquarters. This twenty- minute program is designed to be an introduction to one of the fastest growing outdoor recreational activities in America. Using self- constructed paper airplanes, visitors will learn flight dynamics at the children's workshop at 1 p.m. No matter your skill level, with a few easy pointers, anyone can begin to appreciate these wonders of nature.

On Saturday, May 9th at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., the very popular *Birds of Prey* program will be presented in the historic barn by naturalist Vanessa Avara from the Milford Nature Center using live specimens. A touch table with "birds on a stick" will be available for a closer view of different bird species.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, e-mail tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494.

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